

# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	Utsav Anand		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	875993
Center	Online	Date	28-11-2021

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2	10		2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in <b>ENGLISH &amp; HINDI</b> इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. <b>All questions are compulsory.</b> सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5	10		5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6	10		
7	10		
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18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
<b>Total Marks Obtained:</b>			
<b>Remarks:</b>			

16-B, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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।

→ Government of NCT Amendment Act, 2021 has been passed by the Parliament and got assent of the President, in pursuance of clearing some anomalies regarding administration of NCT

### Changes introduced

- "Government" would mean Lieutenant Governor rather than the elected government

- The executive decisions of the elected government must be produced before LG & require his acceptance

- It makes the elected government as subordinate to the LG.

### Issues with the amendment

- Against the Supreme court judgment in 2016 NCT vs LG case, where SC accepted the rights & supremacy of the elected government.
- against democratic principles, as nominated official gets the de-facto power instead of elected official
- can result in centralisation of power with union govt. and against federal principles

The matter is sub-judice & Supreme Court is looking into the legitimacy of the amendment. Consensus among the parties is important in such critical issues

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।

Justice NV Ramanna has recently  
asked the Union govt that is Section-  
124 A required in contemporary India,  
when such laws were used to put  
our nationalist leaders behind jails.

Section - 124 A or Sedition law is  
used against a person / institution who  
by words / actions incite / provoke feelings  
of secession against the country. ~~or~~  
or hatred

Why should it be deleted

- Colonial hangover
- Used to curb freedom of speech
- Has a chilling effect on exercising

of fundamental rights

→ No place in a democratic, liberal  
& sovereign country

→ Often used to further political  
motives

However, the country is not free  
from secessionist forces & some law  
is required to curb them.

✓ Secessionist forces of NE - India

✓ Protests infiltrated by anti-social  
elements

✓ NO other law to curb such  
activities

✓ International borders are also  
hostile & issues prevent

India is still a nation in making &  
any such activity which comes in  
its way needs to be curbed. A committee  
needs to look into cost-benefit of secession  
law.

3. Identify the issues that have contributed to a decline in the performance of Parliamentary Standing Committees. How can these issues be addressed?

(150 words) 10

उन मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्होंने संसदीय स्थायी समितियों के प्रदर्शन में गिरावट में योगदान दिया है। इन मुद्दों का समाधान कैसे किया जा सकता है?

Parliamentary Standing Committees are bodies to keep check on the executive actions and make them accountable to the Parliament. However, the committees have been on decline in recent years.

### Issues

- Bills referred to committees are on a decline.
- Expertise in the members is missing.
- Huge majority of the incumbent government has led the committees also to be in majority of ruling party.
- COVID-19 has made the meetings

impouille & hence accountability declined

→ lack of technical assistance didn't allow video conferres.

To tackle these issues

- Parliamentary Consultative Committee needs to be used to train & build capacity

- Data security & e-meetings can be arranged for.

- The watchdog committee - PAC, EC & CPU needs to be given extra importance to keep the executive in check.

Parliamentary standing committees are the pillars to link b/w executive & legislature & the pillars need to be strengthened.



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 has been the fulcrum of executive power & wields extensive powers, even though it is not a constitutional body. Why does it have immense power

Parliamentary  
govt.

≈

Prime ministerial  
govt.

& the form is transposing towards  
Presidential style of governance

- Majority of the ruling party leads  
to concentration of power

### Advantages

- leads to uniformity in action
- Easier co-ordination among all the departments & that through

the highest elected representative of  
the country

- Curbs corruption down the, loose of decision making
- The personality of PM is reflected in the entire governance.

Issues with powerful PMO

- Centralisation of power
- Specialisation v/s Generalisation
- Corruption at the highest level can make the whole system corrupt
- against democratic & parliamentary principles.

A strong PMO is imp. for the effective governance of the nation, keeping in mind the principles of work delegation & doctrine of ~~the~~ subsidiarity.

5. Discuss the role of data in governance in India. Also, state the various challenges in this regard and suggest remedial measures.

(150 words) 10

भारत में शासन में डेटा की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए एवं उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Data in governance is the new normal and the novel methodology of good governance. It refers to extensive usage of quantifiable & qualitative data in decision making for effective service & delivery.

### Role of data in governance

- Policy making becomes scientific
- Makes use of the internet boom & internet penetration expected to reach 55% by 2030
- curbs corruption
- checks on leakages in the system
- Basis of decision making at all the levels of governance.

## Challenges

- Standardisation of data : Data is not available in a usable format  
Data analytics platform of NITI Aayog could be used here.
- Digital divide : less than 20% in rural have internet & hence their data not part of decision making
- Democratic access to all stakeholders
- Data protection & security
- Data analytics capability is missing

To meet the challenges, digital divide needs to be filled through government interventions. The bill on data protection is an urgent requirement & needs to be passed soon.

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 refers to the organisations which are neither government nor family & work for the common interests of society or a section of society.

New civil society in urban India

Activism centric : In last two decades, organisations have got access to larger audience through internet & ~~more~~ have more activism

eg: Narmada Bachao, Goregaon forest - AAREY protection

Flow of funds : post LPG reforms, civil society got funds from across the world.

eg: Bill & Melinda Gates funding

Swasthya NRO working in  
health sector

- Government support has been immense

- Internet boom : rights can be  
exercised through multiple platforms.

eg: Late 4 Women web initiative

- Volunteering increased

### Role in governance & policy making

- Act as pressure groups

- Help in implementation in distant  
relays

- Help in awareness regarding schemes

- A method of feedback

- ~~can~~ Helps in issues like caste  
which political parties don't like  
to touch.

Civil society is integral to any working  
democracy

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।

PM - Modi announced the Mega  
Infrastructure project GATI - Shakti  
of 100L crore. It will help in  
multi-dimensional aspects of  
the growth of nation

Issues of infrastructure

- Will help decrease logistic costs from 14% to down 8-9%.
- Connectivity of rural & urban India
- Manufacturing boost
- Multi-ministerial collaboration will decrease wastage of funds in infrastructure

At the same time, it has potential to meet many governance challenges.

## Governance streamlining

- Inter-ministerial collaboration
- Digital divide through ICT infra  
can be filled up
- Low of funds and hence better  
governance  
reduces
- Better insha  $\Rightarrow$  Better rural-urban  
connect  
 $\Downarrow$   
Better rural +  $\Leftarrow$  Better urbanisation  
urban governance
- Electricity, internet, water supply etc.  
which are integral to all the  
welfare schemes will be addressed

CrATI-Shakti can be the path  
breaking in the overall style of  
governance in the country.



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।

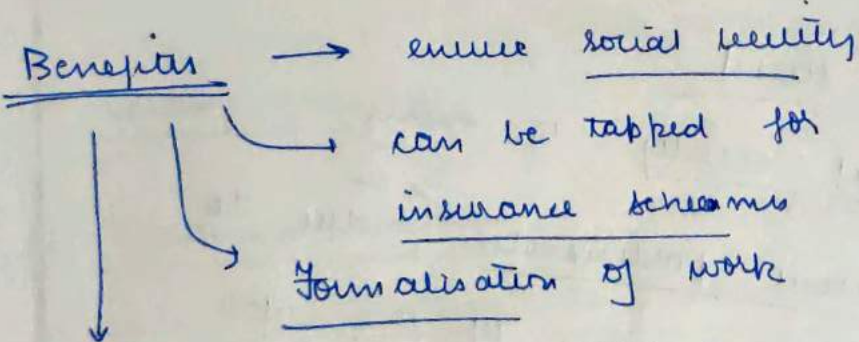
Informal sector is the major part of Indian work force, some estimates stating even greater than 90%. It comes with many challenges in the governance & also w.r.t. lives of the workers.

Issues faced

- Social security is missing
- Political participation <sup>is less</sup> due to migrating nature of the job
- Good security as One Nation, One RL not completely implemented
- Pandemic brought the volatility nature of the jobs to the foreground.

- Job security is negligible causing psychological & financial stress.
- Poverty & informal work form a vicious cycle.

e- Shram portal was launched to address the social security issue of informal workers. It got more than 50 million registrations.



Better data on informal workers

However, it is not the panacea of the ~~issue~~ issues & a parallel formalisation of jobs is the need of the hour through skill development & rapid industrialisation.

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।

The big tech companies, commonly referred as FANG - Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, Google have been outside the reach of tax jurisdictions for long. Along with them, Base erosion through  treaty shopping & money laundering have been major issues for the combined globe.

### Recent developments

Under OECD, a group is working on two pillars regarding the issues as discussed above.

Global minimum tax has been proposed so that ~~small~~ companies don't keep shifting their profits to low tax

jurisdictions & evading taxes in  
all the countries.

### Prospects

- Increases the tax base
- Limits money laundering
- Makes the big-tech companies  
pay for social infrastructure
- Economic justice for the smaller  
players.

### Challenges for India

- Financial sovereignty in question
- FDI may decrease & ~~it~~ it will  
lead to free of capital
- Collaboration with OECD, although  
we are not a member.

Global minimum tax is the need of  
hour but individual nation's priorities  
should also be considered

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।

AUKUS security pact has brought Australia & US further closer in an already close relationship. However its message to the world is more than just a security pact.

New era of geo politics

- Centrality of Indo-Pacific at world stage
- Australia - US security pact is a clear indication of anti-China unity in building
- Along with already QUAD & Blue - Dot network in place, the security pact is a strong message about the US's priorities

## India's interests

(+ve)

- alliance 1st allies • is a step forward
- Indo-Pacific needs democratic democracy & • not China's autocracy
- India has positive relations with both  
eg: Mutual logate agreement with AUS & BECA with US recently

(-ve)

- Sidelining of India's interests
- more imp. to Australia than the regional power India
- Australia & US don't share China's border & won't be much useful.

India needs to ~~be~~ be vigilant on changing global order & maintain its strategic autonomy, keep building capabilities & cultivating • like mindful nation

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 got the constitutional recognition by 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act. They are the fulcrum of democratic decentralisation but they are not as effective as they should have been. Lack of enough finances is one of the primary factors

Current mode of finances for PRI

- Devolution from state on recommendation of State Finance Commission
- Grants from states
- Grants from centre
- Power of taxation given the legislature of state in accordance to 11<sup>th</sup> schedule.

Effective devolution is important

- a) Autonomy damaged :  $\uparrow$   
consciously depend ~~on~~ <sup>for</sup> funds ~~for~~ on  
state & centre
- b) Incentive for better team management  
is missing
- c) Functions & Finances should be  
proportional for effective governance
- d) Scheme implementation is mainly  
dependent on working of PRI &  
hence funds are important

Thus, devolution of funds should be  
more scientific rather than politically  
motivated for the objectives to be  
met. However, the devolution has  
not been at par :

- a) Political willingness to devolve funds



b) Capacity & training to manage  
finances have not been effective.

c) Functionaries to manage finance  
eg: Clerks, accountants are not  
available in proper numbers.

d) Corruption at all levels of govt.

e) Lack of trust in subordinates  
& superiority complex.

PRI are the backbone of

India's governance, they need to  
be made capable to manage finance.

Doctrine of subsidiarity can work

well only when PRI's are given

the 3 Fs → Functions  
Functionaries  
& FINANCES

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 the non-traditional function of judiciary & a tool through which they try to expand rights & liberties of the citizens. They use this tool under many provisions of the Constitution. eg: Art 142 (complete power), Art - 32 etc. & also as an implied function of the judiciary.

Doctrine of separation of powers as provided in the Constitution through respective checks & balances is important part of constitutional governance. However at many instances, the separation is not ~~to~~ respected in letter & spirit -

Judicial activism being one of them.

Goal to guard legislative activism & executive excess

- Art-13, Art-32 can be invoked to review legislative decisions of the government if they are in violation.

eg: NJAC was omitted due to hampering judicial independence

- 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment - many provisions were not accepted. eg: Minerva Mills case on Art-31C

- Executive excess can be checked through Art-142, 32.

eg: Vineet Narain case on corruption charges was taken up by judiciary

- It helps expand rights of citizens  
eg: Art-21 expansion.

However it can have -ve effects

- Violates Doctrine of separation
- Courts may not have expertise in executive decisions  
eg: Order to remove alcohol shops  
on highways — should have consulted experts.
- Court itself orders & itself adjudicates  
judging your own actions is  
against natural justice

Judicial activism has been a <sup>great</sup> tool  
at the disposal of judiciary to  
uphold the ideals of constitution.  
It can't be argued that the  
intentions behind judicial activism  
are good. However, the long term  
impact is questionable

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 brought to help people donate funds to political parties anonymously and digitally. The intention on paper looks noble, however the critics have raised the issue of growing non-transparency & non-accountability of ~~the~~ electoral funding.

Electoral bonds - Transparency & accountability

- Anonymous donations: identity of donor is kept secret, hence can be used to extort money

- Asymmetric: as bonds ~~have~~ <sup>are</sup> issued by SBI, which is a public

company, hence the ruling govt. has access to information on donations if it wants to

- Black money : can be easily channelised into electoral process
- Accountability of political parties towards donors is null as they are anonymous

### Growing trend on declining transparency

Electoral Bonds are one of the many recent developments which have made the electoral process more opaque.

- a) RTI on political parties : although they are considered as public bodies, they don't accept RTI.

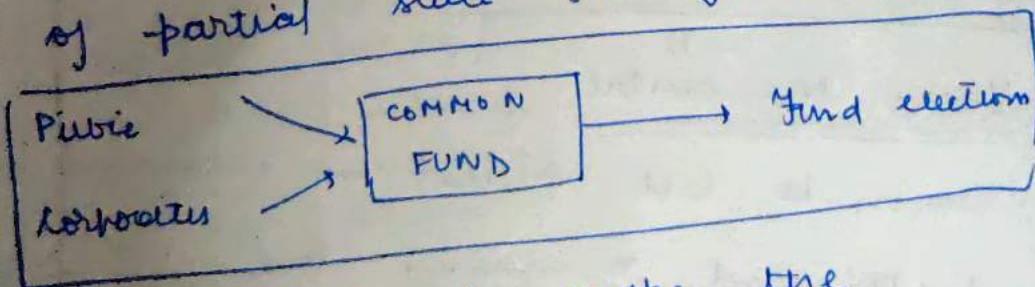
b) Corporate donations : limit has been removed and shareholders need not be consulted.

c) Party expenditure : not calculated in electoral expenses

d) Star campaigns have been increasing

e) Foreign donations allowed.

Although electoral bonds have digital transactions, there is a massive scope of exploitation. A mechanism of partial state funding like:



can be used to make the process more transparent & accountable.

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

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

Principle of subsidiarity states that the work should be delegated to that level of administration that is best placed to handle the task.

eg: Schools, should not be governed in villages by officers in Delhi, rather PRI & state bureaucracy.

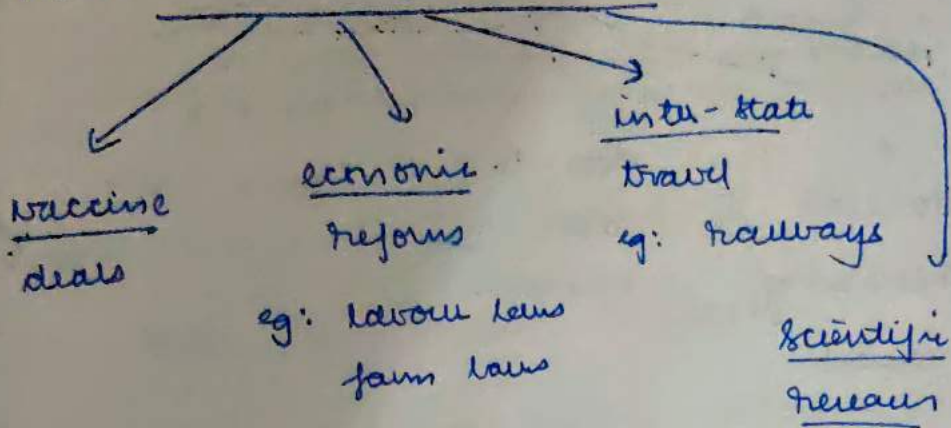
Subsidiarity during COVID-19

Tasks for centre

Union is best placed in international deals and managing the macroeconomy, which can't be done at lower levels.

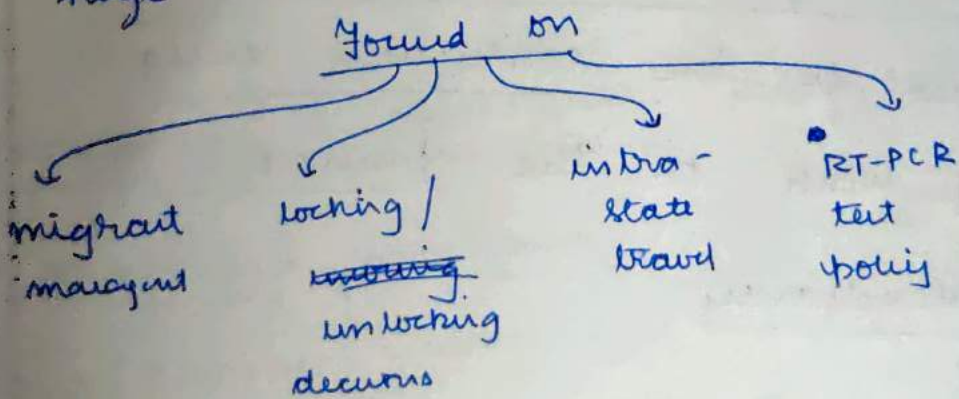


Hence centre found on

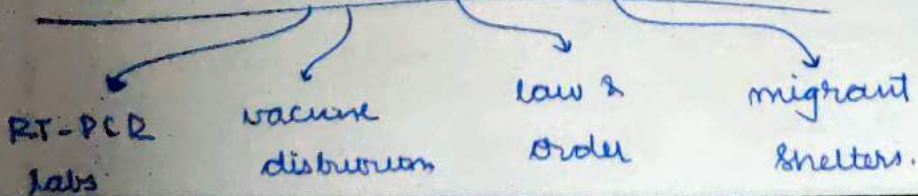


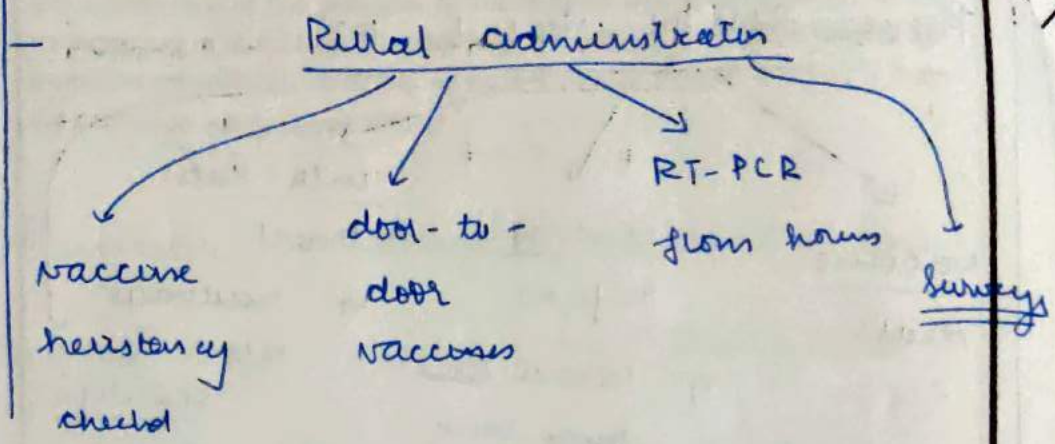
Tasks for state

state level administration had challenges to meet ~~example~~ which were specific to the state & had huge variations.



Tasks for district administration





This COVID-19 management was a holistic task which was collaborated at all levels. The pandemic is still on but the efficiency of the system has been sustained due to the continuous delegation of work on the principles of subsidiarity

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 is the new & the latest tool for mass outreach, holding the administration accountable & raise awareness among the people. With internet penetration estimated to reach 55% by 2030, social media's importance is going to increase enormously.

Transparency & accountability through (SM)

Information penetration : People in the remotest areas can know their rights & claim their rights

Democratic access : It treats everyone equal & any impartial action is

pointed out, ~~named~~ named & shamed

- Good work is appreciated : The appreciation is an incentive for better accountability

- Feedback from public is important to fill the loopholes in the system

- Highest of the highest officials are within the reach of common man  
eg: even the PMO responds to tweets of common citizens

However, in spite of all the positives, social media is still an tool with informal

limited capabilities. Institutional accountability is the long term solution to the issues of governance :

a) NOT everyone gets access to social media. eg: rural India only has 18% internet

b) Institutional accountability places a system of auto checks & balances. eg: in no way social media can be used for financial accountability

c) Lot of noise : Filtering out credible info from social media is difficult

d) Entertainment + Governance can't be clubbed under one platform.

Thus, social media is going to play a part in governance, however the limitations should be understood & it should not be made as proxy to institutional accountability

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।

State, in context of India & almost all the countries globally, are of the nature of Welfare States. The prime duty of the welfare state is providing welfare services to the people.

Right incentives to deliver services

- Political incentives : In a democracy, effective service delivery has political consequences (+)ve

- Economic incentives : Growth of economy is directly proportional to the implementation, rather than planning

- Security incentives : Strong economy

and strong human resources are a security asset of the country.

Moral incentives : Flowing out of the Constitution. like DPSPs.  
eg: Art 38, 39, 41, 42 etc.

### Right intentions

Welfare & peace is the aim of any state.  
Plethora of welfare schemes to achieve the objectives.  
eg: PM-KISAN, Mid Day Meals, Jeevan Kalyan Yojana etc.

Harmony in the society

However, the main question remains is whether the state is capable to provide services efficiently. It has many roadblocks like:

a) short-sightedness

- b) Politically motivated steps
- c) work culture not competitive
- d) Welfare overloads efficiency & economy  
eg: AIR India losses
- e) Competition with private sector
- f) Overburdening of duties with limited human resources

The proper model to effectively deliver services would be to engage private sector & civil society to the maximum. Only when all the units share their expertise, then will be the objectives of the state be met.



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 in Global Hunger Index, 2021 declined from 94 to 101. The rank is poorer than all the neighbouring countries & similarly placed global economies. ~~the~~

Although the government has questioned the methodology of Index, there is no doubt that India's food security has many underlying issues.

Food production is not an immediate issue

- Highest producer of MILLETS, pulses, MILK etc.
- 2nd highest producer of rice, wheat
- Net food exporter

- Green Revolution
- Good irrigation facilities
- Huge population in agri-sector.

Although food production can be affected by climate change, dipping water table, soil salinity etc. in near future but they are not an issue at present.

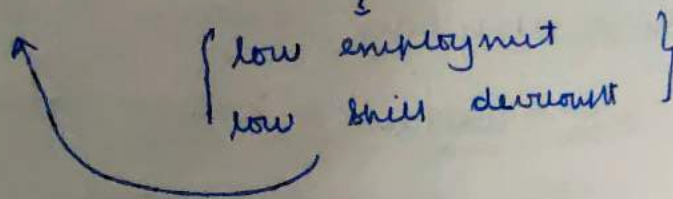
Issues in ~~the~~ providing food from FARM → PLATE :

- Supply chain leakages due to corruption etc.
- Buffer stock management : ~~Over~~ buying by the FCI
- Quality of food
- Nutritional value is less with

focus only on carbohydrates & lacks minerals.

- Portability of schemes not widespread yet

- Hunger & Economy



- Gender disparities affects girl child more.

Hunger in India is a deep rooted issue. NFSA covers 75% of rural & 50% of urban population, in spite of this, we have hunger issues.

Holistic & scientific efforts like

Bi fortification, Food fortification, DN-DRC schemes need to be streamlined

PM-POSHAN needs to be more result

oriented.

18. Democratization of primary healthcare is indispensable for fulfilling the objectives of equitable and comprehensive care in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत में समान और व्यापक देखभाल के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल का लोकतंत्रीकरण अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Primary Health care is the pillar on which all the upper levels of health care sustain. It refers to the welfare & health centres providing basic treatment and act as first point of contact.

Issues due to poor PHC

- Burden on secondary & tertiary Health centres.
- meeting goals of SDG-3 is difficult
- NON-commercial diseases burden increases.

Democratization of PHC

Although the population of rural India is 70%, the health centres are skewed towards urban

areas (73%). It is an anomaly which has hindered the goals of India's health policy.

### a) Equitable care

- PHC gives the basic health facilities; equitable only when it is available in reach of rural & urban India

- COVID-19 showed that urban areas were overburdened with hospitalizations due to non-availability in rural

- SDG - 3 : Good & Well Health

- Will help to bridge economic disparities. as health care is very expensive.

### b) Comprehensive care

- PHC can take care of multiple part. objectives & schemes eg:

→ ICDS, Jan-drogya Yojana,  
Ayushman Bharat - HWC etc.

└ Secondary & Tertiary health care  
can be used for bigger care

eg: Rare disease policy

Thus, democratization of PHC is  
the way forward to strengthen  
the medical infrastructure in the  
country — which was exposed during  
COVID-19. It can be done through  
Digital Health mission, awareness  
programmes & with the help  
of PPP projects.

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 term was mooted  
by Shingo Abe specifying the growing  
importance of the region in determining  
global order.

Evolving discourse

- China's claim to South-China-Sea
- US's Free & Open navigation expectations
- US's allies in the region  
eg: Japan, Australia
- Quad, AUKUS, Malabar exercise  
etc. in prominence.
- France & UK trying to make  
presence.
- IOR region & Pacific region  
rival in minerals & control trying to get

## Factors driving global shift

- a) NON-Peaceful & assertive growth of China.
- b) Rule of law and respect of UNLOs at stake
- c) Rich in minerals.  
eg: Petroleum in SC-sea, manganese in Pacific
- d) Democracy v/s authoritarian fight
- e) China's over-dependence on the region for trade & oil reserves
- f) " Rich in fisheries  $\Rightarrow$  food security
- g) Opportunity to establish new global order
- h) ASEAN countries drive huge economy & no country would want them to be dominated by others
- i) A shift is focus from West Asia to Indo-Pacific due to promises of oceans in energy security.



## India's interests

- Balancing China : China is influencing India's neighbours. So India is trying to cultivate China's neighbours.
- Resources in Indian Ocean : India got sea led to explore
- Net security provider in the region.  
eg: SAGAR

## Challenges

- No other country has land borders with China
- Depend on China for trade
- multiple alliances being formed  
eg: AUKUS, Blue dot
- RCEP : we may get economically isolated.

India needs to keep building capabilities to counter China & not miss the chance to place itself as the resident, maritime & continental power.

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।

Afghanistan has been taken over by Taliban after withdrawal of US. India wanted the transition to be Afghan led, Afghan owned & Afghan controlled. Although that has not been justified, the further ~~just~~ policy needs to have understanding of goals.

### Prospective goals

- Connectivity to Central Asia
- Ongoing projects like INSTC & Chabahar
- TAPI pipeline talks
- Mutual issues of Afghanistan

eg: lithium, rare earth elements

→ India's humanitarian projects  
in Afg eg: Shantoot dam

→ Central location w.r.t. China &  
India

→ Need to cultivate Afg so that  
they don't serve as strategic depth

for Pakistan

→ Although we don't have a policy  
to promote democracy & human rights,

we should consider talks on gender  
rights & minority issues

→ Ideological spillover in Kashmir.

With these goals & further military  
on the needs of India, India has  
started talks with Taliban.

We may not support the regime  
but we will have to advocate  
a policy based on specific  
strategic goals and not miss our  
chance to have better relations  
with our neighbours.