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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English.	Date	13.11.2021.
Center	Online		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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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 enacted Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Amendment Act 2021, empowering the Lt. Governor over the elected government.

Prior to the amendment, the ~~came~~ government was set up as per the 69th amendment act.

Issues with the amendment

- 1) Tries to disturb the federal principles of the country.
- 2) Against the Supreme Court judgement of 2019 that upheld the primacy of elected government over Lt. Governor.

3) Administrative challenges:

3.1. Tusslee between the elected government & Centre's representative.

4) Decline in importance to people's representation.

These are consequences of the following changes

- 1) Any reference to government in NCT will mean Lt. Governor.
- 2) Legislation by the assembly, requires concurrence of Lt. Governor.
- 3) Legislative assembly can not legislate to empower its position.

Delhi being the national capital needs political stability. Engagement between the Union government and Delhi's elected government and help secure the national interests.

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 was introduced by Lord Macaulay in Indian Penal code in 1870 as section 124A.

Relevance of Sedition Law today

- 1) Helps identify and prevent anti-national activities.
- 2) secures the nation against cross border indoctrination.
- 3) Draconian nature is toned down by supreme court judgements in Kedar nath singh case, Kanhaiya Kumar case.
- 4) Communal & spreading of misinformation is ~~not~~ rampant in India.
- 5) Mere misuse is not a ground for repealing a law.

Arguments against sedition law

- 1) Vague use of terms in definition like disaffection towards government.
- 2) Gross misuse by government.
As per MHA reports, only 27 cases led to conviction between 2014-2019.
- 3) International experience.
↳ Has been done away with in Britain.
- 4) Still draconian in nature
↳ Non cognizable and non-bailable enables preventive detention.
- 5) fuels misinformations and disharmony.

Law commission has recommended to repeal sedition law in India.

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?

Recently, the number of bills referred to the Parliamentary standing committee is declining. The current Lok Sabha referred nearly 12% of bills while the previous one referred only 27% of bills.

Issues causing decline in performance of standing Committees.

- 1) Different political ideologies of members.
- 2) Politicization of meeting of standing committee.
- 3) Frequent absense of quorum for the commencement of committee meeting.

- 4) Absence of expertise to
investigate into the issues.
- 5) Fast evolving new technologies.
- 6) Events like COVID-19 induced
lockdowns disrupting
physical function of
committees.
- 7) Decreasing reference by
parliament!

Measures to address these.

- 1) Increase reference of crucial
bills to standing committee.
- 2) Increase skilled personnel to
help in investigation.
- 3) Members must keep the
political agenda aside.

Parliamentary committees
have been the life breath of
our functional democracy. Thus,
references to the committees
must be increased.

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, प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) के पास भारत में निर्णय-निर्माण की व्यापक शक्ति है। इससे संबद्ध लाभों और मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Prime minister is the head of executive in a westminister form of government like that of India.

Hence, prime minister office and his close aides wield the maximum amount of decision making power, also ~~is~~ called the kitchen cabinet.

Advantages of power centralisation in PMO

- 1) Speedy decision making process.
- 2) Maintains secrecy in matters of national importance.
- 3) Helpful in working and pursuing initiatives.

Issues related to centralisation of power in PMO:

- 1) Promotes autocracy within the democratic framework of ~~few~~ India.
- 2) Authority of the few diminishes inner party democracy.
- 3) Lesser deliberations often bypass crucial unintended impacts of the policy.
- 4) Against the principle of collective decision making and collective responsibility.

while Kitchen cabinet has been effective in many instances for India like 1971 Indo-Pak war, India must refrain to centralise the powers.

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।

In today's world of Information and communication technology, 'data' is often referred to as the new oil signifying its importance.

Role of data in governance:

- 1) Helps in policy making based on statistical evidence.
- 2) Better targetting of services to the vulnerable sections of society.
- 3) Opens up avenues for revenue generation by facilitating ease of doing business.

challenges involved:

- 1) Privacy question
↳ Enshrined as a fundamental right.
e.g. Issue over Aadhar

- 2) Personal data protection bill is yet to be passed.
↳ No framework exist for data protection.
- 3) low infrastructure for data security
- 4) low digital penetration & low digital literacy has created obstacles for data collection.

Remedial measures

- 1) Expedite passage of personal data protection bill.
- 2) Development of data centres for huge data processing.
- 3) Empowerment of institutions & capacity building to secure data.

India has ~~focus on~~ denied to join osaka declaration signifying the importance given by India to data security. Commensurate infrastructure building has to be done.

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।

With the advent of globalisation and a consequent rapid urbanisation, a gradual transformation in Indian society is evident.

Conditions that led to a new civil society

- 1) Emergence and prevalence of western liberal ideas in India.
- 2) Age of technology and social media enabling distant connections of people.
- 3) Increasing awareness of public on its rights
- 4) Increasing purchasing power of Indians

5) formation of cooperatives

Contribution towards affecting
governance & policy making

- 1) Enables effective implementation
of accountability mechanisms
on government.
- 2) Empowers public to raise
voice against administrative
excess and legislative
irregularities.
- 3) Creates a parallel social
audit mechanism of policies
- 4) works against social ills and
works for the upliftment of
poor and vulnerable sections

civil societies are the
important sections of society that
~~act~~ empowers the public. Their
work and autonomy must be
promoted.

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।

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।

COVID-19 induced lockdown.
led to huge exodus of migrant
workers travelling to their
home states exacerbating the
problem of COVID transmission.

Issues faced by Informal sector
workers.

- 1) Low or no social security
provisions.
- 2) Low wage in comparison to
formal sector.
- 3) Low job security and ad-hoc
recruitment.
- 4) Non enrolment in the company
payroll
- 5) No effective policy addressing
plight of migrant worker.
- 6) Non recognition to gig and
platform workers.

Recently, e-shram portal was launched as response to the judicial activism on the plight of migrants:

Positive impacts of e-shram portal

- 1) Accounting of the migrant workers and the informal sector workers.
- 2) Policy guided by migrant & informal sector data.
- 3) Beneficiary identification

Limitations:

- 1) Low digital literacy among informal sector workers.
- 2) Exclusion of non enrolled genuine beneficiaries.

Proper ground level monitoring complementing e-shram portal initiative can help India achieve the antayodaya goal enshrined by Gandhiji.

9. Clarifying the significance of the recent developments on the issue of global minimum tax, discuss its prospects and challenges for India.

(150 words) 10

वैश्विक न्यूनतम कर के मुद्दे के संदर्भ में हालिया घटनाक्रमों के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, भारत के लिए इसकी संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Global minimum tax is a standardised minimum tax of 15% imposed on multi-national corporations developed by OECD countries.

It was endorsed by G20 members and has currently has support of nearly 160 countries across the globe.

Significance

- 1) Prevents base erosion and profit shifting by MNCs and the corresponding revenue loss.
- 2) Reduces the possibilities of tax havens.
- 3) In line with India's equalisation levy and digital tax.

Prospects of global minimum tax for India.

- 1) India already has a corporate tax higher than 15%.
- 2) Can prevent revenue loss for India to the tune of nearly 2 bn dollars annually.
- 3) Encourage companies to shift their bases to India.
- 4) India can work on logistics and infrastructure.

Challenges for India.

- 1) Indian corporates will also bear the 15% minimum taxation.
- 2) Decreased policy space for tax reduction.

A global minimum tax can bring India at par with many other developed countries. India needs to focus on improving other aspects of ease of doing business.

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 the latest security alliance between Australia, UK and USA in the Indo-Pacific.

Its agenda is to strengthen Australia's defense by providing nuclear submarines to ensure a safe and free Indo-Pacific.

Significance of AUKUS in current geopolitics.

- 1) Demonstrates UK's renewed focus towards Indo-Pacific post Brexit.
- 2) Major security alliance to counter Chinese aggression.
- 3) Australia is the second country after UK to have US's nuclear submarine technology.
- 4) Establishes USA's security based presence in Indo Pacific after withdrawal from West Asia.

Positive impact on India's Interest .

- 1) check on chinese influence in the Indo pacific region.
- 2) Reduces pressure on QUAD to take a security stance.
- 3) France's agony with AUKUS led to deepening of ties with India.
- 4) Alignment with India's vision of safe and free Indo pacific.

Negative impact on India's interest

- 1) Shows distance in ties of USA and India.
- 2) chances of militarisation of Indian Ocean region.
- 3) May lead to decline in importance of QUAD.

AUKUS can complement QUAD in securing a safe and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

11. Effective devolution of finances is an important requirement for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to fulfill their objectives. Discuss while also elaborating on the reasons behind lack of financial resources for PRIs in India. (250 words) 15

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

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) were set up in India under the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act in part IX of the constitution.

They form the third tier and local level of government. It is established as a 3 tier governance framework.

Sources of finance for PRI

- 1) Devolution of funds by State government as per recommendation of State finance commission.
- 2) Grants by central government as per recommendation of finance commission of India.

- 3) Taxes imposed by PRI like property taxes, etc.
- 4) funds raised via loans and investments.

Importance of financial devolution to PRI

- 1) Local level government is often the first point of governance for public.
- 2) Entrusted with the facilitation of service delivery in most of the social aspects.
e.g. education, health.
- 3) Lack of finances for PRI and low autonomy in expenditure

Reasons behind lack of finances for PRI

- 1) Members of PRI reluctant to collect taxes on fellow citizen like property tax.

- 2) low state level devolution of funds.
 - ↳ Many states have not even constituted state finance commissions.
- 3) Grants and devolutions are often scheme specific.
 - ↳ leaves little autonomy on expenditure.
- 4) High burden of expenditure on service delivery to public.

PRI's are the most responsible pillar of government upholding democratic decentralisation. Regular and sufficient devolution of funds to PRI can help India achieve the Gandhian vision.

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।

India presents a unique case of doctrine of separation of power where ministers are common members of legislature and executive, judiciary can legislate under A142, and quasi judicial bodies exist for justice delivery.

The doctrine of checks and balances mandates the judiciary to act against legislative adventurism and executive excesses. Thus, there is debate on judicial activism.

Arguments in favour:

- 1) Address public grievances against executive and legislature.

- 2) Protects the public when other organs fail to do so.
e.g. visakha guidelines.
- 3) Empowered by constitution to make complete justice as per A142.
- 4) Builds people's trust in the institution of judiciary.
- 5) Keeps legislature and executive accountable.

Arguments against.

- 1) Promotes autocracy of judiciary
↳ Tyranny of the unelected.
- 2) Judiciary has limited expertise in management issues.
e.g. 2G spectrum cancellation impacted economy negatively.
- 3) Decreasing public trust on executive and legislature.

- 4) Increase in tussle with other organs of democracy.
- 5) Against strict doctrine of separation of power.
- 6) Decisions of judiciary has limited deliberations and auditing.
- 7) Increase in case load on an overburdened judiciary.

Judicial activism is a double edged sword for Indian democracy. Judges must restrain themselves and show activism as a last resort.

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 adopted as an electoral reform in 2018 to overhaul the process of electoral funding.

It aims to curb the menace of black and illegal money into the election process.

Key provisions of electoral bond

- 1) Identity of the donor is to be kept anonymous.
- 2) Donations are done in multiple of 1000, 1 lac, 1 crore, etc.
- 3) Acts as a promissory note that can be redeemed by the political parties.
- 4) SBI to be the sole bank for electoral bond based funding.

Step away from transparency
and accountability

- 1) Anonymity of donor.
↳ Ruling party can get the details of donor from SBI.
- 2) Exemption from need to
account the details of
donation with. Election.
Commission of India. upto.
Rs - 20,000.
- 3) Scope for opening up of shell
companies for donation.
- 4) Black money may still route
into the electoral process.
- 5) leverage of the ruling party
at centre over the opposition
and regional parties.

Electoral Bonds can still act
as a # reform

- 1) Decrease scope of favouritism
based on funding.

- 2) Reduce role of money power in elections at large.
- 3) Encourage parties ^{get} registered with election commission of India.
- 4) ~~Central~~ Sole bank (SBI) for transaction can help in effective monitoring of money in electoral funding.

Electoral bonding needs to be complemented with setting up independent mechanism for monitoring.

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

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

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।

Media is often referred to as the fourth pillar of democracy.

India has a teledensity of 83%. With most of the people connected through social media platforms like facebook & whatsapp, greater accountability has been imposed on the government.

Role of Social media

- 1) Increased awareness related to policies and programs among the public.
- 2) Online campaigns against policies and administrative irregularities.
e.g. #metoo, etc.

- 3) Involvement of civil societies
across the globe in matters
of public interest.
e.g. global discussions on
farmer's protest in India.
- 4) Increase in the participation
base of campaigns.
- 5) Digital proceedings of
parliaments and courts
and their spread over
social media.
- 6) Deliberations among different
fields of society on policies
unfold different aspects of
the policies.

Still social media is no
alternative to institutional
accountability

- 1) Social media itself is not
accountable to anyone and
freely profess right to speech
and expression.

2) Spread of mis information.

↳ Hence, it isn't an authentic source of information.

e.g. farmers toolkit issue.

3) Spread of hatred in social media.

e.g. taking communal angles in policies.

4) Often leaderless online campaigns fade out without any significant effect.

5) Enforced and curated debates on social media misguides and misrepresents policies.

Social media acts as a double edged sword. Hence, effective regulation and monitoring mechanisms by the new IT rules can help reap the most benefits of social media.

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

यद्यपि राज्य के पास सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के कुशलतापूर्वक वितरण हेतु उचित प्रोत्साहन और उद्देश्य विद्यमान हैं, तथापि ऐसा करने की उसकी क्षमता संदिग्ध है। भारत के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

17. The problem of hunger in India does not lie in food production but various other underlying issues. Discuss in the wake of decline in India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index, 2021. (250 words) 15

भारत में हंगर (भूखमरी) की समस्या खाद्य उत्पादन में नहीं बल्कि अन्य कई अंतर्निहित मुद्दों के कारण है। ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स, 2021 में भारत की रैंकिंग में गिरावट के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

India has been consistently performing poor in the Global Hunger Index released by concern worldwide and welthungerhilfe.

It secured 94th rank in 2020 and fell to 101st in its 2021 report.

Dimensions of Hunger

- Undernourishment
- Under 5 mortality
- child stunting
- child wasting

Issues in food production.

- 1). MSP policy increased bias of farmers to grow wheat & rice only.

- 2) Water intensive crop productive
creates artificial scarcity of
water.
- 3) Non diversified diet.
- 4) Globalisation led to decline
in good food habits.
↳ Prevalence of Trans fatty
acid based foods.
- 5) Low value added and low
availability of ready to
eat nutritious food.

But the decline in GHI ranking
has various other underlying
issues.

- 1) High poverty in India.
↳ India accounts for nearly
20% of global extreme
poors.
- 2) Negative impacts of policies.
2.1. Bias towards rice
and wheat.

- 2.2. Intensification of nitrogen.
due to urea based fertilizer
subsidy.
- 2.3. Excessive groundwater
extraction due to power
subsidy.
- 3) Increased purchasing power
and advent of attractive
junk foods.
- 4) low food availability in the
remote areas.
- 5) Ineffective targetting of public
distribution system.
- 6) low nutritious food in
mid day meal schemes, etc.

India has recently
launched POSHAN 2.0. Along with
awareness campaigns. Poshan
abhiyaan can help India
achieve SDG 2.0.

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।

Atmanirbhar Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) is a crucial initiative of Indian government to boost the healthcare paradigm of India.

One of its components envisaged setting up 1.5 lac. primary health. care and wellness centre across the nation.

This helps in democratizing primary healthcare in India.

Need for democratization

1) Increasing significance of private sector in healthcare.

↳ Nearly 80% healthcare service provided by private sector.

1.1. Economic Survey 2020-21.

talk about information asymmetry existing between private sector and public.

2) low accessibility and availability of primary healthcare in remote areas.

3) low affordability of healthcare in India.

↳ India has an out of pocket expenditure of nearly 65%.

4) Doctors and qualified medical personnels are reluctant to serve the distant areas.

5) Hitherto low political significance given to primary healthcare as against secondary and tertiary healthcare.

6) Prevalence of life style diseases.

Challenges remaining

1) Lack of infrastructure and personnel nationwide.

2) low government expenditure.

↳ India spends nearly 1.5% of its GDP in healthcare which is lower than even Bhutan with expenditure of nearly 2.5% of GDP in healthcare.

3) Digital divide.

↳ Reduces scope for telemedicine to democratize healthcare.

4) low technological advancement.

Indian government must boost expenditure in healthcare to 2.5% of GDP as envisaged by National health policy to help achieve SDG 3.

19. In the context of the evolving discourse on the Indo-Pacific, analyse the factors driving the global shift towards the region. Also, identify India's interests and challenges in this regard. (250 words) 15

हिंद-प्रशांत (इंडो-पसिफिक) पर विकसित हो रहे संवाद के संदर्भ में, इस क्षेत्र की ओर वैश्विक झुकाव को प्रेरित करने वाले कारकों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में भारत के हितों और चुनौतियों की भी पहचान कीजिए।

21st century in geopolitics.
has marked an increased
importance of Indo-Pacific.
with many multilaterals.
like QUAD, AUKUS, BIMSTEC, etc.
shaping up, the region has
become an arena for big
power tussle.

Factors driving global shift to
Indo Pacific.

1) Historical importance of the location:

1.1. Countries like France and UK still have their Satellite territories from Colonial times.

2) Resource rich region:

2.1. South China sea has huge hydrocarbon resources.

3) climate change and its vulnerability:

3.1. Indian and pacific ocean are one of the most vulnerable climate change affected regions.

3.2. Global deliberation increase its relevance.

4) Chinese aggression and assertions in the region.

e.g. South China sea, Taiwan, etc.

5) Important trade routes passing through the region like Malacca strait & Strait of Hormuz are famous Choke points.

6) Emerging big economies in the region like India, ASEAN, etc.

India's Interest in the region.

1) Counter to chinese influence in its neighbourhood.

- 2) Facilitation of its connectivity projects like Kaladan multimodal project, India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway.
- 3) Aligning of shared interest countries on global issues like QUAD.
- 4) Hydrocarbon resources in south China sea.
- 5) FTA with countries like Australia, UK, etc.

Challenges.

- 1) Chinese aggression at LAC.
- 2) Security alliance alienates traditional partner like Russia.
- 3) Low connectivity with the neighbourhood.
- 4) Difficult to tread strategic autonomy.

India being at the geographical centre of Indo-Pacific can leverage its location to improve its standing in global geopolitics.

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।

After the taliban takeover of Afghanistan, India had three alternatives.:

1. To actively engage with Taliban Legitimizing it.
2. To decry taliban and leverage global standing against Afghanistan.
3. Adopt a wait and watch policy to let the issue unfold itself.

India has adopted a wait and watch policy with informal talks with Taliban.

Need for clear understanding of strategic goals.

- i) An antagonized taliban poses threat of terrorism in India.

- 2) Many countries have already recognized Taliban as government of Afghanistan.
- 3) ~~Area~~ Huge Indian investments are at stake in Afghanistan.
- 4) Vacuum created by US withdrawal can increase chinese influence.
- 5) India's policy of non-interference in internal matters of a neighbouring country.
- 6) India's connectivity to Central Asia is contingent upon Afghanistan.
e.g. chabbahar port project, INSTC.
- 7) India is the working president of Taliban sanctions committee in UN.
- 8) Pakistan may leverage Afghanistan in its strategic depth policy.

Negative fallouts of a wait and watch policy

- 1) sidelining of India in the
Afghan issue.
- 2) Increase in China's influence
over Afghanistan.
- 3) India may fail to secure
terms with Taliban to not
host terrorists.

India must effectively use its soft power to secure its strategic goals in the region.