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17 DEC 2021

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	ASHUTOSH KUMAR		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	657129
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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।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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

EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

81.)

69th amendment Act- provides for the administration of National Capital Territory of Delhi's administration. It provides a Constitutional scheme keeping in mind special representative needs of Delhi and its strategic position.

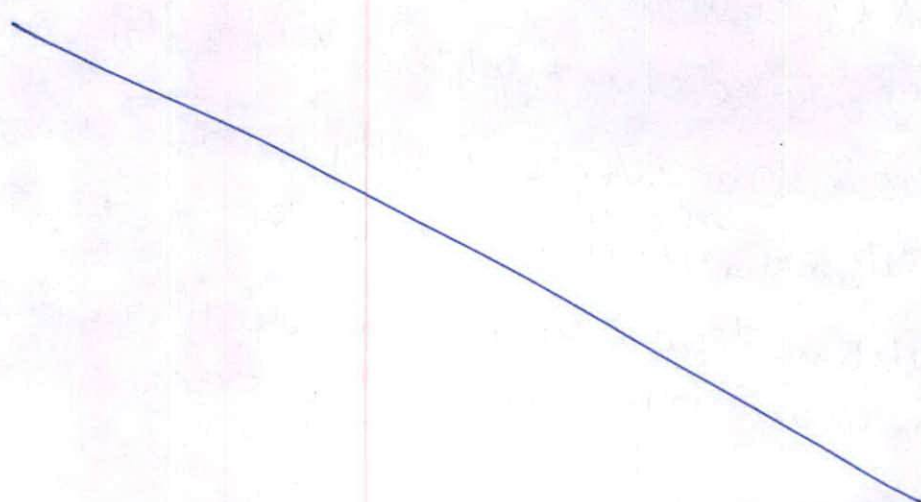
Changes introduced by GNCTDA Act, 2021

- 1.) The term "government" in Delhi will mean Lt. Governor.
- 2.) Delhi Legislative Assembly or its committees cannot discuss the matters related to day-to-day administration of Delhi.
- 3.) Lt. Governor will not refer any such bill to president over which legislative assembly has no jurisdiction.
- 4.) Delhi government will send ^{executive} matters for opinion of Lt. Governor.

Issues with the present bill:-

- 1.) Bill concentrates legislative ^{& executive} power in hands of Lt. Governor.
- 2.) It is against spirit of 2018 Supreme Court judgement in Govt of NCT vs Union of India.
- 3.) Delhi's elected government may have to wait endlessly for LG's opinion.
- 4.) Bill not discussed in detail in parliament.
- 5.) Bill affects the spirit of cooperative federalism.

There is a need to reform the bill in line with spirit of Supreme Court's judgement to ensure uniformity, ~~put~~ uphold highest traditions of democracy.



Q2.)

IPC Section 124A provides for Sedition Law. Sedition refers to any act of exciting "disaffection" against lawfully elected government of India by words, signs, speeches.

Recently several debates have occurred around sedition law:-

- 1) Law affects freedom of speech and expression of political opponents of those in power.
- 2) Law has been misused to jail journalists who criticize policies of government.
- 3) It is a colonial era law which was used to target freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi.
- 4) Sedition law affects freedom and liberty of citizens ^{protected} under Article 21 of Constitution.
- 5) Sedition law related convictions have been very low in judiciary.

Valid arguments for continuing with law:-

- 1.) Law is needed by government to tackle terrorism, emergency.
- 2.) ^{Sedition} Law can help government to maintain law & order and save public life & property.
- 3.) Sedition law has been upheld as Constitutional by Supreme Court in Kedar Nath vs State of Bihar case.

Going forward ^{police} ~~the~~ need to follow Supreme Court guidelines in ^{Sedition} Kanhaiya Kumar case to ensure that law is applied only in cases of violent actions & disruption of public order.

(Q3)

Parliamentary standing committees are bodies set up by parliament to strengthen the oversight of parliament over the executive. These committees examine demand for grants of ministries, study their bills etc.

Issues leading to decline of parliamentary committee:

- 1) Low attendance of MPs in parliamentary committee
- 2) the tenure of member is small i.e. only for 1 year.
- 3) committees do not have power to give binding advice to government.
- 4) Since 16th Lok Sabha, only 23% bills are referred to committee.
- 5) During COVID lockdown, a large no. of committees could not hold their scheduled meetings.

Steps needed to address these issues:

- 1.) Enhance the tenure of members to ensure work specialisation.
- 2.) Allow the Committees to meet in hybrid format i.e. physical & digital mode.
- 3.) PM has called for "One Nation one Legislative Portal" to enhance technological support to committees.
- 4.) Dedicated research teams should assist each committee.
- 5.) Overall parliament should enhance no. of bills for parliamentary committees for effective consultation.

These steps can ensure that parliamentary committees play an transformative role in parliamentary system of country.

Q4.)

According to Article 74, there shall be Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister to aid and advise the President. PMO in recent times has emerged as a powerful institution because:-

- 1) Prime Minister's leadership ensures better coordination with other ministries.
- 2) PMO can ensure cross-departmental consultation on key issues & help in winning out disputes.
- 3) PMO itself can push key policy decisions. eg: demonetisation.

Advantage of immense powers in PMO:

- 1) faster decision making on key issues
- 2) harmonious coordination among departments.
- 3) less red tapism & bureaucratic delays.

4) cross-sectoral policy inputs are available to PMO.

Issues with immense power:-

- 1) it can cause centralisation of power
- 2) stakeholder consultation & consensus based approach may be compromised.
- 3) high decision making burden on PMO itself can cause delays.
- 4) less coordination may be there as diverse view points may not be available to PMO.
- 5) less autonomy for department & cabinet ministers.

There is a need to ensure harmonious balance between PMO's powers & autonomy to each department to ensure "Team India spirit" is present in entire machinery.

Q5:-)

"Data is fast emerging as new oil" - ^{Ambani} Mukesh

Recently world bank report on "Public Intent Data" has revived the debate on significance of data in governance.

Role of data in governance:-

- 1.) data ensures faster decision making
- 2.) data can lead to evidence-informed decision making.
- 3.) data can lead to better understanding of policy challenges at regional & social level.
- 4.) data helps in enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.
- 5.) data helps in identifying & plugging leakages in funds, schemes etc.

Challenges regarding data:

- 1.) lack of modern data collection capability & systems.
- 2.) data is collected in siloed approach.
- 3.) inadequate data storage infrastructure
- 4.) data is rarely integrated with other databases.
- 5.) lack of real-time data availability.

Remedial measures :

- 1.) real time data collection via modern mechanisms.
- 2.) ensure integration of databases with help of Big data analytics.
- 3.) enhance data storage infrastructure in country. eg: data centre park in Noida.
- 4.) usage of data in all ministries for policy making.

A data-driven governance can help in achieving PM Modi's mantra of P2G2 - "Pro-People Good Governance".

Q6.)

Civil society refers to a group of citizens engaged in articulating their interest to push for desired change in policies of government.

Conditions that led to emergence of new civil society in urban India:

- 1.) enhanced awareness of human rights violations, custodial violence etc. eg:
PUCL.
- 2.) enhanced child labour and human trafficking in urban areas. eg: Bachpan Bachao Andolan by Kailash Satyarthi (Nobel laureate).
- 3.) government apathy towards corruption
eg: India Against Corruption.
- 4.) greater environmental destruction in urban forest: eg: protest against Aarey

forest cutting in Mumbai:

Contribution of new civil society:

- 1) helped in pushing for Child Labour Prohibition Act, 2016.
- 2) helped in pushing for police reforms.
eg: PUC.
- 3) ADR has helped in highlighting opaque electoral funding & led to electoral bonds scheme.
- 4) India Against Corruption's drive helped in enactment of Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013.

Civil society should effectively partner with government & public to promote the public cause in India & lead to greater public activism.

(Q7.)

Recently PM Gati Shakti Mission was announced to fast-track the process of infrastructure creation in country. It is hailed as a major "business process re-engineering reform" in governance.

address infrastructure bottlenecks:-

- 1.) promote the completion of greenfield & brownfield infrastructure.
- 2.) help in attracting private investment in infrastructure building.
- 3.) give a thrust to multimodal connectivity across India.
- 4.) fast-track National Infrastructure Pipeline of 102 crore rupees envisaged.

streamline governance process :

1.) An Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) headed by Cabinet Secretary has been setup to :

- 1.1) grant fast approvals to projects.
- 1.2) to reduce contract related disputes.
- 1.3) to laydown standards & norms for quality of infrastructure.
- 1.4) to ensure faster project clearance, ensure inter-department policy coherence.

Overall PM Gati Shakti provides an ambitious roadmap for building strong foundations of Atmanirbhar Bharat based on strong infrastructure.

Q8.)

According to recent estimates, e-shram portal has clocked more than 1 crore registrations. More than 90% workforce of India works in informal sector.

Issues faced by workers:

- 1.) insecure jobs with poor wages.
- 2.) lack of social security benefits like insurance, pension benefits.
- 3.) hazardous & unsafe working condition without access to sufficient protective gear.
- 4.) low female workforce participation in informal sector.
- 5.) lack of data driven policy & low awareness of schemes.

e-shram portal: portal recently launched to help ~~the~~ unorganised & informal workers to register.

How e-shram portal will help in addressing issues?

- 1.) unique ID provided to all registered workers.
- 2.) workers will be allowed to access social security schemes like PM Shram Yogi Maan-dhan.
- 3.) enhance data availability with government at more granular level.
- 4.) help workers to ensure portability of PDS & health benefits.
- 5.) provide level playing field for ^{female} workers.

Overall e-shram portal heralds a new era in worker welfare which is mandated by Article 39 of Constitution.

Q9.)

Recently at G-20 ministers meet the global leaders agreed to ensure global minimum corporate tax rate of 15%. Any company having operations & not having physical presence can also be taxed.

significance:

- 1) help in curbing base erosion & profit shifting.
- 2) ~~reduce~~ help in enhancing tax-to-GDP ratio.
- 3) ensure greater accountability on Digital firms & MNCs to pay their fair share of taxes.
- 4) put pressure on tax-haven countries like Cayman Islands to rationalize

their taxes.

Prospects for India :

- 1.) India has large internet consumer base of 600 million. India stands to gain around \$1 billion or more by this global tax.
- 2.) Help in enlarging income from "Equalisation levy" imposed by India.

Challenges for India :

- 1.) lack of clarity on detailed rules.
- 2.) Many Indian digital companies may face taxation abroad.
- 3.) US may take diplomatic steps if tech giants like Google & Facebook are affected.

Going forward India needs to work with global community to frame harmonious rules for smooth implementation.

Recently AUKUS pact was announced as new security pact between Australia, US, UK. under it Australia scrapped French ~~sub~~ submarine deal & US & UK promised to provide nuclear submarine technology to Australia.

AUKUS: new era of global geo-politics:

- 1.) formation of a new "Anglophonic security alliance".
- 2.) help in countering China's rising maritime assertiveness.
- 3.) France's role and ambition as major Indo-Pacific power dented.
- 4.) a new resurgent Australia with signi-

-ficant naval power in Pacific.

Impact on India's interest :

- 1.) AUKUS may reduce USA's commitment to Quad which India considers important.
- 2.) France may enhance defence technology sharing with India.
- 3.) strong marine presence of other countries reduce pressure on Indian Navy.
- 4.) Strong Australia may affect India's major role as "Net Security provider" in Indo-Pacific.

Going forward, India needs to enhance engagements with all AUKUS partners & France to carve out strong opportunities from AUKUS pact related development.

Q11.)

73rd Constitutional amendment provides for Panchayati Raj as an institution of self-government to realize Gandhian role of "Gram Swaraj".

Effective devolution of ^{financial} power to Panchayat is important:

Reasons:

- 1.) Effective devolution allows Panchayat to enact people centric policy.
- 2.) It enhance public trust on Panchayat institution.
- 3.) Panchayats can invest better in local infrastructure creation. eg: local water

infrastructure.

- 4) Panchayats can coordinate at all 3 levels with strong thrust on bottom up approach.
- 5) It will ensure professional capacity enhancement of sarpanchs including women sarpanchs.
- 6) Financial devolution will reduce bureaucratic interference in Panchayats.

Reasons behind lack of financial resources :

- 1) inadequate internal resource generation by Panchayat due to:
 - 1.1) poor training of sarpanchs.
 - 1.2) low tax base due to low income activities in rural areas.
- 2) insufficient devolution of power to levy tax, tolls etc by State Legislature.

- 3.) Many states have not constituted Finance Commission for decades.
- 4.) Most of the funds available to Panchayats is in form of ~~certified~~ tied funds. This reduces discretionary powers of Panchayats.
- 5.) inadequate institutional capacity at all 3 panchayats levels to effectively utilize existing powers.

Going forward IInd ARC calls for effective devolution of funds, functions & functionaries (FFF) to Panchayats. Similarly Panchayats should coordinate with rural CLCs to enhance revenue generation. Mani Shankar Aiyar Committee calls for "activity mapping mechanism".

Q12.)

Judicial activism refers to active role played by judiciary to lay down socio-economic policies ~~to~~ directions for legislature & states. Powers for judicial activism is derived from Article 13, 142, 226 etc.

Judicial Activism: Necessary tool

to curb legislative adventurism

1.) Legislatures commanding high majority may try to enact laws which violate "basic structure of constitution".

eg: 42nd Amendment provided that:

1.1) any law which gives affect to any directive principle shall not be violative of Article 14, 19

1.2) imposition of emergency outside

purview of judiciary.

1.3) election of Prime Minister outside purview of judiciary.

These provisions grossly affected the fundamental rights & they were struck down by Courts in Minerva Mills Case 1980.

to curb executive excess

Executive, at times, may issue notifications or rules which may jeopardize fundamental rights or affect constitutional values -

eg: 1.) Section 66A of IT Act was zealously applied by police to curb free speech on internet on "arbitrary grounds".

It was struck down by Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal Case.

2.) In Vishakha guidelines, Supreme Court itself issues guidelines for women safety due to executive apathy.

However judicial activism is also criticized on following grounds:-

1.) It affects ~~power~~ of "separation of power" which is essential principle of constitution.

eg: Supreme Court's verdict to ban alcohol within 500m of highways was unnecessary encroachment into policy domain of executive.

In such cases, Supreme Court should ensure that principles of "judicial restraints" should always be kept in mind. Judicial activism should be ^{an} exception to protect citizen's rights & not a norm.

Q13.)

Last year government provided for electoral bond scheme by amending Finance Act. It was declared as a measure to "cleanse political funding". However there are issues with the scheme.

Growing trend away from transparency:

- 1.) Scheme removes the 7.5% cap on corporate funding & opens floodgates for corporate funds to enter politics.
- 2.) Scheme allows foreign companies ~~to~~ fund political parties. Thus scheme may enhance foreign influence on Indian politics.
- 3.) Scheme ensures that donations received

by electoral bonds scheme need not be reported to IT Department or Election Commission.

4.) Scheme ensures that identity of donor remains anonymous.

5.) only SBI can issue the electoral bonds so government can have data of donors who donated to opposition parties.

However scheme has certain advantages as well:

1.) It ensures that political parties cannot receive cash donation above ₹ 20,000.

2.) Every donor will have to ensure e-KYC. This will reduce influx of black money in politics.

3.) Anonymity of donor will help in

preventing victimization of donor.

Going forward, there is a need to transform the scheme to ensure that Election Commission of India's concerns are addressed. As per ADR Data, 55% political parties receive most donations from "unknown sources".

There can be following reforms in scheme to enhance transparency:

- 1.) reporting donation above certain amount to Election Commission.
- 2.) ~~reducing~~ ^{capping} amount that foreign companies & corporates can donate under scheme.
- 3.) Ensuring intra-party democracy to enhance effectiveness of fund utilisation.

Q14.)

Principle of subsidiarity is an essential principle which states that a task if it can be performed well at lower levels of administration, should be devolved to lower levels. Principle of subsidiarity lays foundation of decentralised governance.

Well reflected in COVID management:

- 1.) states were given freedom to decide on containment zones at local levels.
- 2.) enhanced fund devolution to states to set up oxygen plants as they think fit.
- 3.) In second wave, states were given freedom at district level to opt for

Curfew or lockdown.

4.) In initial phases, states had freedom to procure vaccines during covid.

5.) DM/SDM at ground level had powers to set up "micro-containment" zones & allow economic activities to continue.

However at same time, in certain instances, this spirit of subsidiarity was violated as well:—

1.) delays in releasing GST Compensation by centre.

2.) Centralised vaccine procurement & distribution to states.

3.) imposition of Disaster Management Act and regular issue of guidelines under aegis of NDMA & Home Ministry.

4.) centralised allocation of "oxygen express" trains by centre.

5.) During first phase of COVID, Centre imposed a uniform nationwide lockdown which had huge disruptive effect.

There is a need to ensure healthy implementation of principle of subsidiarity to ensure good & effective governance in following ways:-

1.) greater power devolution by Centre to states -

2.) greater power devolution by states to Panchayats and ULBs.

Q157)

Social media has led to creation of an interconnected world. This has also enhanced connectivity between people & government machinery.

Social media: greater transparency & accountability:

- 1) enhanced access of citizen to government officials & ministers via tweets, comments
- 2) people are much more aware of key government initiatives, their impacts & success.

3.) Key public service platforms like Twitter seva of External affairs ministry enhanced public access to ministry.

4.) Social media can quickly bring out callous & insensitive nature of many public servants.

5.) Social media movements like #MeToo helped in exposing several ministers accused of women harassment.

Need of institutional accountability over social media accountability:

1.) Institutional accountability is much more formal, process-driven & rules based.

2.) Institutional accountability has potential to formally prosecute, corrupt

and inefficient officials.

3.) While social media accountability may be more public-image driven, institutional accountability is driven by performance & efficiency.

4.) Social media accountability may be based on emotional outpour, institution accountability is more deliberate & carefully implemented.

Going forward, there is need to enhance institutional accountability by following ways:-

1.) better scrutiny by parliamentary committees.

2.) "Strategy @75" by NITI aayog calls for SPARROW (Smart Performance appraisal @ window) for 360° assessment of civil servants.

Q16.)

Public Service Delivery is one of the core functions of state ~~to~~ to ensure a just and dignified life for all for holistic national development.

State has eight incentives :

- 1.) Better public service delivery will help in improving human capital.
- 2.) Better service delivery ensure high economic growth.
- 3.) Better service delivery enhances tax-to-GDP ratio

Indian context:-

- 1.) India aims to increase formally trained workforce, reduce child stunting.
- 2.) India's goal to enhance tax-to-GDP ratio to more than 20%. Can be

attained.

State has right : Indian context intentions

- 1.) India is a "welfare state" (as per Part IV of constitution).
- 2.) Indian Preamble aims to secure to all its citizens social, economic & political justice.

State's capacity is questionable:

- 1.) Inadequately trained workforce.
- 2.) ~~xxx~~ inadequate availability of research & data-driven inputs for policy making.
- 3.) poor monitoring & audit of scheme.

However it can sometimes be seen that even intentions and incentives are distorted.

Eg: 1.) Criminalisation of politics leads to malafide intentions among policy

makers.

- 2.) Due to high discretionary power, high centralisation of power, bureaucrats have incentive in maintaining status quo.

Steps needed:

- 1.) to improve intention:
Ind ARC calls for 'Code of Ethics' for ministers & civil servants.
- 2.) to improve incentive
~~Ind~~ Ind ARC calls for mid career review of performance of civil servants. If performance is unsatisfactory then removal.
- 3.) to improve capacity:
Enhance training workshop programmes for government officials. eg: Mission Karmayogi.

Q17)

In recently released Global Hunger Index, 2021, India's rank fell to 101. At same time NFHS-5 data reveals that:

- 19% children are stunted.
- 38% children are under-weight.

Problem of hunger

Not in food production →

- Recent ISRO data revealed more than 200 million tonnes of cereal production.
- As per FCI data, its procurement and buffer stock have reached high level due to heavy production.

Various other underlying issue:

- 1) poverty: 25.01%. multidimensionally poor (as per National MPI report, 2021)
- 2) poor women nutrition levels (53% women Anaemic).
- 3) poor feeding techniques among children & adolescent girls.
- 4) caste based deprivations & inequitable food access.
- 5) poor water & sanitation hygiene.
- 6) exclusion error in government schemes. in recent Jharkhand survey many PVTG missed rations due to non-linkage with Aadhaar.
- 7) due to gender discrimination: women & adolescent girls eat at last & least quantity.
- 8) low awareness on importance of breastfeeding.

Going forward following steps are needed:

1.) following "PosHAN plus" strategy:-

1.1) convergence of scheme.

1.2) technological monitoring of schemes.

1.3) making feeding habits a community movement.

1.4) enhance girl education, skilling opportunities.

These steps can help India in achieving SDG goal 2 of "zero hunger".

Q18.)

Health is state subject as per VIIth schedule. The most important component of healthcare is primary-healthcare which involves Primary Health centres at Village level.

democratisation of ; ~~idea~~
healthcare

Democratisation of ^{primary} healthcare involves

- 1.) enhancing no. of doctors at Primary Health centres.
- 2.) increasing the package of diagnostic services available for free at PHCs.
- 3.) improving the infrastructure at PHCs in terms of sitting capacity, access to clean water, sanitation facilities.

4.) enhancing access of PHCs to poor people, particularly women with help of ANMs, ASHA workers.

5.) increasing no. of PHCs & Health & Wellness Centres envisaged under Ayushman Bharat.

Indispensable for equitable healthcare:

1.) it enhances healthcare access in rural area which faces shortage of doctors.

2.) better infrastructure increase patient footfalls, specially women, disabled, elderly.

3.) free diagnostic service enhances access to poor and low-income households.

4.) involvement of ASHA, ANMs enhance access of healthcare to women, elderly.

Indispensable for comprehensive healthcare

- 1) at PHCs, people can learn about:
 - 1.1) healthy eating habits.
 - 1.2) need to quit tobacco, drugs.
 - 1.3) significance of WASH.
- 2) Under Ayushman Bharat, 10% PHCs/HWCs will be handled by AYUSH Ministry. Ayurveda, Yoga etc. can enhance comprehensive well-being.
- 3) PHCs/HWCs can enhance awareness of free secondary & tertiary care under PM Jan Arogya yojna. This further helps in fulfilling objective of comprehensive care.

National Health Policy, 2017 calls for enhancing health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP with two-third expenditure for primary healthcare. It needs to be followed.

Q19.)

Indo Pacific refers to vast geo-strategic expanse connecting Indian Ocean & Pacific ocean & its littoral states.



factors driving global shift to region:

- 1.) rising economies in the region like India, China, Indonesia, Vietnam.
- 2.) important sea lanes of communication & Trade pass through region. eg: Suez - Colombo route.

- 3.) rising Chinese assertiveness & expansionist claims. eg: spratley island at South China sea.
- 4.) large markets available in Indo-Pacific region.
- 5.) US-China rivalry for supremacy.
- 6.) to give thrust to blue economy -
 - 6.1) mining oil in South China sea
 - 6.2) mining polymetallic nodules in central Indian Ocean.

India's interest in region:

- 1.) It is important for India's role as "net security provider" in Indian Ocean.
- 2.) India's 80% energy is imported via sea.
- 3.) to ensure freedom of navigation, overflight & commerce in South China sea.
- 4.) India's 90% trade passes through region.

- 5.) To give thrust to India's policy of SAGAR,
- 6.) to contain Chinese submarine & secret missions from threatening Indian interests in region.

Challenges faced:

- 1.) limited trade with regions key partners like AUSTRALIA, Indonesia etc.
- 2.) Russia, a major Indian partner is against Indo-Pacific idea.
- 3.) Countries of the regionally are heavily dependent on China economically.
eg: Australia.
- 4.) Confusing US policies in the region.
eg: recent AUKUS treaty by sidelining France.
- 5.) limited domestic expenditure on navy due to land based challenges.

India needs to strengthen its commitment to trade, naval exercises (eg. Malabar), IORA, IONS, Quad, Act East Policy to successfully manage Indo Pacific.

20)

Recent takeover by Taliban over Kabul has posed a new set of strategic & regional challenges for India. It has once again brought forth India's key challenge — "Panipat Syndrome"

Current regional & environment:

- 1) Taliban dominated Haqqani network is controlling key power levers.
- 2) High influence & strategic depth of Pakistan in Afghanistan.
- 3) Issues: —
 - 3.1) Threat to minority & women rights.
 - 3.2) Threat to India's development projects — eg: Salma dam.
 - 3.3) Threat to revival & regrouping of terrorist in region.
- 4) China is supportive of Pakistan.

Global environment:-

- 1.) US has frozen \$9 billion Afghan assets
- 2.) Russia, Central Asian Countries, Iran are keen on engaging Taliban.

Strategic goals of India:-

- 1.) peace & stability in Afghanistan.
- 2.) no terrorist grouping.
- 3.) inclusive government formation.
- 4.) respect of women & minority rights.

India's Policy prescription:-

- 1.) informal engagement with Taliban.
- 2.) humanitarian aid for Afghan people.
- 3.) coordination with Central Asian countries to tackle terrorism, extremism
e.g.: recent Delhi summit by NSA of India.
- 4.) engagement with global community like USA, Russia, UN to ensure:-

4.1) suspect for women & minority rights.

4.2) to pressurize Pakistan on terror.

4.3) to ensure recognition of Taliban only after extracting several guarantees for global peace.