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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	SURBHI GOYAL		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	578542
Center	DELHI	Date	26.12.21

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	- 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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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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

Time : 3 hours 4 mins

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।

Governance of Union Territory of Delhi is managed under Article 239AA of Indian Constitution.

Changes by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 2021 :-

- ① Recent act has mandated that all the executive action should be approved by Lieutenant Governor (L.G.).
- ② It forbids Legislative Assembly to debate matters of general administration and other day-to-day issues.
- ③ The Act has made LG supreme over the elected Council of Ministers.

Issues in the new Act :-

- ① Violates the democratic principle by

making nominal head supreme over the elected body.

- ② As elected body is accountable to the people, it must have supreme power.
- ③ It denies the legislative assembly its core task of discussing issues affecting administration of Delhi.
- ④ In effect, the elected government has become a symbol only & ^{does remain} not in actuality.

There is a need for clear demarcation of powers between the LG and Elected government, as held by Supreme Court in 2010.

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 in India under Section 124A and 156A of IPC, on the recommendations of Macaulay Commission.

Arguments in favour of continuing the ~~law~~ ^{law} :-

- ① Enables counter-anti-national elements that may try to harm unity and sovereignty of India.
- ② Essential to curb speech that aims to create public disorder or enmity between communities.

Arguments against the law :-

- ① Frequent misuse : The cases under sedition have risen from 40s to 93 annually but conviction remains 1-2%.

② Curbs dissent: Sedition law is often used to curb any criticism of government, which is essential for thriving of democracy.

2.1. During freedom struggle, many leaders like Gandhi & Tilak were also arrested under it.

③ Removed in most countries like USA and UK, that introduced it in India.

④ Plenty of other laws to deal with anti national activities like Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Supreme Court in Kedarnath Singh case (1962) and Balwant Singh case also highlighted the need for proper implementation of the act & curbing its misuse.

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, matters taken up by Parliamentary standing committee has witnessed a decline from 71% during 11th Lok Sabha to 11% in 17th Lok Sabha (2019-).

Issues contributing to decline in performance:

- ① Hasty passage of bills has meant that many bills are not sent to PSC for discussion and debate.
- ② Lack of expert discussion in PSCs and politicisation of discussions has reduced their effectiveness.
- ③ Often, their work is considered additional and not essential to the legislative process, and delegated to lower importance.

However, discussions in PSCs have contributed to important amendments, like Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code and Motor Vehicles Act 2020.

Way Forward to address the issues:

- ① Mandatory provision to send bills to PSC for scrutiny and debate.
- ② The PSCs must have experts associated from outside to provide unbiased and technical suggestions.
- ③ Depoliticisation of PSCs, which should become a platform of a-political discussions.

Finally, as 1st P.M. Nehru said,

"Parliament is temple of democracy"
and PSCs are essential element of the temple

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 (P.M.O) is a non-constitutional body serving like a Kitchen Cabinet in India's polity and wields immense powers.

Advantages of immense powers with PMO :-

- ① Quick decision making with fewer members for discussion.
- ② More ~~of~~ efficient functioning as PMO is a closed and discreet body.
- ③ Maintains discrete and secretive nature of works of national importance.
- ④ Can involve outside experts / close members, not traditionally part of Cabinet.

Disadvantages :-

- ① Bypasses Constitutional body : As Cabinet is

the elected body for top decision making,
it should be responsible for main decision
making.

- ② Role of outsiders in governance without
accountability to the people.
- ③ Concentration of powers in a single body
instead of large body of cabinet ministers.

Thus, there is a need for decentralisation
of powers from PMO to organs like cabinet
and Council of Ministers.

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।

Recently, the importance of using data in governance was highlighted by Economic Survey 2019 and NTI Aayog.

Role of data in governance:-

① Increases efficiency of tasks as there is proper assessment of the tasks and people involved.

② Integrated data across branches can help in eliminating leakages and errors. It can further increase intelligence with the government.

eg: Combining financial, banks & land records to identify criminals.

③ Helps in implementation of online governance.

eg: Use of direct benefit transfer led to eliminating Rs 1.7 billion leakages in 2019.

Challenges :-

- ① No integration and sync between data means that data is in silos and unusable.
- ② Lack of privacy laws makes data vulnerable to misuse and commercialisation of data like health records.
- ③ Internet crimes: Since India has 3rd largest Internet crimes in the world, it remains vulnerable to data mining.

Way Forward :-

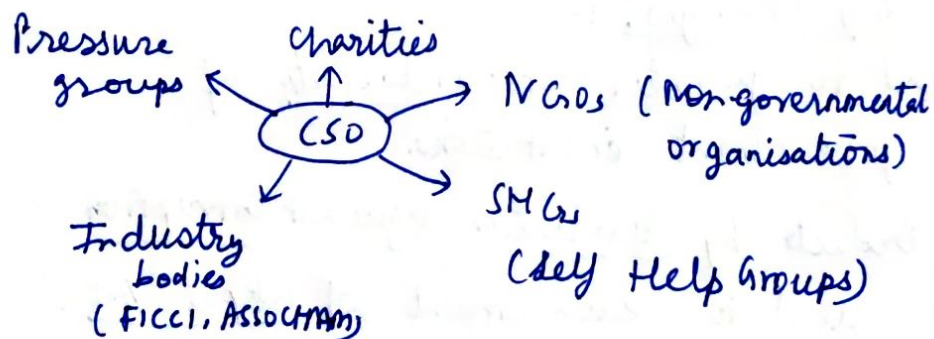
- ① NITI aayog's Data accessibility portal and Data.gov.in must be used to streamline the data for possible integration.
- ② Need to enact a data privacy laws on the lines of BN Srikrishna Committee.

As said, "data is the new oil" and India must harness it to improve quality of life of citizens.

6. With specific examples, elaborate upon the conditions that led to the emergence of a new civil society in urban India in the last few decades. Also, highlight its contribution towards effecting governance and policy changes. (150 words) 10

विशिष्ट उदाहरणों के साथ, उन परिस्थितियों का विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए जिनके कारण पिछले कुछ दशकों में शहरी भारत में एक नए नागरिक समाज का उदय हुआ है। साथ ही, शासन और नीतिगत परिवर्तनों को प्रभावित करने में इसके योगदान पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Civil Society organisations refers to organised group of people fighting for their concerns through peaceful means or working towards citizen's empowerment.



Conditions that led to their rise:-

- ① LPG reforms of 1991: Privatisation and globalisation paved the way for their emergence.
- ② strengthening of democracy led to bodies asking for social accountability.
 - RTI
 - Social audits
 - Jan Sunwai

③ Rise in citizen's education & awareness led to greater demand for rights.

eg: Majdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan's protests led to RTI.

④ Incapacity of government to fulfil the development objectives led to development of Naras.

Contribution in effective governance & policy changes :-

① led to greater accountability of government institutions.

eg: Protests by Association against corruption led to enactment of Lokpal Act.

② led to policy changes in financial & economic matters.

eg: Protests by Bharatiya Kisan Union led to India walking out of RCT.

③ Participation of CSO has led to greater power devolution and decentralisation.

Thus, 2nd ARC has called for their strengthening.

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।

Gati Shakti Mission is the national infrastructure pipeline, amounting to ₹105 crores.

Addressing infrastructural bottlenecks :-

- ① Increases investments : The pipeline plans to increase investments, as envisaged in Economic Survey 2020 :- It held that India must invest \$1.4 trillion to reach \$5 billion GDP by 2025.
- ② Increased participation of states as well as private sector will lead to greater infrastructure development.
- ③ Focus on both physical and social infrastructure like roads, energy and schools.

It Streamlines governance process by bringing a delineated plan for implementation, along with states and private sector.

It is essential to achieve SDG 17 of building effective & sustainable partnerships.

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।

In India, 90% of workers are employed in informal sector (NSO).

Issues faced by informal workers:-

- ① Irregular employment and easy hiring-firing norms leads to lack of job security.
eg: rickshaw pullers
- ② Irregular wages which are often not commensurate with work performed and denial of minimum wages. eg: domestic servants
- ③ Lack of social security like insurance & pension leads to challenges when faced with health issues, death or disability.
- ④ Not able to access government's benefits meant for organised & formal sector like PM Rozgar Pratirahan Yojana.

e-Shram portal role:

- ① e-shram portal is a step in right direction to register all the workers in India.
- ② It connects them with job givers and leads to formalisation of workforce, as proper records are maintained.
- ③ Helps reduce irregularity and uncertainty witnessed in informal sector by providing a stable platform.

However, it cannot address the existing informal economy, which must be protected and given equal ^{& minimum} wages.

9. Clarifying the significance of the recent developments on the issue of global minimum tax, discuss its prospects and challenges for India. (150 words) 10

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

Recently, G7 and G20 group of nations agreed on Global Minimum Tax of 15% that multi-national companies will have to pay, regardless of location.

Significance :-

- ① It will counter tax evasion by MNCs, who used to locate themselves in low tax jurisdictions like Mauritius & Switzerland.
- ② Effective counter to Base Erosion & Profit shifting practice, where companies used to avoid paying taxes in the country and shifted their profits to such countries with minimal taxes.

Prospects for India :-

- ① India has been a victim of tax evasion by MNCs and profit shifting. The step of Global Minimum Tax will lead to

greater revenue generation for India.

- ② Further, it is inline with India's other initiatives like ~~tax~~ Digital services tax, to tax companies providing online services in India.

Challenges :-

- ① Difficult to establish global consensus on its implementation.
- ② It can lead to further tax litigations and disputes between the nations.
- ③ India may find it difficult to implement in absence of DTAA treaties.

Thus, global minimum tax is a step in right direction and must be implemented in letter & spirit for global welfare.

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

(150 words) 10

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

Recently, a trilateral grouping of Australia-UK-USA was launched in 2021, forming AUKUS.

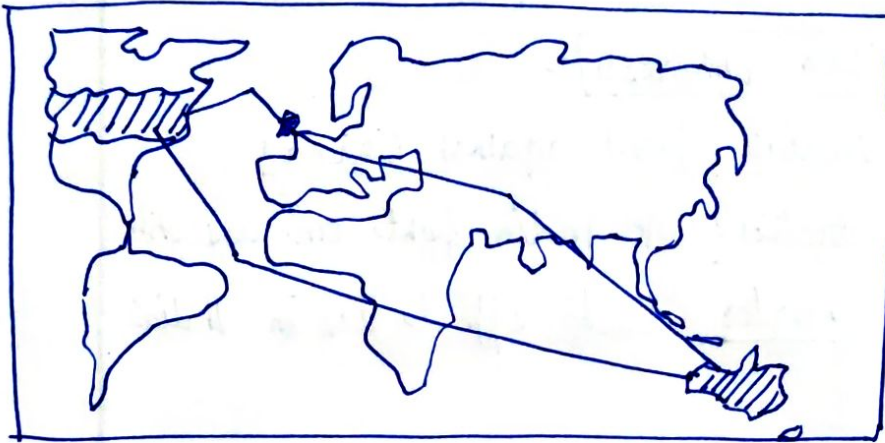


Fig: Presence of AUKUS

New era of global geopolitics :-

- ① Shift to Countering China's rise :- This new body highlights shift from Cold war approach to counter Russia's rise.
- ② Rather than being a military pact, like Warsaw pact or NATO in older times, the new alliance of AUKUS focuses on strategic and economic interests.

- ③ A global and transcontinental alliance as opposed to earlier groups involving neighbouring nations mostly.
- ④ Combines the intelligence & defence capabilities of advanced nations.

Affect on India's interests:-

- ① supports India's fight against China's aggressive tactics: As India fights an assertive China on border, such efforts are in India's interests.
- ② Shifting interest towards Indo-Pacific highlights India's rising role in upcoming decades.
- ③ However, formation of AUKUS can sideline QVAP and India's traditional allies like France.

Thus, India must keep its national interests in mind while dealing with AUKUS.

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 were formed
(PRIs)
by 73rd Constitutional amendment act (1992)
under Part IX of Constitution from
Article 243.

Importance for effective devolution of finances to PRI :-

- ① As the local bodies of governance, any implementation can only be fulfilled by effective devolution of funds.
- ② Need for financial autonomy of PRIs for their effective functioning.
- 2.1. However, 95% of PRIs are unable to generate more than 5% of revenues independently.
- ③ Allocation of vast responsibilities under

Schedule 11 of Constitution needs financial resources.

- ④ Citizen involvement and democratic decentralisation is only possible with local involvement & implementation, that needs financial resources.

Reasons behind lack of financial resources for PRIs :-

- ① Lack of independent fund collection due to reluctance to tax own villagers.
- ② Limited powers of taxation like land revenues that are often meagre in amount.
- ③ High dependance on grants by Central and state governments, that are often tied and inflexible.
- ④ Lack of proper functioning of state Finance Commissions, who are irregularly constituted and, ^{their} recommendations ignored.

- ⑤ Limited funds with state governments,
who don't wish to devolve further.

Thus, there is a need for financial
decentralisation, along with democratic
decentralisation, for strengthening PFI.

12. Judicial activism is a necessary tool to guard against "legislative adventurism and executive excesses". Critically discuss in the context of the doctrine of separation of powers as provided in the Constitution of India.

(250 words) 15

"विधायी जोखिम और कार्यकारी अतिक्रमण" से रक्षा के लिए न्यायिक सक्रियता एक आवश्यक उपकरण है। भारत के संविधान में यथा प्रदत्त शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial Activism refers to proactive role played by judiciary in program development and execution for national development.

It is an assertive role to force the legislature and executive to perform their tasks effectively.

Necessary Tool to guard against legislative adventurism & executive excesses :-

- ① Judiciary helps ~~to~~ to fill the gaps left by weak legislature and executive.

eg: Vishakha guidelines (1997) by Supreme Court to punish women harassment.

- ② It counters legislative adventurism and executive excesses by judicial review

under Article 13, 32 and 226 of Constitution.

eg:- Supreme Court in Hussainara Khatoon case (1979) highlighted the plight of undertrials.

③ It preserves citizen's fundamental rights against excesses of government.

eg:- In Paramanand Katara case, Supreme Court upheld right to medical treatment.

④ Judiciary needs to step up when the legislature and executive fail to perform their duties.

eg: Union Carbide case (1984) led to Court granting victims \$470 million compensation.

Breach of separation of powers in Constitution

① Judicial activism can turn into judicial adventurism and its forays into other branches of governance.

eg:- S.C. ordering liquor ban on highways shows violation of separation of powers.

- ② As judiciary is unelected and not accountable to people, it must practise judicial restraint.
- ③ Lack of expertise of judiciary in the governance or legislative fields.
eg: Court refused to interfere in Indo-US nuclear deal in Madhu Holmagi case (2008) showing correct behaviour.
- ④ Can erode judiciary's independence and lead to interference of executive in judiciary.

Thus, as held by court in Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain (1975), Constitution has separation of powers as a basic structure, but it is not absolute. Therefore, judicial activism and judicial restraint must be balanced for thriving of democracy.

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 प्रतीति होती है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recently, Electoral Bond scheme was introduced in 2019 to fund political parties and their elections. It brings a mechanism to fund them through digital payments, while ensuring secrecy.

Electoral Bonds - Towards Transparency & Accountability

- ① The bonds can only be given through verified bank accounts, leading to reduced role of bank money in funding politicians.
- ② Proper authentication of donors using eKyc mechanism.
- ③ Protects donor's identity who were often victimised earlier.
- ④ Ensures funding to legitimate parties as only parties getting at least 1% votes eligible.

Away from Transparency & Accountability :-

① Anonymous nature of funding means that citizens are unaware on who is funding the parties & can influence policy making at national level.

1.1. In 2019, 95% of donations from "unknown" sources were from electoral bonds.

1.2. Further, 70% of donations of national parties from unknown sources.

② Can lead to foreign companies or shell companies funding political parties.

③ Non-declaration of funds: Earlier, it was mandated that all donations above Rs 20,000 were to be reported under Income Tax Act (1961). This doesn't apply to electoral bonds.

3.1. Similar exemptions to companies also provided.

④ National government can track which political parties are being funded as transactions are routed through SBI.

This is why election commission has also raised issues with the scheme.

There is a need to consider partial state funding of elections suggested by Indrajit Gupta Committee.

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

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

Principle of subsidiarity refers to devolution of maximum powers to state governments or local governments and only performance of essential tasks by higher tiers.

Reflected in COVID management:

- ① Many state governments implemented lockdowns to prevent spread of virus under Epidemic Disease Act (1897).
- ② Process of vaccination: It has been undertaken at local government level so that vaccines reach remotest corners of nation. Only vaccine procurement was centralised, which was essential.
- ③ Supply of essential medicines & cylinders: It was made responsibility of District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police to ensure their unhindered

movement.

- ④ Encouragement to states to handle medical situation with external support by centre in the form of vaccines & grants.

Non-applicability of subsidiarity principle in COVID

- ① ~~Central~~ Centralisation of powers regarding distribution & supply of vaccines and essential medicines, leading to shortage of cylinders in many states.
- ② Imposition of sudden national lockdown by Central government meant abrupt closure of many factories at state level. This reflected lack of consideration of differences at state level.

As federalism is part of basic structure of Constitution (Bommai case 1994), there is need for implementing subsidiarity principle in letter & spirit.

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 refers to platforms for two-way communication and exchange of ideas.

With more than 760 million users in India, it has transformed governance landscape as well.

Social media leading to greater transparency & accountability :-

① Citizens can ask questions and hold public functionaries accountable for lapses in governance.

eg:- often corruption cases are popularised on social media and people express disapproval.

② Effective channel for grievance redressal: Citizens can voice their concerns publicly, where government agencies are forced to respond.

eg:- Mumbai Police responsive on Twitter.

- ③ Proactive Disclosure: Social media brings transparency as government officials indicate and share the initiatives taken.

Not an alternative to institutional governance

- ① Social media sites have limited reach and due to digital illiteracy, many people remain unaware of governments steps through social media.
- ② Social media is only a complimentary platform and real accountability stems from institutions.
- ③ Institutions must engage in proactive disclosure under RTI section 4 to bring transparency in governance.
- ④ Further, grievances faced by citizens must be addressed in real life, rather than for namesake on social media.

Therefore, social media can be thought of as a
supplementary platform to enhance
transparency & accountability, along with
public institutions.

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।

India is a welfare state, as envisaged in Directive Principles of State Policy and this^{is} a basic structure of Constitution^(DPSP). This entails its responsibility for efficient public service delivery.

State has incentives & intention for delivering public services efficiently :-

- ① Right intention :- As envisaged by DPSPs, as also various schemes like POSHAN Abhiyan and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan, state has shown the right intention to deliver public services
- ② Right incentives : With 2nd largest world's population facing multiple challenges like poor health,

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there is an incentive to deliver services efficiently.

eg: 67% children are anaemic in India (NFHS5)

highlighting need for delivery of health service.

Lack of capacity to deliver public services :-

- ① Low tax base
↓
insufficient compared to vast population
→ Low spending on public service delivery
→ 1.5% GDP spent on healthcare
→ 4.6% GDP on education
- ② Tax evasion and avoidance by rich further adds to lower capacity of the government.
- ③ Limited participation of private sector has meant disproportionate burden on government to deliver services efficiently.

However, governments' engagement in corruption, wasteful expenditure, extravagance, as also leakages and exclusion errors in schemes highlight lack of use of capacity in the right direction.

Thus, governance must be reoriented to become citizen centric and existing capacity must be harnessed to generate social capital, which can build further capacity of 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।

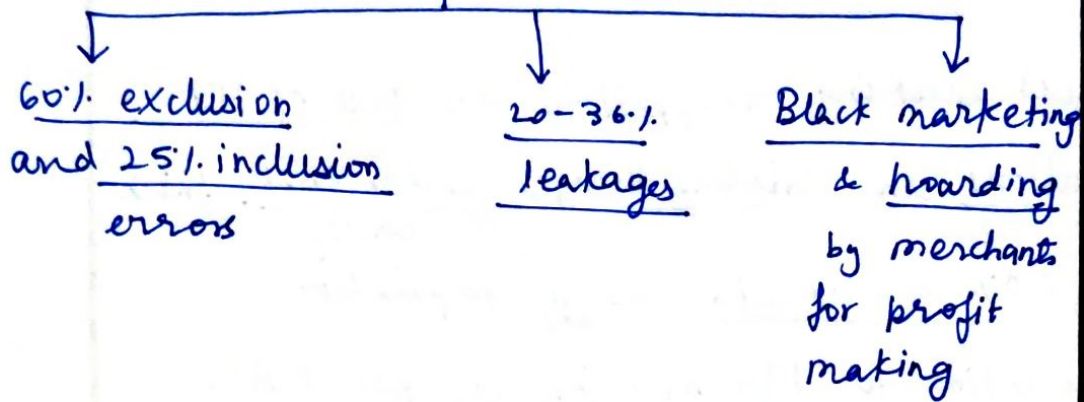
India's ranking dropped to 94 out of 107 nations in Global Hunger Index 2021. India (GHI) has 23% of world's hungry population, amounting to 194 million as per FAO.

Problem of hunger - underlying issues :-

- ① It doesn't lie in food production since India produces enough to feed country's poor and hungry, as per GHI 2021.
- ② Food wastage : As per FAO, India wastes 40% of food produced annually.
2.1 eg: 62,000 tonnes was wasted between 2011-17.
2.2 As per World Bank, wasted food

is enough to feed 33% of world's poor.

② Inaccessibility of Public Distribution system



④ High poverty of 21% (World Bank, 2019) means that many people lack access to safe and nutritious food.

⑤ High unemployment and lack of jobs translates into low purchasing power for the poor, who end up being hungry.

⑥ Disproportionate burden faced by women and children, leading to higher child and maternal mortality rates.

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There is a need for developing local solutions
like community kitchens, digitisation of
Public Distribution System and expansion
of MNRCA to ensure food security, as
envisaged under Sustainable Development Goal 1.

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।

Ayushman Bharat scheme aims to develop and convert Primary Healthcare centres into PHCs 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres. In this context, PHCs are of utmost importance to citizens.

Democratisation of PHC is indispensable for fulfilling objectives of equitable healthcare :-

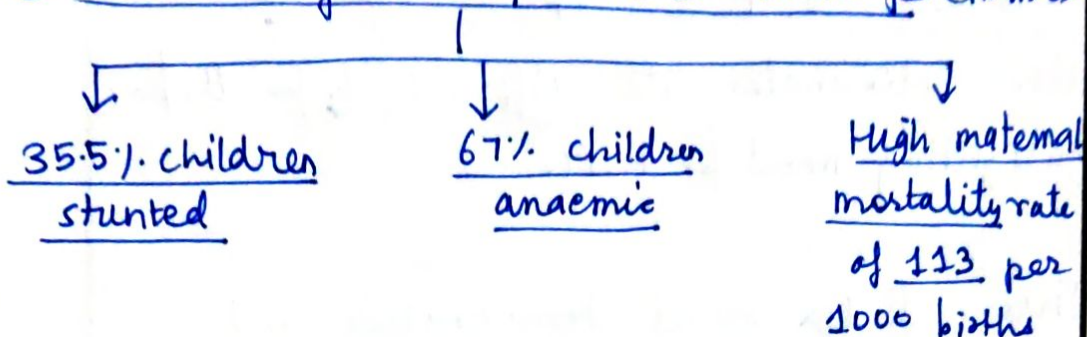
① Rural - Urban divide :-

1.1. Rural areas are 76% short of specialists like physicians, as per All India Rural Health Statistics 2021.

1.2. 70% doctors and hospital beds are present in urban areas, having 33% population.

PHCs can ensure equitable healthcare to rural India.

② Presence of multiple health challenges (NFHS 5)



This highlights the need of PHCs for comprehensive health services provisioning.

③ Primary healthcare centres often inaccessible to remote tribal people.

eg: Tribals like Khonds have nearest PHC 1.5 km away.

④ In India, 62% of hospital beds are owned by private sector.

4.1. Private sector is mainly located in urban cities.

4.2. This translates into unavailability of healthcare for poor.

4.3. As per World Bank, 600 million Indians are unable to access healthcare - highest in the world.

⑤ High out-of-pocket expenditure (42%)

also eliminates its affordability for the poor,
highlighting need for P.H.Cs.

Thus, India must democratise and
decentralise PHCs so that it can achieve
its targets under Sustainable Development
Goal 3 of Health & wellbeing for all.

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।

Indo Pacific region accounts for 62% of world's population and 65% of global GDP.

Further, it accounts for 46% of global merchandise trade.

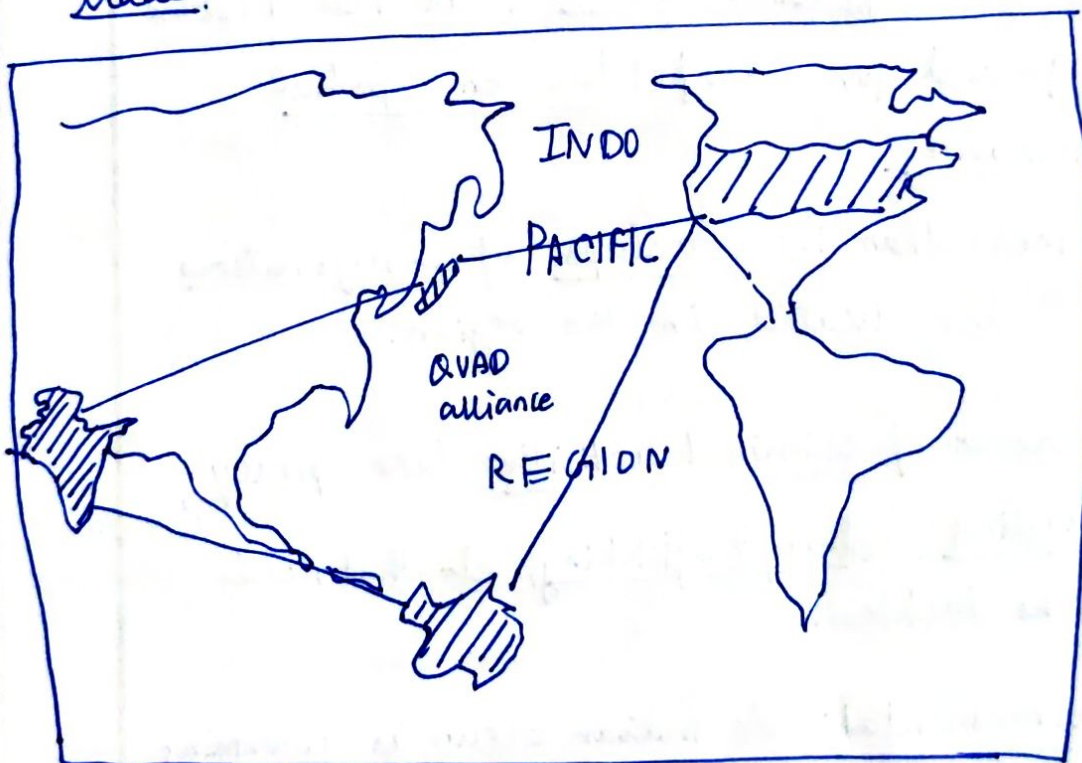


Fig : Indo-Pacific region.

Factors driving shift towards region :-

- ① Economic importance :- As 80% of offshore

oil trade passes through the region and 40% offshore oil production occurs in Indian Ocean.

1.1. Rise of Asian economies is also a factor in shift towards Indo-Pacific

② New strategic ground: With emergence of China and its aggressive tactics, it has become the ground for competition on global dominance.

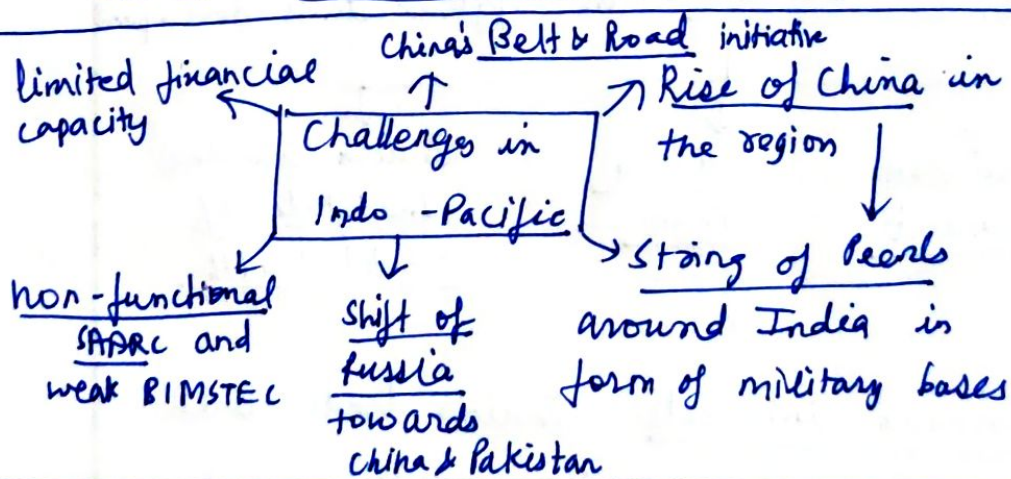
2.1. More than 120 warships of foreign nations are located in the region.

③ Occurrence of criminal activities like piracy, smuggling, drug trafficking, etc that needs to be tackled.

④ Environmental:- As Indian ocean is warming 3 times faster than rest of world, scientific interest also shifting.

India's interests in Indo-Pacific:

- ① Trade: 50% of India's trade passes through the region, having important choke points like Strait of Malacca.
- ② Strategic: India's position of Net security provider through SAGAR and its hegemony in the region.
- ③ Role in crime prevention and disaster relief: India has played the role of 1st responder in disasters eg: Operation Neer for Maldives.
- ④ Global groupings like QUAD have increased India's military capabilities to counter China.



Thus, there is a need for India to maintain strategic autonomy and ensure its interests in Indo-Pacific region.

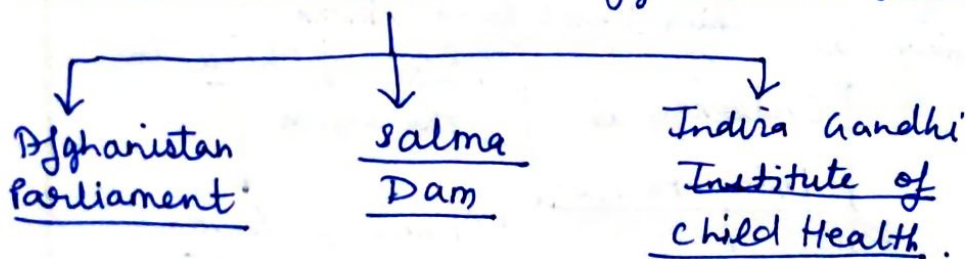
20. India's Afghanistan policy must be based on a clear-eyed understanding of important strategic goals in the region amidst the current regional and global strategic environment. Elaborate. (250 words) 15

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।

Recently, 14,000 USA troops stationed in Afghanistan were withdrawn under Afghan Peace Process. It has led to establishment of Taliban regime in the nation.

India's Afghan policy must be based on clear eyed understanding of its national interests & strategic goals :-

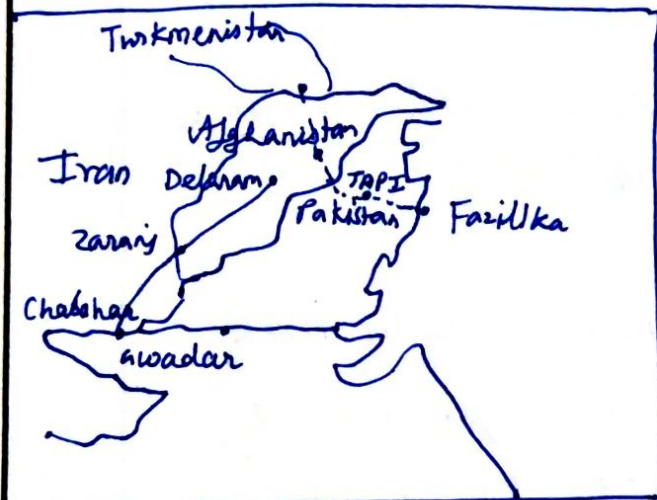
- ① India's Developmental efforts: India contributed more than \$2 billion in Afghanistan's development



- ② Economic interests: India's trade with Afghanistan had reached \$1.5 billion before Taliban's takeover.

2.1. Efforts must be done to continue this trade
eg:- Recent sending of grains ~~of~~ to Afghanistan
via Pakistan.

③ Connectivity Projects: Afghanistan's position makes it central to India's Connectivity goals like Zaranj-Delaram to Chabahar Highway.



INSTC and TAPI pipeline.

3.1. This will also help Afghanistan in reducing its dependence on Pakistan.

Fig: Connectivity goals.

④ Security concerns: Recalling 1990s, India must ensure Taliban doesn't engage in terror activities in India.

4.1. Further, Afghanistan cannot become a ground for supporting terrorists like Jem and LeT.

⑤ Strategic concerns: with vacuum formed by USA's departure and increasing role played by China, India must ensure it has a say in Affairs of Afghanistan as a regional stakeholder and not sidelined in important meetings.

5.1. India's efforts of Regional Security Dialogue is step in right direction.

Finally, as said by former ambassador Virek Katju, India needs to engage with all sections of Afghan society like Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Hazara, etc to protect its strategic interests.