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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1017427
Center	ONLINE	Date	22 nd Dec '21

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
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।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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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.

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।

The National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT) works on administrative framework under GNCTD Act 1990.

The act was recently amended to uphold Supreme Court judgement in NCT of Delhi v/s UOI case (2018).

Amendments in GNCTD Act

1. 'Government' in the Act refers to
Lt. Governor of Delhi
2. Lt. Governor to 'necessarily' be consulted before Cabinet decisions implemented
3. Elected Govt. & Assembly committee not to take up day-to-day administration
4. Lt. Governor to refer matters under dispute to President

Centre's Stand

1. Upholds SC's judgement of 2018
2. Ensures coordination between legislature and executive
3. Makes administration efficient & governance-friendly

Criticism of Amendment

1. Undermines SC judgement
 ↳ SC had called for real power to be vested in elected representatives
2. Centralization of power
 ↳ Lt. Governor as agent of Centre
3. Undermines Constitutional morality
 ↳ Federalism, not respected.

Governance of Delhi should be based on 'Collaborative Federalism' (Balakrishnan Committee) respecting each other's domains.

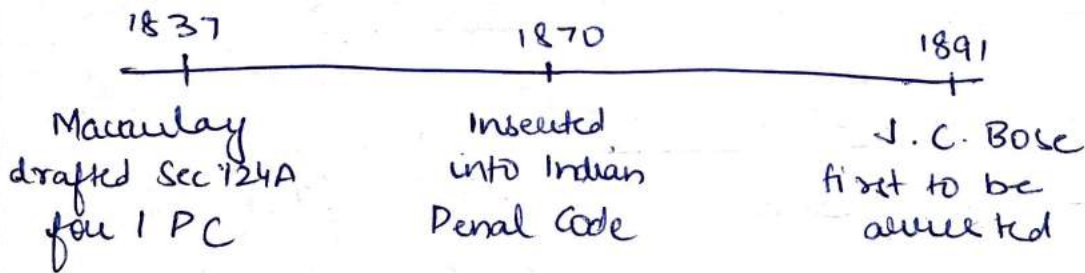
2. Are there valid arguments for continuing with sedition law in 21st century democratic India? Discuss in light of the debate surrounding it.

(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।

There have been a number of recent cases of journalists being arrested on charges of sedition (Sec 124A of IPC) for bringing disaffection towards elected government.

History of Sedition



Why Sedition Should Continue

1. Challenges to national security

→ Terrorists, Naxalites etc. may undermine elected govt.

2. Contempt of court is punishable,
so contempt of executive should also
be punished.

3. Continued case of genuine attempt
to overthrow govt.
↳ 1-2 case every year (Law Commission)

Arguments Against Sedition

1. Colonial era law → considered draconian
↳ UK revoked it in 2010
2. Threat of executive arbitrariness
↳ can be used to nullify dissent
3. Low conviction rate
↳ 1-2 case out of 45-70 (2017-19)
4. Other laws & provisions in UAPA,
IPC, etc.

National security objective must be
balanced with people's Fundamental Right
to free speech (Art 19). Law Commission
has recommended removing Section 124A

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

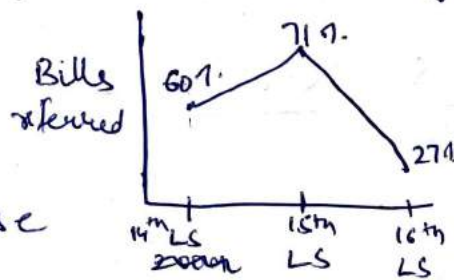
(150 words) 10

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 Committees are an important tool to ensure executive accountability as well as legislative effectiveness. But recently, trend of declining performance of Committees has been observed.

Reasons for Decline of Committees

1. Bills referred to committee consistently decreasing
2. Committee reports not tabled in the House
3. Politicization of committee proceedings
→ partisan positions by members
4. Lack of capacity among legislators



5. Short Law Committee tenure of 1 year

→ experience of members not

6. Criminalization ^{utilized} → law breakers as law makers

Steps to Empower Committees

1. Mandatorily referring bills to Committees (Law Commission)
2. Mandatory tabling of reports
3. State funding of elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee)
→ to prevent criminalization of politics
4. Capacity building of legislators
→ to ensure effective participation.
5. US tradition → Committees empowered to kill a bill.
India

India must embrace US culture where committees are powerful. F. D. Roosevelt had said, "Roughness in session is Congress on exhibition, while Congress in committee is Congress at work"

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।

Prime Minister's Office first
emerged under the tenure of Ms.
Indira Gandhi, and has thereby been
central to administrative framework.
But, in recent times, there has been
criticism that it has emerged as a
parallel centre of power, undermining
existing institutions like Cabinet.

Advantages of PMO

1. Ensure coordination among Ministries and departments
→ 'whole - of - government' approach instead of silos approach
2. Takes up matters considered priority by PM
→ carries weight of PM's oversight

3. Expedites long-standing issues
4. Undertakes projects on its own
→ eg: SPARC initiative for scientific research.

Issues with PMO

1. Parallel non-constitutional body
→ undermines Cabinet and various Ministries
2. Overcentralization of power
→ threat of PMV authoritarianism
3. Breach of Constitutional Conventions
→ eg: PMO asking for Chief Election Commissioner's presence in meeting.

The Prime Minister's Office can be an effective cog in the machine of governance only if it embraces a consensus-based, participatory approach.

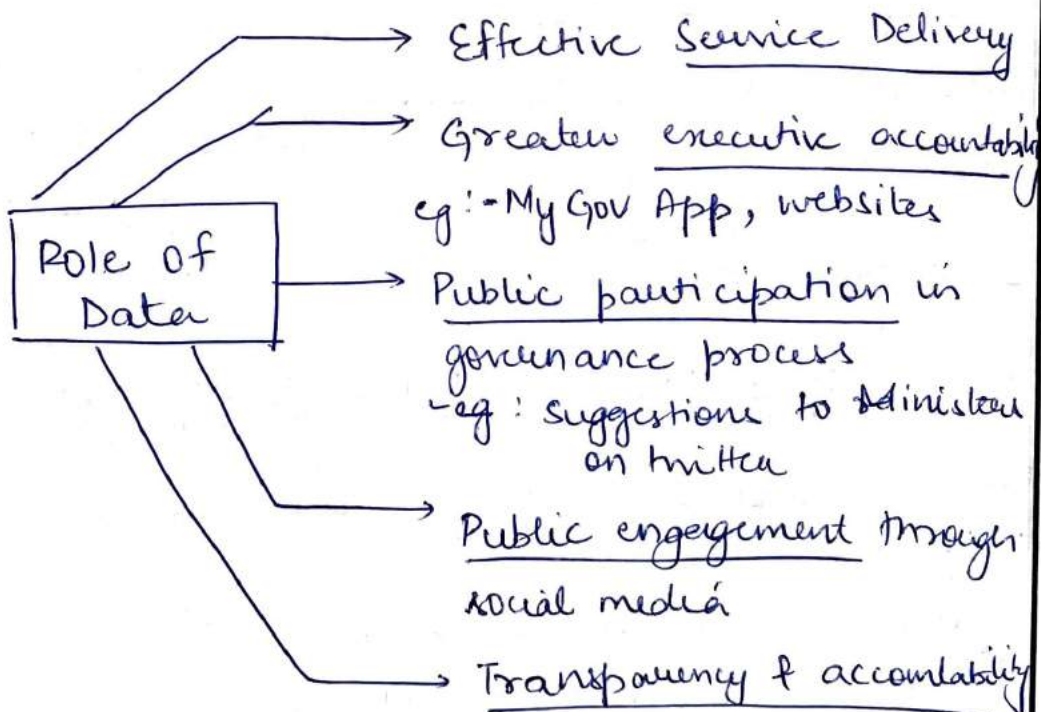
5. Discuss the role of data in governance in India. Also, state the various challenges in this regard and suggest remedial measures.

(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।

Data is often called the new oil.

Indian government has been emphasizing on using data to ensure effective governance, with PM Modi calling e-Governance as "easy, effective and efficient governance".



Issues in Data Governance

1. Lack of good quality aggregated data
→ eg: no data on migrants in India
2. Digital Divide :
→ 60% of internet users concentrated in urban areas
3. Status quoist administrative framework
→ bureaucracy resistant to change
4. Privacy and security issues
5. Lack of cutting edge technologies
like AI, GIS, etc

Steps to be Taken

1. Expedite Data Protection Law (B.N. Srikrishna Committee)
2. Capacity building among bureaucrats & officials
3. Building a 'culture of innovation' through skilling, start-ups, etc.

Data-driven governance is necessary for India to emerge as Vishwaguru.

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 is considered as Fourth Pillar of Indian democracy.

It has played an important role in ensuring government accountability to uphold social welfare.

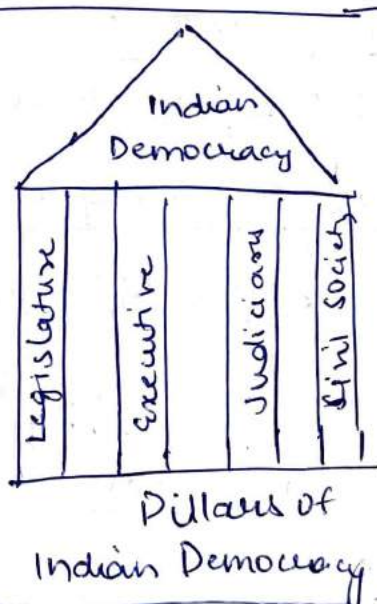
Conditions for Emergence of Civil Society

1. Rapidly increasing literacy among public

→ 25% → 75%
(1947) (2011)

2. Greater international exposure due to globalization

→ Global NGOs like Amnesty, PETA, etc.



Expanding
3. Rights based approach over welfare based approach

→ eg: RTI, Right to food (PUCL case 2011), etc

4. Empowering legislations and institutions

→ Public Interest Litigations (PIL)

→ Lokpal and Lokayukta

Contribution of Civil Society

1. Ensured transparency and accountability in governance

eg: Lokpal Movement (2011) against corruption

2. Public participation in governance process

→ SKM led Farm protest ~~off~~ 2020-21.

3. Increasing public awareness of rights

4. Relief to victims of institutional inadequacy

→ eg: PIL to save undertrial (Hussainara Khatoon case)

Civil Society participation is necessary for a truly representative democracy based on consensus, cooperation and cohesion.

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।

The Gati Shakti Mission has been launched to improve the logistics sector of Indian economy and thereby empower the economy to realize India's growth potential.

Need for Gati Shakti

1. High cost of logistics in India

141.

India

81.

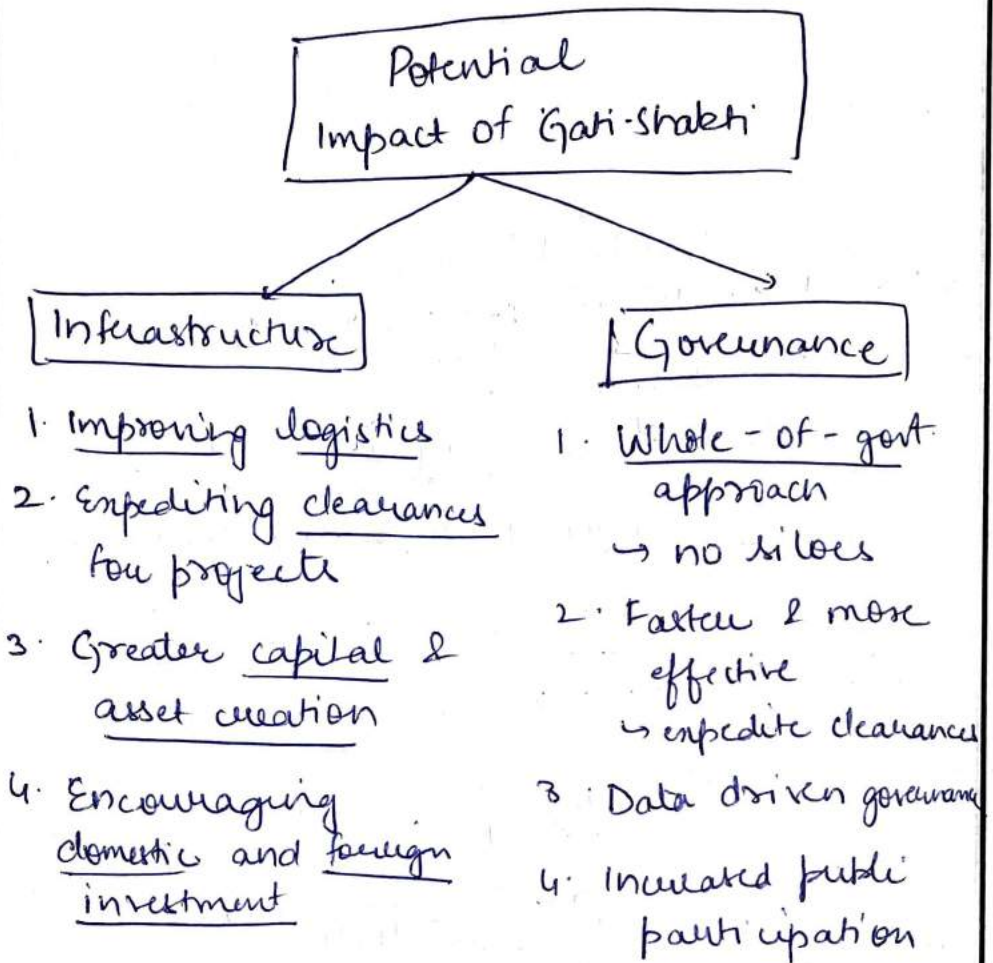
Developed
Countries

2. Poor transport network

→ overutilization of rail lines, poor linkland connectivity

3. Need for long-term investment

→ 31 lakh crore needed to be spent on infrastructure in next five years
(RBI)



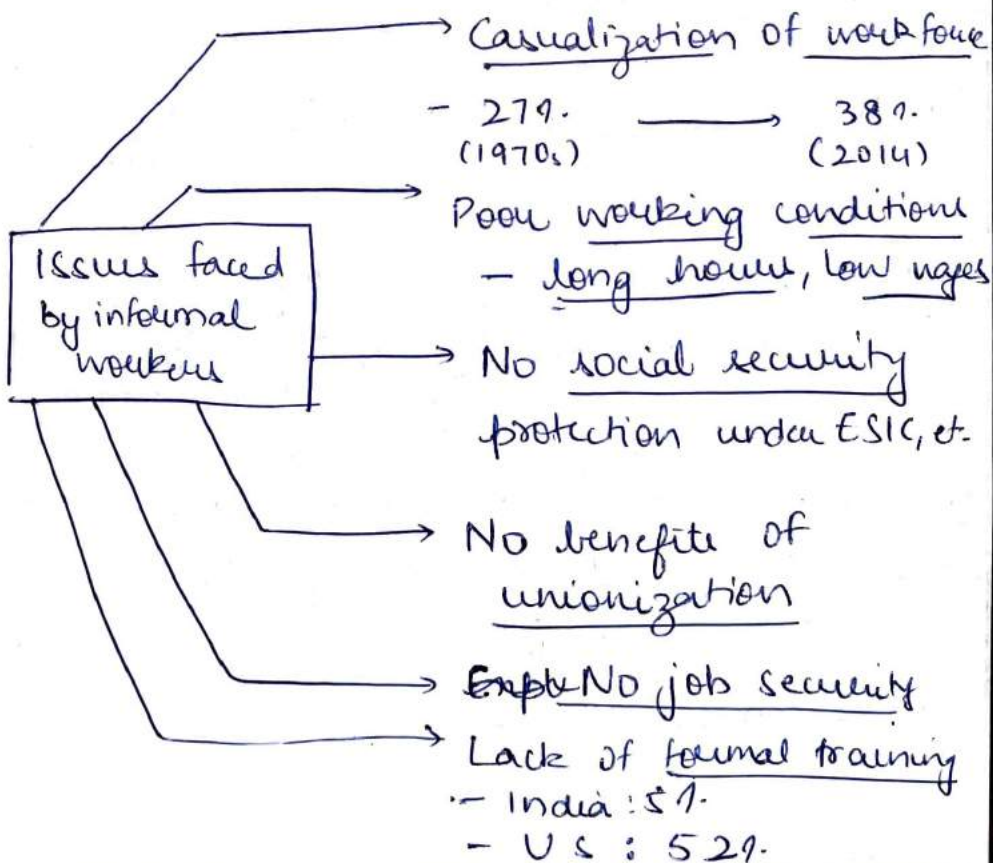
Gati Shakti has the potential to revolutionize India's growth story. This is only possible by exploring convergences with other schemes like Make in India, National Monetization Pipeline, etc. while encouraging private participation

(Vijay Kelkar Committee)

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।

India has a large informal sector, with only 10-15% of all workers under formal employment. This limits their productivity and the growth of economy.



Impact of E-Shram Portal

E-Shram portal has been launched for registration of migrants who are engaged in informal employment outside state.

1. Database of migrant population
→ data-driven ameliorative measures
2. Can help provide social security benefits & such as Atal Pension Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, etc.
3. Mapping workers with requisite jobs according to skills
4. Formal training and skilling
→ PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Skill India Mission, etc.

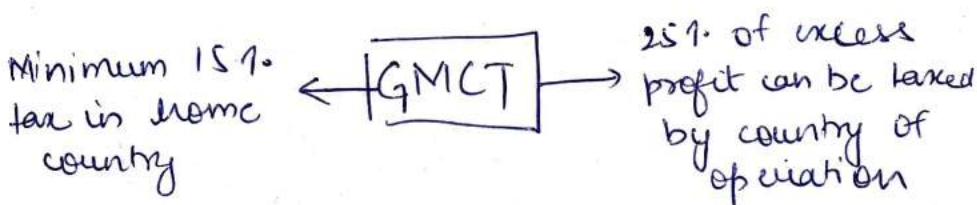
Skilling and productive employment of informal sector workers can empower millions. Recommendations by Vijay Kumar Committee should be revisited in this regard.

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 tax framework faces a paradox: while taxation is a sovereign right, rise of Multinationals (MNCs) and digital era has necessitated cooperation among countries. This has led to agreement of Global Minimum Corporate Tax (GMCT)



Potential Benefits of GMCT

1. Checks tax evasion by companies using tax havens like Cayman Islands etc.
2. Ensures greater revenue to countries of operation

3. Presents a 'sauce-to-the-bottom'
→ attracting investment by reducing the rates
4. Prevents countries from resorting to digital ~~equa~~ taxes & 'equalization levies'

Challenges for India

1. Undermines Indian attempts to reduce ~~attempts~~ ^{taxes} to attract companies
2. India has traditionally emphasized taxation as sovereign right.
3. India already has Equalization Levy on foreign companies operating in India.
4. Tight time-limit of 2023 for consensus and changes in national tax framework.

However, GMCT also offer India benefits like greater tax revenue (~ \$10 billion) & in sync with global regime. India must balance its sovereign rights with global compulsions.

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।

~~The~~ US, Australia and UK recently signed the AUKUS Security pact, under which, US will supply nuclear submarines to Australia for security operations in Indo-Pacific, as well as nuclear ^{security} cooperation in the region.

Significance of AUKUS

1. Marks the emergence of Indo-Pacific as new region for geopolitical contestation
→ beginning of Great Game 2.0.
2. Shows the Western world is coming together to counter Chinese hegemony
3. US demonstrating newfound resolve to share high-end nuclear tech with partners

4. UK showing resident power trying to keep themselves engaged.
5. Underlying tensions in West
→ France upset over shelved deals with Australia.

Potential Impact of India

1. Questions on US commitment to Quad
→ India & Japan not included
2. No nuclear security dimension to Quad framework
3. India considers Indian Ocean as its 'sphere of Influence' → new players excluding it

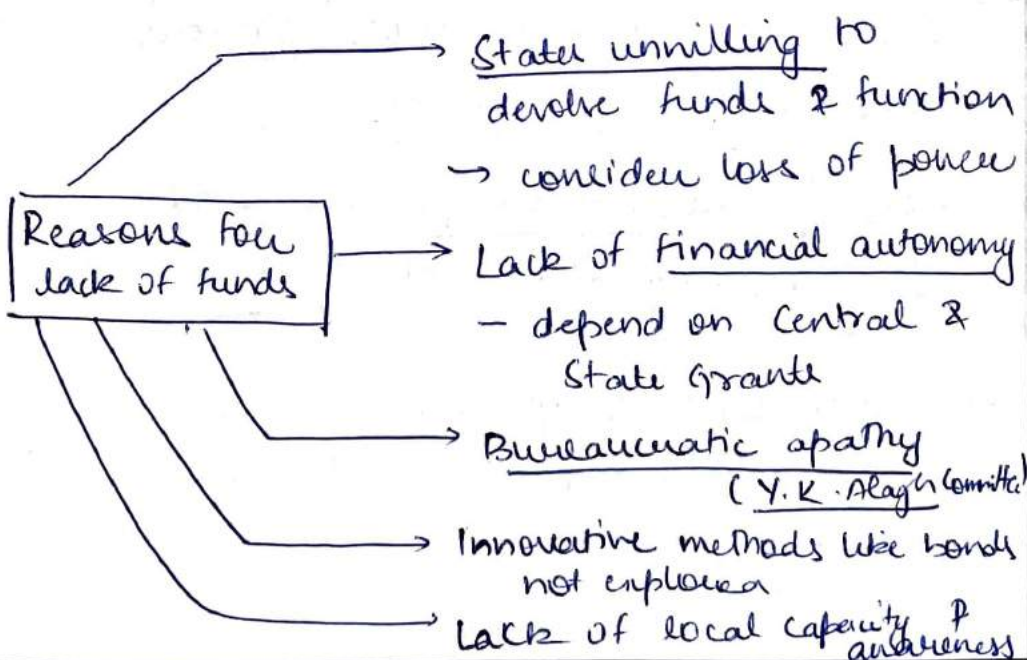
However, AUKUS will also have benefits for India — convergence with larger Indian goal of hemming a belligerent China & ensuring 'free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific'.

C. Raja Mohan says India should welcome any steps that further its own interests, as long as there is 'convergence of national & interests'.

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

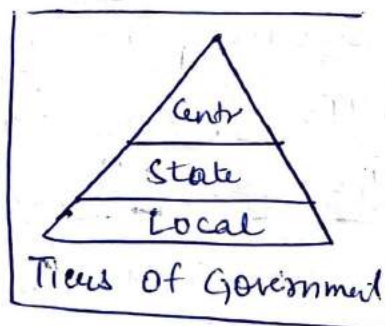
पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRI) को अपने उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए वित्त का प्रभावी हस्तांतरण एक महत्वपूर्ण अनिवार्यता है। भारत में PRIs के लिए वित्तीय संसाधनों की कमी हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का वर्णन करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए।

Panchayats and Municipalities emerged as 3rd tier of India's administrative architecture through 73rd & 74th Amendments in 1993-4, which added a Part ~~xix~~ to Indian Constitution (Schedule XI and XII).
However, their working has been hindered by a lack of funds, functions and functionaries



Need for Greater Devolution

1. In keeping with Principle of Subsidiarity
 - each level of government discharges functions for which it is best suited
2. Important Functions like education, health, etc. delegated to Panchayats
 - need for greater financial autonomy to deliver
3. Empowerment of locals
 - autonomy to undertake projects according to local needs
4. Greater public participation and capacity building for administration
5. State and central governments can focus on other important aspects of governance.



Potential Solutions

1. Explore innovative solutions like municipal bonds (Niti Aayog 3YAA)
→ Lucknow first city to float municipal bonds
2. Encourage private participation in development activity at local levels through PPPs, model concession agreements etc.
(Vijay Kelkar Committee)
3. Moving from outlay to output & outcome in assessments.
4. Supplementing funds with functions, functionalities & functionality
(Mani Shankar Aiyar Committee)

Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Village Republics' can be realized by empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions.

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।

The judiciary is a crucial pillar of Indian democracy for ensuring checks and balances against legislative and ~~state~~ ^{executive} excesses. However, judiciary is often accused of going beyond Constitutional mandate, with some calling it Judicial Activism and others Judicial Overreach.

Need for Judicial Activism

1. Constitution envisions an activist judiciary
 ↳ Art 142 empowers judiciary to make any 'law' for 'natural justice'
2. Important to ensure Constitution not change or beyond repair
 ↳ Kesavananda Bhauri 1973 evolved

Basic Structure Doctrine

3. Step Judiciary as Guardian of Fundamental Rights of Citizens

→ Write under Art 32 and Art 226
to protect fundamental rights

→ important judgements like
Right to Privacy (Puttaswamy
Case 2017)

4. Prevents executive & legislature from violating their domains

→ PILs as judicial creativity

Need for Judicial Restraint

1. Administrative framework premised on 'separation of Power'

→ encroach can lead to 'judicial anarchy'

2. Leads to loss of public faith in judiciary

3. Judiciary lacks legislative & executive expertise → do what it is best suited for

4. Leads to bad blood between judiciary and other organs of government

→ eg: Former FM Arun Jaitley accused judges of overreach.

5. Neglect of original mandate

→ large pendency of cases
(~ 4 crore)

Judicial legitimacy is premised on public trust. While it enjoys public trust, its actions will be upheld as necessary. However, it must maintain a balance of separation of powers to ensure cordial and harmonious governance

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 scheme was evolved in 2017 to allow anonymous funding to political parties to allow protect donors from political persecution. However, it has led to accusations of electoral malpractices due to lack of transparency in funding.

Electoral Bonds

1. Donors can donate money to political parties at designated SBI branches on designated dates by buying bonds.
2. Bonds to be redeemed by parties in a fixed timeline - 15 days.
3. No disclosure of details of donors.

Issues with Electoral Bonds Scheme

1. Government as only one with access to details of donors
 ↳ can lead to government ^{in power} giving favourable benefits to those donating to party
2. Threat of crony capitalism
3. 90% funding to one party - BJP
 (ADR report)

4. Pol

Wider lack of transparency & accountability

1. Political parties are not covered under RTI
2. Election Commission not empowered to suspend registration of parties for electoral malpractices
3. No expenditure limits for campaigning on political parties
 ↳ only on individual candidates

Potential Solutions

1. State funding of elections to prevent nexus between money & muscle power in elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee)
2. Empowering ECI to suspend registration of parties (Law Commission)
3. Including political parties under RTI
4. Filing false affidavits as ground for suspending individual candidature under RPA 1951 (Dinesh Goswami Committee)

Indian democracy can be sustantive democracy instead of merely procedural democracy only if it ensures free and fair elections.

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।

The Principle of Subsidiarity states that functions should be assigned and acted upon ~~by one~~ by the level of government best suited for it.

This ~~was~~ ~~necessary~~ visible in India's response to COVID-19, with Centre, State and local bodies taking up tasks according to their capacity and competency.

Local Level Response

1. Focus on testing and tracing of suspected patients
2. Local level workers like ANMs, Anganwadi workers, etc. employed to encourage vaccination & testing.

3. Delivery of essentials like food, medicines, etc. to those under quarantine
4. Primary Health Centres (PHCs) & Secondary Health Centres (SHCs) as first line responders.

State level Response

1. Evolved state-specific protocols such as hotspots, relaxations in restrictions, lockdowns, etc.
2. Police machinery used to enforce lockdowns and prevent violation of quarantine.
3. State-specific compensation to families of COVID victims in some state. eg. Delhi
4. Arranged beds, oxygen cylinders in public hospitals, etc.

Central Level Response

→ Broaden guidance and regulatory support to state governments.

1. Invoked Disaster Management Act, 2005, Epidemic Act, etc. to ensure nationwide lockdown
2. Legislative action to ensure protection to health workers, doctors etc.
3. Contracts with vaccine manufacturers, for supply of vaccines, & allocation of vaccines to states.
4. Distribution of grants from PM-CARES, NDRF, etc. to States for oxygen cylinders, etc.
5. Regular guidelines for states by ICMR, etc.
6. Genome mapping by Task-force to help with vaccine process & Emergency use authorisation.

COVID-19 response was premised on India's commitment to Federalism

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।

Social media is hailed as one of the biggest revolutions of 21st century, by ensuring faster and wider diffusion of information. As a result, it has also transformed governance across the world ushering in greater transparency and accountability.

ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Transparency

1. Ensured greater rights awareness among masses, which has asked for outcomes over output

eg: Website by govt. as proof of work done

2. Greater public engagement by officials
→ eg: Twitter accounts of Ministers
3. Real time status of government projects
→ eg: pictures of railway tracks, trains uploaded on social media, etc.

Accountability

1. Social media as platform for public awareness & discussion
→ influencing public opinion such as in US Presidential Elections in 2016
2. Holds government officials accountable for election promises, past statements, etc.
→ videos circulated during elections.
3. String operations by online news media to expose corruption
4. Social media posts taken suo moto cognizance by Supreme Court, NHRC, etc.

Need for Institutional Accountability

1. Institutional mechanisms of more effective and quicker at delivering justice
2. Necessary for good governance and a citizen-friendly administration
eg: 2nd ARC invokes a Sevottam Model for ensuring good governance
3. Effective public grievance redressal needed to prevent protest & movements, etc.
4. Checks and balances to uphold organisational integrity and vertical & horizontal accountability.

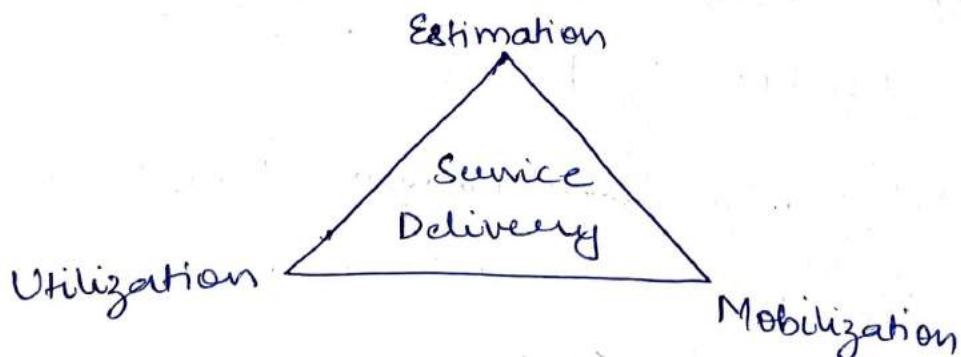
Only if social media works in tandem with standardized frameworks of good governance can effective service delivery be ensured.

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 as an institution has the primary task of effective service delivery for ensuring social welfare.

However, to do so require not only right intentions and policies, but also adequate capacity. It is estimated that India continues to languish at 101 in Global Hunger Index as it has poor capacity to deliver on schemes.



When

State's Limited Capacity

1. Lack of financial resources

→ narrow tax base & ~~low~~^{tax}-evision
(Tax-to-GDP : ~10%)

→ lack of private participation

eg: GERD : (37%)
India

(68%)
Developed
countries

2. Lack of skilled workforce

→ only 5% of Indian population
formally trained (US : 52%)

→ lack vicious cycle of poverty
leads to poor education, health, etc.

3. Lack of cutting edge technology

→ products incremental & not disruptive

→ First to India, not first to world.

→ 63rd in Global Innovation Index

→ lagged in new technologies
like AI, robotics, etc.

Need to Increase Capacity

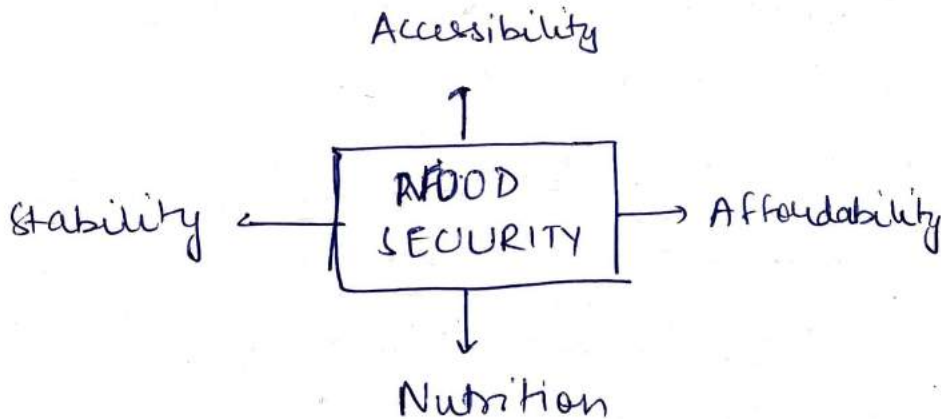
1. Inviting greater participation of private players through PPPs,
Model concession agreements, etc.
(Vijay Kelkar Committee)
2. Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship through skilling,
startups, FPOs, etc.
3. Greater resource mobilization through
monetization of government assets,
privatizing loss-making entities like
Air India, etc.
4. Focus on human development —
education, health, etc.
→ Saama Shiksha Abhiyan, Universal Health Coverage, etc.

A multi-pronged multi-stakeholder
approach is needed to effectively deliver
on India's responsibility to its citizens.

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।

India has moved from 94th to 101st out of 116 countries in Global Hunger Index, highlighting compounding hunger problem in India. However, the reason for the problem is not merely food production, but more multi-dimensional.



FAO - FOOD SECURITY

Reasons for Hunger in India

1. Lack of capacity among individuals
to buy good quality food
→ about 20% Indians below poverty line
(BPL)
2. Wastage of food grain produced
→ 40-50 tonnes of food grain wasted
in godowns every month
→ 50% grain in open cover & plinth
(Shanta Kumar Committee)
3. Lack of nutritious food availability
→ fortified food not available in
open market.
4. Resistance to technological innovations
like GM crops, etc.
5. ^{Lack of} Sanitation as a contributory factor for
poor health indicators.
6. Climate Change impacting agriculture
resilience → land degradation & desertification

Potential Solutions

1. Push to food fortification to ensure nutritious food
eg: mandatory rice & edible oil fortification
2. Rationalization of food subsidy to prevent leakage & targeting of beneficiaries
↳ eg: Direct Benefit Transfer as alternative
3. Push to government schemes like Poshan Abhiyan 2.0, Mid-day Meals, etc.
4. Promoting nutri-cereals like millet
↳ more nutritious, climate resilient
5. Women-centric approach
↳ direct relation between woman's education & health of child.

To rid itself of problem of hunger and malnutrition, India must transition from food security to nutrition security

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।

India's objective of Universal Health Coverage for its entire population is dependent on an effective primary healthcare framework, since it is the first point-of-call for health concerns at local level.

Existing Challenges in Primary Healthcare

1. Lack of adequate infrastructure such as hospitals, beds, etc.
→ 73% public beds concentrated in urban areas
2. Lack of adequate doctors.
→ India doctor-patient ratio is 1:1456 (WHO recommends 1:1000)

3. Prevalance of quacks at local level
4. Lack of expenditure on health
→ only 1.5-2% of GDP
(Natl Health Policy — 8.5-5%)
5. Disproportionate focus on secondary & tertiary healthcare system
6. Rural-urban divide
→ most public hospitals in rural areas.

Potential Solutions

1. Increasing expenditure on health
→ to provide good quality infrastructure
2. Community-centric approach
→ ANMs, Anganwadi workers, etc
as lynch-pin of local healthcare

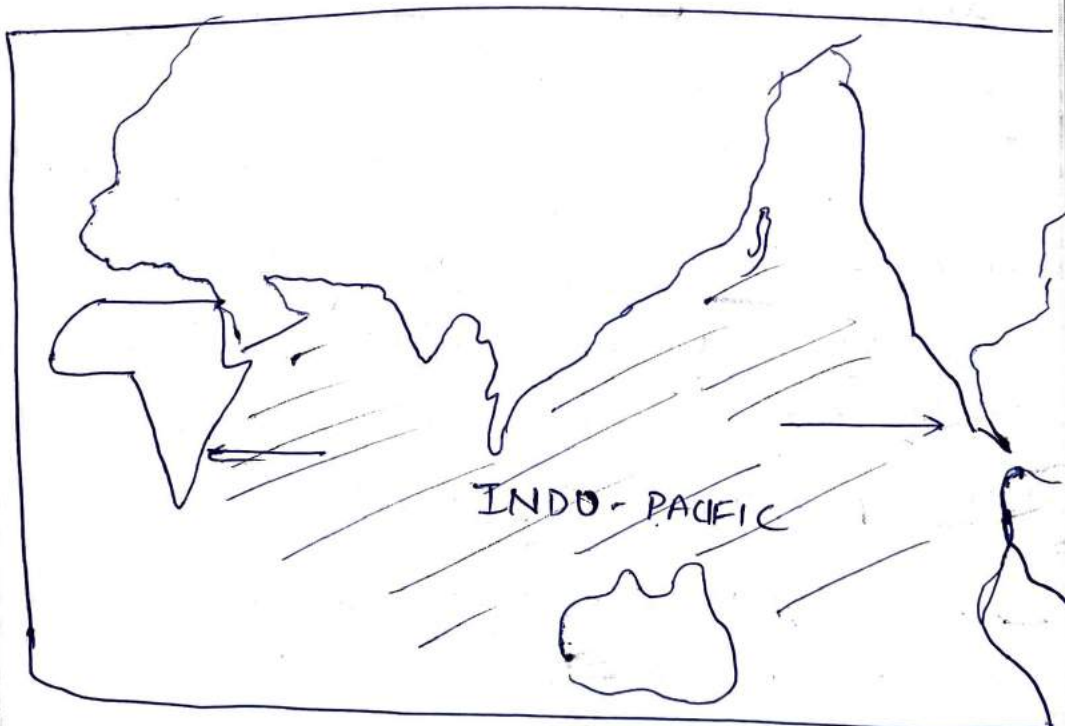
3. Encouraging traditional and indigenous practitioners
→ push to AYUSH facilities and ~~pr~~ practitioners
4. Encouraging private participation at primary healthcare level
→ presently concentrated in tertiary sector
5. Capacity building of local level practitioners, doctors, etc.
6. Learning from best practices
eg:- Family Clinics in Brazil
- Mohalla Clinics in Delhi

A healthy Indian population is central to realizing its demographic dividend, for which primary healthcare is the first place to start.

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-प्रशांत (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 संबंध में भारत के हितों और चुनौतियों की भी पहचान कीजिए।

The Indo-Pacific is the latest arena for geo-political contestation among nations, with a great game 2.0 having begun in the last few years.



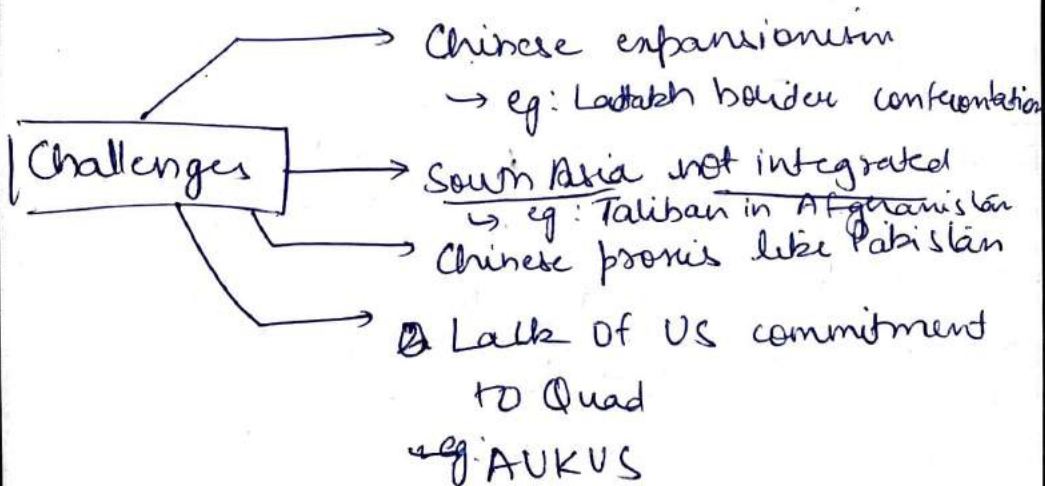
INDO-PACIFIC: East Coast of Africa
to West Coast of America

Why a Shift to Indo-Pacific

1. Belligerent and expansionist China
 - threat to post-WWII global world order
2. Increasing salience of South and South East Asia
 - China & India as 35% of world population
 - ASEAN's Tiger Economies
3. Western withdrawal from Middle East and Afghanistan
 - eg: US leaving Iraq, Afghanistan
4. Asia's US-China power struggle
 - emergence of a new 'cold war' / 'Hot Peace'
5. Multi-polarity
 - rise of Middle powers like Japan, Australia, India, etc.

Indian Interests and Challenges

1. India looks at Indo-Pacific as its 'Sphere of Influence'
 - hopes of becoming 'Net security provider' through SAGAR doctrine
 - 'Neighbourhood First & Act East Policy'
2. Geo-economic stakes
 - investments in Maldives, Bangladesh, etc.
3. Countering Chinese Belligerence & ensuring 'free, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific'



→ Harsh Pant says: India must ensure it is a key player in the emerging Great game in Indo Pacific

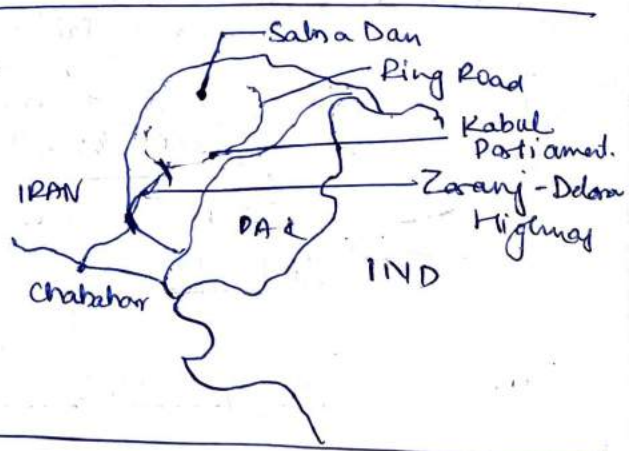
20. India's Afghanistan policy must be based on a clear-eyed understanding of important strategic goals in the region amidst the current regional and global strategic environment. Elaborate. **(250 words) 15**

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। सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए।

Afghanistan saw the overthrow of its elected government of Ashraf Ghani by a Taliban Blitzkrieg after the US withdrew from the country, ending a 20-year long War. This has brought new challenges for Indian foreign policy.

INDIAN STAKES

India has considerable stakes in Afghanistan



→ Geo economic

i) \$3.1 billion investment

ii) Projects like Salma Dam, Shatoot Dam,

Kabul Parliament building, etc.

Geo - Strategic

- i Afghanistan central to India's Connect Central Asia Policy due to strategic denial by Pakistan
 - linking with Chabahar port in Iran
 - INSTC corridor
- ii Ensuring no strategic depth to Pakistan
- iii Movement for Pashtunistan to encumber Pakistan
- iv Preventing emergence of Afghanistan as a terror haven
 - potential instability & insurgency in Kashmir
- v Loss of US security umbrella
 - instability in region not conducive for India's South Asia Policy
- vi Prevent China from extending influence in Afghanistan

Need for a Realistic Foreign Policy

1. Prevent marginalisation by engaging with all relevant actors including Taliban
2. Ensuring that its economic & strategic interests are not harmed
3. Utilizing goodwill among Afghans
→ wheat shipments during food crisis
4. Partnering with like-minded countries like US, France to ensure Taliban does not violate global norms or give haven to terrorists

Afghanistan faces an impending civil war. India faces a test of its diplomacy to secure its interests in this quagmire.