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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	505389
Center	Online.	Date	29/09/2022

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Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. 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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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.

VisionIAS

All the Best

1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss. (150 words) 10

With increasing complexity of crimes e.g. - Cyber crime & financial frauds, a unified agency can help reduce the confusions & discrete investigation.

Benefits of Umbrella Body.

- 1) Can save resources & promote easy coordination.
- 2) Will also reduce confusions in investigations & raids on the accused.
- 3) Multiple bodies & different jurisdictions cause trifurcation.
- 4) The crimes are no longer isolated & are done with a

combination of tools.

5) It will be easy to hold
the body accountable.

Issues & Challenges

- 1) It could lead to over centralization of powers.
- 2) Might become too unwieldy due to many types of crimes - eg - money laundering, terrorism, cyber-crime, etc.
- 3) Different bodies ensure specialization.
- 4) It would require multiple statutes & amendments.
- 5) Single body would still require many departments. Hence, a properly studied & calibrated approach is needed to rationalize investigative bodies.

2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India.

(150 words) 10

Doctrine of Pith & Substance & Colourable Legislations have been invoked by Supreme Court to handle the asymmetric powers of center over state.

Significance of Doctrine of Pith & Substance.

1) It ensures that powers of legislation under one's jurisdiction, if are true in their spirit & even if encroach upon other's jurisdiction, do not become ultra vires.

2) It ensures separation of powers along with a practical.

approach to constitutional
values.

eg - Used when conflict arises
on Seventh schedule.

Significance of Doctrine of Colourable
Legislation.

1) It states that what cannot
be done directly, must not
be done indirectly.

2) It ensures that legislative
loopholes are not exploited
for practical purposes.

eg - Use of ordinances unscrupulously
hence, these doctrines have
helped Supreme Court to
uphold true values of consti-
-tution.

3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. (150 words) 10

The Law Commission had suggested Simultaneous elections in one of its papers. Recently, even Electoral Commission has said that it is ready for simultaneous elections.

Need of Simultaneous Elections.

- 1) As due to continuous elections, legislatures are always on election mode.
- 2) This causes governance deficit → g-teachers are employed on duty.
- 3) Also economic activity is disturbed due to election phenomenon like MCC.

- 4) Elections also involve sensitive issues like Caste, religion, etc which can affect communal fabric.
- 5) Continuous elections cause election-fatigue.
↳ People become apathetic.

Challenges-

- 1) Many assemblies & coalition governments can cause breaks in election cycles.
- 2) By elections also need to be considered.
- 3) There is no guarantee that dissolution will not occur.
- 4) It can cause intermingling of issues. (National vs State)
- 5) Would be a logistical nightmare.
Hence, a carefully thought out & consensus based approach is needed.

4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10

Article - 105 & Article - 194 of constitution provide for Parliamentary privileges for the Parliament & State Legislatures respectively.

Need for codification

It is said that un-codified privileges are the ultimate privilege. Hence, needed codification as -

- 1) Prevent persecution of Journalists - Last year, Maharashtra Legislature questioned a journalist on publication of proceedings.
- 2) Put effective checks on unbridled powers.
- 3) Should be confined to ensure

freedom of speech & expression
& must not hamper other
branches. eg - Immunity from
judicial duties.

4) To enable transparency &
accountability.

5) As house can punish for its
contempt.

↳ can be misused for
gagging.

6) Make Parliamentarians respon-
-sible for their actions &
speeches.

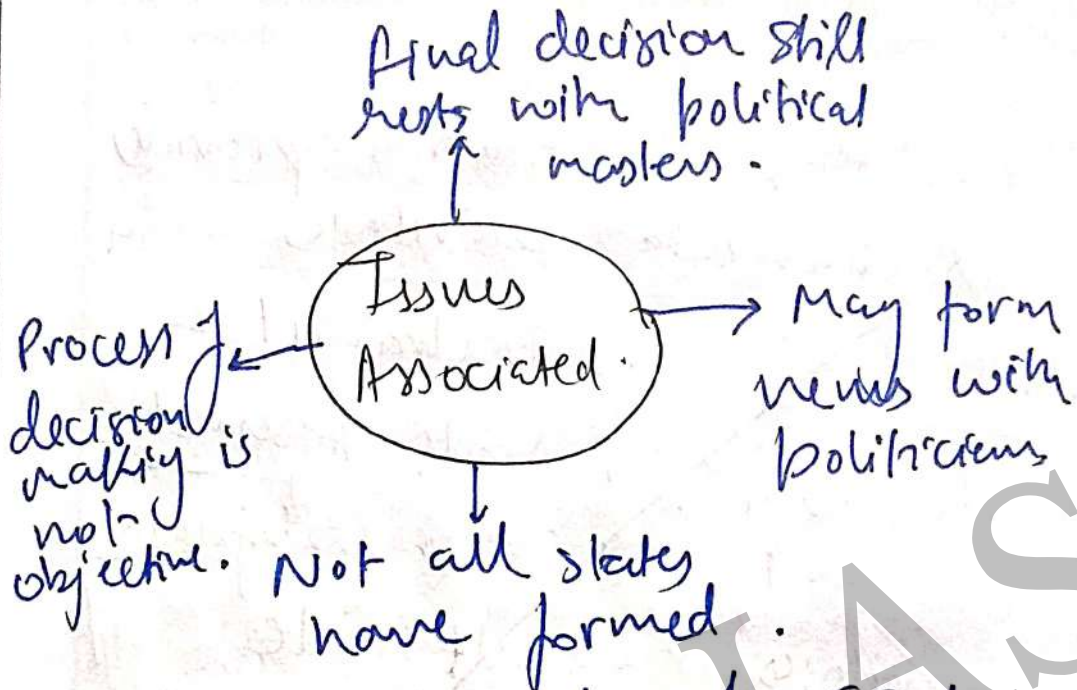
Hence, even though they
need protection, the privileges
must be rationalized &
codified.

5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. (150 words) 10

Civil services Board is set up to deal with the transfers, postings & promotions of bureaucrats. It is formed under the stimulus of the T S R Subramanian Judgment by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Benefits of Civil Services Board.

- 1) Provides career stability.
↳ Tenures & postings.
- 2) Reduces political interference & punishment postings.
- 3) Provides for a more transparent & accountable process.
- 4) Better governance is ensured.



hence, even though SC has ordered, CSBs have still not been set up. There can ensure a more motivated & productive bureaucracy with better governance outcomes.

6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. (150 words) 10

IndEA provides an ecosyst-
-em & architecture for a
unified development of digital
ecosystem.

Potential of IndEA

- 1) It can provide more
inter-operability in design &
production.
- 2) It can provide uniform
standards.
- 3) Can promote an open
source and community
contributed system.
- 4) It will be more decentr-
-alised.

5) It can be more discrete
yet interconnected.
↳ can be customized as
per requirements.

Hence, it is clear that
INDIA can provide a
more democratized digital
framework. e.g. - Meghalaya
has launched its MEGHA.

7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(150 words) 10

Civil Registration System holds the important demographic data like Birth, death, etc. for government sources.

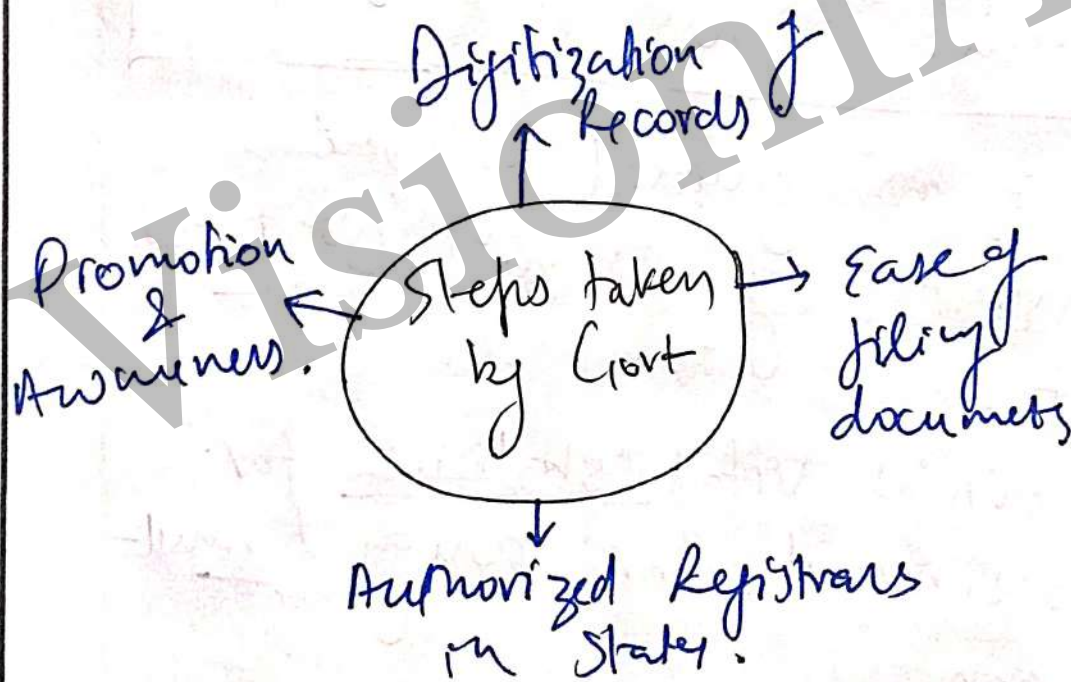
Importance of Civil Registration System.

It is guided by the Registration of Births & Deaths Act.

1) Provides vital statistics for government for policy formulation.

2) Provide for access to benefits & privileges. e.g. - Birth related benefits in PM-MVY.

- 3) Important for legal claims & documentation. eg- Death Certificate for spouse to access pension.
- 4) Recognizes the very legal existence.
- 5) Demographic data for govern-
-ment.



Hence, Civil registry system can help keep correct and verifiable record of population for government database.

8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers Act is an effective measure against issues like human disposal of excreta from dry latrines, sewer cleaning, etc. to ensure dignity of people.

Benefits of Act.

- 1) Provides for rehabilitation of manual scavengers.
- 2) Requires ban on construction of dry latrines.
- 3) Mandates provision of proper gear.
- 4) Involves heavy penalties on offenders.

- Issues. But all has not been as smooth & planned as-
- 1) Still, many people die practising manual scavenging.
 - 2) Conviction is evaded by offering alibi & due to improper evidences.
 - 3) It is mostly a caste based occupation.
↳ Needs social reforms as well.
 - 4) Government must institutionalize protective practices.
 - 5) NGOs & Civil society have failed to participate.
- Hence, it is a social as well as legal issue that needs Jan Andolan & Jan Bhaidari.

9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (150 words) 10

WTO is the global watchdog of equitable trade practices and ensures free & fair opportunities are available. But due to structural & functional issues it requires reforms.

Need For Reforms.

- 1) Dominated by powerful western countries who seek access to developing markets.
- 2) Agreements are asymmetric. eg - Agreement on Agriculture is violated by developed world.
- 3) Has failed to prevent trade wars.
- 4) China has refused to abide by

its norms.

- 5) Global protectionism & rising disruption of supply chains
- 6) Tough & unequal Intellectual Property Rules of Product Patent

Reforms to be taken.

- 1) Regular elections in the dispute settlement body to fill vacancies. - Currently lying vacant due to deadlock.
- 2) Ensure fair rules. - Process Patent instead of Product Patent.
- 3) The unilateral moratorium on levy of taxes on digital products must be done away with.
- 4) Agreement on Agriculture & Trade must be resolved once & for all.
Hence, WTO must reform to regain its legitimacy.

10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.

(150 words) 10

UNCLOS are the rules governing global maritime boundaries in order to rationalize economic & security interests.

Significance.

- 1) Provide for a comprehensive & elaborate demarcation of maritime boundaries.
- 2) Provides for dispute resolution under ITLOS (Tribunal).
- 3) Accepted by majority of the countries.
- 4) Provides well defined & practical solutions of Innocent Passage from Territorial waters.

5) Provides for well defined and demarcated Exclusive Economic Zone -

↳ Passage is free.

↳ But, exclusive right of the nation on mineral & natural resources.

Need For Legally Bindng BBNJ.

1) Solve any imperialistic claims by any nation.

2) Prevents tragedy of the commons.

3) Supports SDG-17 (Cooperation internationally).

4) Prevent IUU (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing).

5) Protecting global commons.

Hence, UNCLOS & BBNJ are suitable for cooperative solutions to international issues.

11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. (250 words) 15

Due to the efficient and effective work done by NHRC, GANHRI has accredited it with Grade "A". NHRC also works according to the Paris Principles.

Role Played by NHRC.

Acts as Human Rights
watch dog as -

1) Enjoys the power of a
civil court.

↳ can enforce attendance.

↳ seek documents & associat-
-ed witnesses.

2) It is a statutory body &

derives its power from
Protection of Human Rights Act,
1993

3) Undertakes investigation of
cases of Human Rights violation
↳ can take suo-moto
cognizance.

4) Visits jails, institutions, etc
to ensure all rules are
followed.

5) Due to its composition, which
is very representative, it can
understand concerns of vulnerable
sections. - e.g. - One member is
compulsorily women & heads
of NCW, NCPHR, NEHC, etc
are ex-officio - members.

6) Can suggest punishment & compensation to authorities.

7) Has its own manpower of investigators. → can also seek further assistance

Constraints-

1) It can not enforce punishment or give compensation.

2) Advice is only advisory & not binding.

3) There is a limited window within which cases must be lodged.

4) Due to executive's role in selection of member & fixing service conditions, autonomy is compromised.

5) Vacancies hamper functioning.

Hence, NITRC can further be strengthened by autonomy & proper manpower for ensuring human rights.

12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (250 words) 15

There is a tendency of 4.7 crore cases in Indian judiciary (as per National Judicial Data Grid). Hence, ICT can help leverage technology & deliver speedy justice.

Benefits of ICT in enhancing functioning-

- 1) Services like e-courts can ensure more wider & accessible. availability of justice. eg - Even remote hilly areas can be connected.
- 2) ADR can be benefitted by

organizing arbitration & conciliation proceedings informally and more frequently.

3) ICT can reduce requirements of investing in physical spaces.

4) Facilities like e-signature, DigiLocker, etc under Digital India can help in safe exchange of documents and signatures.

5) The cases can be heard more frequently from any location.

6) Inter-court communication can be enhanced.

7) Services like SUVAS can help in can help bridge language barriers.

8) Services like SUPACE can

help in reducing time lag between
court orders & execution.
→ in giving bail.

Challenges 1) Digital divide and

digital illiteracy can be an
impediment.

2) There is a threat of data
breach as we don't have
a data protection law.

3) Villages need to augment their
infrastructure of Common
Service Centers (CSCs).

4) Language & other related
barriers.

5) A capacity building is essential
for secretarial staff to handle
digital records.

Hence, ICT can help in
speedy justice but must be supported
with a data protection framework

13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

As per Association of Democratic Reforms, more than 30% of legislators have criminal cases against them.

Causes of ineffectiveness of RPA, 1951

- 1) As per ADR, candidates with criminal history are twice as likely to win.
- 2) Parties do not concern about criminal charges as they aim for votes.
- 3) As per RPA, 1951, anyone with offence with punishment of more than 2 years is disqualified. ~~but~~ but, litigation takes years to complete.

- 4) Lack of proper awareness among voters promote caste based politics.
↳ even if candidate is criminal.
- 5) Election commission cannot ~~adjudicate~~ enforce violation against candidates.
- 6) Criminal candidates have money & muscle power.
- 7) Polarization in society causes voters to overlook such concerns.
- 8) Model Code of Conduct is not a statutory law.

Way Forward

- 1) These can be solved by promoting ethical issues.

2) Voter awareness camps can be held.

3) ECI has introduced ECI-KYC (Know Your candidate App).

↳ has all criminal history
↳ declaration of income & assets.

↳ available online
↳ easily accessible.

4) Special comp (fast track) & Tribunals can be set up.

5) Supreme court judgements must be enforced.

↳ Giving reasons to select candidates in 2 national newspapers.

hence, criminalization of politics must be fought for & trail for an egalitarian & just society.

14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Urban local bodies suffer from constant drought of funds due to non-utilization of own tax revenue powers & low devolution from state governments.

Need for Permanent Revenue Sources

- 1) Devolution from states is inadequate due to political rivalries & state's own poor economic capacity.
- 2) Urban governance faces issues due to lack of funds.
 - ↳ lack of proper sanitation & maintenance.
- 3) Without own tax revenue

Collections, ULBs evade accountability.

4) Rise in population & urbanization has created issues like slum proliferation, land encroachment.

5) Also, issues of untimely & irregular only compounds electronic problems.

Ways for permanent, buoyant revenue.

- 1) ULBs must exercise their taxing powers. eg - property tax, ~~pro~~ entertainment tax, etc.
- 2) Money can be changed for utility services like sanitation,
- 3) Municipal bonds can be introduced for fund mobilization.

- 4) State governments can devolve more functions.
- 5) Reducing corruption among officials to realize proper revenue.
- 6) Tax filings can be made online for transparency & ease for customers.

Hence, robust & well funded ULBs will ensure the urban governance improves & India can improve its rankings in indices like SDC, & most-livable cities index.

15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.
(250 words) 15

The World Bank defines civil society as the 3rd pillar after market and the state. Civil society organisations can help in better extension of services & provide voice to people.

Changing Role of Civil Society

- 1) Civil society has evolved from just being the voice of people.
- 2) They actively partner with state to provide services & act as its arm. Bachpan Bachao Andolan is actively cooperating with government for child welfare.

- 3) For welfare schemes, they actively participate in beneficiary identification.
- 4) Government nowadays relies on CSO for extension of information & awareness.
↳ Their rapport with public is good.
- 5) CSOs are no longer just pressure groups but actively promote job opportunities, etc. of - SNCs like Kudumbashree & Lijjat
- 6) Can be drivers of social & cultural change. eg - Promotion of women sanitation.

Challenges - due to their deep

engagements and interacting with society may have a huge impact which can sometimes be unhealthy. e.g.

- 1) Recently IB highlighted how CSO organizations are hindering developmental projects.
- 2) Some CSOs are involved in religious conversions.
- 3) CSOs have also been used by foreign agencies to spur insurgency e.g. Naxalism.
- 4) Some ~~are~~ CSOs like Amnesty International have created issues internationally. e.g. Kashmir propaganda.

Hence, CSOs must be properly utilized for promoting growth & development.

16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. (250 words) 15

MPLADS provides for a corpus of ₹ 5 crore for MPs to fund infrastructure in their constituencies but they have raised many issues.

Issues with MPLADS.

- 1) CAG has highlighted how only 16% of funds are utilized.
- 2) Separation of powers is affected as MPs are entrusted for the Executive works.
- 3) It leads to the problem of March Rush due to non-use of funds.

- 4) Chances of collusive corruption are high. eg - MPs can misuse funds on ~~the~~ superfluous projects.
- 5) The method of functioning is very indirect as MPs can only recommend to be executed by district administration.
- 6) Unnecessary drain on exchequer & overhead into state's jurisdiction.

Way Forward.

- 1) NCRWC, 2nd ARC & ~~Panchajanya~~ have recommended abolition of MPLADS.
- 2) Instead of MPLADS, more funds can be used to

replenish local bodies like
Panchayats & ULBs.

3) MPs should rather suggest
their opinions re PRIs.

4) CAC, has also suggested that
MPLADS hardly created a
durable impact!

Hence, MPLADS can be
abolished as per NCWRC &
instead alternate ways can
be discovered like empower-
-ing district administration
or local bodies.

17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. (250 words) 15

Ed-tech sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of economy with CAER of about . . . It combines education & ICT.

Factors Responsible for Growth & Benefits

- 1) Cheaper & accessible internet has made online education affordable.
- 2) The customer acquisition cost is very low for Edtech.
- 3) Pandemic has given a push to Edtech sector. If we have more than 5 Edtech Unicorns now.

- 4) EdTech products are cheaper
 - a) compared to physical setup.
- 5) They offer more customisable courses.
- 6) Even government promotes e-learning for augmenting physical learning eg. - MOOCs, Swayam, eG, pathshala, etc.
- 7) Has a wide coverage & can be accessed remotely from anywhere.
- 8) Learning is at one's own pace.

Concerns Associated.

- 1) In absence of a data protection law, data is vulnerable.

- 2) Excessive use can cause Attention Deficit Disorder & damage eyes.
- 3) There have been cases where products availed on EMI, on nonpayment, harassed customers.
- 4) Digital Divide can cause inequalities.
- 5) Risks associated with cyber-crimes.
- 6) Neglects the importance of Social Interactions.
- 7) Some suggest their growth is a bubble.
Hence, EdTech can create a revolution when augmented with proper rules & regulatory & safety mechanisms.

18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. (250 words) 15

Recently, WHO's director general recognized the role played by ASHAs in pandemic & awarded them with Global Health Leaders award.

Role played in health service delivery

- 1) They are volunteers from local communities. & can ensure doorstep delivery.
- 2) Conduct surveys and create awareness about government schemes.
- 3) Have good rapport with the local people.
- 4) Conduct vaccination drives etc.

They were instrumental in
Patra Polio Campaign.

5) Advice & create awareness
in Family Planning matters.

6) Provide maternity services to
pregnant women & lactating
mothers.

↳ ensure that benefits reach
the grass roots - PM-Matru
Vandana Yojana.

7) Played a pivotal role in
COVID-19 vaccination.

Challenges Faced.

1) They are volunteers, hence
get performance based incentives
↳ which are very low.

2) Can suffer from sexual harass-
-ment at work.

- 3) Not properly skilled.
↳ only eligibility is class 10th
- 4) Work in high risk environ-
-ments and come in
contact with many ill.
- 5) Do not have any proper
social security.
- 6) Many challenges occur especi-
-ally in rural ^{with} areas.

Way forward -

- 1) They can be
provided formal employment.
- 2) This could secure income
security. Also wages should be
increased.
- 3) must be provided with adequate
training.
- 4) Proper protective gear.
Hence, ASHAs have been the
real frontline heroes for many
decades.

19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. (250 words) 15

Afghanistan ^{was} ~~takeover~~ takeover by Taliban in August 2021 when USA withdrew. But, it has created a socio-economic crisis that might spill over in South Asia.

Concerns. Associated.

- 1) USA was blocked Taliban's resources & funds. This has led to overreliance on opium cultivation for income.
- 2) This could aggravate internal security in India. E.g. - Drug smuggling from border states like Punjab.

- 3) Also, Taliban can support radical extremist organizations like LeT, Hizbul Mujahideen, etc.
- 4) Pakistan can use Taliban & Haqqani Network for infiltration.
- 5) India's investments in Afghanistan may go bust. e.g. Salma dam, Parliament Building, etc.
- 6) Religious minorities are persecuted in Afghanistan.
↳ can cause refugee crisis.
- 7) People to people relations are good with Afghan citizens.
↳ They also seek refugee.
y- Recent protests in New Delhi by Afghan Nationals.

8) It can hamper our Connect
Central Asia Policy

↳ as it passes via - Afghanistan.
↳ Chabahar Port → Zaranj → Central Asia.
Delarami

Measures to be taken.

- 1) India should at least establish contacts with Taliban.
- 2) Indian citizens must be repat-
-riated.
- 3) Minorities like Sikhs can be provided refuge.
- 4) India can send humanitarian
aid like food grains.
- 5) India can utilize Western QAN
for talks.
- 6) Our concerns must be conveyed.
Hence, India needs a pragmatic
strategy yet should ensure national
interests along with condemning
terrorism.

20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship. (250 words) 15

Bangladesh has been a reliable partner in South Asia and is the country with which we have largest bilateral trade in South Asia. Hence, it is an important pillar in our Act East Policy.

Importance of Bangladesh

- 1) Strategic location in Indian Ocean.
- 2) large bilateral trade.
- 3) Has helped in ensuring India's internal security -
eg - handed over Naga insurgents

4) Provides opportunity to directly connect to North Eastern Region.

5) Important member in regional group - SARC.

* Steps Taken by two countries to Strengthen Relations.

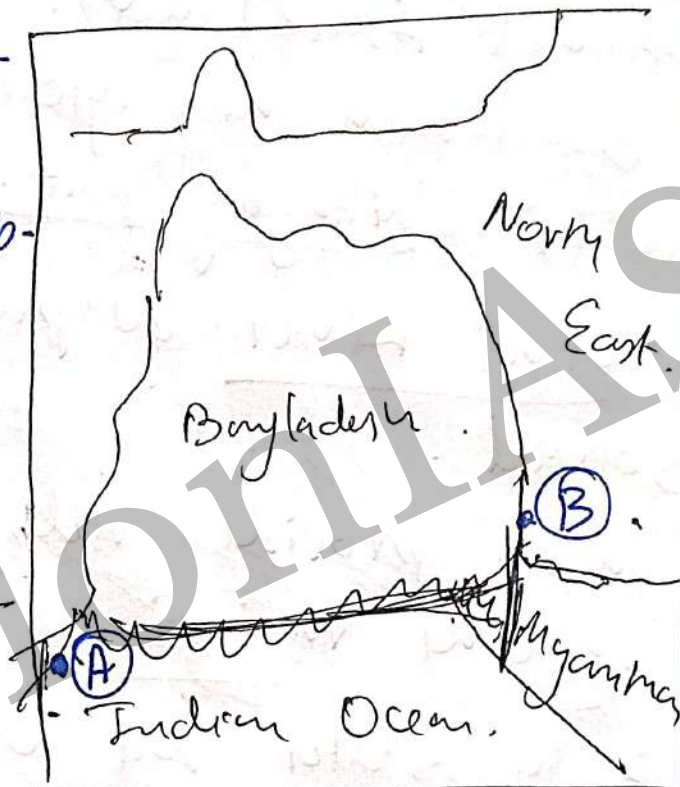


Fig - 1.

A = Kolkata

B = Tripura
via
Chittagong.

1) BBIN - Motor vehicles agreement to provide interconnectivity.

2) Important partners in the

BIMSTEC.

- 3) Border disputes were resolved peacefully - e.g. by 100th Constitutional Amendment.
- 4) Bangladesh has offered access to its Chittagong port.
- 5) Teesta River dispute has been solved.
- 6) India provide help under vaccine maitri.
- 7) Both states are collaborating for Sundubans conservation.

Hence, Bangladesh can be a reliable ally in IOR. India can help it with infrastructure and grants to reduce Chinese influence & for a secure Indo-Pacific.