

Test : 17 (GS II)

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Questions attempted - 20

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Q1 Doctrine of separation of power enshrined under A-50 of the Constitution Part IV stating separation of power between executive and judiciary.

India's parliamentary system and separation of power -

↳ Article 356 - The Governor's report and imposition of Emergency can be checked by judicial review

↳ Article 72 and Article 161 - Power of Mercy of President and Governor guided by Council of Ministers can be guided and checked by Judiciary

↳ Article 32 and Article 226 - Checks on violation of constitutional rights

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↳ Article 13 Vs Article 368 - Judicial Review of any changes made without hampering basic structure doctrine.

Assessment of balance in contemporary time

↳ Article 142 - Controversy of Judicial overreach in name of "complete justice".

↳ Overlap of powers - Tamil Nadu bills passed by judiciary

↳ Undefined Basic Structure Doctrine - Tussle between legislature and Judiciary.

Amun Jaitley highlighted "Tyranny of unelected over the elected" and this is where the separation of power stands but can't deny the coordinated functioning as well.

Q2}

The recent trade tariff was between US and India and other bilateral negotiations have shown how trade has become both a currency of diplomacy and weapon of negotiation.

Trade : currency of diplomacy

↳ India - UK FTA - Increased collaboration with reduction of ~99% tariffs for trade

↳ Strengthening diplomatic ties between the countries.

↳ India - Brazil PTA - The diluted relations with Brazil eventually is being mended for bilateral trade growth

↳ India - Malaysia FTA - After India - Out Campaign

India's beleaguered relation has regained strength and diplomatic stance like MANHASAGAR enlarged India's position.

Trade: Weapon of negotiation -

- ↳ India - US trade tariff - a way for US to renegotiate India's relations with countries like Russia
- ↳ CAATSA, US - sanctions on nations trading with nations like Russia
- ↳ Trade Route ocean - Iran-Israel war threatening to strangle the red sea route.

↳ Market and transportation hurdles

By all these way trade have become a means of strings for pulling global diplomacy and negotiations.

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Q3. Mission Vatsalya is to protect the vulnerable children and rehabilitate from poor conditions and foster good parental control at the same time.

It is under Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The objectives include

- ↳ Opening of Child Welfare Centres for child protection
- ↳ Rehabilitation - The students/children who are in abject poverty living in streets would be rehabilitated
- ↳ Protection within family - Formulation of family care guide
- ↳ Giving protection to family in need of protection of law and in conflict with law.

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Challenges

- ↳ Child Trafficking - still a major threat
- ↳ Non-allegiance to provided regulations.
- ↳ Lack of volunteers - the institutions working barely have trained professionals
- ↳ Underutilization of Technology -
(eg) funds auditing

Assam's reference

- ↳ Many child care institutions opened
- ~ 250 - 300 CWC
 - ↳ Grassroot personnel used - (eg) Angan -
wadi Centres and ASHA for health.
 - ↳ Way forward → capacity building
↳ Engagement with public
↳ Proper infrastructure and professional
- Children are the future of our nation they should be protected proactively.

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Q4) Nepal: earthquake media representation
by India did tense the relationship between
the two nations and shows the renewed
debate of media regulation during disaster.

Problems of mis information -

- ↳ Panic situation - might get created
- ↳ Resort to unsafe means for escape
- ↳ Erosion of mental strength at times of disaster.

The ways how India can
ensure accountability in emergency while
safeguarding freedom of expression -

- ↳ Press release by government officials -

This would reduce misinformation
and increase accountability and legitimacy

- ↳ Flagged government designated news
media - Authenticity to the news delivered.
- ↳ CERT-in surveillance - to take down fake news as soon as flagged
- ↳ Publishing of signed documents in
Government media handles
- ↳ Media department in collaboration with
other coordinating departments.
- ↳ Sensitisation of information among masses
to refrain from sharing fake information.
- ↳ Religation of information to local governments.

By these way curtailing of freedom of
expression would be limited limiting
circulation of fake news.

Q5) Every 1 woman in 4 faces gender based harassment and online technology have added into it.

Rising cases of online gender-based harassment -

↳ Deepfakes and Morphing - It has become easier with AI to circulate deepfakes

(eg) Archita Phukan case

↳ Trolling - Online media trolling leads to mental stress. (eg) Operation Sindoor trolling

↳ Privacy infringement - Lack of strict encryption have led to easy circulation

(eg) Bulli Bai website upload

↳ Body shaming - Intersectional harassment and targeting have led to depression and self consciousness among women

Role of National Commission for women
in safeguarding women's right in the digital
space -

↳ Gender sensitization - Collaboration with institutes - (eg) colleges, ~~and~~ University workshops

↳ Collaboration with technology surveillance cell - To target resolutions of gender based discrimination like Trolling.

↳ Encourage movements like - #PinjraTod

↳ Ensuring quick action over complaint registration.

women as a vulnerable group should be protected and empowered for Vikshit Bharat.

Q6.) Parliamentary committees are a smaller deliberative chambers with specialized duties given overlooking certain bills and resolutions.

eg) Public Account Committee.

Essential for accountability -

- ↳ Reduces hasty decisions of Parliament
- ↳ Checks and put forwards constructive criticism
- ↳ Specialised advisory
- ↳ check on power of executives as legislators.

The recent committee reviews and importance as parliamentary committee -

Data Protection Act -

- It was legislated by Joint Parliamentary Committee

- ✓ Invited diverse opinions
- ✓ Stakeholders perspectives upheld
- ✓ Encouragement to include public participation.

Environmental Legislation

- ✓ Responsible ecological justice ensured
- ✓ Grievance redressal arrangement
for environmental projects
- ✓ Utilization of Green tribunals for fast
track clearances
- ✓ Impact assessment over stakeholders
analysis encouraged.

Thus parliamentary committee plays
an important role making India a
deliberative democracy.

Q7) Cooperative federalism means the state and centre working together for mutual development (eg) GST Council - fiscal federalism.

Challenges of cooperative federalism

in India are -

- ↳ Underutilization of Inter-State Council,
(A-263) - The last full fledged meeting was virtual 2021 meet
- ↳ devolution of funds compromises - Centre
being holder of majority of funds leaves states with lesser means financially for development.
- ↳ Unitary Bias - The Centre being more powerful handles decision without state's consultation

Recent dispute and tensions in Centre -

State financial relations -

↳ Dispute → compensation to state not evolved completely

→ limitations on borrowing through FRBM

↳ Tensions → Asymmetric financial relation

→ The states object under delivery of funds by the Centre

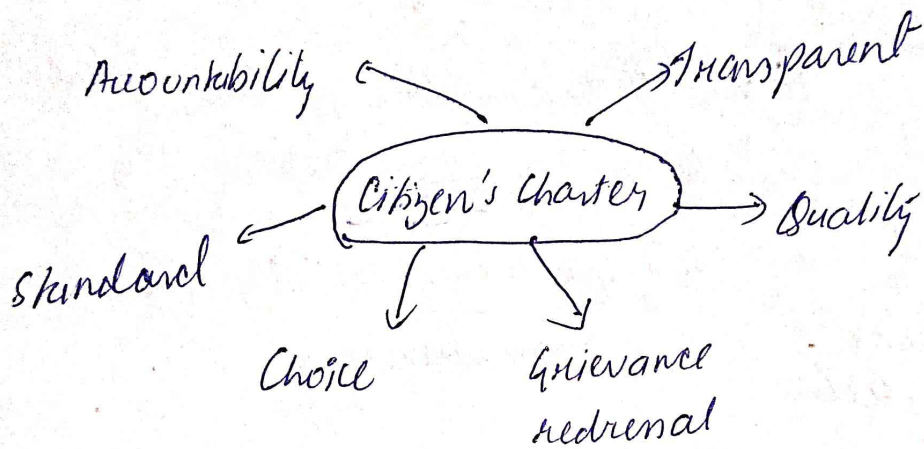
→ Developmental program often hindered due to late sanctions

→ FRBM Act limitations on state for independent funds raising.

India is "Indestructible Union of destructible states" thus the positions of the states should be respected and delegated well.

Q8.)

Citizen Charter was introduced in India in 1997. It traced its evolution from 1991, UK model.



The effectiveness of Citizen's Charter in addressing inefficiency in government offices -

Positive

↳ Gives citizens an idea about services provided

↳ Do's and Don't - Eg) Don't give bribe

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- ↳ Time duration for deliverance of service
- ↳ Thus provides overall service delegations.

Critical assessment

- ↳ unresponsive officials - leading to inefficient work and office culture
- ↳ Delay - Red Tapism - "sitting on the file culture"
- ↳ Reduced grievance redressal - erosion of public trust.

Way forward

- ↳ Shift to Online governance method - would reduce time lags in process
- ↳ Capacity building and Grievance redressal - follow Sevottam model - would ensure better delegation
- ↳ Citizen Charter is for public, civic participation in devising Charters would increase its efficiency.

(Q9)

Mann ki Baat is a media - radio programme where PM Modi delivers and interact with the mass on issue based topics.

(eg) Recent talk on Kaziranga's
Bird diversity

Relevance of Mann ki Baat in promoting
participatory governance in India -

↳ Encouraging people - through
different themes based highlight
targeted groups are encouraged

(eg) Rajendra Singh - "Waterman of
India" — highlighted about
water harvesting methods to people

↳ Information of schemes and policies -
make people aware and engage locally
in availing

(eg) Ujjwala Yojan - Enlarged
transition to LPG

↳ Inspiration to engage publicly - for
betterment of society

(eg) Swachh Bharat Mission -
Making India clean through local
engagements

But many potholes present

↳ Digital divide - Only reaches few
man of people

↳ Monotonous - Outcome benefit analysis
required

↳ Only milestone achievers highlighted

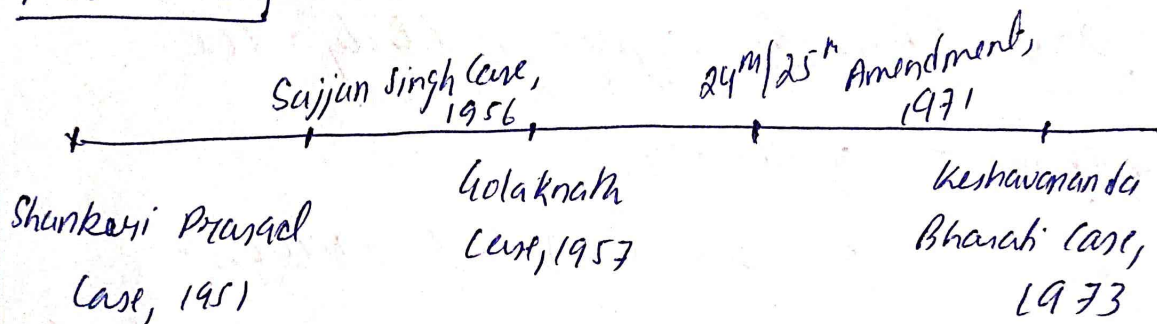
More local examples would help better
engagement.

Thus, the programme is an important step to bring
government closer to people given the loopholes concea-
led.

Q10)

Basic Structure Doctrine an watershed development brought by Keshavananda Bharati Case, 1973 have safeguarded the basic tenets of our Constitution

Evolution



The Relevance of Basic Structure Doctrine

↳ check and balances - Legislative Overreach
checked by Judiciary

(eg) Article 13 vs Art 360

→ Mirwa Mills Case - Doctrine of

Harmonious construction - Checked
amendment of Fundamental Rights for DPSP

↳ Safeguarding democracy - Reducing executive supremacy maintaining separation of power

(eg) NJAC revoked in 2015

↳ Upholding Constitutional morality - At the face of changes basic moral tenets safeguarded

(eg) Secularism - S.R Bommai Case

But challenges exist

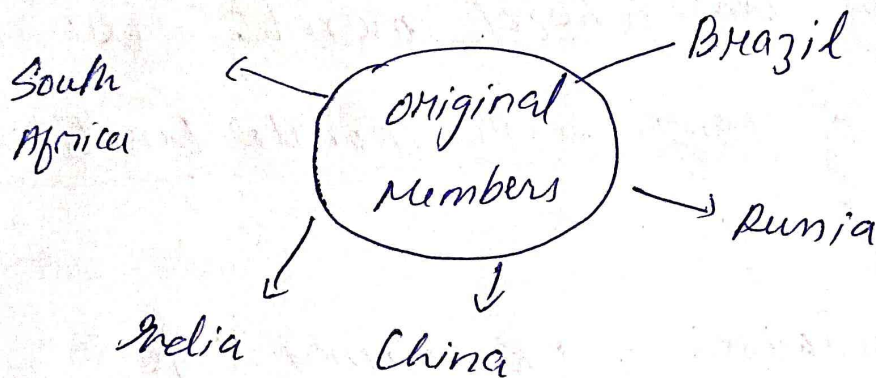
↳ Judicial overreach - Critique like Arun Jaitley said "Rule of unelected over elected"

↳ No codification - Scope not limited

Way forward → codification
Judicial Restraint

Basic Structure Doctrine have proven beneficial at the face of majoritarianism and should be upheld while preserving the Constitutional ideals.

811) BRICS is a global grouping including 30% of Global GDP and now extended to UAE, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Argentina.



Reshaping of grouping's global role -

- ↳ BRICS+ would prominently become Global south's voice
- ↳ More pressure on US hegemony -
being major economy cooperating with each other.

- ↳ Multipolarity reinforced - Major globally influential nations like Russia, China, India, middle east nation would diversify markets, bringing in benefits.

Opportunities for India -

- ↳ Diversification of energy market - Reduced dependence on Russia thus ensuring energy security.
- ↳ Resource base expanded - Access to have earth materials and other minerals for development
- (eg) India - Zimbabwe → Global resource.
- ↳ Scope for UPI networking - India's UPI has been already in use in many International nations and can be expanded more

- ↳ 'Voice of Global South' - By influencing global position India can reinforce its demand for UN SC seat.
- ↳ Decolonization - US hegemony undermining could bring potential benefits and increased trade with reduced risks.

Challenges posed from India -

- ↳ Presence of conflicting powers -
Russia and China are two polar opposites for India. Balance between both is feasible
- ↳ China's support to Pakistan - CPEC
have already diluted relations
↳ Operation Sindoor Veto is another example.

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↳ Regional domino effects - Middle East nations being Islamic might pose indirect risk to India's secularism.

↳ Regional conflicts - Middle East nations on conflict might hamper cooperation and energy security.

Thus BRICS expansion is boon and yet bane for India. But it upholds India's vision of 'Vishwa bandhu' very well.

Q12)

"The next war would be fought over water" - Ismail Serageldin (WB President former). This quote highlights the importance of shared coordination through navigation of water diplomacy.

In the same content, the scope of regional cooperation in the Brahmaputra river basin for flood management with reference to Bhutan and Bangladesh are -

- ↳ early warning from Bhutan - Bhutan being in upstream of the river would be helpful in delivering water level information to India
- ↳ speedy evacuation for India -

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↳ Hydro-electric cooperation - In Bhutan
could lead to reduced flow limiting
food causing water flow

Bangladesh cooperation

↳ Sharing of flood-related data - for
management of flood

↳ Joint River Commission - for smooth
coordination and negotiation about rivers.

↳ Cooperation on Disaster Risk Plan -
shared opportunities for both given
timely information

But, Challenges persists given the
geo-political situation -

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- ↳ Reduced Trust among nations prevents proper analysis of provided data.
- ↳ Timely data not available - Thus undermined motto of shared coordination.
- ↳ Delays in investments in hydro projects - Loosening ties for cooperation.
- ↳ Non-functional Joint committees.
- ↳ Strained Indo-Bangladesh relation - Sheikh Hasena asylum in India.

Thus there should be proper solutions devised, few suggestions are -

- ↳ Restarting working of Joint Committees

↳ Capacity building measures - for
trans-boundary cooperation

↳ Trust building measures - for
efficient utilization of data

↳ Coordinated hydrological centres
- Bilateral / Trilateral → would
reduce time lag.

Thus, on face of adversity of increasing
trend of disaster water diplomacy and
negotiation would help navigate
through times of distress.

Q13)

The changing climate on the face of anthropological extremes have restructured policies and measures towards mitigation and resilience.

To cope up, climate adaption policies initiated for agriculture and livelihood in North-East India.

Impact on Agriculture

↳ Adoption of Climate Resilient crops - eg) Susma sub1

This have allowed farmers to cultivate crops suitable for drought and floods

↳ Ensured food security - given

the productivity and output due to climate resilient crop.

↳ Shift towards diversification - More

farmers are engaging in non-farm activities. eg) Fishery -

=> Aquapark of Sonapur.

↳ Resurgence of traditional knowledge -

The mix cropping pattern with poultry and fish together - efficiency ↑

eg) Arunachal Pradesh.

↳ Focus on sustainable cultivation -

Shift towards organic farming

eg) O' Majuli

Impact on livelihood-

↳ Diversification of livelihood-

Transition towards non-farm livelihood

eg) Agro Processing Industries

↳ Dependency on forest for tribals reduced-

Given the ideas of sustainable development-

↳ eg) Traditional fuel wood collection reduced

↳ Innovations encouraged - The newly graduated students encouraged for adaptable livelihood creations.

↳ Reduced dependence on agriculture - Disguised unemployment reduced.

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Government measures for resilience

↳ Capacity building - for better adjustment to the changing lifestyle and livelihood

(eg) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana

↳ Collaboration with agriculture

university for increased crop resilience

↳ Increase seed capitals - (eg) MM Atma Nirbhar Aroon

↳ Inclusive growth - (eg) MM Mahila Udyamita Abhijan

all these measures would ultimately build a resilient community with adaptation to changing climate policies.

Q14) Election Commission of India (A-324)
is the watchdog of the Indian democracy
given they ensures free and fair elections.

Role of Election Commission of India

- ↳ Preparing Electoral roll of India
constituency wise delegated by
state election commissioners
- ↳ Recognising national and
state political parties - recognising
symbols
- ↳ Producing model code of conduct
before elections.

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Composition - Chief Election Commissioner

+

2 Election Commissioners

Recent reform proposal and operational challenges -

↳ Special Intensive Review - It have greatly challenged the ECJ's role and controversial

↳ Appointment of CEC - Andop Banarwal case has been altered by parliamentary order bringing in different perspectives.

→ Reforms seeked for appointment of CEC procedure

→ Removal should be done by President

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- ↳ Funding for election - Reforms seek proper disclosure of election funding ensuring equal level playing field for all candidates
- ↳ Online Regulation of Campaigning - should be included in Model Code of Conduct given changing modes
- ↳ Operational challenges
 - ↳ Political appointment of CEC - Given the appointment committee CEC might become partisan in decisions.
 - ↳ Non-compliance to Model code of Conduct - Diluting the nature of conduct

↳ Too many changes and time
consuming process

↳ Logistical inefficiency - given the
technological challenges.

↳ Political influences - often delays
process

↳ Large population - documentational
errors might surface.

ECI is the host and ensuring free
and fair election is the backbone of
democracy thus loopholes should
be solved to ensure proper functioning
transcending challenges.

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Q15)

Autonomous districts councils under Sixth Schedule provides special functioning powers to protect the indigenous ethnic identity with local leaders of councils making appropriate decisions for their well being.

The Autonomous Districts of North-East

Assam

1. Bodoland Territorial Region
2. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council
3. Dima Hasao Autonomous Council

Meghalaya

- ↳ Jaintia ADC
- ↳ Garo Hill ADC
- ↳ Khasi ADC

Mizoram

1. Laitumkhrang ADC
2. Chakma ADC
3. Maram ADC

Tripura

1. Tripura Tribal ADC

Balancing Self-Governance & Tribal Identity :

- ↳ Decisions by tribals - Taken based on tribal practices and customary rights
- ↳ Reinforces tribal unity - Through united representations
- ↳ Efficient resource use locally
- ↳ Preserves regional, ethnic identity, tradition and culture.

National Integration

- ↳ Representation and Voice to minorities → Proper targeted mechanism of problems.

- ↳ Aspirations of tribals amalgamated
to national identity
- ↳ Makes up larger national identity
promoting diversity.

Environmental Management -

- ↳ Preservation of forest under
tribal land → Tribals and
mutual interdependence keeps
biodiversity protected
- ↳ Animatistic tradition/Animism followed -
Reverance of nature
- ↳ Check on development projects like
mining
- ↳ Traditional knowledge application -
for water harvesting, flood
Ad Chang Ghat.

But many challenges exists,

↳ Interference of Central government-

Through agents like Governor

↳ Lack of devolution of fund by state.

↳ Forest rights infringed for development projects

↳ Demands in other regions - Increased fragmentation

But above all these ADCs have been able to channelize the tribal dissent into cooperation thus an inclusive development model would ensure more efficiency.

Q16)

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act brought the Panchayati Raj Institutions for local self rule and bottom-up development but inherent problems have limited its role.

Institutions of delivery only because
of following challenges.

- ↳ Funds - Lack of devolution of funds leading to dependency on the state for implementations
- ↳ only 10% of funds generated by PRL on own
- ↳ functionaries - There's lack of manpower who efficiently can deliver service
- ↳ Technically challenged.

↳ Gender Tokenism - Sarpanch Pati

phenomena have defeated the goal of inclusivity.

↳ Lack of Public Participation - Only 10% of voters attend gram sabha meetings.

The recent debates surrounding all these problems -

→ Devolution and Fiscal autonomy -

Due to lack of devolution of the subjects of the list and lack of fiscal autonomy have hindered in independent decision making body.

↳ Local problems remains unresolved

↳ State monitoring of devolution limits role of PRI

- ↳ Limited revenue generation on own -
Undermines autonomy in policy making
- ↳ Elite capturing - The funds granted underutilized due to reduced percolation to grass roots.

Role of Technology -

- ↳ Panchayat officials - Technologically not equipped
- ↳ Network coverage not completely done for Panchayats - lagging in work
- ↳ Lack of utilization - Due to lack of awareness
- ↳ Lack of trained technicians - leading to policy delays through online technology

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Suggestions to improve the condition

- ↳ devolution of all the functions/subjects of the list
- ↳ Fiscal autonomy through increased revenue generation and collection.
- ↳ Capacity Building - would help adjust to technical changes
- ↳ Institute for Panchayati Training - would help targeted development of functionaries for better monitoring

Gandhi's aspiration of self-governance through local government has been turned into reality and efficiency should be highly monitored to deliver its real capacity.

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Q17) Ayushman Bharat was launched in 2018 to deliver proper health care incentive and facilities to eligible beneficiaries.

Provisions of Ayushman Bharat -

↳ Health & Wellness Centres - delivery health service in the grassroot level

↳ Ayushman Bharat - PM Jan Arogya

Yojana - Rs 5 lakh per family for healthcare expenses for selected disease.

Challenges for transforming from
pre reactive crisis management to preventive
and primary care delivery -

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- ↳ Lack of manpower - Indian ratio of patient to nurse 1:2400 - far more than WHO recommendation
- ↳ Lack of infrastructure - Only Guwahati has AIIMS for the whole Northeast which undermines equitable health care facilities
- ↳ Lack of functionality of PHCs - Only 10% of PHCs have diagnostic lab
- ↳ Limited expenditure on health - Economic survey 2016-17 target 2.5% of GDP
Present - only 1.9%.
- ↳ Encumbers out of pocket expenditure for patients - ~50% of health expenditure is out of pocket.
 - ↳ expensive healthcare.

c) Reforms to strengthen India's health care system -

- ↳ Increase advanced hospital infrastructure like Apollo and AIIMS
- ↳ Upgradation of existing civil hospitals with advanced technology
- ↳ Make health care accessible - Increase budget expenditure
- ↳ Integration of local ASHA and ANM for grassroots delegation.
- ↳ Nutritional poverty should be addressed to improve healthcare
(eg) Fortified Rice, PM POSHAN
- ↳ Increasing Medical colleges - More doctors

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↳ Upgrade PHCs - Diversification of patients and reduced burden in the urban hospitals.

↳ Proper implementation and quality check of Ayushman Bharat shops - Reduce expenditure on medicine

Looking over all these would help improving the health system of India making healthy and Vikshit India.

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Q18) Finance Commission is formed for a tenure of 5 years by the President for devolution of funds in federal manner.

The present 15th Financial Commission have put forwarded some recommendations -

↳ Setting of fiscal deficit -

Centre - $\sim 4\%$ of GDP by 2025-26

↳ Performance linked grants - meeting specific goals.

↳ Limit state deficit target - 3% by 2023-26

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Balancing fiscal consolidation and
equitable resource distribution among
states -

↳ Horizontal and Vertical devolution -

To reduce inequality between states
and the centres given financial
consolidation

↳ Targeted grants - Improve essential
facilities and enhance development

eg) Health sector

↳ Cooperative federalism - Increased
coordination and collaboration
on various sectors.

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Challenges persists

- ↳ Unitary bias :- Undermining devolution of fiscal arrangements
- ↳ Performance grants - It could negatively disbalance equitable growth among sectors
- ↳ Reduced autonomy among the states and centres - Binded designs.

Thus, a balanced solution should be paved for equitable growth horizontally and vertically.

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Q19)

The 21st century is known as the 'Age of Technology' and it have transformed governance into digital governance requiring attention towards surveillance.

The Recent Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 is to strengthen privacy -

The Provisions

- ↳ Informed consent - for using any information available of the subject
- ↳ Data Principals - Can ask erasure of data from digital space
- ↳ Data fiduciaries - Responsible use of data given.

Benefits of Digital technology in
emerging digital economy needs -

- ↳ Better accessibility - Reduces transportation cost and address time poverty
- ↳ Affordable - limited application and transfer fee
- ↳ Bringing government closer to people -
- ↳ Timelier transfer mechanism (eg) NEFT
- ↳ Gholia's broadening UPI base -
Opens up better opportunities
(eg) Cross border transfers.

Importance of DPDP act -

- ↳ Secured information of Data
Principal

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↳ Prevents infringement of privacy -
Follows Right to Privacy Act, 2016
(K Puttaswamy case)

↳ Intended Responsibility of Data
fiduciaris - ensuring accountability

Exception - National security - This
makes informational security a bit
risky given vague definition of
national security.

(eg) Pegasus

Thus there should be strict enforcement
of DPDP Act, 2023 to ensure regulated
online space and secured citizens.

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Q20.]

Indo-Pacific region is a prosperous region in terms of trade given the route for exchanges to the south-east Asian nations. It have enlarged scope of diversification for India.

Alignment of India's domestic regulation with foreign policy goals and federal economic priorities -

↳ Investment ventures - with opening of supply chain there are prospects for FDI as well.

↳ Diversification of trade partners - security for India - increased diplomatic coordination

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- ↳ Increase production → Increase in
exports → ↑ India's
economic growth.

Challenges of Indo-Pacific trade alignment

- ↳ China Factor - China's string of
pearls and BRI has posed
problems already in Indo-
pacific trade controls
- ↳ Security of domestic market - It might
lead to problems like dumping
affecting local producers
- ↳ Monopolistic tendencies - With
investments and FDI benefits
enjoyed by a few

Thus as way forward,

- ↳ strict domestic market regularization should be initiated for protecting local market
- ↳ counter China measures - (eg) Diamond of Necklace
- ↳ clear export-import policy - To prevent homogenization and monopolistic tendencies.

Indo-Pacific region is very profitable and India should proactively engage for its fruits given the benefits of long coastline and demographic dividend availability.