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# **DAILY MAINS QUESTION & ANSWER**





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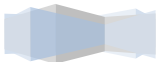
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**Q1. The Indian healthcare industry has made incredible progress. But in order to take advantage of having the youngest population in the world, a few obstacles must be overcome. Analyse.**

## **GS II**

### **Health related issues**

#### **• Introduction:**

• India's healthcare industry is now one of the biggest in terms of jobs and income. Due to increased spending by both public and private entities, innovation, digitization, and the introduction of new hybrid business models, the sector has expanded quickly during the past five years. The Economic Survey 2022–2023 notes that the percentage of overall social service spending that goes towards health has increased from 21% in FY19 to 26% in FY23.

#### **• Recent successes in the Indian healthcare industry include:**

• Increased life expectancy: India's life expectancy has increased significantly. India's life expectancy in 2023 is predicted to be 70.42 years, up 0.33% from 2022.

• Decreased total fertility rate (TFR): India has made great strides recently in reducing the TFR as a population management tactic. India's total fertility rate (TFR) decreased from 2.2 in 2015–16 to 2.0 in 2019–21, per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

• Rise in institutionalised births: According to the most recent NFHS-5 data, hospital deliveries have increased to 89%, even in the so-called BIMARU states. In Kerala, institutional births accounted for almost all births.

• Child nutrition: At the all-India level, indicators of child nutrition have also shown a little improvement, with stunting falling from 38 to 36 percent, wasting from 21 to 19 percent, and underweight falling from 36 to 32 percent.

• Achievements in the immunisation programme: The percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received the full immunisation drive improved significantly from 51% to 70%. In addition, India organised the biggest immunisation campaign against COVID-19 in history, and with its well-established vaccine infrastructure, it was a great success.

#### **• Nonetheless, the healthcare industry has a number of difficulties that must be overcome, including:**





- **Non-communicable illnesses:** According to a research titled "India: Health of the nation's states," the percentage of deaths attributable to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) rose from around 38% in 1990 to 62% in 2016.
- **The growing issue of obesity:** A growing number of young individuals are overweight or obese. Between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, the percentage of people who are obese climbed from 19 to 23% in both urban and rural areas. Particularly in young adults, this raises the risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), diabetes, and hypertension.
- **State of Infrastructure:** Significant differences were observed in the primary healthcare infrastructure between states in a 2022 assessment published by the AIIMS Centre for Community Medicine. Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand had the lowest percentages of primary health institutions operating at full institutional capacity.
- **Mental health issues:** Depression, mood swings, substance addiction, eating disorders, and other mental illnesses are expected to affect at least 20% of young people.
- **Health care gaps:** Bridging the hospital service gap between tier II and tier III cities and major urban agglomerations is a challenge in metropolitan settings. Just 4-5 percent of the beds in the private sector are occupied by big hospital chains like Apollo, Fortis, and Max. Ninety-five percent of private hospital beds are provided by independent hospitals and nursing homes. They can't, however, offer multispecialty treatment, let alone tertiary and quaternary care.
- **Low rate of health insurance uptake and high out-of-pocket expenses:** Individuals employed in the unorganised sector are not covered by health insurance and must pay for diagnostic tests and outpatient doctor visits. This is currently estimated to be 50% of the total cost of healthcare.
- **Ethical issues with digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI):** robot-assisted surgery, genetic code utilisation, and AI-based therapeutic decisions should all be welcomed. Regulating and ethical issues, however, still surround the application of these technologies.
- **With programmes like the National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat Programme, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), etc.,** India has made incredible progress in healthcare and demonstrated that even the seemingly impossible is doable. Innovative thinking and the will to overcome the upcoming obstacles are what we need.



**Q2. "The oceans serve as reservoirs for biodiversity worldwide," Explain the significance of the "blue economy" in this context, as well as the government's actions to support its growth. Outline the blue economy's sustainability problems as well.**

## **GS II**

### **Government Policies and Interventions**

#### **• Introduction:**

• The World Bank defines the blue economy as the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem." The oceans serve as vital climate and weather regulators, reservoirs for biodiversity, and sources of income for billions of people who live along coastal regions. Thus, the phrase "blue economy" refers to inclusive social development, ecological and environmental security, as well as economic development reliant on the ocean.

#### **• Government initiatives to support the growth of the blue economy include:**

• **Sagarmala Project:** The main goals of the Sagarmala project are to facilitate port-led growth, both directly and indirectly, and to build the necessary infrastructure for the timely, economical, and efficient transportation of commodities to and from ports.

• **The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** seeks to expand India's fisheries industry in a sustainable and ethical manner in order to usher in the Blue Revolution.

• **The Sagar Manthan dashboard** is a real-time vessel tracking performance monitoring dashboard. All integrated data pertaining to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways is available on the platform.

• **The goal of the Deep Ocean Mission**, sometimes called the Samudrayaan programme, is to investigate deep-sea resources in the continental shelves and exclusive economic zones (EEZ) and to develop technologies for their exploitation. The mission's main goal is to locate and extract polymetallic nodules.

• **Notice of the Coastal Regulation Zone:** India enacted the Coastal Regulation Zone notice in order to categorise and manage coastal regions





more effectively and to preserve environmentally vulnerable marine and coastal areas, including ecosystems.

- Norway and India are working together through the India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy to find solutions to guarantee integrated ocean management at the national level.

- The draught Blue Economy policy aims to develop coastal areas sustainably by making the best use of all marine domain sectors, including tourism, ocean energy, and the use of living and non-living resources.

- **Challenges of sustainability pertaining to India's concept of the blue economy:**

- **Marine pollution:** India's marine biodiversity, which is especially rich, is seriously threatened by the marine debris issue that the country is currently experiencing. Sixty-one large Indian cities contribute around 15,343 tonnes of rubbish every day to the South Asian oceans, according to UNEP.

- **Overexploitation of marine resources:** Overfishing in India's coastal waters can lead to the depletion of fish supplies and the degradation of the marine ecosystem. The fishing sector and other facets of the blue economy may suffer as a result.

- **Extreme marine events and climate change:** Extreme marine events can be produced by the combination of natural ocean cycles, rising water temperatures, acidification, and low oxygen levels. Among these occurrences are dead zones, coral bleaching, and marine heat waves. Furthermore, in reaction to climate change, several fish species have already changed the geographic region in which they live.

- **Unplanned urbanisation:** As the population grows, coastal areas are seeing an increase in unplanned urbanisation. The ocean, biodiversity, and marine and coastal ecosystems are all seriously threatened by this.

- **Lack of a cogent regional governance arrangement:** The lack of a regional governance agreement that protects different species or encompasses countries in the Indian Ocean region leads to additional difficulties and regional conflict. Consider the fishing dispute between India and Sri Lanka.

- Given the chances and difficulties, India's G20 presidency has the potential to be very beneficial in encouraging both individual and group efforts to speed up the shift to a sustainable blue economy. Future generations will benefit from an investment in ocean



preservation. For the sake of our ocean commons' wellbeing, the entire community must be brought together in the spirit of "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

**Q3. Analyse elements that determine where in the world the industries that manufacture electrical chipsets are located. What obstacles must India overcome to build the same?**

## **GS II**

### **Government Policies and Interventions**

#### **• Introduction:**

• An integrated circuit known as a "Data Flow Management System" houses a collection of electronic components called a chipset, which controls the data flow between the CPU, memory, and peripheral devices in a computer system. It is an essential component of many industries seeking automation, including telecommunications, electronics production, automotive manufacturing, display units, etc.

#### **• The following factors determine where electric chipset manufacture is located:**

• Forward linkage supply chain: To guarantee continuous consumption of the manufactured capacity, integration with the laptop, mobile phone, and vehicle industries is essential. Huge forward connectivity exists between economies such as South Korea, Japan, and China.

• Backward Linkage: The production of semiconductor chips uses components like rare earth metals and pricey metals like gold and silver.

• Skilled labour force: A sizable number of highly qualified electronics engineers are needed.

• Research and development capacity: The sector is very competitive, with chipsets getting smaller and faster all the time.

• Capital investment: Including both production capability and research and development. The manufacture of semiconductors is a capital-intensive industry.

• Large home market: As a result, countries like China, the USA, and India are perfect places to establish these kinds of manufacturing facilities.





- Trade barriers: A substantial portion of the inputs and outputs used in the semiconductor sector are supplied from and sent to the United States, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, South Korea, and Japan, among other places. Such sourcing is disrupted by trade obstacles. For example, limited imports from Taiwan during the lockdown hurt the Indian industry.
- Local Manufacturing Agglomeration: Key places with these components supporting supply chains are Silicon Valley, USA.

- A steady, high-quality supply of electricity is necessary to run the sector.

- Government policy includes things like taxes and customs fees along with credit rates, subsidies, and other incentives.

- **The difficulties of producing semiconductors in India:**

- Establishing fabs requires an investment of \$5 billion to \$10 billion due to its capital-intensive nature.

- Insufficient funding and benevolent government regulations.

- Government clearances: Both the government and the technology provider must grant their approval.

- Intellectual property: Outside of India, the majority of the global study in this area has been conducted. In an industry that is moving so quickly, this is a major setback.

- The geopolitical environment affects the development of new factories.

- **Requirements for infrastructure, such as access to seaports and airports:**

- The financial help is little because setting up a semiconductor fabrication facility, or fab, can cost several billions of dollars. In this contrast, the amount of budgetary help that is now anticipated is negligible.

- Handling Water Demand: Chip fabrication plants are also incredibly energy-hungry devices that need millions of litres of clean water in addition to a very steady power source.

- Dependency on imports for raw materials: A lot of the materials used in these chips, such as gold, silver, and lithium, are imported.

- **Opportunities in India:**

- Back-end supply chains: India produces a number of gases and minerals that are used in the worldwide semiconductor supply chain.



- Human resources: We also have top-notch universities that can turn out highly qualified engineers for the semiconductor industry.
- Growth rate: The semiconductor market is expanding quickly, with a \$1 trillion valuation expected this decade. India can grow quickly, from its current \$27 billion to \$64 billion by 2026.
- Mobiles, wearables, IT, and industrial components are the top segments in the Indian semiconductor business, accounting for over 80% of the industry's revenues in 2021. Domestic manufacturing has already begun to ramp up.
- **Conclusion:**
  - Together with the more current Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) plan, the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme has been essential in establishing India as a resilient, egalitarian, and efficient centre for design and production. The recent decision by the Union Cabinet to allocate ₹76,000 crore towards the advancement of a “semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem” signifies the recognition of the critical role that integrated circuits, often known as chips, play in contemporary economies.

**Q4. India's human resource development depends on the cognitive, social, and emotional growth of children, all of which are facilitated by early childhood education. Talk about the actions that must be taken in this regard to advance and enhance early childhood care and education (ECCE).**

## GS II

### Government Policies and Interventions

- **Introduction:**
  - Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is critical for young children's early cognitive, social, and emotional development, as the National Education Policy, 2020 has lately emphasised. The National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) reports that just 13.6% of children are registered in pre-primary schools, despite the fact that the enrollment rates for children aged 6 to 14 in India is around 100%. As such, an alt is required in this respect.
- **India's system of early childhood care and education:**



- ECCE is required for the millions of young children living in low-income homes, and there are around 1.4 million anganwadis of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) throughout India.
- A private creche and childcare system is something that only wealthy families can afford.
- Workplace child care: The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act of 2017 encourages more women to enter the workforce. It mandated that businesses employing more than fifty people provide on-site child care, with the employers covering the costs. Following notification by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MLE), businesses had three months to install creches on their property.
- By giving the kids a safe, secure, and engaging environment, the National Crèche Scheme makes guarantee that women pursue meaningful employment.
- **Deficits in the current state of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):**
  - Curriculum that fails to address children's developmental needs
  - Insufficiently skilled and educated teachers.
  - Inadequate teaching methods.
  - The majority of early childhood education is currently provided by private preschools and anganwadis.
- **Suggested actions:**
  - Rules for parents and teachers of children up to three years old: An activity-based early childhood education (ECCE) framework that is meaningful and well-designed must be implemented. It must acknowledge the realities on the ground and allow for autonomy in order to fit the local context and environment.
  - Educational framework for children aged three to six: In India, pre-primary education must follow a defined framework. The 5-3-3-4 Design is used in the national education policy. The first five years comprise the foundational stage, which consists of Classes 1 and 2 and three years of pre-primary education.
  - Extension of the midday meal programme to younger children: research shows that the midday meal programme in India has proven successful in providing children with a healthy diet. With 35% of children in India stunted, children attending preschools need extra nutrition and health supervision.



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- Building a million classrooms and hiring a million nursery instructors and assistants will cost a huge sum of money in terms of infrastructure development, hiring, and teacher training.
  - Promotion and Regulation of the Private Sector: It is necessary to promote and regulate the unregulated private creche system that is present in the major cities.
  - **Enhance the Anganwadi system in preparation for its use:**
    - Cutting back on anganwadi personnel' regular duties, such surveys.
    - Giving proper training: A large number of anganwadi aides have completed their matriculation studies. Helpers can be reclassified as childcare professionals with training and an extra reward.
    - Boosting current wages for employees and repurposing it as a part-day childcare to help low-income moms support themselves.
  - **Conclusion:**
    - The current system ignores newborns and toddlers and is most effective for the age range of three to six years. In light of this circumstance, the National Education Policy, 2020 offers several significant proposals, including developing an ECCE framework and implementing a 5-3-3-4 curriculum design. This is a critical first step in the proper path.

**Q5. Ensuring the smooth operation of the Legislature can be greatly enhanced by the Speaker's impartiality. Do you agree? How can the Speaker's objectivity be ensured?**

#### **GS IV**

#### **Parliament related issues**

#### **• Introduction:**

- Articles 93 to 96 of Chapter II, Part V of the Indian Constitution define the speaker and its authority. It mostly covers the house's smooth operation. However, there are frequently accusations of impartiality because of the politicisation of the speaker position, who is still an active member of a political party. If these accusations are not addressed, there will be demonstrations on the house floor and business interruption.



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• Even though the Constitution specifies constitutional impartiality, i.e. The Speaker is protected by a security of tenure that requires the support of an absolute majority. His pay is set and deducted from the Consolidated Fund of India/State. His actions and conduct are not subject to discussion unless there is a substantive motion. But in practise, this might not uphold impartiality.

• **The speaker's impartiality in facilitating efficient corporate operations:**

• Use of authority to define Money bill impartially will protect the houses' legislative powers. Any abuse of this authority will constitute a violation of the House's rights. This was accomplished, for instance, with the Aadhar Bill.

• Disqualification authority: In determining whether a speaker is disqualified under the tenth schedule, the speaker has the ultimate say and is free to act independently of the opinions of other parties. Parliament and assemblies are therefore vulnerable to abuse and disturbance.

• Use of Question Hour Objectively: One of the main responsibilities of the Parliament is to ensure that the government is answerable to the legislature (Article 75). bringing objectivity to the process of establishing laws by allocating time for different speakers, hosting a question hour, and holding the government responsible for its actions.

• Excessive discretion: The Speaker's main duties include upholding decorum, regulating business, interpreting regulations, casting a vote in the event of a tie, and adjourning or suspending the meeting. By doing thus, he exercises his own judgement and determines what is right or wrong based on the affiliations of the ruling party, inflicting injustice on others.

• Choosing the measures' fates: The Speaker selects which bills go to committees or are directly put to a vote. For instance, not a single item was referred to a select committee for consideration during the 2020–21 winter session.

• **The interruption is caused by more than just the speaker's partiality, though. There are further issues as well:**

• Politicians' lack of interest in public matters is known as absenteeism. Party politics and the politics of survival are also to blame for the standards decline.

• Politics has been more criminalised: according to ADR, 29% of instances involve major crimes and 43% involve some crimes. both at their highest point ever. This leads to behaviour that is not parliamentary.



- The Anti Defection Law and Whip tools: lawmakers are less inclined to invest in cultivating and openly expressing their own opinions when party discipline is strict. Members must abide by any bandh calls made by parties.
- Political will: Because they prioritise their personal political careers over greater social and national goals, legislators lack the vision, commitment, quality, and competence necessary to construct a nation. sabotaging legislative proceedings by walkouts, dharnas, and ministerial gheraos.
- Live broadcast: The quality of parliament has declined as a result of media and gallery play-making, which is encouraged by sensationalization.

• **The speaker can instill impartiality by taking the following steps:**

- Speaker Resigning from Party: Under the British Parliamentary System, the Speaker must leave their Party in order for their position to remain politically impartial. This is also plainly observable in India.
- Giving up the whip: This entails giving up the Parliament's use as a vehicle for the party to justify its control over people's lives and affairs. If a member of a political party has a policy against disrupting the house, their freedom of speech would allow them to comply.
- Improved discussion of the bills, which will be approved after considering the opinions of the majority of the parties.
- Effective use of parliamentary committees: Relevant measures are referred to parliamentary committees for more thorough consideration, which will improve the quality of lawmaking and satisfy all significant stakeholders.
- In order to decide cases involving disqualification under the tenth schedule, as suggested in *Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. the Hon'ble Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly & Ors.*, an Independent Tribunal for Disqualification was established. In 2020.
- In conclusion, the first Speaker, GV Mavalankar, made the following observation: "A person elected to the Speakership is expected to be above politics and parties." Stated differently, he is either a part of every member or none at all. He applies the same standards of justice to all parties and individuals. Speakers should be men of "outstanding ability and impartiality," according to Pandit Nehru, who also described the Speaker as "the symbol of the nation's freedom and liberty." For the house's work to run well, the speaker must uphold the high standards established by our constitution's founding fathers.

**Q6. Discuss the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has affected India's relations with the countries in the region, given India's interest in the Central Asian region.**



## GS IV

### International Issues

#### • Introduction:

• Central Asia is a region of Asia that includes the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It stretches from the Caspian Sea in the west to China and Mongolia in the east, and from Afghanistan and Iran in the south to Russia in the north. India's relations with all of these countries are inevitably affected by the Taliban's takeover of the area.

#### • Interests in Central Asia Varying:

#### • Linkages Economic:

• Oil import: Iran currently supplies more than 8.5% of India's needs for crude energy. India is the country to which Iran exports the most crude oil.

• TAPI: India expressed interest in importing natural gas through Afghanistan and Pakistan from Turkmenistan. That might now become impossible.

• Initiatives for Connectivity: To revitalise the long-standing economic connections between these nations.

#### • Chabhar harbour:

- It keeps Pakistan at bay while assisting India in gaining access to Central Asia.
- It allows entry into the wider Eurasian region as well as the Central Asian Republics.

#### • Railway connecting Chabhar and Zahedan:

• The Asghabad accord would result in a collaboration on the building of the North South Economic Corridor, which would connect the Mumbai port to Iran and Russia through sea.

#### • Defense/Strategic Relations:

• Combating Afghanistan: The only way to potentially assist the Taliban's opponents is by way of nearby nations like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

• Countering Gwadar Port: With Chabhar's assistance.



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• **Defying Russian and Chinese Influence:**

• In the context of China, the country has been constructing its well-known Belt and Road Initiative and expanding its sphere of influence throughout the area. India becomes uneasy as a result of China's increasing control over the rest of Asia.

• **Effects of the Taliban coup:**

• The stakes are high for India and Iran, two of Afghanistan's neighbours who would have a very difficult time adjusting to an Afghanistan ruled by the Taliban.

• **Result for India:**

• Taliban are extremely hostile; they have warned India not to participate in their power fight.

• Instability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on our interests in Kashmir, just as it has in the past.

• Migration Crisis: Just as in the past, every new phase of unrest in Afghanistan gives rise to a fresh wave of migration problems. The Citizenship Amendment Act had to be passed by India as well in order to offer citizenship to the migrants impacted by this problem.

• Drug trafficking: Afghanistan, which is a part of the Golden Crescent, is a source of drugs that enter India illegally.

• Loss of a vital ally against Pakistan: The Indian and Afghan governments were friendly and had done favours for each other, such as building the Parliament building and the Salma Dam, which would be lost.

• Loss of Intelligence: The region's intelligence situation is expected to worsen, with Afghanistan serving as a crucial ally in this regard.

• Effect on Iran, which is dominated by Shia: There are a number of reasons why Afghanistan's neighbours would consider it unique, including:

• Diplomatic challenge: Over the previous 20 years, it has enjoyed cordial ties with both the Karzai and Ghani regimes. With Iran, this would not be the case.

• Irani residents have historically been handled by the Taliban with impunity. Eleven Iranian diplomats were assassinated in 1998.

• Its shared border may serve as a breeding ground for terrorism inside Iran.







- **Effect on former Soviet Republics:** A number of geographical factors could make relations difficult between the Taliban in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- Afghanistan is home to a diverse population that includes Uzbeks, Tajiks, Pamiri, and various other central Asian hill tribes. As a result, these areas have a sentimental connection to the Afghan predicament.
- **Export of Terrorism:** These nations worry that the mindset of the Taliban will seep into their own regions.
- **Challenge for nations that are already landlocked:** Uzbekistan is the only nation in Central Asia that is both doubly and singularly landlocked. Afghanistan's surrender implies there is no longer a single path to the Indian Ocean.
- **Impact on Pakistan:** The Taliban will require Pakistan, at least in the near and medium term, despite Pakistan's seeming ambiguity. Long-term issues, though, may arise from the Taliban's growing Pashto nationalism. 38% of Afghanistan's population is Pashtun, who also make up the majority of the Taliban's fighters. Pakistan's North West Frontier speaks the same language. The region should be united, as many Pashtuns have demanded in the past. Tehrik-e-Taliban-Pakistan (TTP), which has carried out jihadi action in Pakistan in support of this merger, was born out of this. Pakistan may have long-term strategic concerns about this.
- **Effect on China: Terrorist actions in support of Uighurs may increase in China.**
- **Indian role in the future:**
  - **Increased Cooperation with Central Asia:** Given that the Chinese have been oppressing the genetically similar Uighurs, India is seen as a good alternative to the Chinese influence in the region through organisations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
  - **An alternate route to the former Russian republics:** the route through Afghanistan is currently unusable due to all practical considerations. India ought to establish direct connections from Chahbahar to Turkmenistan, followed by Uzbekistan and other nations.
  - **Increased cooperation with the US:** India may work with the US to impose economic sanctions on Pakistan now that the US doesn't need Pakistan.
  - **Raising the flames of Pashto nationalism among the Taliban by collaborating with the TTP.**
- **India may carry out its development projects under the Taliban government. India and the Afghan public already have an excellent rapport. The Taliban has demanded contact with India.**



• In conclusion, India suffers from the U.S.'s seeming withdrawal from this region of Asia as well as the expanding China-Russia-Pakistan alliance throughout the area. Not everything has been lost, though. India might use the worries of the Central Asian countries as a springboard to strengthen ties with Iran and other nations.

**Q7. Discuss the important approaches to continue participating in Afghanistan's political system and preserving the country's historical and traditional interests.**

**GS IV**

**International Issues**

**• Introduction:**

• The Taliban forces have taken control of the city of Kabul. The Indian diplomatic mission chose to leave the city in this case and helped other Indian employees who were employed there to do the same. Despite multiple Indian interests in Afghanistan and justifications for establishing significant participation, this decision was made.

**• The customary significance of Afghanistan:**

• Geographic connectivity: For a long time, one of the world's most vital commerce routes and key military locations was the Khyber Pass, which connects Afghanistan and Pakistan.

• China, for instance, aspires to rule Afghanistan as part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

• Both Russia and India are eager to link it to the North-South Economic Corridor.

• Economic interconnectedness: Afghanistan is traversed by the Silk Road. It is a 4000-mile network of historic trade routes that links the East and the West. It is anticipated to serve as the economic hub connecting Europe, Africa, and Asia in the future.

• Cultural connectivity: It is said to be the meeting point of the civilizations of China, India, and Persia. Even Afghans have strong cultural ties to Iran, Uzbekistan, Balochistan, Pakistan's North West Frontier, and India's Kashmir.

**• Historical Interests of India:**

• The Taliban has a hostile record. They have attacked Indian consulates and hijacked vehicles in Kandahar.



- **Unrest in Kashmir:** Similar to previous times, unrest in Afghanistan has a direct impact on our interests in Kashmir.
- **Human rights crisis:** A number of Afghan stakeholders, including women and rights organisations, are gravely concerned that the harsh application of Sharia law may recur as it did in the past.
- **Migration Crisis:** Just as in the past, every new phase of unrest in Afghanistan gives rise to a fresh wave of migration problems. For the migrants impacted by this crisis to be granted citizenship, India had to enact the Citizenship Amendment Act.
- **Export of terror to the world:** Terrorism is once more flourishing in Afghanistan. One new threat that has emerged is ISIS.
- **Drug trafficking:** Afghanistan, which is a part of the Golden Crescent, is a source of drugs that enter India illegally.
- **Loss of a vital ally against Pakistan:** The Indian and Afghan governments were friendly and had done favours for each other, such as building the Parliament building and the Salma Dam, which would be lost.
- **Loss of Intelligence:** The region's intelligence situation is expected to worsen, with Afghanistan serving as a crucial ally in this regard.
- This time, the Taliban has more power than before. It appears that it would hold onto power for a long while. India would therefore be forced to cooperate with the Taliban in order to realistically safeguard its own interests in the area. Taliban anticipated that India would be their last hope for both recognition and progress. India may make a strong offer to the next government by using these levers.

• **How to protect Indian interests from this point on:**

- Maintaining close ties with supportive parts of the Taliban and past leadership are the new rules of cooperation. India needs to make sure that former leaders India can interact with, like as Ashraf Ghani, Hamid Karzai, and others, are still part of the establishment.
- Increased Cooperation with Central Asia: Given that the Chinese have been oppressing the genetically similar Uighurs, India is seen as a good alternative to the Chinese influence in the region through organisations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

- Keeping a close eye on Taliban involvement with terrorist organisations unique to India: The growing influence of the Taliban and its Pakistani supporters poses a significant security risk since organisations like the LeT and the JeM may



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exploit Afghanistan as a base of operations for terror attacks in India.

- **Taking advantage of India's goodwill with the public:** Over the past 20 years, India has developed significant interests, such as significant infrastructure projects and ongoing development initiatives, assisted in the drafting of the Afghan Constitution and election management, and made it possible for the upcoming generation of officials, soldiers, and professionals to receive training and education.
- **Resuming the diplomatic mission:** It would be regrettable if the government chose to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan permanently. Much of the world continues to interact with the Taliban. Russia, China, and Iran chose not to close their embassies in Kabul, and neither have the United States or any of the European nations that moved their diplomatic missions to the airport there.
- **Wait, then take action:** It's still unclear if negotiations are underway to establish a more inclusive coalition that includes some former Afghan leaders, or if this will simply be a rerun of the terrible dictatorship that was in place from 1996 to 2001.
- **Figuring out how to finish the projects:** The Taliban has expressed a desire to communicate with India. Fulfilling the projects can be a smart way to preserve goodwill and India's holdings in the future government, provided that the Taliban guarantees security.
- **Pressuring the Taliban to uphold human rights in return for development aid or recognition:** These people include women, minorities, including the targeted Islamic sects like the Hazaras, minorities, and associates in India who are involved in Indian initiatives.
- **In conclusion, the fall of Kabul will go down in history as a turning point that will determine the future course of the region's geopolitics.** Although much will depend on how the Taliban behaves in the coming months on the geopolitical chessboard that connects western and southern Asia, they are likely to remain a "useful villain" in the epic power struggle that is developing. The collapse of Kabul is a wake-up call for New Delhi, which means it has to realistically reevaluate its regional alternatives and strategies.