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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	DIKSHA JOSHI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	545314
Center	ORN	Date	20/12/21

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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9	10	
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11	15	
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15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

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, विद्यार्थी 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 (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- 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 प्रारंभ किए गए परिवर्तनों को रेखांकित करते हुए, इस संशोधित अधिनियम से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

In a recent move GNCTD amendment act, 2021 was introduced amending the National Capital Territory Act, 1991 passed under 69th constitutional amendment for NCT of Delhi.

→ changes introduced by GNCTD Act, 2021

- (1) The "government" of Delhi would mean the Lieutenant Governor [LG] of Delhi.
- (2) Concurrence of LG would be needed in matters under the state list before being passed.
- (3) LG will not refer matters for President's assent if it falls outside the authority of the state government.

→ Issues with amended act :-

- (1) Against spirit of federalism :- LG Being appointed by centre, gives wide powers to the centre.
- (2) Against democratic principles :- as elected government should have greater say in day to day matters than nominated LG.
- (3) Against Supreme court judgement in PUCL case wherein it was asked that LG should not interfere in day to day affairs

There thus, needs to be a clear demarcation of authority between the central and UT government with regard to their administrative authority to ~~avoid~~ ensure smooth functioning of the territory.

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।

Sedition [Section 124A] refers to showing any disrespect to the authority of the government either by words spoken, written or any sign and it forms a reasonable restriction under Article 19(2).

→ Issues with sedition law :-

- (1) Too many cases filed yet (to be) few convictions :- out of 70-72 cases between 2014-18, only 1-2 conviction [NCRB data]
- (2) It creates chilling effect on freedom of speech & expression [Article 19(1)]
- (3) It does not allow for dissent, which serves as safety valve of democracy.

→ Reasons for continuing with sedition

1. fear of terrorism, secession and anti-national activity in the country

(2) To maintain communal harmony, as seditious speech incite violence.

→ Reforms needed in sedition law :-

(1) mere shouting of slogans cannot be cited as sedition [Balwant Singh case ruling.]

(2) There should be a direct evidence of violence related to a seditious speech [P. S. Rao Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar]

(3) Not to be imposed unnecessarily against anyone criticising the government.

Sedition, a colonial era law has been repealed by UK itself and India also needs to revisit its provisions so that it does not unnecessarily hamper rights of freedom of speech under Article 19.

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?

Parliamentary standing committee refers to a committee of members of both/house houses of parliament consisting of members elected/nominated for a fixed tenure to deliberate ^{on} issues outside parliament eg:- Estimates Committee.

→ Issues contributing to decline in performance of parliamentary committee

- (1) Lesser Bills being referred to the parliamentary committee.

eg: In the 17th Lok Sabha only 27% of Bills were referred for committee scrutiny.

- (2) Non-acceptance of suggestions of the committee.

eg: In 17th LS only in 13% cases suggestions were incorporated in the bills.

(3) Post mortem nature of the committee scrutiny. eg:- Public Account Committee scrutinised estimates after the spending is done.

(4) lesser availability of technical assistance to committee members to bring reform.

→ To address the issue :-

- (1) more Bills to be sent to the committee for deliberation → NCRWC suggestion
- (2) Technical expertise & research assistance to committee members.
- (3) Simultaneous scrutiny provision than post mortem work.

In the light of recent controversy eg: farm Bills, parliamentary committees can be effectively utilised to allow for greater deliberation beyond party lines & effective policy making.

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 गैर-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।

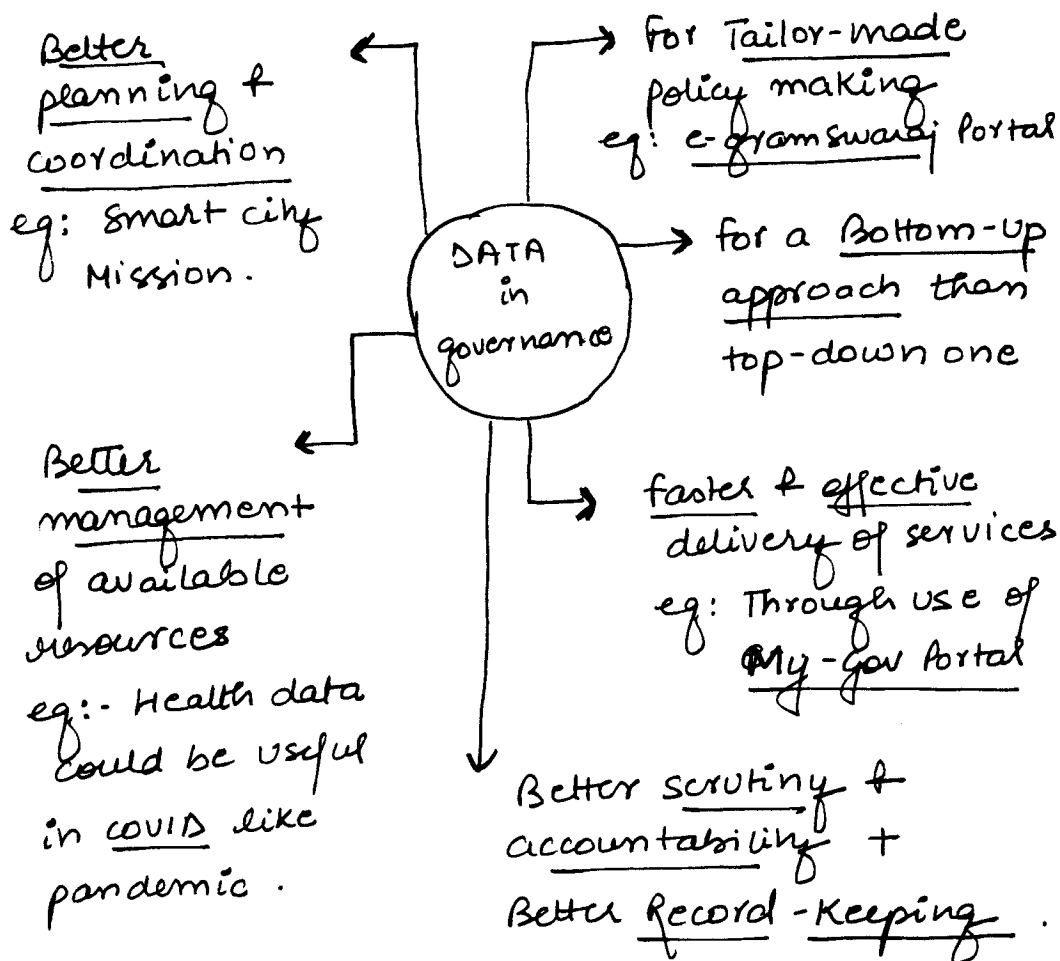
5. Discuss the role of data in governance in India. Also, state the various challenges in this regard and suggest remedial measures.

(150 words) 10

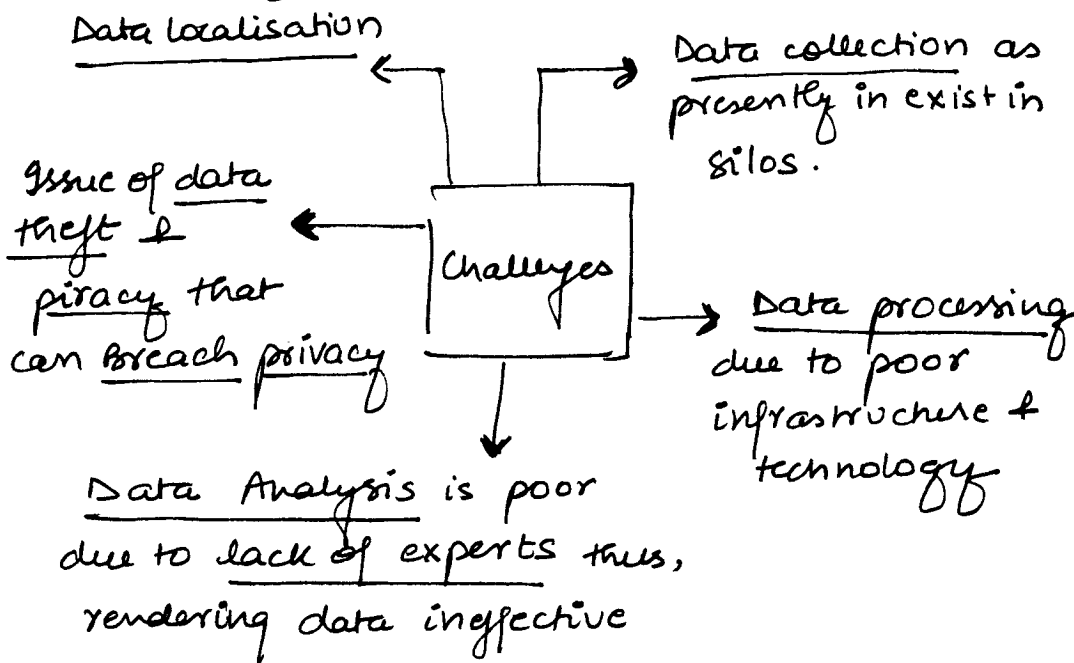
भारत में शासन में डेटा की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए एवं उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

With the shift of government's working to e-governance mode and Digital India initiative, data generated acquires great importance in policy making.

→ Role of Data in governance :-



→ Challenges with data management



→ Remedial measures :-

- (1) Greater internet penetration eg: Through Bharat Net for better data collection
- (2) Merging similar existing data under one roof for better analysis.
eg: Data lake project of NHA.
- (3) Personal Data Protection Bill to be finalised soon : to ensure privacy.

Data has become the new oil and concerns associated with it to be addressed at earliest so that it can be utilised for good governance.

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।

civil society groups refer to voluntary grouping of people for better service delivery or bringing about reform in the policies by asserting demands of their group members. eg:- NGOs like Save children, Pressure groups like FICCI.

→ Conditions for emergence of civil society in India :-

(1) failure of state to deliver services :-
eg:- AKshay Patra foundation providing Mid-Day Meals in schools.

(2) for promoting rights of marginalised
eg: Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) working for rights of locals in Sunderbans

(3) To demand for their rights & policy

changes.

eg: Bhartiya Kisan Union against farm Bills.

→ Contribution towards governance & policy changes :-

- (1) Policy reform like Right to Wages under MGNREGA by Majdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan Movement.
- (2) Introduction of RTI act, 2005 by MKSS led by Asuna Roy.
- (3) Last mile delivery of services.
eg:- Bachpan Bachao Andolan delivering child nutrition, education related services.
- (4) Environment protection eg:- Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Civil society groups thus, with their grassroots reach serves as a link between the government & people can be best utilised by the government towards achieving SDG 1, 2, 3 by 2030:

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**

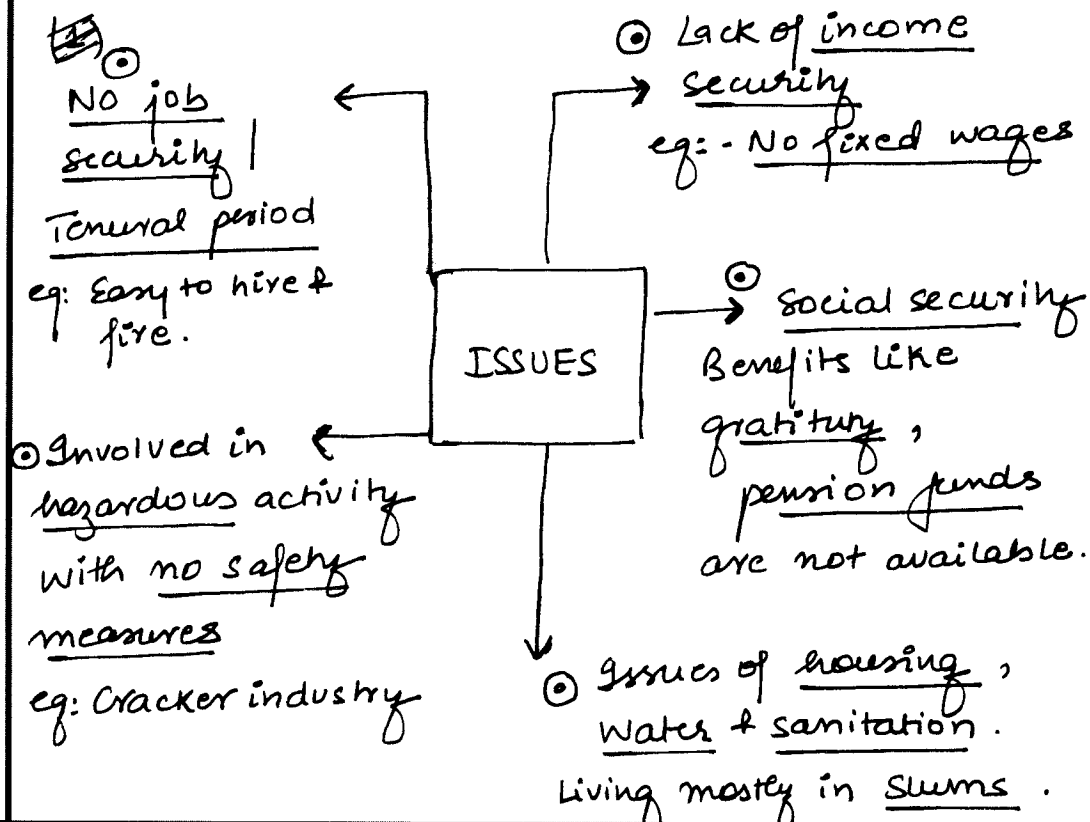
गति शक्ति मिशन में न केवल अवसंरचना संबंधी बाधाओं का समाधान करने की क्षमता है अपितु देश में शासन प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने की भी क्षमता विद्यमान है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

8. Giving an account of the issues faced by workers in the informal sector, discuss whether the recently launched e-Shram portal can help in addressing them. (150 words) 10

अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र में श्रमिकों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं का विवरण देते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या हाल ही में प्रारंभ ई-श्रम पोर्टल उनका समाधान करने में सहायता कर सकता है।

The recent migrant crisis and job loss following the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted issues such as income & social security for informal sector & its need for reform.

→ Issues faced by workers in informal sector :-



② No rights available to women workers
eg:- Maternity Benefit Act, 2017.
Provisions under SHAWA, 2013

→ Use of e-Shram portal to address issues :-

(1) Better Record-Keeping of workers & employers → Better implementation of provision of Code of Wages & Code of Social Security.

(2) Will allow them to find jobs for those enrolled in unemployed list.
eg:- Better coordination between employer & worker Based on skill.

(3) Will help align with benefits under other schemes eg:- PMAY-Rental accommodation, PDS system.

Informal sector serves as hub of ~~casual~~ employment for majority of Indian workforce and therefore, needs to be reformed to provide better facilities to them.

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।

global minimum tax refers to a minimum tax to be paid by multi-national corporates working across nations so as to curb malpractices like tax-evasion.

→ Significance of recent development of global Minimum Tax:-

- • Help to address issue of tax-evasion
- • Better resource utilisation by the countries
- • improvement in revenue generation & economic growth

→ Prospects for India. :-

- (1) To be able to effectively tax-companies generating profit in

India under the platform :

2. To curb practice of Base Erosion & Profit shifting [BEPS] under the OECD framework.
3. To better target shell companies & improve Ease of Doing Business ranking.

→ Challenges :

1. Coordination across the countries needed else companies will migrate to tax-havens like Cayman Island.
2. Clear rule making & sharing of revenue to country wherein Business is done & profit generated.

Global Minimum taxation
thus, has potential to improve economic situation after the COVID Crisis & also ensure economic sustainability in long run.

10. Announcement of the AUKUS security pact heralds a new era of global geo-politics. 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 refers to a recently formed security grouping comprising Australia, USA and UK with aim to provide strategic security assets to Australia to strengthen its defence capability.

→ AUKUS pact : a new era of global geo-politics

(1) It signifies greater interest of major powers like USA and UK in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) Changing alliances :- France being excluded from the deal by Australia despite an earlier contract on the same.

(3) Better containment of China in Indian ocean

eg: - Acquisition of Hambantotta port,

Submarines in South China Sea pose security threat by China.

(4) Shift from pacts like QUAD to a new arrangement signifies greater alignment with new partners.

→ AUKUS affecting Indian interest :-

Positives

- (1) China would be Better contained
- (2) Will help secure important SLOCs in Indian Ocean
eg: Strait of Malacca.
- (3) Would help India's strategic interest eg:-
Not security provider
by Better coordination.

Challenges

- (1) Too many weapons & countries involvement in Indian Ocean:
can become a new arena of warfare
- (2) India not a part of grouping & fear of QUAD being sidelined.
- (3) Unreliability of USA highlighted: France a NATO ally not included.

With rise of new grouping in Indo-Pacific India needs to coordinate better to ensure an arc of freedom & navigation in the area.

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।

Panchayati Raj Institutions refers to the village councils (Gram Sabha), district councils formed as third tier of the government under the 73rd amendment act.

→ Importance of effective devolution of finances for PRIs :-

- (1) To be able to ^{ensure} better delivery of services. eg:- Village Sanitation
- (2) To upgrade their infrastructure for public welfare.
eg:- Primary health facilities to tackle emergencies like COVID.
- (3) To have an independence in decision making. eg:- Untied funds to be

allocated for vocational training, to train as per local demands.

(4) for Better management of resources
eg:- village Roads, water tanks & forest.

(5) To align with changing times
eg:- facility of computer Based centres etc at village level.

→ Reasons for lack of financial resources

(1) ineffective power of taxation, as majority of subjects are taxed by state government.

(2) inability to tax locals due to political consideration.
eg: issues with land tax.

(3) State finance commission [Article 243] as stated under 73rd amendment act not functioning in all states across the country.

- (4) Ownership of majority assets by state government → No generation of funds from banks etc. [lack of collaterals].

→ To ensure effective devolution. :-

- (1) For devolution of taxation powers to panchayats eg:- Cess on forest produce.
- (2) Effective devolution of funds by state finance commission
- (3) Untied funds under government schemes to be released.
- (4) Similar to Municipal Bonds avenues to raise resources. from market to be available.

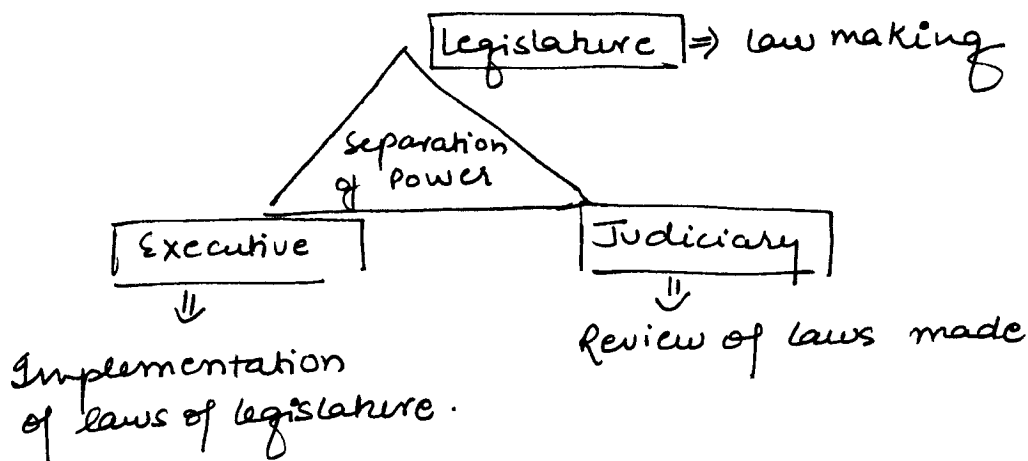
PRIs are important for effective delivery of government services to the last mile and their financial autonomy is important for their independent & efficient functioning.

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 अतिक्रमण” 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।

Doctrine of separation of powers as regarded as Basic structure of constitution (Keshavanand Bharti case) refers to separation of power between legislature, executive & judiciary.



→ Utility of judicial activism :-

(1) Against legislative adventurism:-

eg:- 44th amendment act curbing power of Judicial review OR 39th amendment
Keeping election of PM out of judicial

purview have been nullified under
Keshvanand Bharti case

(2) Against executive excesses :-

eg:- Imposition of Article 356 [President
Rule] without possibility of alternate
floor Test

eg:- Restored Uttarakhand Government
against President Rule.

(3) To fill in for vacuum created

by legislature :-

eg:- Vishakha guidelines after the
Bhauri Devi case.

(4) To uphold Rights of individual :-

eg:- MC Mehta case to uphold
environmental protection & compensation
for tragedy after the Bhopal Gas
Tragedy, 1986.

→ Issues with Judicial activism. :-

(1) Encroaching upon the power of
the state creating conflicts.

eg:- Liquor Ban imposed on highway affecting government revenue.

(2) Could hamper finances of government & question its credibility

eg:- Coal mining Ban following Coal Scam leading to NPA problem.

(3) Excessive demand that can't be fulfilled by state's limited resources
eg:- ordering 1000-1200 calories for hostages of terror operations.

While judicial activism has been helpful in preserving individual rights & bringing concrete policy reforms care should be taken that it does not turn into judicial adventurism & overreach creating tussle.

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 प्रतीत होती है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Electoral Bond is a financial instrument used for making donations to political parties in an anonymised form to aid in their election campaign & electoral process.

→ Issues with electoral Bond scheme:

(1) Lack of Transparency :-

→ Anonymous donation: Names of donors not disclosed, thus could be means to allow Black money to enter the election process.

→ Tax-exemptions available.

→ No declaration of sources, thus difficult to track malpractice.

→ No cap on amount that can be donated & thus, source of illegal

Corporate funds.(2) Lack of accountability :-

→ Political parties need not disclose details of Donors.

eg: ADR report says more than 90% donation received by parties in 2019 was from electoral bond.

→ Banks could also transfer funds to party in power in absence of check.

→ Utility of electoral bond :-

(1) Donations made via cheque or demand draft → help to curb black money usage.

(2) Shell parties made with objective of financial gains curbed
eg:- Only parties with 1% vote received in last election allowed to receive donation.

(3) Check irrational & excessive foreign funding of elections to sabotage

democracy.

→ To reform electoral funding process

- (1) Political parties to be brought under RTI → to enhance accountability & know sources of funds.
- (2) A national electoral fund to be created to receive all donations from where funds can be distributed to different parties.
- (3) Strengthening powers of Election Commission under Section 29A to de-register party involved in election malpractice.
- (4) Paid News etc. to be recognised offence under RPA, 1951.

Electoral funding process
Thus, needs to be reformed to
curb malpractices and uphold the
true 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**

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

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।

India has second largest Internet users in the world according to World Internet Report, 2019. and more than 530 million social media users.

→ Social media: transparency & accountability

(1) Government schemes and provisions are better displayed on social media portals eg:- facebook, for beneficiaries to avail services.

(2) faster accountability for wrong-doing eg:- In recent Nagaland attack case videos surfaced online held officers accountable for killing.

(3) Better transparency in working of government eg:- Government

Schemes and meetings running live on media portal.

(4) faster remedy for grievances:-

eg:- Tagging twitter handles of ministers to address issues.

(5) greater reach of both positives & concerns related to government which can be held accountable during elections eg: via Whats App messages.

→ Need for institutional accountability:

(1) Reach of social media is limited especially in rural areas wherein government officials hold responsibility

(2) Social media does not have provision for comprehensive answers
eg:- RTI filing to know exact facts of the case.

(3) With rising crimes fear of falsified news is high, institutional accountability needed for verification of the case.

(4) media trials cannot be substitute for justice wherein only judiciary can hold government liable & provide compensation.

Social media has emerged as new platform for the government to interact with citizens. However, ~~an ex~~ synergy is needed between existing institutions & social media platforms for better governance.

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।

Public services refers to services which are non-excludable, non-rivalrous service of public goods eg:- water, electricity, roads etc that is to be delivered by public institutions eg: government sector..

→ State to deliver public services efficiently :-

(1) State has welfare motive than profit motive of private sector.
Thus, can better deliver services
eg: education & health.

(2) Appropriate funds available via taxation which is generally a limitation of many private sector

bodies to deliver goods.

eg:- Budgetary allocation for PDS to ensure right to food.

(3) Wider reach of the state especially in remote & rural areas wherein other facilities are lacking & less incentivising
eg:- Saubhaya scheme for rural electrification

→ Questionable capacity of state to deliver services :-

(1) failure of state to deliver nutrition services. eg:- stunting rate at 32.1%.

- Emergence of NGO like AKSHAY Patra for Mid-Day Meal.

(2) Healthcare infrastructure is poor :-

- Only 1.5% of GDP spent on health
- Health indicators are below par :-
MMR = 122/1Lakh, USMR = 32/1000.

(3) Rise of urban slums and unhygienic conditions. in metropolitan cities.

(4) migrants denied ration = Right to food hampered.

(5) Rising pollution eg: In Delhi affecting Right to clean air.

→ To strengthen state service delivery

(1) Spending on key areas like education & health to increase.

National Health Policy recommends 3% GDP in healthcare.

(2) Coordination with NGOs to assist in service delivery.

(3) Public private partnership for better delivery. eg: - In Road construction EPC model.

To improve the global standing of the country & achieve SDG targets by 2030 it is crucial that public services are delivered to last mile.

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 अंतर्निहित मुद्दों के कारण है। ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स, 2021 में भारत की रैंकिंग में गिरावट के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

In the recent Global Hunger Index, 2021
India ranked 101/116 countries slipping
almost 6 places from its 2020 position.

→ Issues resulting in hunger problems:

(1) Lack of availability of food :-

- Government schemes like PDS lack portability.
- Mid-day meal scheme not implemented properly in many states.
- Lack of awareness about government food programmes in rural areas to avail benefit
- Wastage of food : eg :- Cover & Plinth storage wasting grains.

(2) Lack of absorption of food :-

- due to prevalent diseases eg:-
 - worm infestation in children
 - Diseases like Tuberculosis.

This, remains unscreened for resulting in rise of stunting [32% as per NFHS] and wasting [28% NFHS].

(3) Lack of nutritious food :-

- fortified food is lacking.
- only carbohydrates delivered
- Adequate vitamins & minerals are lacking.

Thus, despite increase in food production:

- India: 2nd largest grower & exporter of wheat & rice.
- 13% area under pulse cultivation
- Increase quality of grains after use of high yielding variety & green revolution hunger persists.

→ To address the issue. :-

(1) food to be made available.

eg: Partha Mukhopadhyay committee
recommending PDS portability.

(2) fortification of food

eg: Pilot on Vitamin A fortified rice
with world food programme to be
scaled up.

(3) POSHAN abhiyan & schemes like
anemia Mukt Bharat to be
implemented in letter & spirit.

Without addressing the
issue of hunger [SDG goal 2.] India
will not be able to reap its
demographic dividend to its best.

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।

Primary healthcare refers to the first stage of healthcare interaction of population with health system existing in form of primary health centre in rural areas.

→ Need for democratization of primary healthcare :-

(1) To ensure equitable healthcare :-
At present 70% population resides in villages and 73% hospitals are in urban areas.

(2) To ensure comprehensive care :-
ie. both curative & preventive care.

(3) Ailments like TB Burden highest

in India [WHO world TB Report, 2020]
and PHC can help to better deliver
anti-tubercular drugs.

(4) To improve healthcare indicators
especially Neonatal mortality [28/1000
at present] and maternal mortality
[122/100000] a robust PHC is
needed.

(5) Burden of Non-communicable
disease is high. (more than 65%
according to WHO report] and
prevention approach by PHC is
important.

→ Issues with PHC system:

→ Non-functional PHC in majority
of areas

→ Lack of doctors [India Doctor
Population Ratio 1:1400]

→ Lack of manpower & infrastructure

eg:- Testing facilities for malaria,
dengue etc. are lacking.

→ To reform PHC :-

- (1) Transforming PHC into Health & Wellness Centres as outlined in
AB-PMJAY
- (2) Integration of AYUSH professional
into PHC system to address
manpower issue.
- (3) Increase budgetary spending:
3% of GDP [NHP, 2017 recommendation]
- (4) To create social physicians
[Prevention + Cure]
as outlined by Bhore Committee
report.

PHC is the foundation
of Indian healthcare & needs to
be appropriately reformed to
achieve our aim of fit India.

Q19.

In context of evolving discourse on Indo-Pacific analyse factors driving global shift towards this region. Also, identify India's interest & challenges in this regard.

Indo-Pacific refers to the area of Indian and Pacific ocean and the surrounding landmass which in recent times have assumed great geo-strategic ~~interest~~ importance.

→ Reasons for global shift to Indo-Pacific

- • Presence of Sea-lanes of communication.
eg: Strait of Hormuz, Malacca.
- • Abundance of resources.
eg: 40% of offshore minerals found in Indian ocean.
- • Enhancing trade prospects in the region eg:- Investment in African region.

→ Rise of China & its malicious activities which could be counterproductive to free trade & navigation

eg: Acquisition of Hambantotta or Djibouti port.

→ India's interest in the region

→ • India's contestation to emerge as Net Security Provider in the region.

→ • Resources of Indian Ocean
eg: Polymetallic Nodules
• off-shore drilling etc.

→ • Maintain freedom of trade & navigation

eg:- Chabahar port for trade with Afghanistan

→ • Security threats

eg: Piracy concerns off Somalia coast
Rise of China in Indian Ocean.

→ Challenges for India :

→ • China's increased activity :

eg: • Nine dash line in South China Sea.

• Acquisition of Guader Port
[String of Pearls]

→ • Other powers in Indo-Pacific

eg: USA = Diego-Garcia Base

UK = In Mauritius Island

France = Reunion Island.

→ Steps by India to address concerns :

(1) Greater coordination to contain China
eg: QUAD = for free & open Indo-Pacific
& Exercise Malabar.

(2) Acquisition of strategic area.
eg: • Agalega Island (Mauritius)
• Sabang Island (Indonesia)

(3) Cooperation with neighbouring states
eg: IORA or Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative

Indo-Pacific assumes great importance for India's trade & security interest & need ~~for~~ to be on its diplomatic priority

Q20

India's Afghanistan policy must be based on a clear-eyed understanding of important strategic goals in the region amidst current regional & global strategic environment. Elaborate.

Recent withdrawal of USA from Afghanistan & rise of Taliban in the region has altered the geo-politics of the Afghanistan region.

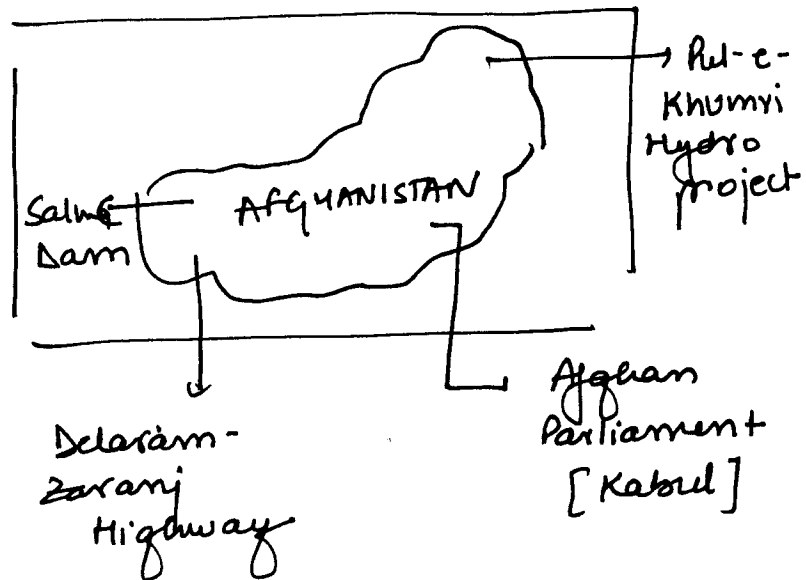
→ India's present Afghan policy:

- (1) Process in Afghanistan should be Afghan owned & Afghan controlled with limited outside interference.
- (2) India has thus, refrained from actively participating & engaging in Afghan Peace Process.
- (3) To provide assistance if need be
eg: operation Devi Shakti to evacuate

stranded people from Afghanistan.

→ India's strategic interest in the region: -

→ India's investment in various projects.



→ Issue of Human rights protection in Afghan region with rise of Taliban.

→ Nexus that could develop between Afghanistan & Pakistan → will result in rise of terrorism [Haggarri network] in India.

→ Drug cartel [golden crescent in Afghanistan.]

→ Way forward for India :

- Engagement with Taliban as it is centre of power now. can be done informally.
- Coordination with Taliban so that existing projects are not affected

It is important for India to engage with Taliban in order to ensure smooth progress of its investment in the region & at the same time avert rise of terrorism in the region.