



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	R. Jaya Sinha Reddy		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	714260
Center	Online	Date	29/11/21

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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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।

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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।

Recently, Parliament passed  
GNCTD amendment act, 2021.

Changes introduced :-

- ① Definition of government : From now on government implies Lt. governor of Delhi and not Council of ministers
- ② Any executive action by Council of ministers requires prior sanction of Lt. governor
- ③ Lt. governor must reserve bills for President's assent on matters Presidental to those outside purview of state legislature (Land, Police, Law & order)

④ State legislature cannot make any rules inconsistent with that of Parliament.

⑤ Legislative committees cannot inquire into day to day functioning of executive.

Issues :-

① Against SC judgement in GNCTD case (2018) as the amendment makes democratically elected Delhi govt subordinate to Lt. governor.

② Legislature cannot hold executive accountable effectively as its committee cannot monitor performance of govt.

③ Policy paralysis: Some council of ministers require Lt. governor's approval for any action.

Thus, the amendment is seen as threat to cooperative federalism. It remains to be seen if it withstands Judicial

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

(150 words) 10

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

Sec 124A of IPC (1870) deals with sedition. It defines sedition as any act that brings contempt or excites disaffection towards government.

Sedition

- non-bailable offense
- Punishment includes life-term
- Ban from govt job

Arguments in favour of sedition :-

- ① To curb secessionist & anti-national tendencies.
- ② To protect law & order in insurgency hit areas where insurgents openly call for armed overthrow of govt.
- ③ Political stability : To protect state

from attempts of violent overthrow

④ Right to freedom of speech is not an absolute right (reasonable restrictions)

⑤ Other organs too have similar power  
(Judiciary → contempt ; Legislature  
breach of privilege) ←

Argument against :-

① Tool to muzzle freedom of speech

(Ex:- Karnataka govt → against school children for anti-CAA play)

② Vague meaning of 'disaffection' make law prone to misuse

③ It results in pre-censorship

④ International experience : states like UK have repealed the law.

Therefore, state must balance security concern with citizen liberties. Safeguards provided by SC in Kedar Nath Singh judgement (1973) must be adhered to.

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

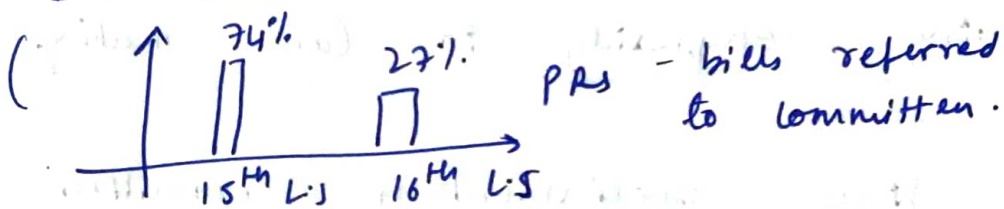
(150 words) 10

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 Committees help parliament in effective discharge of its duty by facilitating in-depth scrutiny of bills. Example - Public accounts committee, Finance committee, etc.

Issues that contributed to decline :-

① Less referral of bills to committees



② Short tenure of 1 year of members prevents expertise development.

③ Lack of capacity building of MPs  
(Ex:- laws on emerging technology like cryptocurrency require sound technical knowledge)

- ④ Partisanship : Members in the committee bring their political rivalry into discussions.
- ⑤ Limited secretarial assistance to the committees (Ex: Staff, resources, etc.)
- ⑥ Criminalisation of membership.  
Share of MPs with criminal background increased from 24% (2004) to 43% (2019) - ADR

⑦ Growing complexity in law making

Since parliamentary committees are critical in parliamentary democracy, reforms such as:-

- Capacity building of MPs
- Mandatory referral of all bills (NCRWC)

Can be undertaken to improve their performance.

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।

In a parliamentary democracy, PM is the real executive head. PMO, which is chaired by PM, wields immense decision-making power.

P.M	Cabinet Secretary
NSA	Principle Secretaries

Fig: members of PMO.

Immense decision-making power :-

- ① In agenda setting and policy guidance (PM instructions to cabinet)
- ② In security related matters, NSA emerged as most important institution
- ③ In monitoring program implementation (Ex:- PM through PRAGATI portal)

Advantages :-

- ① It ensures that there is unified approach among all ministers
- ② Expertise of senior-most bureaucrats will help policy making
- ③ Facilitate quick-decision making

Challenges :-

- ① Centralization of power undermining Council of Ministers
- ② Non-elected & Unaccountable Secretaries & NSA undermine democratically elected ministers

Thus, PMO's involvement has both advantages & disadvantages. PM must ensure that collaborative and consultative approach in functioning of PMO.

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 considered as new  
oil for its multitude of benefits.

Role in governance :-

- ① Informed policy making  
(Ex:- Health insurance scheme based on data of morbidity among population)
- ② Identification of beneficiaries  
(Ex:- Socio Economic Caste Census 2011)
- ③ Improving transparency & accountability in governance by openly sharing data.
- ④ Controlling problem of NPAs in banks  
(Economic survey 2020 - PSB data analytics)
- ⑤ Tackling security challenges  
(Ex:- Facial recognition data in Airports).

Challenges in this regard :-

- ① Data is prone to misuse raising concerns of surveillance
- ② Cybersecurity issues (India ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in Internet crime report 2020)
- ③ Ensuring use-value of data
- ④ Lack of coordination between various ministries resulting in poor interoperability of data

Measures to address :-

- ① Data protection act to prevent data misuse
- ② Adopting common standards in data handling across all govt ministries
- ③ Greater synergy among bodies like CERT-In to minimise cyber threats.
- ④ Ensuring timely collection of critical data like PLFS, consumer expenditure survey

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 implies the citizen space outside of govt and private sector, which includes NGOs, Pressure groups, etc

Condition that led to emergence of a new civil society in urban India

① Post LPG reforms 1991, Indian advocacy groups got strengthened with links with global organisations like Amnesty International.

② Internet facilitated sharing of information & ideas without borders. (Ex:- Aarey Forest colony protest was influenced by global environment movement)

③ Influence of media & social media on urban youth led to campaigns like Red Dot (women's menstrual hygiene)

④ Crowd-sourcing platforms like Ketto are allowing urban residents to contribute to rural development

Contribution towards effecting governance and policy changes:-

① New urban civil society was successful to large extent in building pressure on governments

(Ex:- Greater attention towards pollution in NCR)

② They are helping through surveys in enabling informed policy making

Thus, new urban civil society holds significant importance in governance & policy making

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 launched with a view to overhaul governance processes for faster infrastructure creation.

Potential to address infrastructure bottlenecks :-

- ① It aims to accelerate implementation of NIP.
- ② It can inspire confidence among private sector, which helps in attracting investments (India needs to invest \$1.4 trillion in infrastructure by 2024 - Tamfane on NIP).
- ③ It can improve ease of doing business & facilitate infrastructure creation.

## Streamline the governance processes:-

- ① The mission envisages a real-time dashboard to monitor implementation
- ② It promotes coordination between various ministries in planning & execution

(Ex:- It can eliminate

↓  
Min of road - laying roads,  
Min of Jalshakti - digging roads next  
day to lay water pipelines)

- ③ Instead of top-down approach, it follows a bottom-up approach giving greater scope to local bodies in monitoring & implementation of projects.

Thus, Aati Shakti is a much needed mission to solve infrastructure bottlenecks in India.

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 क्षेत्रक 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।

Informal sector accounts for  
~~100~~ 90% workforce in India (PLFS  
2019-20).

Various issues faced by Informal  
workers:-

- ① Lack of social security such as  
medical insurance, unemployment allowance,  
etc
- ② Poor conditions of work  
(Ex:- MSME Chemical factories)
- ③ No security of tenure. During  
pandemic, millions of workers were fired
- ④ Low wages and gender discrimi-  
nation in wages.

In this context, govt recently

launched e-shram portal to  
register all informal sector workers  
and issue them id cards.

It can help in following ways:-

- ① By providing real-time access to size of informal workforce and patterns of migration, it enables data-driven policy making.
  - ② Unique id-cards allows Union & state govt to implement targetted social security schemes.
  - ③ Facilitating employer-employee matchmaking.
  - ④ Regulating industries where these informal workers are employed.
- Thus, e-shram portal offers promise to address issues of informal workers. It must be utilised very effectively.

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, ~~G20~~<sup>G7</sup> members agreed on a global minimum corporate tax of 15%.

Significance of the recent developments:-

- ① Consensus among key developed countries on need to ensure that corporates pay their fair share of taxes.
- ② It can end destructive race to bottom (Avg corporate taxes have decreased from 34% (1990) to 17% (2019) - OECD).
- ③ It can reduce Base erosion and Profit shifting by corporates.
- ④ It is a remarkable step in global taxation regime (WEF).

### Prospects for India :-

- ① It can help in India's tax revenue (currently, India lost ₹ 50 bn due to BEPS - Min of Finance)
- ② It can prevent money laundering via shell companies in tax haven countries like Mauritius  
(Ex :- Pandora paper leak).
- ③ It can improve attractiveness of India's economy as companies may have no incentive to move to tax haven countries once global minimum corporate tax is setup

### Challenges for India :-

- ① sovereignty : Determining tax rates is a sovereign power of a country
- ② Developed-Developing countries gap may widen as large MNCs may relocate to their home countries.

Thus, India needs to actively participate in discussions on global minimum tax to ensure that its interests are protected.

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

(150 words) 10

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

AUKUS is a trilateral grouping of Australia, UK & USA to promote cooperation over sharing of nuclear submarine technology.

Heralds a new era in global geopolitics:-

① Rise of multilaterals: AUKUS further gives impetus to growth of multilaterals like Quad, JAI, etc.

② Nuclear technology: Platform like AUKUS promote research & development of modern nuclear technology.  
→ It may also amplify concern of nuclear proliferation.

③ Indo-Pacific: AUKUS contribute to increase in importance of Indo-Pacific as major security theatre.

④ It signals a shift towards maritime security from continental grand strategy until now.

⑤ It can act as a counter to China's BRI initiative under which it is acquiring military bases (ex:- Dugm base).

### India's interests :-

#### Positive

① Open up scope for India too to undertake coalition building in Indo-Pacific

② India can enhance its security capabilities by participating in groupings like the

#### Negative

① It can sideline Quad, in which India has huge strategic interests

② It may go against the comprehensive nuclear disarmament that India advocates.

Thus, AUKUS heralds a new era in global geopolitics. It remains to be seen how countries react to it.

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।

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional amendment  
gave constitutional status to PRIs  
to enable them to effectively work  
as institutions of rural development

Objectives of PRIs :-

- ① 11<sup>th</sup> schedule to the constitution  
outlines some of the objectives like :-
- Drinking water & sanitation
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Implementation of welfare schemes
- ② To promote participatory democracy  
(Gramsabha)
- ③ Social justice through reservations  
for women & SC/ST

④ Rural development : PRIs play key role in formulating District Development plan.

Devolution of finances is important because:-

- ① It enables panchayats to provide Public services  
(Ex:- Road construction, community farming assets)
- ② It allows panchayats to undertake de-centralised planning & development
- ③ To achieve poverty alleviation by ensuring basic necessities -  
Food, shelter, health services
- ④ To enable them to function as autonomous constitutional bodies without depending on centre & states.

## Reasons behind lack of financial resource:-

- ① Poor internal resource generation  
(Ex:- Reluctance to collect water charges)
- ② Lack of political will  
(14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission - many states do not even table state finance commission reports in legislative houses)
- ③ Majority of grants are scheme-specific with minimum flexibility.
- ④ States themselves are glorified panchayats  
(On average 26% of state revenue comes from Centre).

The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission allotted 3.5 lakh crore to PRIs, which is 32% increase from 14<sup>th</sup> FC. This will address the problem of shortage of finance to large extent.

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।

Judicial activism is the proactive role played by judiciary in protecting citizen's rights by calling legislature & executive to perform their obligation.

Judiciary in India derives power of judicial activism through

→ Article 32 & 226 (Judicial review power to Supreme Court & High Court)

→ Article 142 - enables Supreme Court to pass any order to do complete justice.

Necessary guard against legislative  
adventurism :-

① To protect citizen's fundamental rights from legislative overreach.

(Ex:- 21<sup>st</sup> constitutional amendment empowered parliament to take away any fundamental right. But, SC in Keshavanada Bharati case (1973) → doctrine of basic structure.)

② To protect federalism by ensuring that Union government doesn't encroach into domain of states.

(Ex:- Recently, scope of 97<sup>th</sup> const amendment, dealing with cooperatives (State list) was restricted).

Executive excenses :-

① To ensure accountability of executive to public and restrict misuse of law

(Ex:- Safeguards against Sedition law in Kedarnath Singh Judgement)

② To protect dignity and liberty of citizens

(Ex:- During Pandemic, High courts pulled executive over excenses against migrants)

However, judicial activism is criticised at time as it violates doctrine of separation of powers.

Therefore, Supreme Court must ensure that it exercise its power in reasonable manner so as to not result in Judicial tyranny

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 विवेचन कीजिए।

Electoral bonds scheme was introduced in budget 2018 under the pretext of increasing transparency and accountability of election funding.

Features of electoral bond scheme :-

- ① No cash donations : Donations only through electoral bonds purchased from designated SBI outlets.
- ② Denomination of electoral bonds vary from ₹1000 to ₹1 crore.
- ③ Political parties must maintain account of electoral bonds received and must redeem them within 15 days.

It is expected to bring transparency and accountability in following ways:-

- ① Reduce role of black money, as bonds can be purchased only from banks.
- ② Banks maintain record of purchases of bonds
- ③ Funds received by political party is known to banks
- ④ Electoral bonds cannot be traded for other goods, so they cannot be misused (Ex: money laundering).

However, concerns regarding electoral bonds undermining transparency and accountability were also raised, because:-

- ① Disclosure: Political parties are not

required to disclose information to  
ECI under sec 33(b) RPA 1951.

② Corporates need not file Income  
Tax return on purchase of electoral  
bonds

③ Even foreign companies with substantial  
ownership over Indian firms can buy  
electoral bonds  
(Under RPA 1951, foreign funding is  
banned)

\* Way forward :-

① Electoral bonds must be brought  
under ambit of ECI.

② Political parties must voluntarily  
disclose information under RTI

③ State funding of election can be  
examined to curb money men  
in politics (Dinesh Goswami committee)

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, as defined by 2<sup>nd</sup> ARE implies that any action that can be done better at lower level of govt must be allowed to be done at that level.

### Significance of principle of subsidiarity

- ① It results in decentralization of governance
- ② Empowerment of local bodies  
(Ex:- States devolving power to local bodies)
- ③ Facilitates people's participation in governance (Ex:- social audit)

Well reflected in management of Covid:-

- ① Implementation of lockdown: states empowered local bodies to restrict people's movement  
(Odisha entrusted Sarpanch with power of DM)
- ② Contact tracing was carried out by community health workers like ASHA, ANGANWADI, etc.
- ③ Enforcement of quarantine guidelines was undertaken by District collectors
- ④ States were given flexibility in identifying hotspots and designing locally relevant strategies  
(Ex:- During 2<sup>nd</sup> wave, Union refused to announce nation-wide lockdown)

⑤ Calibrated Unlockdown was carried out according to the economic & health vulnerabilities of respective states.

However, at times, instances of centralization was also noticed:-

① Union imposing nation-wide lockdown under DM Act 2005 without consulting states.

② Restrictions on borrowing power of state and refusal to compensate for GST loss.

Covid-pandemic has thus shown the importance of principle of subsidiarity. In the same spirit, local bodies must be empowered to deal effectively with future pandemics.

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। विघ्नोपशान कीजिए।

Social media is regarded as game changer in governance because of its capacity to usher in transparency & accountability.

Social media & transparency :-

① Any instance of corruption can be brought into limelight (ex:- sharing videos of officers demanding bribe)

② It promotes access to information (ex:- Covid guidelines on Twitter)

Social media & accountability :-

① It ensures that executive excesses

are strictly dealt with  
(Ex:- Video of Tripura DM thrashing  
public for violating lockdown)

② It makes citizens aware of  
their rights which empowers them  
to hold executive accountable

(Ex:- Right to be given drinking  
water in any hotel for free).

However, accountability through  
social media has certain challenges  
and cannot be alternative to  
institutional accountability, because:-

① Data manipulation is possible on  
social media  
(Ex:- Morphed images of govt officers)

② Digital illiteracy prevents large  
sections of population from exercising  
accountability through social media

③ Sensitive Information such as defence deals cannot be made public. It has to be dealt with institutions like CAG, CVC, etc.

④ Judicial evidence: Recently Supreme Court held that Whatsapp chats alone cannot be taken as sufficient evidence.

⑤ Expertise: Ordinary public on social media lack expertise required to hold government accountable on technical matters like finance accounts, environmental cleanliness, etc.

Thus, social media has to be used in parallel with robust institutional mechanisms to ensure effective accountability.

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

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।

The primary responsibility of a democratic state is citizen-welfare and efficient public service delivery for optimal utilisation of public funds.

Right incentives and intentions :-

- ① Efficient public service delivery will be rewarded with
  - = greater citizen compliance with law
  - payment of taxes on time
  - bring the party in power to power again through voting

② State's intentions are also visible in initiatives such as:-

- minimum govt max governance
- adopting Sevottam model
- progressive & innovative platform like PRAGATI to monitor service delivery
- Usage of DBT to minimise leakage of funds.

However, its capacity to do

so is questionable because:-

① Shortage of resources

(India's tax: GDP ratio is 17%, compared to average of 34% of OECD countries).

② limited manpower

(Ex: 40% vacancies in High Courts)

Don't write anything in margin (get more marks)

③ Rigged bureaucratic procedures accused of resulting in red tapism & corruption.

④ Poor infrastructure  
(Only 17% of rural households have access to Internet - NSO 2019 report)

Way forward :-

State can enhance its capacity to deliver public services in ways like:

① Reforming administration  
(Ex:- Mission Karmayogi for civil servants)

② Ensuring greater tax compliance  
(Ex:- IT taxpayer charter)

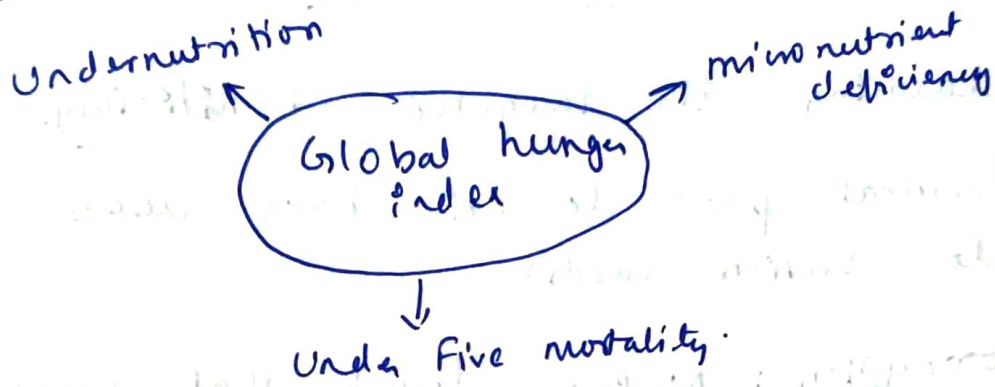
③ Adopting simplified procedures  
(single window clearance).

Then, with the above measures, State can effectively fulfil its obligations.

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's ranking slipped from 106 (2020) to 140 among 156 countries in 2021.



Problem doesn't lie in food production because:-

① India is a food surplus country

(In 2020, food grain production - 296 million tonnes - all time high)

② Sufficient food stocks in FCI

godowns

(Mandated - 70 MT, actual - 100 MT  
Economic Survey 2020)

Hence, India's hunger problem lies in other issues such as :-

- ① Improper utilisation of food  
(Ex:- ICAR estimated food losses to wastage at ₹ 92,000 crore in 2013)
- ② Reaching the targeted beneficiary  
(Several poor do not have access to ration cards)
- ③ Corruption : NCPER found that many schools do not follow prescribed menu and standards in mid-day meals
- ④ Nutritional value : Excessive importance to Rice & wheat in diet is resulting in micronutrient deficiencies.  
(NFHS 2019-20 : 67% Under Five children are anemic).

⑤ Affordability : Frequent fluctuation & food inflation of essential foods like Tomato, Onion, etc. adversely impact poor and marginalised.

Ways to address the problem :-

- ① Global Hunger report suggested micronutrient supplements to school children
- ② Expanding PDS to include Pulses & nutri-cereals
- ③ Encouraging investment in post-harvest storage & value-addition infrastructure to minimise food wastage.
- ④ Promote crop diversification to reduce disproportionate focus on rice-wheat system. With above measures, India can achieve SDG 2 of ending hunger.

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।

In quality and access to healthcare, India ranks 156<sup>th</sup> (Economic survey 2021). One of the ways to improve state of healthcare in India is by democratization of primary health care.

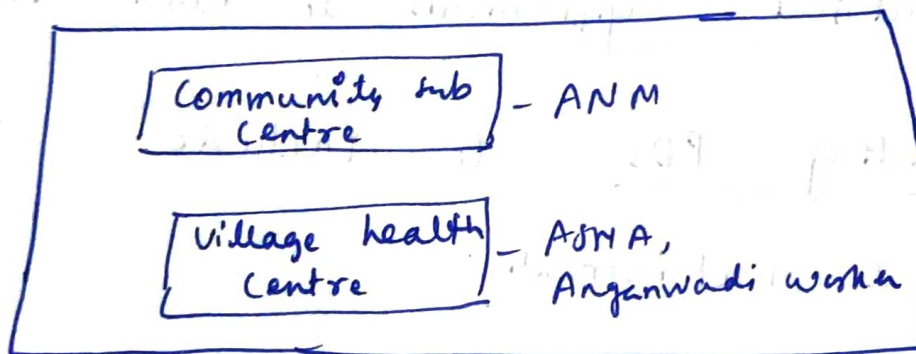


Fig: Components of India's PHC.

Democratization of PHC is indispensable because:-

Equitable

① Costs at PHC level are almost negligible, which makes Health services affordable.

- ② It prevents exclusion of weak and marginalized sections.
- ③ It helps in overcoming geographical barriers in accessing healthcare  
(Ex:- Out of 4.2 lakh hospital beds, 3.8 lakh are in urban areas - NHP).
- ④ It can prevent exploitation of poor & illiterate by quacks

### Comprehensive :-

- ① PHC can promote preventive care as well in addition to curative through awareness and timely intervention.
- ② Workers at PHC generally remain well-aware of demography of villages they're serving → holistic inputs to policy making

③ Awareness related to nutritional information, child health, etc can be better generated using PHCs.

Ways to demoralize PHC :-

- ① Increase public health expenditure (presently 1.5% GDP. NHP 2017 recommended 3% of GDP)
- ② Timely recruitment of staff at PHC level to address shortages
- ③ Better salaries to motivate young doctors to work at PHC
- ④ Augmenting health infrastructure (beds, ventilators, etc.) at PHC level.

GOI in Budget 2021 announced PM Swasthya Yojana to comprehensively strengthen PHC. This is a step in right direction.

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 मुकाब को प्रेरित करने वाले कारकों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में भारत के हितों और चुनौतियों की भी पहचान कीजिए।

Indo-Pacific has emerged as the centre of gravity of international politics. Recently, many countries including EU & USA have brought Indo-Pacific strategy documents.

Factors driving global shift towards Indo-Pacific:-

- ① Rise of China reflected in its aggressive actions in South China Sea, militarization of oceans, etc.
- ② changing balance of power: From Unipolar world (US hegemony), world is moving → multipolarity. Several emerging powers like India, China, Japan belong to Indo-Pacific region.

③ Economy : Indo-Pacific accounts for 70% of global sea trade.  
→ Threat from unilateral actions of countries like China is compelling other countries to secure sea lanes of communication.

④ Indo-Pacific region is rich in natural resources like gas hydrates which are regarded as fuel of future.

India's interests in the region :-

- ① To consolidate its position as net security provider
- ② To protect its economic interests by ensuring freedom of navigation
- ③ To prevent Chinese dominance and ensure a rules-based order in Indo-Pacific

- ④ To protect PH Investments in the region (Ex:- OPI block near Indonesia)
- ⑤ To strengthen cooperation with small Pacific Islands in Common threat of Climate Change (Ex:- Indo-Pacific Oceanic Initiative).

### Challenges to India :-

- ① Vision of Indo-Pacific: Whereas India considers Indo-Pacific architecture to span region from East Africa to Americas other Quad members like USA have different views.
- ② Gap in naval capacity between India and China (India has 1 nuclear submarine China has 12)
- ③ Growing Chinese influence (BRI, string of pearls) and limited economic capacity of India to compete with China
- India can secure its interests in Indo-Pacific well by partnering with like minded countries (Ex:- Quad).

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(इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें)

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।

*[Faint handwritten text in Hindi, likely a student's attempt at answering the question. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]*