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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	MAYANK MUDGIL	Registration Number	883478
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Date	27 Dec 21
Center	Online		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
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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).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
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.
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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. 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 उसका अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Highlighting the changes introduced by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Amendment Act, 2021, analyse various issues with the amended Act. (150 words) 10

दिल्ली राष्ट्रीय राजधानी राज्यक्षेत्र शासन (GNCTD) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2021 द्वारा प्रारंभ किए गए परिवर्तनों को रेखांकित करते हुए, इस संशोधित अधिनियम से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recently, GNCTD Act 2021 was introduced to regulate the affairs of Delhi.

Changes Introduced

1. "Government of Delhi" would refer to "Lt. Governor"
2. The legislature of Delhi shall not pass any law taking up newer responsibilities.
3. All executive decisions are needed to be brought before Lt. Governor.

Issues

1. Goes against Hon'ble Supreme Court's

ruling that barring matters of Police, Public Order and Land, the Government of Delhi (elected) is responsible for all matter.

2. Routing all decisions via Lt. Governor would paralyze the government, delaying execution of decisions.
3. legislature will not be able to function properly due to ambiguous provisions.
4. Reserving of laws for presidential assent would hamper the execution.

Sufficient space for functioning of elected representatives must be given while balancing the needs of Central Government.

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।

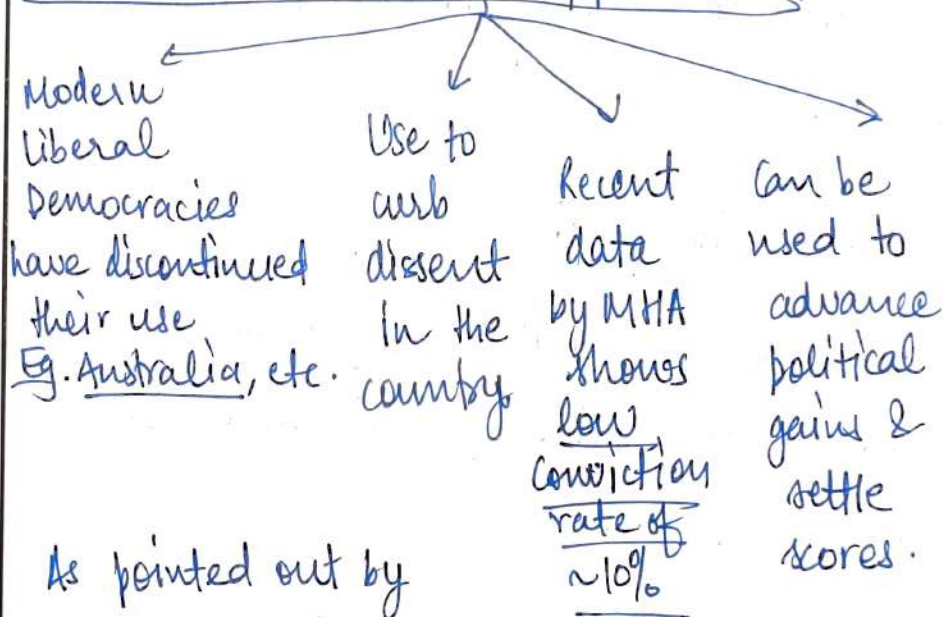
Sedition law in India is provisioned for in Section 124A of IPC. It is supported by laws including UAPA, NSA, etc.

Reason for its continuance

1. India faces several threats to its stability, both internal and external.
2. Stringent provisions are necessary in order to tackle the seditious threats.
3. They are necessary to control the public order & safety and give meaning to "reasonable restrictions" as outlined in Article 19(2).

4. Recent examples such as hate speeches,
threat of spread of ISIS in South India,
Khalistan movement, extremism in Kashmir
& Naxalism need to be fought tooth & nail.

Need to rethink its application



As pointed out by NSA Ajit Deval, use of

these provisions are "absolutely necessary".

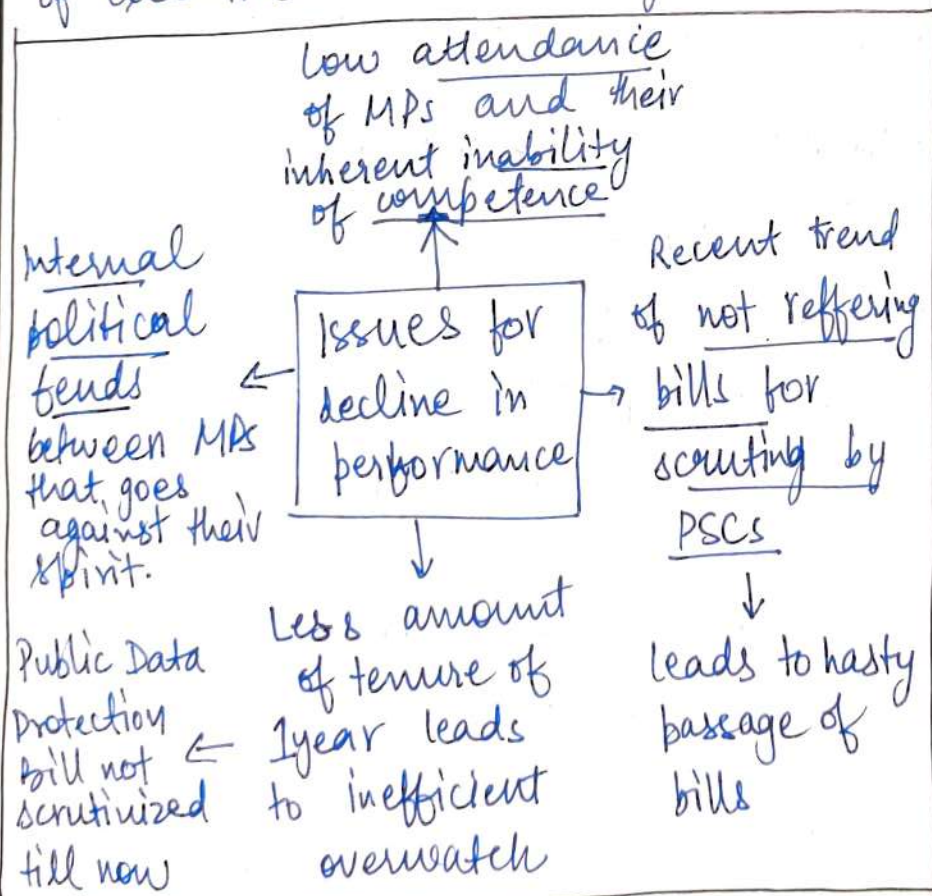
However, ethical pre-judgements must be made for rightful application of laws.

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 (PSCs), 24 in number, play the role of detailed evaluation of policies & budgets of related jurisdiction & ministries. These help in extracting accountability of executive towards legislature.



Addressing these issues

1. Setting up of new & specialised PSCs to keep track of changing realities.
Eg. Standing Committee to scrutinize Constitutional Amendment Bills
2. Mandatory Scrutiny in terms of matters of national importance.
Eg. For the recent 3 farm laws.
3. Providing expert advice to aid the concerned MPs.
4. Ethical working by the members to sideline the political feuds.
5. Increasing the tenure of PSCs to enhance effectiveness.

PSCs give a forum to discuss issues in detail. Their efficient functioning is necessary to public welfare & upholding of democratic practices.

4. Despite being a non-constitutional body, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has wielded immense decision-making power in India. Discuss the advantages and issues associated with it. (150 words) 10

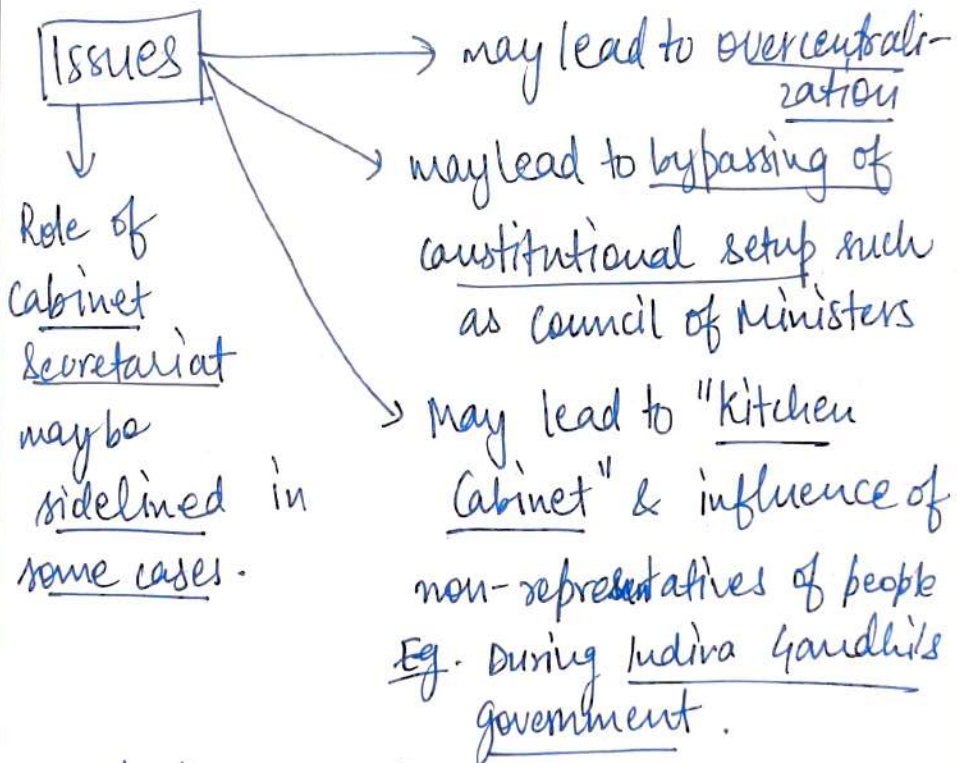
एक गैर-संवैधानिक निकाय होने के बावजूद, प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) के पास भारत में निर्णय-निर्माण की व्यापक शक्ति है। इससे संबद्ध लाभों और मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) refers to the staff that aids the PM for efficient functioning. It is an executive office and has gained traction in various countries around the world.

Advantages

1. Efficient & quick decision making.
→ Issues such as delay which hijacking negotiations in 2002 could have been avoided.
2. Available of the best talent & officers at the disposal of highest real executive of the country
→ Best bureaucrats with experience
→ Top industrial & societal advisors.

3. Acts as "nerve centre" of the government and ~~also~~ coordinates between ministries for efficient functioning.
4. This way, oversight of PM is thoroughly maintained.



PMO is "reflection" of the personality of PM. Its efficiency must be used for the betterment of the nation.

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 termed as the "new gold" and its importance is much pronounced in effective policy making.

Role of Data in Governance

1. Helps in taking informed decisions as per ground realities.

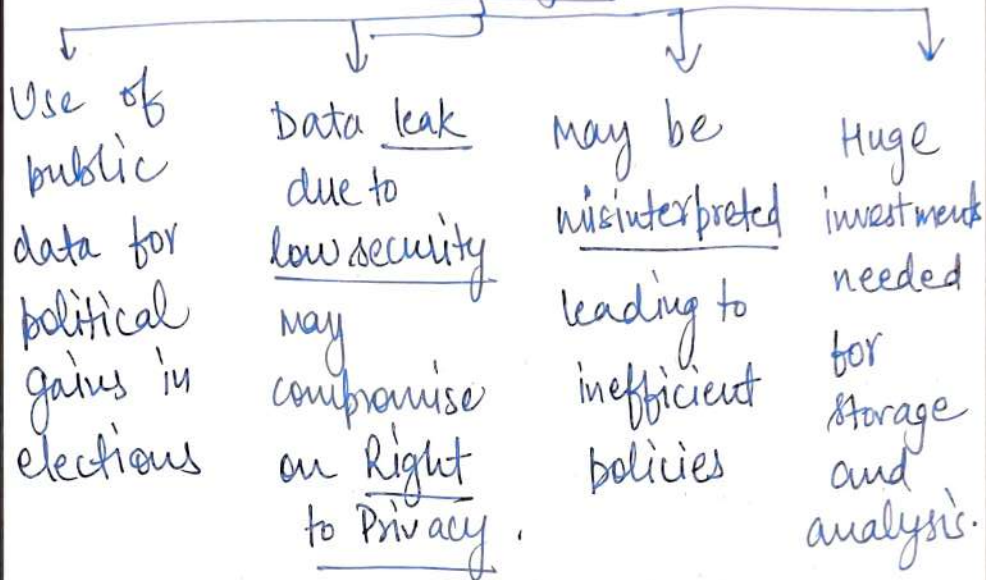
Eg. CPI helping is steps to control inflation.

2. Results into more acceptable decisions in the polity and strengthens democracy

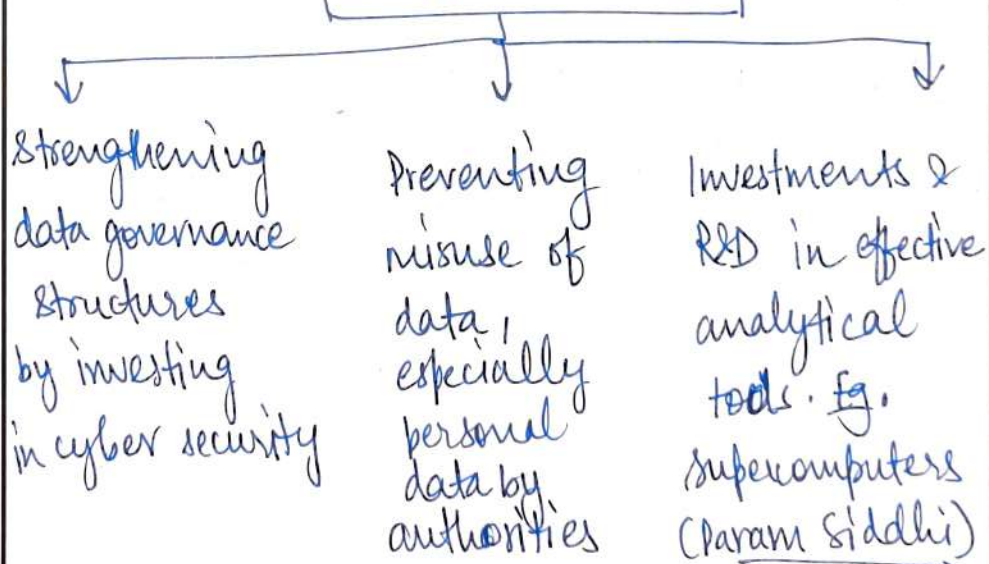
Eg. Role of socio-economic NFHS data in executive decisions to combat hunger.

3. Helps in targeted delivery of policies & caters to the minorities & downtrodden sections of population.

Challenges



Remedial Measures



Pending Personal Data Protection Bill must be passed as soon as possible for effective data 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।

Owing to recent changes, society in urban areas of India now has multiple strata from different backgrounds including, Doctors, Engineers, Migrant Workers, Businessmen, Slum dwellers, etc.

Conditions that led to emergence of new Civil Society in Urban India

1. Confluence of multiple cultures hitherto unseen. Eg. Delhi hosts people from all parts of the country.
2. Rapid urbanisation and increase in real income of the people.
3. Availability of information leading to awareness in people. Eg. All sections of society took part in India Against Corruption

movement in 2011.

4. Decreasing caste, religion based barriers due to inter-mixing in jobs.

Contribution towards effecting governance & policy changes

1. 74th amendment 1993 brought direct citizen participation. formation of wards led to people keeping track of development of public infra such as parks, schools, etc.
2. Formulation & Projection of public sentiment as seen during Nirbhaya Case in 2012.
3. "Digital India" and its initiatives have led to better awareness among dissemination of information.
4. Most government offices are in urban areas. This leads to better citizen connect & response mechanism.

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।

Mission Gati Shakti aims to invest ₹1 lakh crore in infrastructure of India in short term. It aims to kickstart Indian economy & ensure sustainable growth.

Potential to address infrastructure bottlenecks

1. Rapid upgradation of infrastructure and spreading its benefits to Tier-II & III cities. Eg. DFCs joining various industrial centres.
2. Kickstart the financing of projects, which has been on the backburner post DMFL and IL&FS crises.
3. Subsequent infra creation would bring in best practices in the industry by involving private sector.

Streamlining of Governance Processes

1. Equitable distribution of resources would allow employment creation and jump in labour force participation.
2. Confluence with schemes such as National Infrastructure Pipeline would also attract investments from other sources including foreign funds.
3. Availability of data would ensure better citizen oversight & ensure accountability.

World Bank says 1% increase in stock of infra raised the GDP by ~1%. Mission GatiShakti has the potential to help India achieve goal of \$1Tn economy.

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।

More than 90% of labour force works in the informal sector in India. This also leads to loss of total factor productivity of labour.

Issues faced by workers in informal sector

1. lack of social security measures such as insurance, retrenchment benefit.
2. lack of stable income and possibility of quick loss of job, as the rules do not apply to them (Eg. labour codes)
→ This was seen recently in issues faced by migrant workers in COVID-19.
3. lack of benefits to dependent family including schooling for children, etc.

e-SHRAM Portal

1. Recently launched to register informal workers. Has registered ~14 crore workers so far.
2. Bridge the gap between job givers & job seekers by matching the skill set required. This will help them get the formal jobs.
3. Various skill development programs (Eg. PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana), social security measures such as insurance can be given in a targeted way.

Proper formalization of labour holds the key for India to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals & improve development indicators.

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।

It is estimated that India loses ~10 Bn USD in an year due to Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements.
Global Minimum Tax is an ^{OECD} ~~OECD~~ led initiative that aims to recommend a minimum tax applicable to all jurisdictions.

Significance

1. ~130 countries have subscribed to the idea.
2. It aims to tackle the issue of avoidance of taxation by MNCs.
Eg. Recent investment in India by Tesla was routed through Netherlands.

Prospects

1. would tackle the saving of taxes

- by big corporates using safe Tax Havens.
2. Any difference in taxes can be "topped up" by home jurisdiction.
Eg. on account of 15% minimum tax, India can put a tax of 10% on profits if the MNCs pay 5% in a tax haven.
3. Help in augmenting funds for jurisdiction where the profits were made.

Challenges

1. Income sources of smaller countries surviving of these provisions may be hampered. Eg. Mauritius
→ might have diplomatic ramifications.
2. Issue of "who can impose how much tax" in which jurisdiction needs to be resolved.

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

(150 words) 10

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

AUKUS is collective of Australia, UK and USA aimed to secure an equitable world order and ensure a "free & open" Indo-Pacific region.

Evolving Geo-Politics

1. Aims to counter rising influence of China, which is becoming a strategic rival of these countries.

Eg. US-China Trade War, imposing duties on Australian wines by China.

2. A security pact would aim at deterrence on China's bully behaviour in the region of South China sea.
3. Aims to project democratic values in

the world order by exposing china's violation of human rights.

Impact on India's Interests

1. AUKUS pact blindsided France, which is a strategic partner of India.
2. May sideline QUAD initiative of which India is a part. India views QUAD as an important part to counter Chinese influence.
3. Any military skirmish would have a fallout in the region.

However, AUKUS brings potential for India to work with like minded countries on the challenges ahead. It can be used diplomatically to advance India's interests, as seen recently when India-France struck submarine deal.

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।

73rd amendment 1993 provided

Panchayati Raj Institutions as 3rd tier of government. XIth schedule has 29 items but PRIs remain under-funded, under-staffed and under-utilized.

Need for effective devolution

1. Article 243I provides for State Finance Commission allowing for distribution of funds between state and PRIs.
2. PRIs are responsible for important issues such as health, education, agriculture, etc. that require huge

funds.

3. Any democratic decentralisation requires decentralization of finances as well for effective governance.
4. In order to realize the aim of "self sufficient villages", investments are required & power needs to be put in hands of people.

Reasons behind lack of financial resources

1. Article 243H : allows for imposition of taxes, tolls, duties by PRIs. This power is seldom used due to local reasons.
→ Undermines the potential of PRIs.
2. Funds from central & state pool of resources are not devolved in

sufficient quantity.

3. Most of the finances are in form of "tied funds" to the schemes that do not allow discretion at the hands of PRIs.
4. Overburdening of needs on State Govt. is also a reason as they remain under-funded themselves. Overcentralisation of responsibilities lead to less financial devolution.
5. Lack of availability of PRIs to raise finances from the market.

Recommendations of Mani Shankar Aiyar Committee must be looked into to unlock the financial potential of PRIs.

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 मंदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial Activism refers to proactive role of Judiciary traversing in the executive & legislative sphere. Constitution of India provides doctrine of separation of powers (SOP) where each organ is provided exclusive space to perform.

Necessity of Judicial Activism

1. Arbitrary decisions taken by the other two organs require Judiciary to step in to reverse them.

Eg. Nullifying extra-constitutional provisions of 97th amendment regarding cooperatives.

2. Safeguard the fundamental rights
of citizens from executive excesses.
→ This comes from Article 32/226 (writs)
→ Eg. Habeas Corpus writ safeguarding
against arbitrary detention.
3. To fill the legal vacuum where legislative
& executive do not work due to
political considerations.
Eg. 7 point reforms for Police, Vishakha
guidelines on Sexual Harassment, etc.

Judicial Overreach → when Judiciary
traverses in role
of other organs
without need

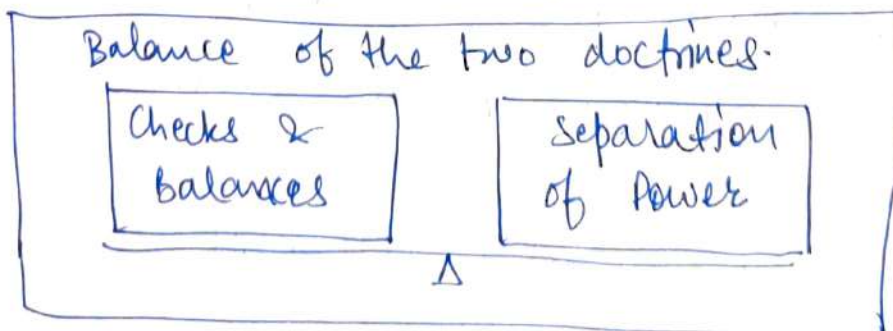
1. leads to limitations
on other two organs
Eg. Banning of firecrackers during
Diwali required executive sanction
for implementation.
2. Judiciary may not be well-equipped

to take executive decisions, which require administrative prudence.

Eg. Banning of alcohol shops in 500 m radius of Highways was flouted readily

3. Judiciary is not accountable to public directly and must not take ~~popular~~ decisions arbitrarily. Eg. Nullifying NJAC 2014 at the behest of Judicial Independence.

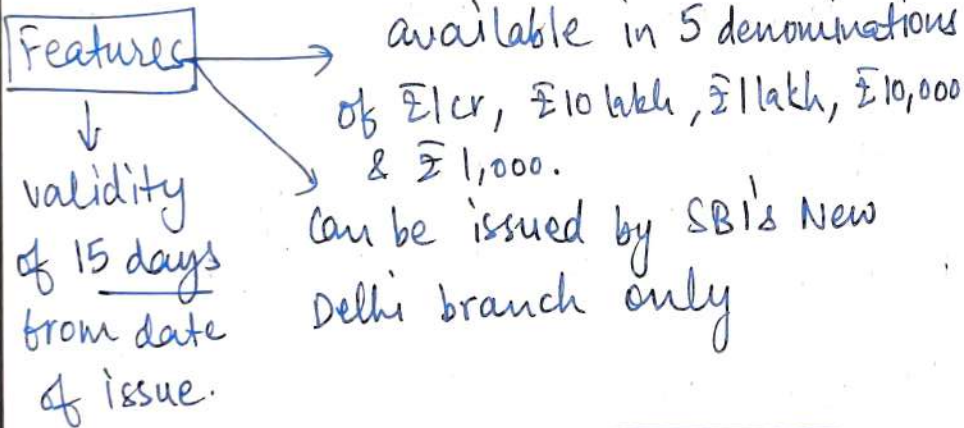
CJ NV Ramana has forewarned caution to check Judicial Activism & Overreach. A healthy balance needs to be maintained for preserving the rightly role of Judiciary



13. The electoral bond scheme is part of what appears to be a growing trend away from transparency and accountability in electoral funding. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15

चुनावी बॉण्ड योजना उस बढ़ती हुई प्रवृत्ति का भाग है जो चुनावी फंडिंग में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही से दूर जाने की प्रतीत होती है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Electoral bond Scheme was recently introduced to revolutionize the political funding of political parties.



Hampering Transparency & Accountability

1. They may be used to fund political parties anonymously.
2. High incidence of ₹1 crore denominated bonds (~70%) in overall funding shows potential misuse.
3. Political Parties are needed to publish

their balance sheets & sources of funds
by Election Commission.

→ Electoral Bonds present a way to hide
the donors.

→ May increase criminalisation of politics
by legalising funding from criminal sources

Advantages and Significance

4. Recent removal of cap of 7.5%
of profits to be used for electoral bonds
may increase influence of corporates
on parties.

Advantages and Significance

1. less use of money laundering &
black money as funds are routed
via banking system.
2. SBI (and hence authorities) can track

incidence of illegal funds.

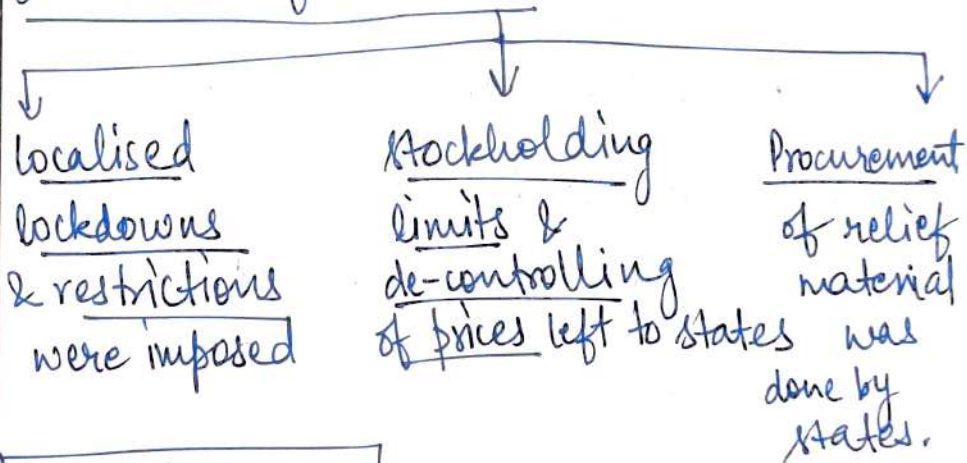
3. Anonymity of bond holders do not allow undue pressure of donor on political parties.
4. The funds are reported annually by SBI for oversight.

Necessary changes need to be brought as recommended by Election Commission. Cap on corporate contribution needs to be restored. Thus transparency & accountability are important pillars of electoral system.

14. The significance of the principle of subsidiarity was well reflected in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyse. (250 words) 15

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

Principal of subsidiarity aims to guarantee independence to lower authority to take decisions to its own effect. It was evident recently during 2nd wave of COVID-19 in India.



Significance

1. Allows for decentralised response to the pandemic once sufficient oversight was gained in COVID-19 management.

Eg. localised night curfew timings in Delhi, Chandigarh, etc de-linking central control.

2. Catering to local needs as assessed at district level.

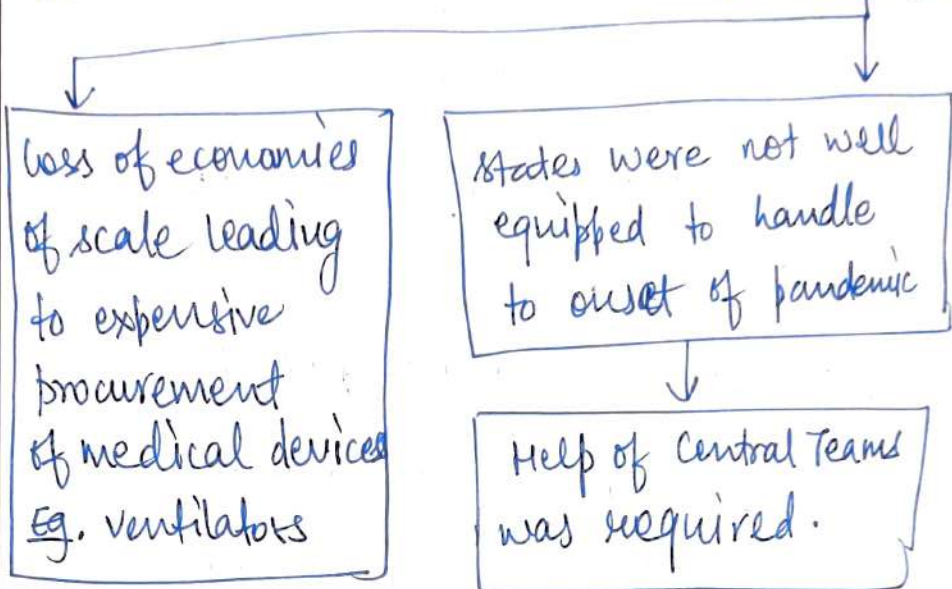
Eg. Allocation of vaccines, oxygen cylinder as per local needs helped in efficient management.

3. Decreased the burden on central government which focused on other important issues such as development & procurement of vaccines.

4. Helped in efficient use of resources that were in dearth due to loss of economic activity.

Eg. Bed capacity of PHCs was upgraded in high impact areas alongwith hospitals.

It came with its own sets of challenges.



Thus it allowed for a decentralised and bottom up response to the pandemic. This was highlighted by the fact that bed capacity of hospitals was upgraded very quickly as compared to response during 1st wave of COVID-19.

15. Social media has ushered in greater transparency and accountability in governance. But accountability through social media is no alternative to institutional accountability. Analyse. (250 words) 15

सोशल मीडिया ने शासन में अधिक पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की शुरुआत की है। लेकिन सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से जवाबदेही संस्थागत जवाबदेही का विकल्प नहीं है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Social Media has democratised the popular participation in governance and enhanced citizen overwatch.

Enhancing Transparency & Accountability

1. Quicker dissemination of information

by the government (govt.) institutions.

Eg. Info. regarding restrictions during COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Overwatch by public & public groups has increased. Eg. Mishandling of funds in riverfront development in UP and non-conformity with RTI invited a strong public response.

3. Bridged the citizen-administrative gap for sensitization of administration.

Eg. Election Commission taking cognizance of hate speeches in election rallies.

* However, Social Media is no alternative to institutional accountability.

1. There is an urgent need to strengthen the RTI system & clear the backlog.

Eg. Recent MHA data shows overuse of Section-8 of RTI Act 2005 in dismissing RTI applications.

2. The overstepping of powers of executive & legislature needs to be checked by Judicial Review. Eg. Aarey Metro shed case in Mumbai.

3. Institutional Accountability requires a formal response that holds the institutions answerable for their actions.

Eg. Writs under Article 32 prevent illegal detentions. Recent MHA data of low conviction rate under UPA (~2.2% cases led to conviction)

Thus a balance needs to be maintained between formal and informal channels such as social media. Use of IT tools in strengthening new age methods such as social Audits, Citizen's Charter must pave the way forward.

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। भाग्य के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Social Contract theory envisages a state that provides welfare measures in an effective manner. However, this is challenged by its capacity in equitable distribution of resources.

Role of State in Public Service Delivery

- 1- To maintain a just order in the society and support the downtrodden sections. Eg. Under NFSA 2013, India provides foodgrains to $\frac{2}{3}^{rd}$ of population.
2. To achieve the aim of "welfare state" as enshrined in ideals of

constitution.

3. Incentives: to support "Right to Dignified Life" of people, maintain peace & stability in the country, popular support of people.
4. Intentions: made clear by imbibing an socialistic principles, decrease the inequalities, hunger, incidence of diseases, etc.

Questionable Capacity

1. India is 5th largest economy in the world. But it stands even below than Bangladesh in Per-Capita GDP.
→ Population of ~130cr requires huge resources in absolute terms.
2. The incidence of corruption, red-tapism

and hurdles cause ~~bea~~ bureaucratic inefficiencies.

3. Capacity of the people is hence not developed as they remain dependent in perpetuity.

IMF recommends effective participation of Private sector and its funds to deliver public goods. For example, roads can be made under PPP Projects. This shall allow lessening of burden on public exchequer & citizen centric public service delivery.

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 ranked 101st / 116 countries in Global Hunger Index (2021). In the same year, India produced ~290 MT of foodgrains as against requirement of ~230 MT.

India also is featured in Top 5 agricultural producers of many commodities in the world. Yet, as per GHI 2021,

Child wastage	Child stunting	Under-weight
~21%	~38%	~35%

Reasons for this Paradox

1. Inequalities in the population leading to less purchasing power for basic amenities such as food.

2. "Hidden Hunger" of nutrients due to over-dependence of wheat & rice in the dietary habits.

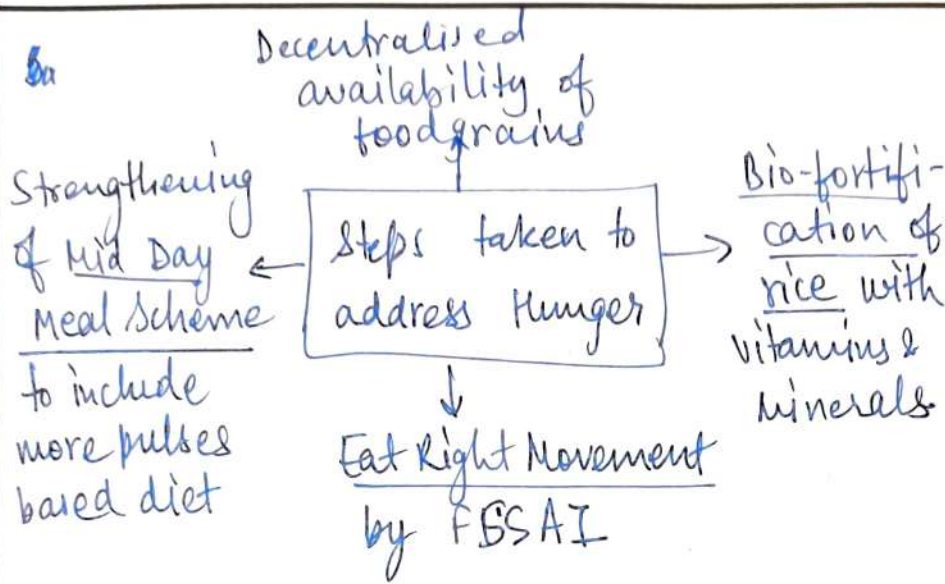
3. Inefficiencies in Public Distribution System

→ Diversion of quality foodgrains to retail shops.

→ Until recently, not available in decentralised way. Highlighted during migrant crisis of COVID-19 pandemic.

→ "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme aims to solve this.

4. Centralised procurement leads to wastage of foodgrains (~40% of food produced in India is wasted as per UNDP).



India has a long way to go to address the forward & backward linkages issue in its supply chain to ~~the~~ reduce food wastage. Effective steps must be taken to reduce the incidence of hunger & improve India's rank.

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 Health Care (PHC) is the first level of contact for people, communities, family with the national health system.

Importance of Democratization of PHC

1. To enable a decentralised access even in remote areas. This will ensure rural & tribal areas get equitable access.
2. To decrease the burden of communicable & non-communicable diseases leading to overburdening of secondary & tertiary system of healthcare.

3. To ensure increase in overall health of population and decrease the overall time in accessing treatment.
4. Cheaper access to medicines & treatment to poor population, that generally remain aloof from healthcare system.

Following steps can be taken

1. Increasing the doctor:patient ratio from current 1:1456 to WHO recommended 1:1000. Necessary rural postings of doctors will also help.
2. Integration of AYUSH systems in PHC setup.
3. 2nd ARC recommends training of staff in a decentralised manner.
Enhanced control of local Government

Institutions (Eg. Panchayats) would allow localised development.

4. Use of IT infra in PHC system such as tele-doctors, tele-medicine, etc.

→ National Digital Health Mission also envisages this.

COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the role of PHC in ensuring comprehensive & equitable response for public welfare. Their capacity must be enhanced for improving health of the population.

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-पैसिफिक) 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।

Hon'ble PM's Shangri-la speech
brought India to the world stage in
Indo-Pacific arena. The area hosts more
than 50% of world population, handles
more than 70% of world trade and
holds sizable energy reserves.

Factors for global shift towards the region

I. Phenomenal Rise of China

1. Became world's #1 economy in 2021
2. World's 2nd largest military
3. ~13% share in world trade
4. Called "factory of the world"

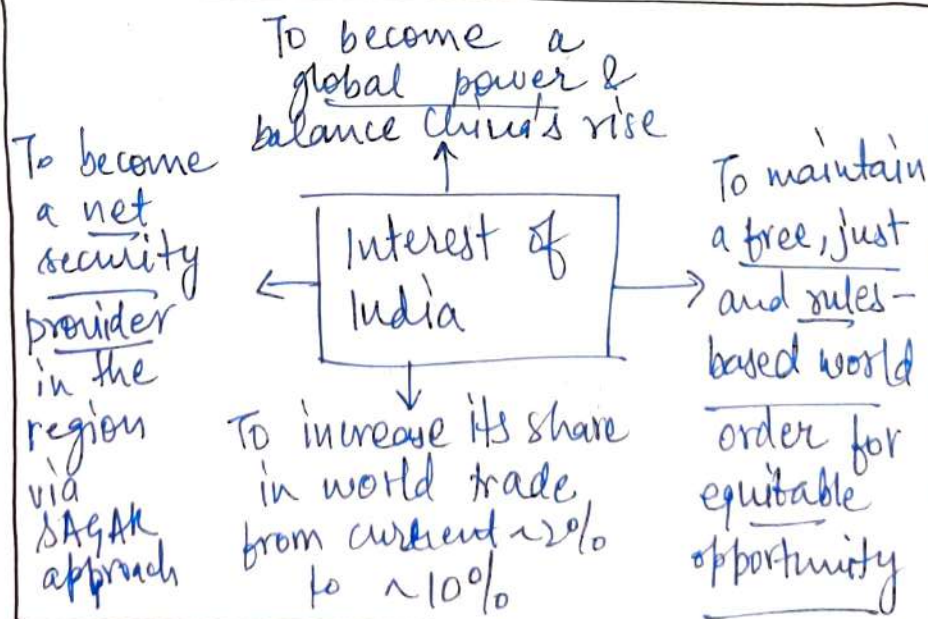
II. Expansionist Policies of China

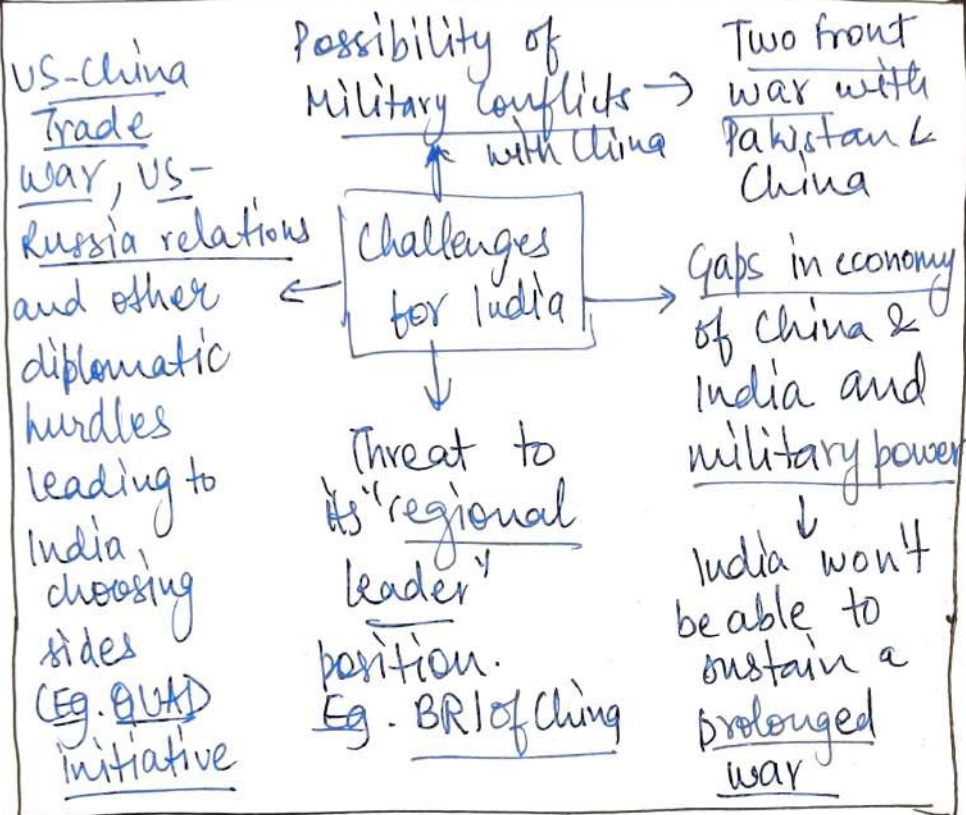
5. "9 dash line" threatening

- territorial disputes in South China Sea.
6. Dispute over Senkaku Islands with Japan
 7. "String of Pearls" theory to build Naval Stations in the region.
 8. "Flexing of Muscles" by China. Eg. Ladakh border skirmishes in 2020.

III. Miscellaneous reasons

9. Shift of focus from Middle East
10. Multiple Choke points of trade such as Malacca Strait, Java Strait, etc.





India needs to work with like minded countries and enhance its domestic capabilities (both military & economic) to maintain a peaceful Indo-Pacific region. A just & free world order will be in everyone's interest.

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।

The 21st century Great Game in Afghanistan has geo-political ramifications for India due to its geographical, cultural and economical proximity.

Current Regional + Global Strategic Environment

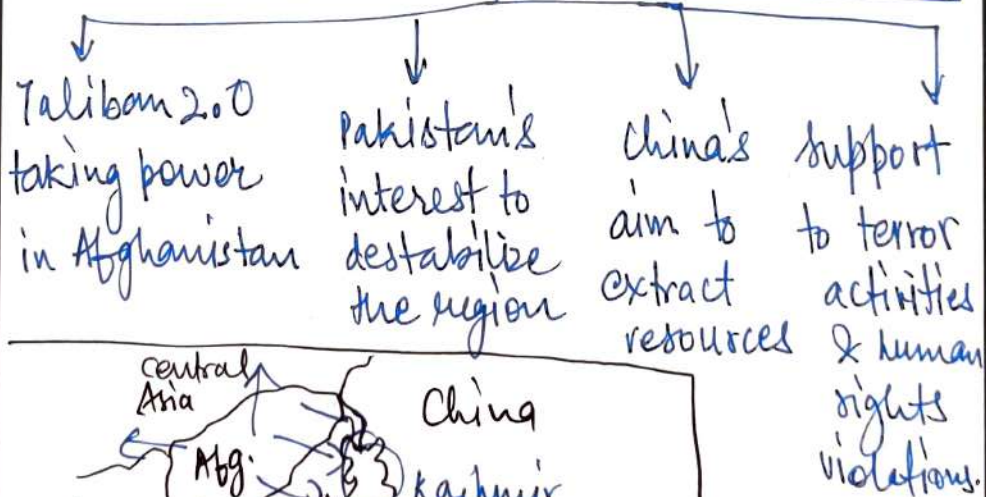


Fig. Threat of "export" of terror.

Strategic Goals of India

1. To maintain peace and stability in the region. NSA Ajit Doval highlighted possibility of terror fallout in Kashmir region.
2. ~~Prevent~~ Prevent incidence of money laundering and terror funding. Legitimacy of "Haggarri Network" may cause regional instability.
3. Spread of drugs from "Golden Crescent" area must be prevented.
→ Recently caught opium in Gujarat Port highlights this issue.
4. Safeguarding of India's assets in Afghanistan such as Zaranj Delaram Highway, Salma Dam, etc.

India's Afghanistan Policy must thus be placed on strategic & democratic principles.

1. India should work with like-minded countries on different forums such as UNSC, SCO, etc.
2. A backchannel communication with Taliban is necessary to clearly convey India's needs of preventing terrorism.

India maintains that any process should be "Afghan led, Afghan owned & Afghan controlled" for peaceful resolution. Stability of Afghanistan is in interest of stability of region including India.