

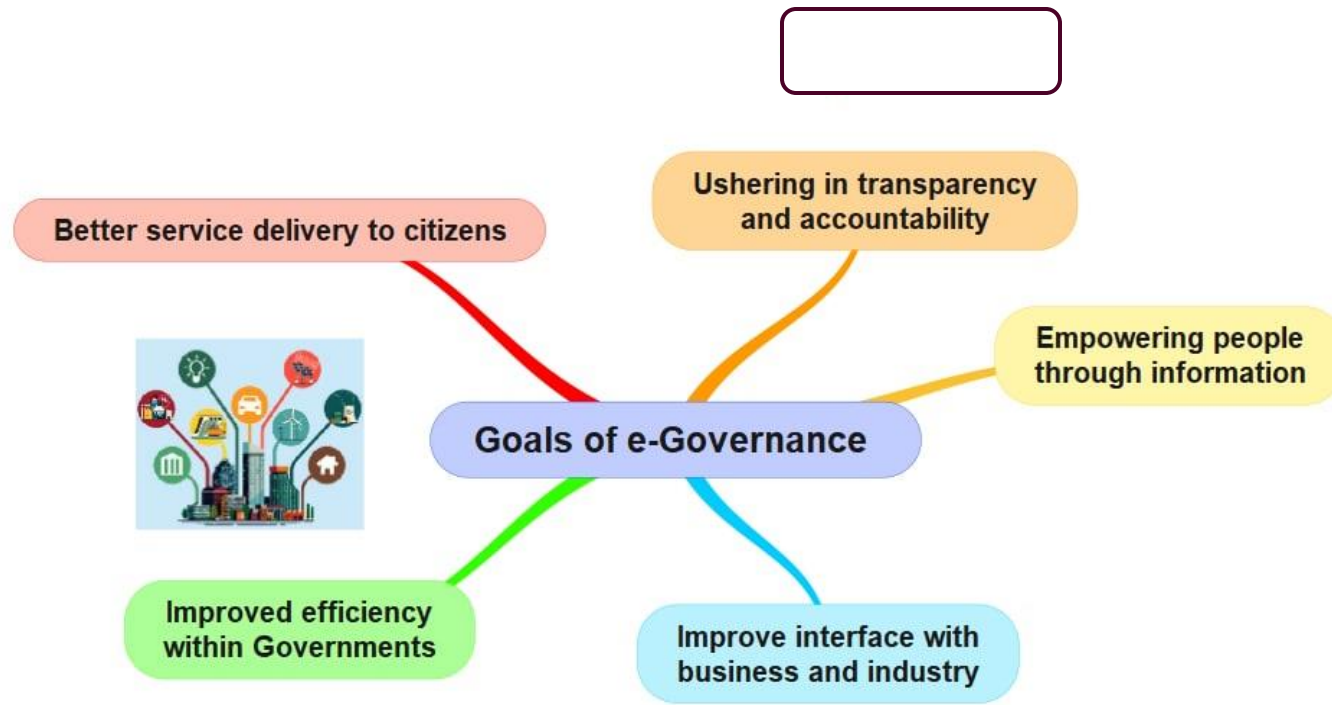


UPSC MAINS 2024

General Studies Paper-2 Analysis

BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

Q) e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. (Answer in 250 words)



Approach


- ❑ Define e-governance in the introduction.
- ❑ Discuss how e-governance ensure transparency and accountability .
- ❑ Write what is interactive service model and then evaluate the role of interactive service model of e-governance.
- ❑ Conclude the answer by stressing on importance of e-governance.

Electronic governance or e-governance is inclusion of information and communication technology (ICT) for delivering government services, exchange of information communication transactions, integration of various stand-alone systems and services between government-to-customer (G2C), government-to-business (G2B), government-to-government (G2G) as well as back office processes and interactions within the entire government framework.

e-governance ensure transparency and accountability .

The major intent of E-Governance is to provide a SMARRT Government. SMARRT refers to Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive, Responsible and Transparent Government.

- ❑ S – The use of ICT brings simplicity in governance through electronic documentation, online submission, online service delivery, etc.
- ❑ M – It brings Morality to governance as immoralities like bribing, red-tapism, etc. are eliminated.
- ❑ R – Due to reduced paperwork and increased communication speeds and decreased communication time, the Government agencies become responsive.

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- ❑ R – Technology can help convert an irresponsible Government Responsible. Increased access to information makes more informed citizens. And these empowered citizens make a responsible Government.
 - ❑ T – With increased morality, online availability of information and reduced red-tapism the process of governance becomes transparent leaving no room for the Government to conceal any information from the citizens.

Interactive service model and then evaluate the role of interactive service model of e-governance.

- ❑ **The Interactive Service Model is a model of e-governance that allows for direct interaction between citizens and the government.**

Two-way communication

- ❑ **Citizens can interact with the government through email, chat, customer care platforms, and online forms.**

Citizen-centric services

- ❑ **The government can provide tailor-made services that address the needs of specific citizens.**

Real-time feedback

- Governments can address concerns in real time, such as service quality, delays, or policy impact.**

Digital democracy

- The model uses online consultations, surveys, and digital town halls to foster a more inclusive and transparent form of governance.**

The government has encouraged digitization through projects like 'Digital India,' 'Make in India,' and 'Skill India' to promote economic inclusion and social transformation.

As a result, India is getting ready for a new era of increased digitalization.

Q) Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (Answer in 250 words)

HITTING HURDLES



Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a draft proposed by India in 1996, that has yet to be adopted by the UN General assembly

What does it call for?

- **Universal definition of terrorism:** No good terrorist or bad terrorist
- Ban on all groups regardless of country of operation, cut off access to fund and safe havens
- Prosecution of all groups, including cross-border groups
- Amending domestic laws to make cross-border terror an extraditable offence

Why has CCIT been blocked?

- **US+allies:** Concerns over definitions of terrorism, including acts by US soldiers in international interventions without UN mandate
- **Latin American countries:** Concerns over international humanitarian laws and HR being ignored
- **OIC:** Concerns that convention will be used to target Pakistan, and restrict rights of self-determination groups in Palestine, Kashmir etc

 **Terror striking every day now -Turkey, Somalia, Afghanistan, Kenya & Bangladesh. Mere condemnation & commiseration @un won't do. Need CCIT**

– Syed Akbaruddin, India's ambassador to UN, on Twitter



Approach

- ❑ Define terrorism in the introduction with some recent instances of terrorism as examples.
- ❑ Discuss how terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.
- ❑ Write in detail effectiveness of the UNSC counter terrorism committee and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat .
- ❑ Conclude the answer by stressing on the significance of global cooperation against terrorism.

Terrorism is a systematic method that includes violence and intimidation, significantly against civilians, for the attainment of political, ideological, or religious objectives. It diminishes national security, slows economic growth, and destroys social tranquility

Eg: Israel palestinian conflict-mass shooting , mali war –gunfire arson.

significant threat to global peace and security.

- Targets shared values: Terrorism challenges the values of peace, justice, and human dignity, and aims to dismantle democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms.**
- Threatens national security: Terrorism threatens the territorial integrity and security of nations, and seeks to destabilize legitimate governments.**
- Affects human rights: Terrorism poses a serious threat to the enjoyment of human rights.**
- Affects social and economic development: Terrorism poses a serious threat to social and economic development.**
- A global issue: Terrorism is a persistent global issue that knows no border, nationality, or religion.**

Effectiveness of the UNSC counter terrorism committee and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat .

- The United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is a committee that addresses the threat of terrorism. The CTC was established in 2001 in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. The CTC's work includes:**
- Criminalizing terrorist offenses**
- Strengthening international cooperation**
- Countering the use of new and emerging technologies**
- Addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters**
- Promoting a whole-of-society approach**
- Integrating gender into counter-terrorism**
- The CTC is made up of all 15 Security Council members, including five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.**

Global cooperation against terrorism is important because it helps to prevent and combat terrorism, and to ensure that the rule of law and human rights are respected.

Preventing and combating terrorism ,Respecting human rights and the rule ,Building state capacity ,Sharing information ,Strengthening law enforcement.

Q) Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on Global trade and energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition ? (Answer in 250 words)



Approach

- Introduce this answer by mentioning India- Maldives relations briefly.
- Discuss geo-political and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India .
- Discuss how India- Maldives relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability.
- Conclude the answer by mentioning ways to improve India- Maldives relations.

India was among the first to recognise Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations with the country.

India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity and enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations. Relations between India and Maldives have been traditionally warm.

Geo-political and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India

- ❑ **Strategic Location:** Located south of India, the Maldives holds immense strategic importance in the Indian Ocean, acting as a gateway to the Arabian Sea and beyond.
- ❑ This allows India to monitor maritime traffic and enhance regional security.
- ❑ Despite its small size, the Maldives is currently being wooed by a number of developed and developing countries. Because of Strategic Importance of the Geographic Location of the Maldives with respect to Key International Shipping Lanes (ISLs).

- ❑ Maldives is important for political stability and security in the Indian Ocean Neighbourhood and protection of Indian trade and investment.
- ❑ They have a clear responsibility in maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean. India to see Maldives supporting the Pacific strategy of the Quad – a strategic arrangement between India, US, Japan and Australia.

India- Maldives relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability.

India's relationship with the Maldives is important for India's maritime security and regional stability because the Maldives is strategically located in the Indian Ocean and is a key partner in India's maritime diplomacy:

Maritime diplomacy

- ❑ India and the Maldives collaborate on maritime diplomacy initiatives like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)

Political stability

- ❑ India supports the Maldives during political crises to ensure that the country does not fall into instability, which could be exploited by external powers.

Defense cooperation

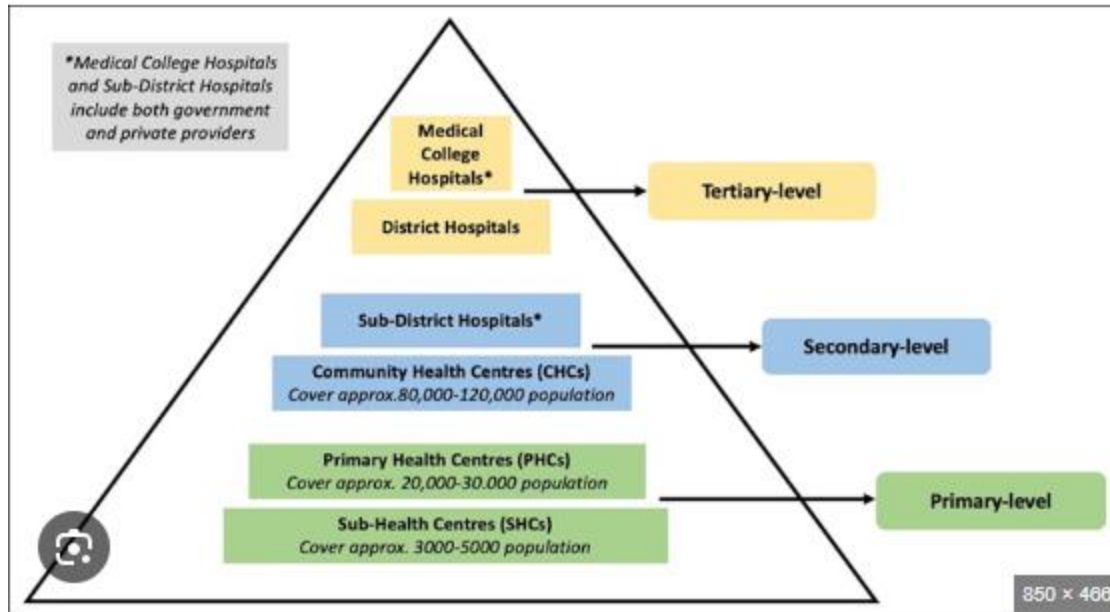
- ❑ **India and the Maldives conduct joint naval exercises, such as the "Exercise DOSTI" (Friendship) Exercises, to enhance interoperability between the two countries' naval forces.**

Economic cooperation

- ❑ **India and the Maldives collaborate on economic projects, such as the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), which is one of India's largest infrastructure investments in the Maldives.**


As international competition increases in the Indian Ocean, India's relationship with the Maldives will remain vital for ensuring maritime security and regional dominance, while countering emerging threats from other global powers

Q) In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level. (Answer in 250 words)




Approach

- ❑ Introduce this answer by mentioning some data on private sector presence in Indian healthcare system.
- ❑ Discuss what role Indian state should play to contain adverse impact of marketisation of healthcare.
- ❑ Write some detailed measures how Indian state can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level .
- ❑ Conclude the answer by stressing on the importance of universal healthcare for all..

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- ❑ **Article 21** of the Constitution of India guarantees a fundamental right to life & personal liberty. The right to health is inherent to a life with dignity.
 - ❑ **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** Articles 38, 39, 42, 43, & 47 **(DPSP)** put the obligation on the state in order to ensure the effective realization of the right to health.
 - ❑ The private sector accounts for about 62% of India's healthcare infrastructure, which includes around 69,000 hospitals.
 - ❑ The private sector accounts for 29% of hospital beds.
 - ❑ Number of doctors: The private sector accounts for 81% of doctors.

Discuss what role Indian state should play to contain adverse impact of marketisation of healthcare.

- ❑ Enhance the scope of national programs such as Ayushman Bharat to cover more beneficiaries, especially in marginalized and economically weaker sections.
- ❑ Introduce awareness campaigns at the grassroots level to encourage people to use public health facilities over expensive private options.

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- ❑ The government should provide subsidies for essential drugs and healthcare services to make them more affordable for the general public.
 - ❑ Provide free preventive healthcare services such as immunizations, maternal and child care, and routine health checkups to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure.
 - ❑ Develop a tiered healthcare system with clear referral pathways from primary to tertiary care.
 - ❑ Implement and enforce regulations on private healthcare costs and quality standards.
 - ❑ Expand coverage of health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat to reduce out-of-pocket expenses.
 - ❑ Develop public-private partnerships with robust oversight to leverage private sector efficiency while ensuring public welfare.

Write some detailed measures how Indian state can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level .

- Increase the number of Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs) in rural and underserved urban areas.
- Implement health education campaigns to raise awareness about preventive healthcare, maternal health, and nutrition. The “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” has improved sanitation awareness, indirectly promoting better health outcomes.
- Establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of healthcare programs and identify areas for improvement. Example: The National Health Management Information System (NHMIS) collects data on healthcare services, helping policymakers make informed decisions.

Conclude the answer by stressing on the importance of universal healthcare for all..

The healthcare innovation market in India is expected to double from \$30 billion in 2023 to \$60 billion by 2028. This growth is expected to come from business innovation and value-engineering in the biotech, med-tech, and vaccines sectors.



Thank you

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