



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate			
Medium Eng./Hindi		Registration Number	
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**.
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेगा।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसका अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Reservation of seats in legislature is needed to ensure meaningful political participation of women and to make the democratic process truly inclusive. Discuss the statement in the light of 108th Constitution Amendment Bill.

(150 words) 10

महिलाओं की सार्थक राजनीतिक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने एवं लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को सही अर्थों में समावेशी बनाने हेतु विधायिका में सीटों के आरक्षण की आवश्यकता है। 108वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के आलोक में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

The overall betterment of women is not possible till the time they are being involved at large in the law making process.

Women constitutes only 9% of Lok Sabha seats and 11% of state assembly seats on an average.

Women Reservation Bill which provides for 33% reservation is pending since years. Due to this reason, inclusive growth has been hampered in reality which can be stated by India's rank of 108 in Global Gender Gap Index issued by World Economic Forum.

Women Reservation Bill will surely lead to favourable laws, better participation and empowerment of women.

But, it has to be realised that situation can't be changed till the values of equality (article 14) are internalized by the society itself.

So, the given bill is just a step which is surely necessary but not sufficient for inclusive growth.

2. Discuss the issue of reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment in the light of various judicial pronouncements and constitutional amendments. (150 words) 10

विभिन्न न्यायिक निर्णयों और संवैधानिक संशोधनों के आलोक में सार्वजनिक नियोजन में SCs और STs के लिए पदोन्नति में आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 15 and 16 of Indian Constitution enables the state to provide for reservation for the development of SCs and STs.

In Nayaj vs Union of India case, Supreme Court clearly stated that reservation in promotions will be provided if the following conditions are met:

- i) if the community is socially and educationally backward
- ii) if they are not well represented in higher jobs
- iii) if reservation does not hamper overall efficiency

It becomes difficult for State to gather data to support

above conditions which was making it difficult to make reservations in promotions.

But recently Supreme Court gave another judgement which allowed promotions through reservation without the requirement of giving documents to fulfill previous conditions.

Recent Judgement is a good step towards establishing an egalitarian society and upholding the true values of Indian Constitution as it will prevent the backward communities from the hassle of procedural delays.

3. Highlight the reasons behind underperformance of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). How can their performance be improved?

(150 words) 10

स्वायत्त जिला परिषदों (ADCs) के निम्नस्तरीय कार्य-निष्पादन के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। उनके कार्य-निष्पादन को कैसे बेहतर किया जा सकता है?

Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution allows the establishment of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) to allow local tribals to live their life as per their traditions.

But the objective is not achieved due to the following reasons:

- i) Lack of training and awareness about the provisions and the execution of plans
- ii) Lack of financial resources due to the inability of ADCs to collect local taxes.
- iii) slow devolution of power as the State governments usually hesitate to give up upon their authority.

- iv) Corruption amongst ADCs members which disallow to transfer policy benefits to the weaker sections.
- v) Non-compliance of State Finance Commission recommendations.
- vi) Bureaucratic hurdles - Government not giving assent to ~~law~~ bills made by ADCs.
- vii) Intentional conversion of rural areas into urban so as to escape provisions.

Situation can be improved through coordination amongst State Government and ADCs, actual devolution of power and finance, training of ADCs members, regular reporting and social audit and check by Centre on regular basis.

4. Highlighting the rationale behind continuance of the Official Secrets Act, critically discuss whether the Right to Information should be given precedence over it. (150 words) 10

शासकीय गुप्त बात अधिनियम की निरंतरता के पीछे निहित औचित्य पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या सूचना के अधिकार को इस पर बरीयता दी जानी चाहिए।

The Official Secrets Act 1923 was the product of colonial era which was introduced in order to keep government operations out of the knowledge of masses.

But even today, this act is in continuance so as to maintain rational security and to protect important information from disruptive hands.

As far as Right to Information Act (RTI) 2005 is concerned, it gives ~~to~~ citizens right to question the government and indirectly increase the accountability of state.



The trade-off between transparency and national security is sometimes misused by the government in the name of Official Secrets Act which denies people their right under Article 19.

It is important to list down the areas of national importance which are beyond the scope of RTI so as to bring transparency and maintain the balance between the two Acts.

This will allow the remaining areas where RTI will rule over official secrets act which should be the situation in today's modern era.

5. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India.

(150 words) 10

इंडिया एंटरप्राइज आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) फ्रेमवर्क पर एक संक्षिप्त लेख लिखिए। इसके प्रमुख सिद्धांतों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इसका पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन भारत के वर्तमान शासन परिदृश्य को उन्नत बना सकता है।





6. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules?

(150 words) 10

सेवानिवृत्त सिविल सेवकों के लिए अनिवार्य 'उपशमन' अवधि होने के पीछे क्या औचित्य है? इस प्रावधान के उल्लंघन के कई दृष्टान्तों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?



7. Highlighting the key features of POSHAN Abhiyan, explain how it is an improvement over previous interventions in achieving the goal of malnutrition free India. (150 words) 10

पोषण (POSHAN) अभियान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समझाइए कि यह कुपोषण मुक्त भारत के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में पिछले हस्तक्षेपों की तुलना में कैसे समुन्नत है।

In the backdrop of India's poor ranking of 103 on Global Hunger Index, Indian government came up with Poshan Abhiyan to resolve the issue.

The main objective of this initiative is to reduce the level of malnutrition, Infant Mortality rate, Maternal Mortality rate and anaemic by 2%.

The initiative calls for an integrated effort towards nutrition cutting across various sectors like health, child, women, food security etc. This consortium approach makes it

different from the previous initiatives which were operated in isolation.

In order to make this a big success, government must use Information Technology and Big Data Analytics with a focus on outcomes rather than outputs.

This initiative if implemented thoroughly can contribute stupendously in achieving the goals written under National Health Mission.

8. Highlighting the need of generic medicines in India, give an account of the reasons behind their lower availability and adoption. Also, mention some steps taken by the government in this regard. (150 words) 10

भारत में जेनरिक दवाओं की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनकी कम उपलब्धता और स्वीकरण हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Out of the total health expenditure, around 65% is from 'out of pocket' expenditure.



The above cycle can only be stopped through high scale adoption of generic medicines which will reduce the poor's health expenditure.

The reasons for the low availability and adoption is lack of awareness about generic medicines, low research and development expenditure

unwillingness of pharmaceutical companies
in order to retain their high
profits, poor attitude thinking
generic medicines to be less useful.

Government has established
Jan-Aushadi centres to make generic
medicines available in remote areas.

Plus it has also tried to raise
awareness at social sites and even
Prime Minister through 'Mann Ki Baat'.

It is required to create
a pool of health cadre and financial
support to pharma companies engaged
in generic medicines to create
further widespread.

9. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. (150 words) 10

बहुपक्षीय नियम-आधारित व्यापार प्रणाली द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। WTO पर विशेष बल देते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

It is an irony that in today's world of globalization, multilateral trading system is undergoing many challenges.

US withdrawal from Trans-Pacific Partnership has lead to further debate whether countries are again going back to bilateral trade.

The challenges faced by multilateral system are the conflicting objectives of different countries, lack of consensus and trust, domination of few big countries in policy making undue Favours given to developing countries which developed countries usually

don't like.

Bilateral trade gives an option to create win-win situation and to lay down terms and conditions to the best possible own benefit.

But the challenges faced by multilateral systems (WTO) can be resolved through equal participation, detailed codification of laws, quick disposal of grievances, creating win-win situation to the best and lastly not giving not allowing dominance of few in multilateral platform.

10. Highlight the major impediments affecting India-US trade relations. What possible consequences can the recent withdrawal of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) have on India-US trade relations? (150 words) 10

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख अवरोधों पर प्रकाश डालिए। हाल ही में, अधिमानता की सामान्यीकृत प्रणाली (जनरलाइज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ़ प्रेफरेंस: GSP) की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

In the world of globalisation, US is resorting to anti-globalisation which is evident from its steps of increasing duties (leading to trade war) and removing India from list of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

India-US trade relations are facing more challenges like increased duties, low mobility of skilled people (H1B visa), US focus on domestic industries and employment etc.

Withdrawing India from GSP would not affect too much as the concerned Indian products which used to get benefit were of a very small proportion.

Rather, the maximum negative

effect will be on US consumers who have to buy the given products at higher rates.

Short run damage would not be so much as compared to long term effect.

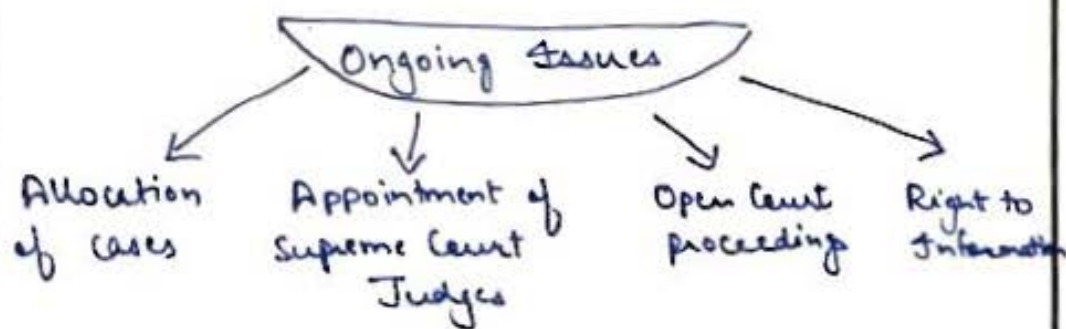
As this will surely lead to poor trade relations in future plus both the countries will look for alternatives in such a trust-deficit scenario as far as business is concerned.

It is important to arrange high level leadership meetings on this concern so as to maintain the all old trade relations.

11. In a democratic setup, it is imperative that independence be balanced with accountability. Discuss in the context of judiciary in India. (250 words) 15

किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ मंजूर किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

In the backdrop of instances like medical bribery case, harassment case, issues regarding to the allocation of cases; the debate has begun whether Judiciary needs to be more transparent in order to retain its old faith.



----- x ----- x ----- x ----- x -----

The questions about the induction of Judiciary under Right to Information Act has been raised especially after the issues related to appointment of Judges.

Article 50 of Indian Constitution

provides Independence to Judiciary but it should also be kept in mind that Constitution itself derives power from the People which have the ultimate authority.

Transparency and Accountability are the bedrock of Good Governance and such ideals should be followed by Judiciary also.

The balance between Independence and accountability can be maintained through appointment of ombudsman and getting Judiciary under RTI with certain exceptions.

Judiciary has already disregarded NJAC (National Judicial Appointment Commission) which ~~is~~ has helped to

maintain its independence. But it's the duty of Judiciary only to lay down the criteria for future appointment and to bring transparency and hence public faith.

'Memorandum of Procedure' and open court hearings along with the recent judgement of Supreme Court to enhance fairness through clear criteria are some good steps in this direction.

12. Despite various strengths, there are certain weaknesses in the existing structure of departments of the government which render the system slow and cumbersome. Analyze. (250 words) 15

विभिन्न गुणों के बावजूद, सरकार के विभागों की वर्तमान संरचना में कुछ दुर्बलताएँ विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

According to Santhanam Committee, 4 major reasons of corruption in India are:

- i) Administrative delays
- ii) ~~E~~ Scope of personal discretion
- iii) Government taking more than what it can handle
- iv) Cumbersome procedures

The given case involves two of the above reasons which are issues due to structural weaknesses.

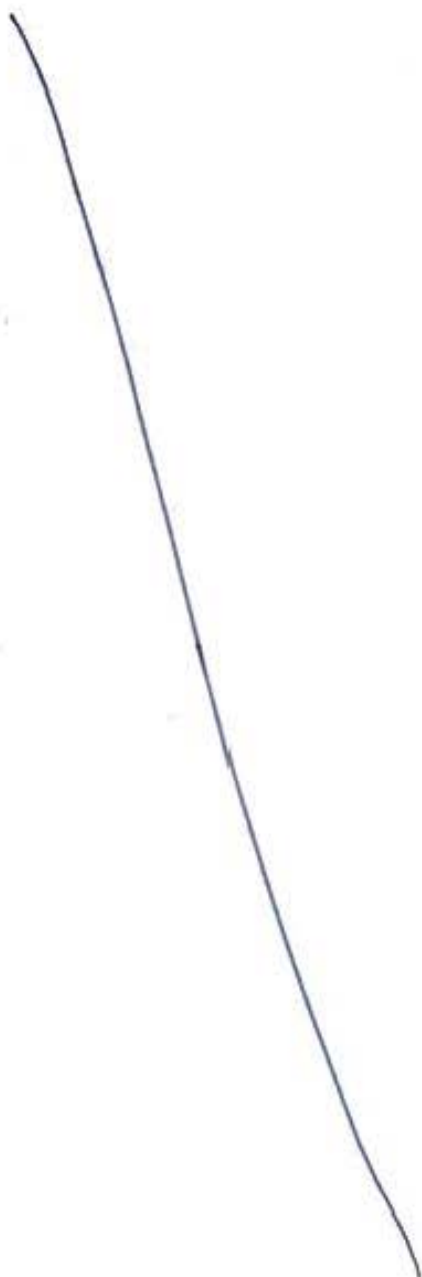
Various government departments involve hierarchical structure which leads to many channels and

hence delays in decision making.

Multiple scale of chain is another issue which leads to conflicting roles or goals and hence leaves scope for personal discretion leading to corruption.

Departments are more of 'rule-based' rather than 'ends-based' due to which citizens have to face unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

Flexible structures are required for quick decision making and to have a goal oriented approach.



13. In the light of criticism surrounding the composition and functioning of Rajya Sabha, do you think it exists merely as a secondary house of the Parliament? (250 words) 15

राज्यसभा की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली से संबंधित आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

Article 80 of the Indian Constitution calls for the establishment of Upper House which is permanent in nature.

Rajya Sabha consists of maximum 245 members out of which 12 are nominated and each state has its representation on the basis of 1971 Census.

The ~~at~~ existing composition requires a huge change as there has been a massive demographic change since 1971.

Plus the domicile condition for the member has also been removed which is wrong as it allows a back entry for unaccepted

Candidates:

Unlike US, Rajya Sabha doesn't have an equal representation of all States which is against the Federal principles.

As far as functioning of Rajya Sabha is concerned, it lacks many powers compared to Lok Sabha especially related to money and other financial bills.

In case of a deadlock, Rajya Sabha usually loses due to its lower number.

But, all these examples does not mean that it is merely a secondary house as it enjoys equivalent powers in cases like Constitutional Amendment Bills, impeachment of

President, discussions on reports of various committees.

In fact it enjoys special powers under Article 249 (to allow Lok Sabha to legislate on state subject) and Article 312 (All India Services).

In order to maintain true federal and democratic principles, it is important to consider the views of Rajya Sabha so as to bring genuine consensus of all states.

14. Despite legislative changes with respect to funding of political parties in recent years, many challenges still exist with regards to transparency in electoral funding. Discuss. Can state funding of elections help in addressing these challenges? (250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में राजनीतिक दलों के वित्त-पोषण के संबंध में विधायी परिवर्तनों के बावजूद, चुनावी वित्त-पोषण में पारदर्शिता संबंधी कई चुनौतियां अभी भी बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राज्य द्वारा चुनावों का वित्त-पोषण इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता कर सकता है?

~~Law~~ Law Commission of India in its 170th report clearly stated for the need to bring transparency in functioning of political parties.

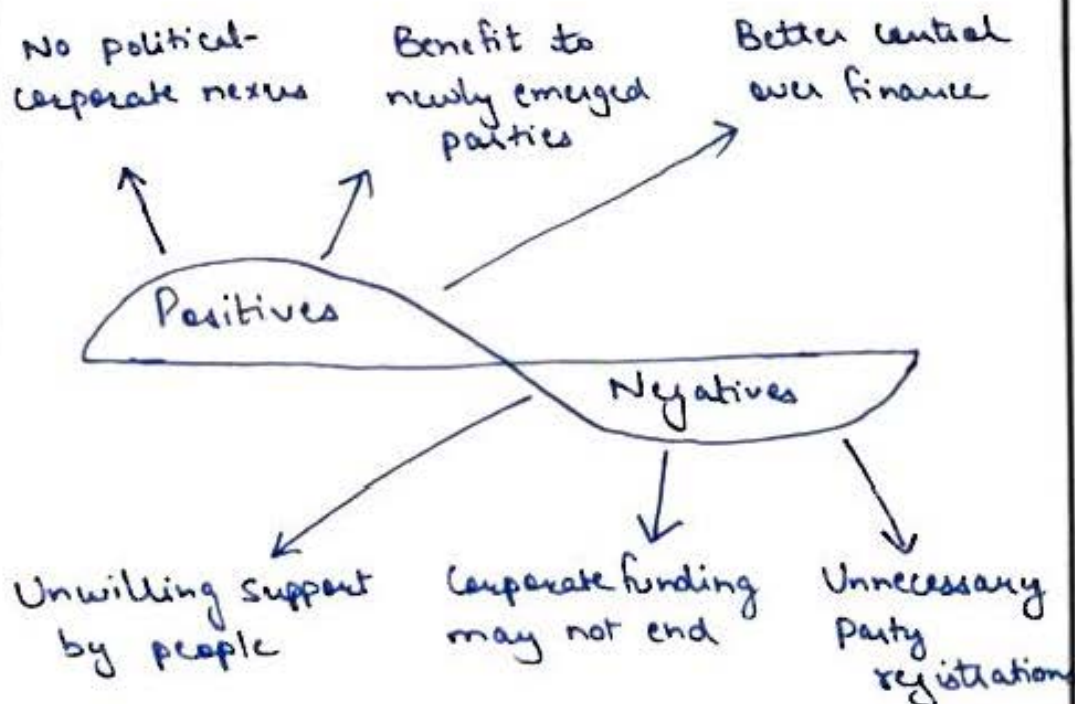
Keeping this in mind, the government of India introduced the concept of electoral bonds to enhance transparency in political funding.

But still there are many challenges that exist ~~as~~ such as anonymity of donor of electoral bond which can be misused to involve black money. Plus the upper limit

of 7.5% of profit to be donated as political funding has been scrapped.

Also, companies need not mention the name of party to which it has made a donation.

Considering all these issues, debate on state funding of elections has arisen which is also supported by II Administrative Reforms Commission.



State funding though believed to bring intra-party democracy, even financial aspects but it can also lead to vague party registrations.

State funding is only useful if corporate funding is ended totally. For this it is required that candidates should give clear election expenses details plus their sources of incomes as per the Hok Prabhai case judgement of Supreme Court.

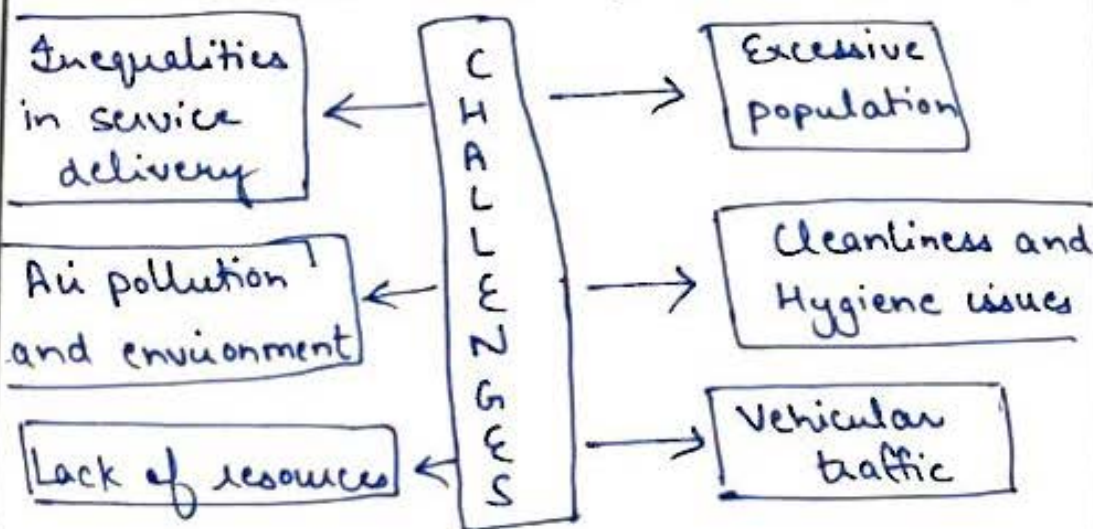
15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation critically depends on reforming the way our cities are governed. In this context, highlight the challenges plaguing urban governance in India and suggest some strategies to overcome those challenges.

(250 words) 15

सफल और चिरस्थायी शहरी रूपांतरण मुख्यतया, हमारे शहरों को शासित करने के तरीके में सुधार पर निर्भर करता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी शासन को दुष्प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

As per the Annual Survey of Cities 2017, only 2 out of 23 cities have a well developed Citizen Charter policy.

The growing urbanization which can be to the extent of 50% of total population as per UN reports in coming years, surely brings out many challenges to state agents.

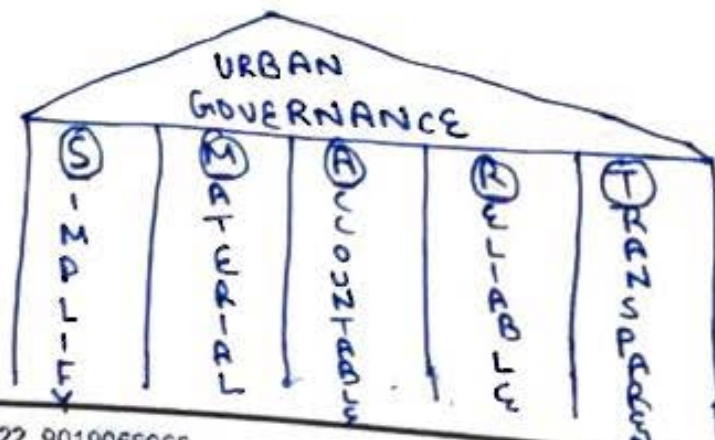


Excessive population puts pressure on limited local resources. As per the NITI Aayog report, around 600 million will face water stress in coming years.

Urbanization brings industrialization which means further air pollution. India has a rank of 177 out of 180 in Environment Performance Index.

So working on this aspect is also a huge challenge.

For better governance, officials should aim to be SMART.



Simplification of rules, transparency and accountability in operations along with the use of technology (IT) and people's participation can surely improve governance.

Focus on outcomes rather than outputs should be the aim which can be achieved through social audit.

~~But~~ It should be kept in mind the good governance is not the end in itself rather the means to achieve people's welfare.

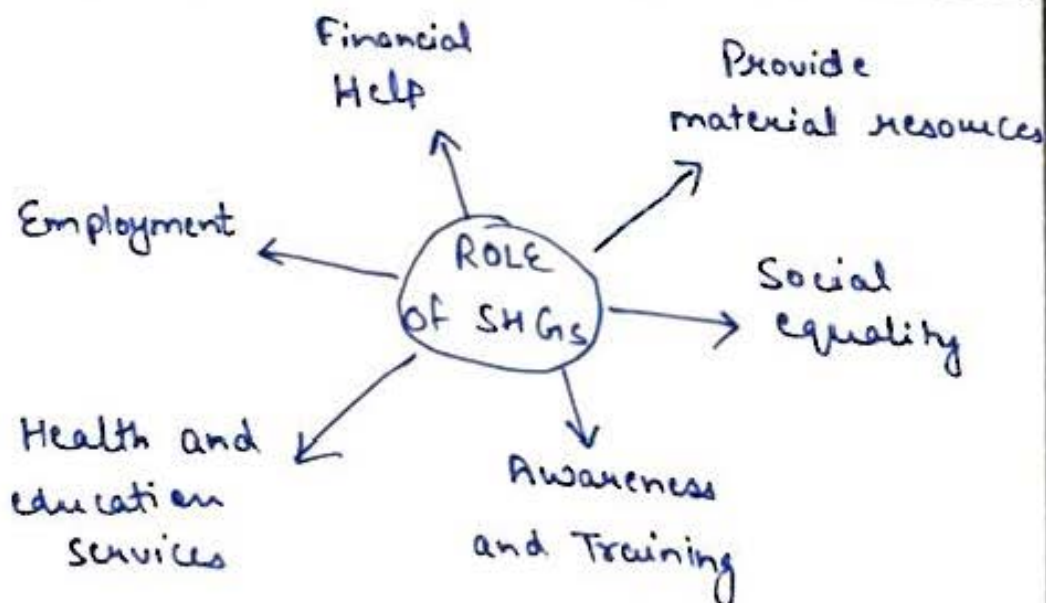


16. Explain the role that SHGs play in poverty alleviation in India. Highlighting the shortcomings of the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, give some suggestions to improve its performance. (250 words) 15

भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन में SHGs द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए। SHG-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम की कमियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके निष्पादन में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।

Self Help Groups (SHGs) ~~are~~ is the concept of coming together of community people to support each other which creates a win-win situation for all.

There have been many success stories of SHGs like Lijjat Paopad, Amul etc.



It is important to allow these SHGs to work freely so as to make them succeed and government should provide them all possible assistance as they also replicate the help by ~~pro~~ making government services reach to remote areas.

SHG - Bank Linkage Programme though good on paper has certain limitations especially considering the people involved in such groups.

The programme may though lead to formalization but it creates procedural hurdles as SHGs lack documentation and other resources required.

This can lead to their unnecessary exploitation by bankers.

which is against the very concept of SHGs.

In order to make SHGs further success, it is important to provide them with financial assistance, institutional finance, appropriate training for development & by enhancing their skills (SKILL INDIA) to excel in their field.

17. Despite initiatives taken by the government in recent years to address the challenges of the Indian higher education system, many reforms are still required to improve its quality and enhance its relevance. Analyse.

(250 words) 15

भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विगत वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों के बावजूद, इसकी गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने और इसकी प्रासंगिकता बढ़ाने हेतु अभी भी कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Gross enrolment in higher education is around 25% which goes lower when it comes to women, SCs and STs.

Indian higher education system lacks proper infrastructural facilities. The government has introduced RISE (Revitalizing Infrastructure and System Education) initiative but still it lacks on ground results.

Trained staff is another concern for which GIRAN programme was introduced to involve international teachers. Trained staff is very important for students to excel in research work.

Financial Resources are also an hindrance which do not ~~let~~ let higher institutions get latest equipments and technology. The introduction of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) needs to operate optimally without any corruption.

Besides having a National Accreditation Institution, Indian higher education suffers with a low level of accreditation which needs to be catered to.

Better technology and research facilities are another area of concern which Education department has to look after.

In order to overhaul the overall higher education system, zero base reforms are required.

Transparency in government department working with focus on international Standardized outcomes is necessary.



18. Giving an account of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, mention the challenges that it faces in achieving its target. How can the implementation of the programme be fast-tracked? (250 words) 15

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत हुई प्रगति का विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इस योजना के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन को किस प्रकार त्वरित किया जा सकता है?

With the objective of providing 'pucca house' to all, government of India came up with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Recent studies show that out of 47 lakhs houses built, only around 8.5 lakhs have been allotted to beneficiaries.

Last year's budget made 'housing' come under 'Infrastructure' status which allowed low interest loans. That was a good step but still the target of 1.2 crore houses is a far-cry.

The various challenges faced under this scheme are lack of financial resources (banks unwilling to credit due to rising non-performing assets), corrupt builders, low inspection, bureaucratic hurdles etc.

In order to fast-track the implementation of this programme, it is necessary to bring ease in related laws, use of information technology to ~~get~~ keep a check on progress, social audit to see if actual beneficiaries are benefitted and by providing financial assistance to developers.

Proper implementation of Real Estate Act along with unique solutions like rental housing can be used in order to achieve the overall objective.



19. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

हिंद महासागर के द्वीपीय राष्ट्र इस क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक रूप-रेखा को आकार देने और भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में अत्यधिक रणनीतिक महत्व रखते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

With US staying back in world arena by reducing its footprints and China coming up to fill in the vacuum, it is important for India to maintain healthy relations with Indian Ocean islands countries.



The above chart shows the importance of maintaining healthy relations with islands countries.

With the rise of Indo-Pacific trade and connectivity, such

Island nations become all the more important from the geoeconomic context-

Coming together of these small island countries can also reduce the overall footprint of China in South Asia which wants to rule geopolitically through its 'debt trap policy'.

As far as security is concerned, it will also help to retaliate China's 'string of pearl policy' by making ports at Chittagong, Hambantota, Maroo Jalle, Gwadar and Djibouti.

In order to protect its navigation and trade in Indian Ocean, it is important for India to make full use of

stages like Indian Ocean Rim Association
(IORA) and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

The recent government changes
in Sri Lanka and Maldives is a
good fortune for India and like
Dugm port (Oman), Changi Naval base
(Singapore); it can also make
use of Agalego islands to increase
its presence in Indian Ocean.

20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. (250 words) 15

भारतीय विदेश नीति के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में 'विकास सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

India has always given itself the status of 'big brother' when it comes to South Asian countries.

This is also in line with the foreign policy of single side assistance which initiated during Narsimha Rao's government.

Last year Nepal's earthquake created a huge devastation and so India decided to provide assistance of 750 million dollars to Nepal along with NDRF (National Disaster Response Force).

India's development assistance has further reached as recently it announced financial assistance to Afghanistan for developmental projects along with the nuclear plant in Bangladesh by ~~partnering~~ collaborating with Russia.

All these instances show that India is going away further geographically as far as its development assistance is concerned. Last year, on the same lines, Prime Minister announced a relief package to Indonesia after it was hit by Tsunami.

All these steps are in accordance with its various foreign policies like 'Act East' & reducing

the control of China in South Asia etc.

India should continue with the same if it wants to retaliate China's 'debt trap' policy that too through humanitarian basis which is a great example of smart power. (soft + hard power)