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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	Utkarsh Dwivedi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	54473
Center	ORN	Date	5/12/20

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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18	15	
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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

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

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।

The NCT of Delhi was formed through 69th Amendment Act, 1992 and Article 239 AA was inserted into constitution.

Changes introduced in GNCTD Act 2021

- Government would mean the Lieutenant Governor (LG).
- All policy decisions must pass through LG.
- The LG in his discretion can reserve for the president any bill for his consideration.
- The power to hold the executive Delhi administration has been reduced

on the part of Delhi State Assembly.

→ Delhi State Assembly rules must conform to the rules of the Lok Sabha.

Various issues with amended Act

- Gives more power to nominated representative than elected representative
 - Reduces power of legislature to hold the executive accountable.
 - Increases power of central government in the day to day administration over the Delhi government.
 - Against order of Supreme Court judgement in 2018 that said only law and order, police and land to be under central government.
- Collaborative federalism in view of Delhi's interests is the way ahead.

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 refers to saying/committing any act that can prejudice the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation.

It was inserted under section 124A of the IPC by Thomas Macaulay.

Sedition be continued: No

→ Stifles the freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a). Further Art. 19(2) already has reasonable restrictions over free speech.

→ Even UK, where this law emerged has scrapped the sedition

law.

→ prone to misuse as what constitutes "sedition" is undefined, vague and broad.

→ low conviction rates, and has been accused of using to stifle criticism of the government.

Sedition ~~can~~ be continued: Yes

→ Internal threats like extremism, insurgency and Naxalism.

→ To prevent situations of anarchy.

→ To prevent anti social elements from inciting violence.

Supreme Court in Kedarnath Singh, 1962 judgement asked to narrow the definition of sedition and use it selectively.

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 permanent committees to scrutinise the laws of the government and help parliament in having detailed and qualitative debates.



Issues that have led to decline in performance of Parliamentary committees

- Delay in formation of committees.
- Lack of allowances and incentives given to elected representatives who form part of committees.

- Lack of expertise of MPs as these are only appointed for a tenure of one year.
- Only recommendatory powers are bestowed with committee.
- Not sending bills for consideration of committees. This was 27% for 16th Lok Sabha, 16% for 17th and 11% of 18th Lok Sabha.

Addressing the issue

- Increasing number of bills to be sent to committees.
- Training of the members.
- Increasing their term and giving extra allowances for committee work.

Parliamentary committees are essential in holding the executive accountable.

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।

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was first formed during the Lal Bahadur Shastri government. It is an attached office to help the PM perform his duty in an effective manner.

PMO wielding immense decision making power

- Since Prime Minister is the head of government, the PMO in India automatically becomes powerful.
- PMO co-ordinates work of other ministries.
- All major policy decisions need signature of PM, and hence the files need to be sent to PMO.

→ Since PM heads the majority of Cabinet Committees, the PMO also co-ordinates the work of the Cabinet.

Advantages

- Leads to 'integration in chain in command' as the files finally go through the Prime Minister.
- Effective co-ordination in work of various ministries.

Issues

- Leads to turf wars between PMO, Cabinet Secretariat and ministries.
 - Increases power of non-elected bureaucrats over elected politicians heading ministries.
 - PMO not ~~an~~ a body of experts.
- Oversight of PMO is necessary but this oversight must not turn into intervention.

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।

It is said "data is the new oil". With advent of fourth Industrial Revolution, the role of data has tremendously increased in governance.

- Helps identify success and challenges of any scheme. To analyse this, the government has a specialised Ministry of statistics and Programme implementation.
- To better gauge demand and aspiration of citizens through surveys like NSSO, NFHS, etc
- To formulate effective schemes based on number of beneficiaries.
- Helps civil servants in data-driven decision making.

Challenges in the use of data

- Does not always reflect the true picture at the ground level.
- Can lead to exclusion, as data gives aggregate picture rather than exact picture.
- Leads to heavy reliance on digitisation and internet.
- Challenge of data privacy, data breach and cyber security.

Remedial measures

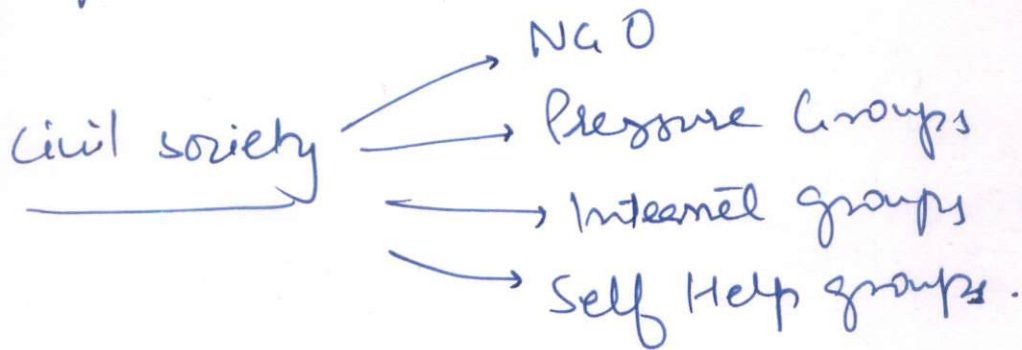
- Training of personnel for ^{better} understanding ~~but~~ interpretation of data.
- Reliance on offline + online measures of data collection.
- Bringing Data protection bill to safeguard data.

Data is the tool for effective 21st-century 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 refers to community of citizens coming together to achieve specific objectives and demands from the government.



Conditions that led to new civil society

- Corruption in government. ~~test~~
- Vulnerable sections like SC/ST, women left out of developmental processes.
- Degradation of environment.

- Persistent farm crisis.
- Issues of gender equality and inclusiveness.

Contribution of civil society in effective governance and policy changes

- Anna movement led to formation of Local and Local Bodies Act, 2017.

- Through PILs, rights of vulnerable sections have been achieved.

Ex: NALSA judgement for LGBTQ.

- Policy think tanks like ADR and PRS legislative research have highlighted growing issues of criminalisation of politics.

- Through Chipko movement, environment issues came to the fore.

Hence civil society is an important pillar of democracy.

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 was announced by Hon'ble PM on the Independence Day, 2021. It is a mega investment project to invest ₹ 100 lakh crore in infrastructure. To realise this, special online GatiShakti portal has been opened.

Potential to address the issue of infrastructural bottlenecks

- To increase the investment to GDP ratio from current 29.1% to 36%.
- To integrate multi-modal transport infrastructure to reduce logistics cost that is currently at 16% ~~15%~~ 13% of GDP.
- To remove duplication of efforts

by different ministries as information of all ministry projects would be available on single portal.

Streamline governance processes

- Lead to inter-ministerial co-ordination through one ~~ded~~ dedicated portal.
- Fasten the process of tendering, land acquisition, environmental clearance, etc.
- make governance transparent as public can view the portal and get relevant information.
- Better and timely enforcement of contract would enhance trust in government.

Gati Shakti mission would help in achieving \$5 trillion goal GDP.

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 Informal sector comprises of 90% of total workforce.

— National ~~Stat~~ Statistics
Office survey.

Issues faced by Informal sector workers

→ Lack of social security in the form of health insurance, provident funds, etc.

→ Lack of occupational safety due to working in hazardous conditions

→ work below minimum wages.

→ Lack of fulfilment of demands by the industry owners like better working conditions.

→ contractual job which is seasonal.

→ sexual harassment of women.

eshrav portal: Portal to collect all the information of informal and migrant workers under ministry of labour.

eshrav portal can help

→ would help in identifying name, residence, and other basic details of the worker.

→ Better targeting of schemes like PM Caree b Kalyan yojana.

→ Portal can be used by other ministries like Finance to implement JamDham Aadhar mobile trinity.

(Challenges)

→ lack of awareness

→ informal workers are constantly migrating.

e Shram portal is hence a step in right direction.

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 the G7, came up with the proposal to tax multinational corporations (MNCs) who evade taxes in their country of operating.

Significance of Global minimum tax

- would lead to MNCs paying their due share of taxes, at least 15%.
- would reduce the attractiveness of tax havens like Bahamas, Caymans.
- would help state generate more revenues for better implementation of welfare schemes.
- would lead to reduction in income inequality. 10% of people in India hold 70% of wealth [Oxfam report].
- would increase corporate accountability.

and corporate ethics.

Prospects for India

- would lead to generation of revenues as most of these companies exploited India's huge market for revenue generation without paying taxes. Ex: The Hutch-Vodafone deal
- would increase tax to GDP of the country currently at 16%.

Challenges for India

- could make India unattractive for business.
- corporate - politician nexus makes it difficult to hold the corporates accountable.

Nevertheless, the global minimum taxation would help India achieve many of its DSBs and SDGs.

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।

Recently Australia, UK and US announced security pact called AUKUS, in which US and UK would help Australia build nuclear powered submarines.

How AUKUS heralds a new era of global geopolitics

- Step towards a new Anglo-Saxon alliance.
- Increases role of UK and Australia in the Indo Pacific.
- Increases capability of Australia to challenge growing belligerence of China.
- Reinforces Indo-Pacific as the

most important theatre of geopolitics.

How AUKUS affects India

→ may take greater role than Quad in the Indo Pacific.

→ Since AUKUS was announced surprisingly, leads India in a limbo on how much to trust US.

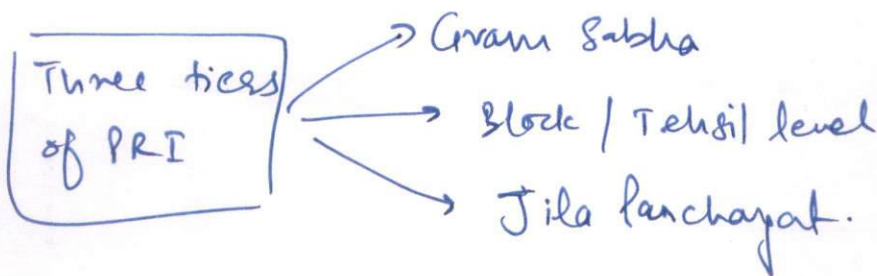
→ France who was initially to supply submarines to Australia feels short changed. France, India and Japan could form their own alliance for exchange of nuclear technology.

The AUKUS would further strengthen Quad and rein in rising ambitions of China. It would also help in keeping the Indo Pacific, free, open and inclusive.

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 (PRI) were formed through 73rd Amendment Act, 1992.



~~Why~~ Objectives of PRI

- Social empowerment
- grassroots democracy
- people's participation
- aware citizenry
- local level plans.

Why effective devolution of finances is important for PRI to fulfill objectives

- To make the PRIs autonomous and self sufficient.

- To implement programs and policies of state and central government.
- To provide services like water, electricity, roads for the rural population.
- For timely payment of wages under MGNREGS to rural population.
- For payment of government servants' salaries and allowances.
- To develop infrastructure like digital connectivity, offices of Panchayat, etc.

Reasons behind lack of financial resources for PRI

- Dependent on state and central governments for money through schemes.
- low powers of taxation.
- Lack of devolution of resources

from state due to non-implementation of
State Finance Commission's resources.

- low per capita of rural population income
- corruption at ground level [bureaucrat -
gram sabha nexus]

Steps to devolve more financial resources

- codifying taxation powers of PRI as
suggested by Mani Shankar Prasad
Committee.
- Increasing grants from central and
state finance commissions.
- Allowing gram sabha to levy fees on
services like roads, water, etc.

Effective financial devolution to PRI
is essential to realise the vision of
"Gram Swaraj."

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।

Montesque's separation of powers theory postulates that judiciary, executive and legislature are sovereign within their domains and no one ought to interfere in the other's mandate.

This establishes checks and balances in a system. But due to judicial activism, which is defined as encroachment of judiciary in legislative and executive business, the system of checks and balances gets imbalanced.

Judicial activism is a necessary tool

→ Under Article 22, judiciary is empowered to issue writs like

Habeas corpus, mandamus, etc to command the executive to perform their functions.

- Judicial activism upholds fundamental rights. Ex: Vishaka guidelines to protect right to safe workplace for women.
- It helps in upholding "independence of judiciary" principle. Ex: ~~was~~ It struck down the 99th amendment regarding establishment of NJAC.
- It is used to address concerns of the larger public through the use of Public Interest Litigations.
- Needed to restore faith in democracy.
Ex: SC judgement in Lily Thomas case barring convicted politicians to hold seat in legislature.

Judicial activism becoming judicial overreach is also a matter of concern.

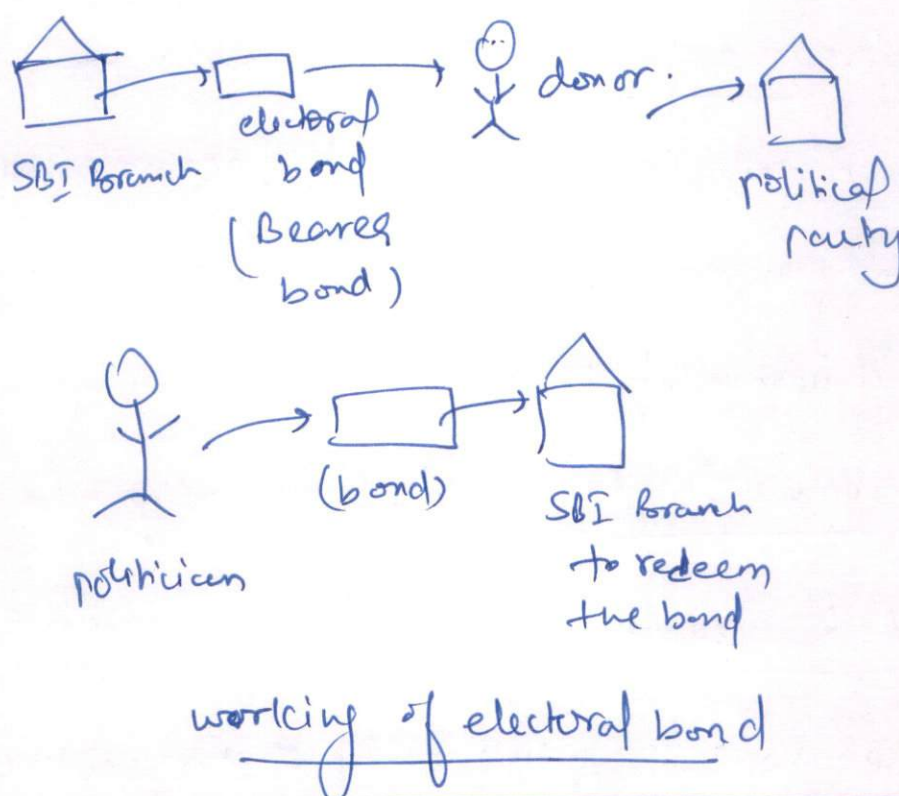
- Judiciary does not has expertise in general matters of administration.
Ex: SC intervention in BCCI.
- encroachment in executive's domain.
Ex: asking Centre to form drought policy.
- Decreases the accountability of judiciary. Ex: NJAC in 2015 was brought against criticism of collegium system.
- creates turf wars between the organs of the state and breaches principle of separation of power.

The judiciary should play a proactive role in upholding rights of the citizens while adhering to the principles of separation of powers, which is basic structure of the constitution under Keshwananda Bhaskar case, 1973

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 प्रतीति होती है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Electoral bonds were brought through the Finance Act, 2016 to enhance transparency and reducing role of cash in electoral funding.



Electoral bond as a growing trend away from accountability and transparency:

- Since the bonds are bearer bonds, name of donor ~~can~~ as well as the receiver is not known.
- Unequal treatment: Since SBI is under Finance Ministry, the government can detect who is donating and how much to the opposition parties.
- The anonymity in electoral bonds promotes hidden corporate-politics nexus. This may increase influence of businesses in government policies.
- Favours the ruling party: According to ADR research, 95.1% of total funding has gone to ruling party at the centre.

Advantages of electoral bond

- Reduces the role of cash in funding

as ~~the~~ cash donations ~~of~~ below ₹2000 are not allowed.

→ Since the donor has to get the bonds via PAN number, rate of black money is reduced.

→ Makes the process digital that can be traced in times of need and investigation.

Way ahead

→ National Commission to review working of constitution has suggested State funding of elections.

→ Election Commission has suggested to political parties for voluntary disclosure of donors to enhance transparency.

Electoral finance must be transparent for effective functioning 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।

Principle of subsidiarity states that the functions that can be performed at a lower level must not be performed at the higher level. This principle was suggested by 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission.

Principle of subsidiarity reflected in management of COVID 19

- The states were asked to identify red, orange and green zones as per the infection rate at local level.
- The decision for lockdowns at localised level was given to states in the second wave of the pandemic.

- States were allowed to procure vaccines directly from domestic and foreign markets.
- The Gram Sabhas were empowered by the states to identify people who were coming from outside and quarantine them in local school premises.
- Also financial and food resources were sent to Gram Sabha to take adequate care of the COVID positive patients.
- The demands for oxygen were met at the local level by establishment of PSA plants by the state.
- Centre increased the borrowing limits of state governments ~~to~~ to better manage the pandemic.

Challenges under COVID19 that infringed upon principle of subsidiarity

- Under Disaster management Act, 2005 centre had issued a uniform nationwide lockdown in the first wave without taking localised needs into consideration.
- Centre was issuing orders for inter-state movement of vehicles and people rather than letting states decide.
- Since centre had greater bargaining power, vaccine procurement at the level of states was not a pragmatic idea.

Way Ahead

- Localisation wherever possible, centralisation wherever necessary.
 - Cooperative and harmonious federalism.
- COVID 19 manifested that if given adequate responsibilities, the ~~set~~ states were well capable of handling a pandemic.

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।

Transparency is the principle of timely communication of information of decisions and working of the government.

Accountability is the responsibility of the authority over the consequences of its actions and policies.

How social media has ushered in greater transparency and accountability in governance

→ Gives voice to the voiceless. Ex: The metoo movement made a sitting Union Minister resign.

→ Holding government accountable. Ex: a poor quality road in UP was highlighted through a video on Twitter.

→ Creates participative and deliberative

democracy as citizens discuss policies and programs over social media.

→ Has increased the voice and reach of pressure groups. Through social media the farmer movement forced government to repeal the three farmer laws.

→ Makes bureaucracy responsible.

Ex: Susaiyus DM was transferred as his video of slapping a citizen went viral.

Why social media is not an alternative to institutional accountability

→ fake news and viral photos are sometimes used to demand accountability.

→ Through institutions like CIC, CAG, CVC, true information is reached to people.

→ Institutions like judiciary have formal authority to hold the government

responsible.

- Proper and due procedure is followed through institutional accountability. This deepens democracy and prevents mobocracy as is sometimes seen on the social media.
- Upholds the rule of law and parliamentary form of democracy as the government is duty bound to reply to questions of the legislature.
- Strengthens CIC, CVC, CAG, Lokpal as institutions in holding the government accountable.

Social media can be used to highlight omissions of the government but proper channels like CIC, CVC, Lokpal must be used to lodge complaint and hold the government accountable and enhance transparency.

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।

Gunnar Myrdal in his book "Asian Drama" had once called India as "soft state" due to the lack in capacity to effectively implement law and deliver public services.

Role of incentives and intentions in delivering public services

- Better services improve lives of the citizens and uphold the social contract theory that says state is formed to serve needs of the society [Rousseau].
- Better services lead to increase in trust and legitimacy of the government.
- Helps the government electorally as it generates good will for the political party.

→ Helps increase the financial resources for the state through levy of taxes and fees for providing public services.

Why the capacity to provide public services is questionable

→ Instances of corruption by politicians and bureaucrats.

→ Deteriorating law and order situations in places affected with insurgency and napalism.

→ Lack of financial resource. Tax to GDP is only 16% and only 9% of people file Income Tax returns.

→ Lack of co-ordination in state-centre.
Ex: some states not willing to implement the one nation one ration card scheme.

→ Lack of digitisation and last mile

Connectivity.

- Sometimes over reliance on digital media, internet excludes vulnerable sections. Ex: denial of food at PDS shops due to failure in Aadhar authentication.

Steps to increase state capacity

- making the bureaucracy transparent, responsible and accountable.
- strengthening RTI and citizen's charter.
- Cooperative and competitive federalism.
- Investing in judicial infrastructure to increase government accountability.
- Roping in private sector through PPP projects.

Better governance through effective state capacity are sine qua non for a strong democracy.

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 slipped from 94th rank in 2020 to 101 rank in 2021 Global Hunger Index.

This happened despite, the government procuring highest wheat and rice in the last season. Total grains lying with the FCI are around 1.1 lakh metric tonnes.

Hence problem is not with food production but various other underlying issues :

→ Lack of awareness: Many poor are not aware of the National Food Security Act, 2013. Those aware ~~are not~~ do not know how to avail ration cards.

- corruption: Foods diverted from PDS shops and for godowns for purposes like liquor production.
- Lack of ~~Empathy~~ Apathy and Compassion :
Leads to exclusion of many deserving beneficiaries.
- Technological glitch: Failure in Aadhaar authentication leads to denial of food as happened recently in Jharkhand.
- Lack of co-operative federalism: States like West Bengal, Delhi did not want to implement one nation one ration card scheme which was in the interest of migrants.
- Societal issues: maximum poor are from Dalit community, ST, women who are not given food due to lower status.

→ Government policies: MSP regime favours wheat and rice. This leads to issue of "hidden hunger" and "malnutrition".

Steps to improve hunger situation

- Universalisation of PDS particularly during disasters like pandemic, cyclone, etc.
- Promotion of millets and pulses to improve nutrient intake of population.
- Mid Day meals from pre school to higher educational institutions.
- Plugging gaps in PDS system like alternative should be devised if Aadhar authentication does not work.
- Community kitchen programs like Jan Rasi, Delhi and Anna Centres, Tamil Nadu.

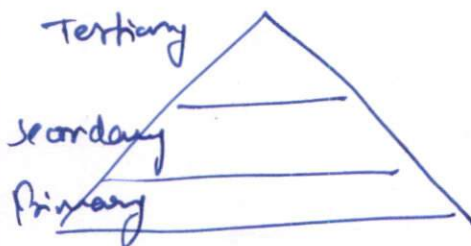
Addressing hunger would help achieve SDG goal 2.

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

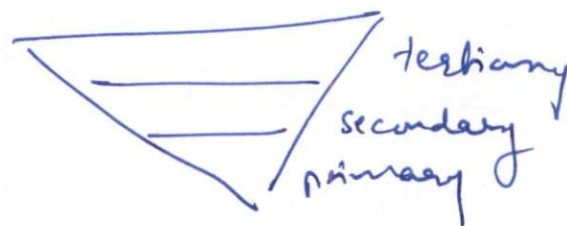
(250 words) 15

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

Primary healthcare is referred to as the first point of contact in case of medical emergency that provides basic healthcare services.



Ideal Health System



Indian Health System

Why Democratization of primary healthcare is indispensable

→ To increase the health coverage of people, by reaching to hitherto left out geographical locations.

- To reduce the out of pocket expenditures which at 49.1% is highest for any country (NFHS-5)
- To prevent, preventable deaths due to child delivery, diseases like dengue, malaria, etc.
- To increase doctor population ratio to 1:1000 as recommended by WHO, against present ratio of 1:1455.
- To address issues of malnutrition of children and women.
- To enhance life expectancy which currently stands at 67 years.
- To help realise demographic dividend of the country.

Challenges in democratisation

- Over-reliance on tertiary care.

- Lack of expenditure, currently at 1.31% of GDP (NFHS-5), against 2.5% recommended by finance commission.
- Lack of medical professional who are averse to serving in rural areas.

Steps to democratise healthcare

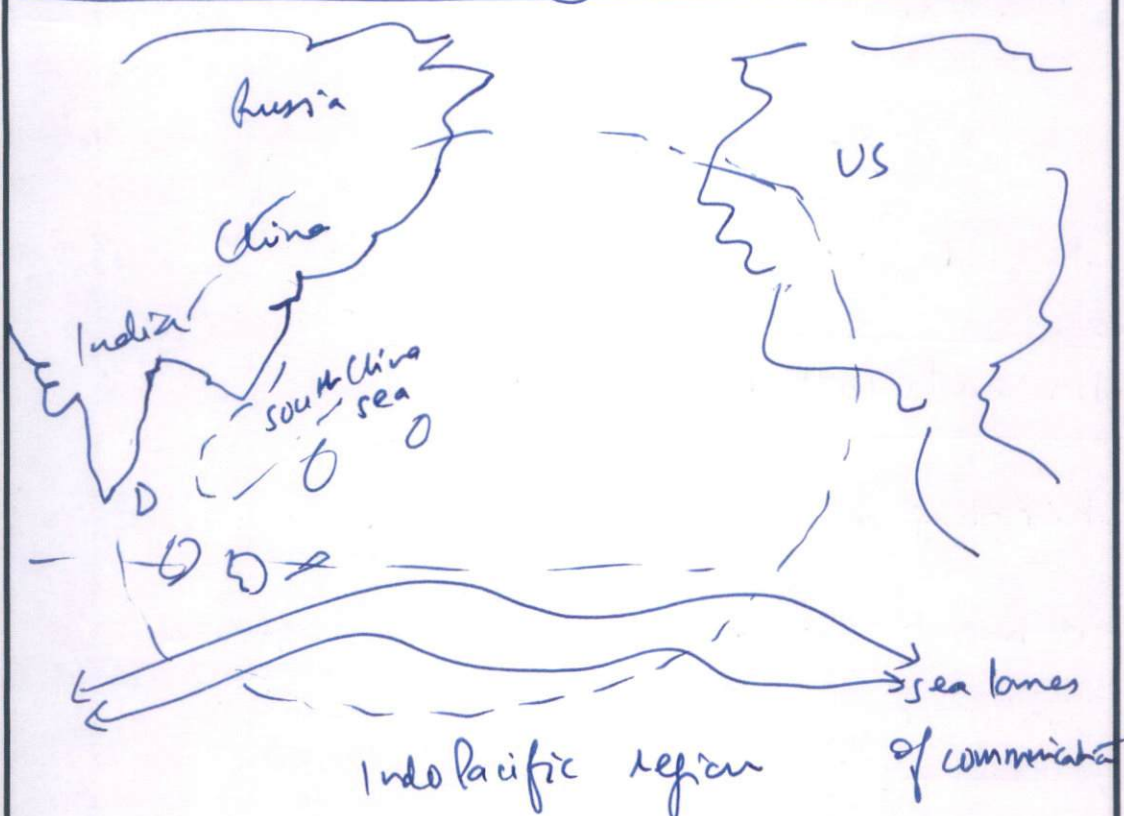
- Investing 60% of total health expenditure in primary healthcare as recommended by National Health Policy, 2017.
- Increasing Health and Wellness centres under Ayushman Bharat.
- Reopening medical sector through medical commission.

Democratisation of healthcare would help achieve DSIP Article 47 [Health & well being]

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 Indopacific is the evolving geopolitical theatre in 21st century.



Factors driving global shift to Indopacific:

→ Increasing GDP of Asian countries
with China at 1st and India at 3rd
in terms of GDP at purchasing power

parity.

→ 70% of global sea trade passing through Indo Pacific region.

→ Rising Chinese belligerence in the region as seen in South China sea and Taiwan.

→ world's 60% population lives in the Indo Pacific region.

India's interests in Indo Pacific

→ Keeping a free and open Indo Pacific as mentioned by PM Modi at Shanghai dialogue.

→ Adherence to IMC charter and UNCLOS convention or law of the sea.

→ Free movement of trade.

→ Non-militarisation of sea lanes of communication as is done by

China through acquiring bases like Gwadar in Pakistan and Hambantota in Sri Lanka.

→ Unilateral change in status quo must be avoided as done by China in South China Sea.

→ A/ECAN centrality in Indo Pacific.

Challenges to realise India's interests

→ No convergence on the definition of Indo Pacific between India and other players like USA and EU.

→ Quad ~~not~~ still not a military alternative to Chinese aggression.

→ Bilateral trade and import dependence on China.

→ Sea Piracy and marine pollution.

→ opposition from China, Russia and Pakistan.

The future of geopolitics would be witnessed 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। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Afghanistan has always been the land of "Great Game" which has now been won by Taliban overtaking the whole country.

India's Afghanistan Policy and its strategic goals

- To form an inclusive government in Afghanistan that is democratic.
- To reduce influence of Pakistan's ISI in Afghanistan.
- To prevent Afghanistan from becoming a hub of anti-India terrorists.
- To prevent Pakistan from diversifying

the Mujahideens free from fighting from
Durand line to Radcliffe line.

- To prevent illegal smuggling of
drugs and arms via Afghanistan.
- To help in human development of
Afghanistan's population.
- To use ~~Pakistan's~~ & Afghanistan's
geography to connect to central Asian
region and beyond to Russia through
International North South Transport
corridor.

Current regional strategic environment

- Growing influence of China in
Pakistan and Afghanistan after
the exit of USA.
- China-Pakistan nexus getting strong

against India.

→ lack of consensus with region on the
recognition of Taliban.

current strategic global environment

→ US China global rivalry that ignores
the Afghanistan issue.

→ US - Russia rivalry that makes it
hard for India to balance its
competing interests.

→ Rise of Indo Pacific as important
feature of geopolitics.

Regional consensus is needed to solve
the Afghanistan crisis through Afghan
owned, Afghan controlled and
Afghan owned process led process.