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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	Vishakha Yadav		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	295520
Center	Karol Bagh.	Date	9th Aug 2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
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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 मिलेंगे।
- 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 उसके 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 Preamble of our Constitution provides for Justice - Economic, Social and Political and Equality - of status and opportunity. In this light, Constitution Amendment Bill 108th provides for 33% reservation of seats in Parliament and state legislatures to ensure gender justice and meaningful inclusive participation.

Impact

- (i) Gender Justice and women empowerment : 73rd and 74th Amendment experience shows that 1/3rd reservation resulted in human resource development, inclusive child growth, decision-making at home. (Lokniti Survey)

(ii) Political Participation : 17th Lok Sabha constitutes (14.3%) → women highest ever. acc to IPU-women data along with highest voter turn out of women. (67.4% - total)

(iii) Ripple effect : Leading to social, economic empowerment, rise in stature in society.

However, political participation alone isn't enough to break the entrenched socio-economic impoverishment of women in society. Ex: Pakistan.

Thus, Nudge Behavioural economics along with avenues of job opportunities and awareness with strong legal mechanisms are needed.

India is signatory to CEDAW convention, 108th amendment bill is a welcome step in the gender Justice movement.

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।

Art 46 of DSP ensures the principle of social-eco justice. Reservation is an affirmative action to ensure the historical injustice and inclusive development of all sections.

Need • offset the historical injustice
• Inclusive development

Steps taken : Art 15(4), 15(4A) 15(4B) and Art 16(4) provides for reservation in education, promotions and employments.

Judicial pronouncements :

- N. Balaji vs So Mysore proposed 50% ceiling. Reinforced by the Indira Sawhney Judgement.
- Nagraj case : called for the quantifiable data in the

reservation, along with efficiency.

- Jarnail Singh case 2018 : overruled the Nagaraj judgement to dispense the requirement of Quantifiable data.

Implications

(a) Study by Ashutosh Pandey on Indian Railways shows that there's no impact on the efficiency.

(b) Vacancy of the seats and disproportionate representation at higher levels of the administration

However, it compromises meritocracy, open's up Pandora Box of demands according to the critiques.

Thus, A-244, V, VI scheduled areas provisions coupled with FRA 2006 and Prevention of atrocities act can holistically work together to ensure social Justice.

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?

Schedule VI in the constitution provides for the ADCs in four states namely Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya.

Reasons Behind Underperformance :

- (a) Lack of financial autonomy :
Powers of the taxation, land revenue, occupation of the minor and major minerals.
- (b) Role of the Governor : Not clarified over the specific issues with lot of discretion
- (c) Lack of devolution of powers by State Government (VI schedule) Lists.
- (d) Late implementation of Laws such as FRA
- (e) Forced Evictions (Recent SC order)

Measures to improve :-

- (a) Financial Devolution : Powers of Taxation
- (b) Village Autonomous Councils under each district elected by people directly
- (c) Strengthening role of the Gram Sabha (Gram Panchayat Development Plans)
- (d) 124th constitutional Amendment Bill strengthening the Art 244
- (e) F.C. devolution of funds
- (f) Strengthening rights of the Forest dwellers and PVTGs

As Nehru remarked 'India to them should be a liberating force', we shall follow an assimilative yet integrative approach.

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 वरीयता दी जानी चाहिए।

OSA 1923 is a colonial legacy
which haunts Indian criminal
Justice System even today.

Rationale :

- (a) Security and integrity of the Nation
- (b) Rising Extremism, radicalism and counter insurgency.
(eg: Dreadful CRPF attack in Gadcholi)
- (c) Menace of terrorism.
- (d) Use of Preventive Detention under Art 22 to interrogate and prevent the potential suspect.
- (e) Provision to extend the custody from 6 months to 1 year on review of Advisory Board.

RTI Act 2006 was a 'Sunshine' act which empowered a citizen to assert its democratic freedom of expression
Case for Precedence over OSA :

- (a) Sec 22 of the OSA overrides the information to be presented under RTI for the larger public interest.
- (b) Draconian law curbing civil Liberties. (LCI)
- (c) obstructs the dispensation of the information and Justice.
- (d) sec 8 of RTI : SC said precedence over OSA under larger public Interest.

RTI can be called a 'weapon without ammunition' - 2nd ARC with presence of the laws such as OSA 1923.

However, limiting the use to 'terrorism related cases' (NCRWC) can be a step forward.

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।

India Enterprise Architecture aims
to provide a governance structure
which is full fledged with use
of technology, platform and entire
institutional framework.

Aim :

- Provide customer-centric public service delivery.
- One-stop platform for all the services
- Integration of the verticals of timely information, dispensation of service and base infrastructure.
- Business Process Reengineering and leveraging digital technology

Its implementation has the potential to —

- (a) Improve the customer centric governance framework.
- (b) Consolidation of the fragmented departments in the institutional framework.
- (c) Usage of 5R framework : Reuse, Recognise, Reduce, Reintegrate and Reprise.

In the age of fast digital transformation and proliferation of the technologies such as IR, IOT, Machine Intelligence — speedy, responsive and timely customer service delivery is the goal. Based on Kerala Model and Malaysia

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?

Civil Services under A-312 are the
'Steel frame of Indian Democracy'
Rationale for 'cooling off':

- Reduced political interference
- No conflict of Interest (Admin and executive posts)
- Integrity of the services.
- Transparent functioning of the administrative Justice System.

Recent, cases of the appointment of the civil servants to various lucrative posts highlight the concern

- 'Pre-retirement Judgements based on the post-retirement benefits'
- Partisan Role of the Permanent Executive.

- Fear of committed Bureaucracy
- Politician - Bureaucrat - Cosporate Nexus .
- Influencing decisions based on Biased approached thereby negating the political neutrality .

Hence, we can say that there is need of shenghtening of the CCS Rules

- Mandatory cooling off period for the 2 years (suggested by 2nd ARC)
- Clear guidelines and comprehensive law outlining the criteria .
- Principles of appointment and names to be published online through a selection cum search committee (Surendra Nath committee, HOTA committee suggestion)

The 8 principles of NOLAN committee need to be balanced with the personal growth .

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।

POSHAN Abhiyan by 2022 :

- Decrease the stunting by 25%
(current : 31% population)
- Decrease the wasting by 25%
(2018 : 38% - Maximum - Global Hunger Report)
- Rate of Anaemia to be reduced by 3%.
- Stunting, Wasting & Malnutrition by 2% each.
- Creation of Health and wellness Centers for Primary Health Care
- Integrating the AASHA, ANM, para-medical staff.
- Provisioning of the common-services center for one stop solution
- Usage of the Common Application Software (CAS-ICDS) leveraging technology platform

Improvement

- Clearcut goals at India with 75 years of independence
- Taking concrete requirements and addressing sector, district and state level deprivations with multi-layered framework.
- Integrating with the Ayushman Bharat encompassing the principle of "Health for All"
- Addressing the root structure - the primary health care - the Alma Alta Declaration

Global Hunger Index ranks India 103rd as one of the worst performing, therefore a multi-stakeholder framework at all levels is needed.

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।

WTO clause of the compulsory Licensing and evergreening of Patents encompasses our major pharmaceutical problems today.

- Need
- Disproportionate Burden of diseases health (MMR-130, Under 5 Mortality rate - 38/1000, 38% wasted, 28% stunted and 48% MPI)
 - Low per capita income of less than 1,600 \$/day (HDI value - UNDP)

Reasons of Low Availability

- (a) Evergreening :- USA dominated companies which are reluctant to let go off the patents. Sc :- minor changes without efficacy do not constitute innovation ('Nexavar case' - Bayer)
- Sec 8 of Indian Patents Act

- (b) FDCs - more than 360 combinations banned by Nilima Srisagar committee
- (c) Lack of inclusion in ESMA
- (d) R&D investment less than 0.03% in pharma sector
- (e) Lack of Awareness and indiscriminate use (eg: Oxytocin drug)

Measures / Way Ahead

- (i) comprehensive list of the medicines essential medicines
- (ii) Legal policy for the development and promotion of pharma sector
- (iii) Robust IPR Regime
- (iv) Exports restriction to the Africa and small developing Nations
(95% of their supply of life-saving drugs)
- (v) Use Platform of WTO, multi lateral forms to bring down the prices (Eg: NPPA cutting down the stents pricing to half)

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।

Multilateral Rule Based Regimes such as UNCTAD, WTO, UN have been the post WWII bulwark of democratic world order.

challenges → Transparency & Autonomy
→ Vacancy of seats

(WTO DSB has 3/7 judges, one of which is due to retire in 2019)

→ Trump's uncertain policies
(Withdrawal from UNESCO, Paris pact, threaten to leave WTO)

→ Lack of consensus between grouping (N-S divide)

→ Rise of alternative eastern institutions (BRICS NDB)

→ Rise of 'revisionist china' and the preponderant USA 'trade-war'

→ Failure of the DOHA Talks

Measures to Address

- Appointment of the Judges to DSB,
USA unblocking the process.
- South-South cooperation
- India to act as a bridge to strengthen
the East-West divide over trade
disruptions.
- Peaceful cooperation and settlement
of the issue, use of multilateral
forums (BRICS, G20, G8)
ASEAN
- Inclusion of the TRIPS effective
spirit and e-commerce rules which
regulate the economy worldwide.
- Strengthening resolve to close CCIT
and fight global challenge of
climate change, non-state Actors.

Thus, Recognition of Special and
Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
(CBDR) with developing world.

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?

India-US relations have passed from 'estranged democracies' to the 'indispensable partners'.

Major impediments are :-

(i) Economic → Adverse Balance of trade in favour of India (\$ 26 Bn)

→ Restrictive non-tariff barriers

→ Export restrictions and domestic content requirements to boost nascent solar industry

→ IPR issues (sec. 9 Patent Act)

→ Compulsory licencing (sec. 87)

(ii) Political • Relations with Iran
(Third largest importer of oil)

→ Chabahar port

→ Proximities with Russia

(S-400 Trimuf deal) → CAATSA

(iii) Defense → Trade stagnated to \$20Bn

→ Civil Nuclear Liability Act

→ Investment (New BIT of India - enterprise model) .

GSP was I proposed in UNCTAD 1976 system where the developed countries provide non-reciprocal (WTO) trade benefits to developing countries .

Trump's transactionalism withdrew subsidy on worth \$240Mn products of India whose impact can be -

- (a) India putting retaliatory tariffs (eg: Steel and Aluminium)
- (b) Losing the domestic - small industries share-worst affected .
- (c) Increased avenues of geosstrategic cooperation with other countries example China, RCEP and Russia, Japan given US's uncertainty
- (d) Trump considering withdrawal of exception under CAATSA .

Thus, India needs to balance itself deftly in the changing world order

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 संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial Independence forms the part of Basic Structure of our constitution. A-50 provides for the separation of powers between three organs and a system of checks and Balances.

Independence of Judiciary :

(i) Appointment : III Judges case

SC clarified that the collegium system ensures removal of undue executive interference.

(ii) Finances : The expenditure is charged on the consolidated fund of India not subject to vote in the Parliament.

(iii) Integrated system of Judiciary which enforces single set of laws.

all over the country.

(iv) Judicial Review : A 32 and A 226

ensures the independent interpretation and legal enforcement of the Law.

However, this independence must be supplemented with mechanisms of Accountability in the light of cases such as :

- (a) Sexual Harassment Allegations
- (b) opaque appointment processes
- (c) Master of roster controversy
- (d) Conference of the four seniormost Judges.
- (e) Suppression of freedom of expression under the Contempt of Court Acts with Journalists (Meghalaya)
- (f) Justice Karnan Controversy.

Various reforms have been taken to ensure the accountability such as :-

(a) In-house mechanism :

Indira Jaisingh case ensuring the disclosure of assets and information.

- (b) Live proceedings of SC Judgement
- (c) MOP to ensure transparent appointment
- (d) publishing of the names online
- (e) National Judicial Data Grid

Steps to ensure further Accountability

- (i) E.S 2018-19 calls for Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill.
 - ↳ Oversight committee
 - ↳ Complaints investigation Panel.
- (ii) RTI and Judiciary as recommended by Second ARC.
- (iii) Ensuring the Bangalore principles of the Conduct.

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 दुर्बलताएं विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

• Structure of the Departments of Government is marred with various problems of —

- (a) Compartmentalisation of the functions .
- (b) Multi tiered and overlapping functions .
- (c) Red-Tapism
- (d) Cascading of the roles
- (e) Intermediaries .
- (f) Corruption and the Babu culture .
- (g) Nexus of the Bureaucrats-Corporates .
- (h) Rigid division of the functions .

Despite these weaknesses, various strengths such as -

- (a) strong institutional framework.
- (b) Division of work (2nd ARC) .
Functions clearly outlined .
- (c) Hierarchical chain of the command .

Steps to Improve

- (a) Leveraging the technology -
 - Digital Technology and ICT .
 - ex : PRAGATI - monitoring the programmes .
- (b) Prevention of the Corruption Act (PCA) amendment making Bribegiving an offense
- (c) Business Process Reengineering
- (d) UN-Govt Index ranked 2nd 15th in the internet participation Index of the citizens in the governance .

- (e) Training and the capacity Building
- (f) Performance linked appraisal
- (g) 360 degree framework
- (h) MOOE's and training modules ~

Thus, the synchronisation and implementation of above steps can improve efficacy of the governance in our institutional framework.

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 संबद्ध आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

Vice President Venkiah Naidu expressed concern over the falling productivity of the Rajya Sabha over the years.

Importance of the Rajya Sabha

- (i) Bicameral Legislature provides for checks and Balances on the hasty decisions.
- (ii) House of elders rightly called, it strengthens the cooperative federalism with state's representation.
- (iii) Equal powers with respect to ordinary Bills., ~~constitution~~ Amendment Bills.
- (iv) Exclusive powers to create the ALS (A-312) and A-249 - the power to Parliament to legislate over the State List.

Several instances recently, such as passing of Bills as Money Bills, populist majoritarian policies, disruptions and political horse trading has strengthened the demand to enhance productivity of the II house.

Reasons and Areas of Concern

(a) Decline of Parliament :

PRS data shows passage of 133 Bills in 329 sittings, lowest in the last 2 decades. in 16th P. Sabha (2014-19)

(b) frequent disruptions, lack of discussion, deliberations, usage of Parliamentary Standing Committees, Guillotine

(c) Money-Bill Route to bypass the Rajya Sabha scrutiny (eg. Aadhar)

(d) Political Vendetta to stop the incumbent party from working properly.

Steps to be taken :

- (a) Passage of Rajya Sabha (Enhancement of the productivity) Bill 2018.
- (b) 2nd ARC suggests the use of Anti-Defection Law to be made stringent limiting to No Confidence Motion.
- (c) NCRWC : recommends the principle of ~~the~~ equal seats per state as practised under USA.
- (d) Strengthening cooperative federalism and direct elections to Rajya Sabha suggested by NCRWC.

Thus, Rajya Sabha isn't just a dilatory chamber like Vidhan Parishad and needs to be strengthened for working of our Democracy.

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?

Legislative changes in the political funding:

(a) Finance Bill 2017 amended four laws eg: Companies Act : to remove the cap of 7.5% net profit over three years.

Income Tax Act - exemption to disclosure.

RBI Act - to oversee the political donations from foreign companies.

FCRA - allowed the foreign funding to political parties.

(b) Electoral Bonds scheme - aiming to curb Black money, transparency through KYC-compliant accounts in 15-days with value above 2,000 cash

Challenges existing :

- (a) Anonymity and opacity of the electoral Bonds scheme donors.
- (b) ADR survey : 95% donations under EBS to the incumbent party.
- (c) Non-disclosure of the expenses under the Sec 4 of RTI.
- (d) Removal of the donation list under the RPA 1951 annual report to ECI.
- (e) Unchecked foreign funding and foreign interference. (Example : Muller's Report in USA)
- (f) Corporatisation of elections and Quid pro Quo.

Steps to be taken

- Bringing pol. parties under RTI.
- (CIC 2013 - Subhash Chandra Garg committee)
- SC recently disclosure of the financial ordered details in sealed cover to ECI.

→ Income Tax Scrutiny .

→ Publish in public Domain

→ State funding of Elections

- Suggested by LCI, Indrajit Sen Gupta Committee for the Parliamentary and state elections .

Arguments

For

- Uniformity in expenses .
- Governance - reduced policy paralysis
- Transparency & less corporate interference .

Against

- Public exchequer . unwise use given socio-economic problems of poverty, etc
- Favour to the incumbent party
- Lack of Accountability
- Impractical - Dissolution of the current legislatures .

Although, a good idea it needs a high level committee deliberation as suggested by LCI before implementation .

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।

NSSO and Census-2011 highlights
31.7% of the urbanised population
in India which is expected to double
itself by 2050.

Thus, there is an urgent need
to overcome the challenges that
plague urban Governance today :-

(i) Slums : Urban agglomerations and
the metropolitan cities offering the
pull factors of Jobs, living standard
tend to push rural people to settle
on the peripheries.

Deploable conditions of water,
sunlight, basic hygiene. and the
ripple effect it has on the peripheral

areas. Eg: Dharavi in Mumbai

(ii) Employment (Economic) :

PLFS this year stipulates an all time high 6.5% unemployment rate

(iii) Transport / Urban Mobility :

Congestion, road related deaths (Min. of Road - 60,000 over last 5 years)

(iv) De-industrialisation in rural sector - specially in the primary activities such as Agriculture (Farmer's Suicide - 1 Lakh forty thousand over last decade) - NSSO.

(v) Institutional Constraints :

Poor public service delivery, lack of a citizen's charter, timely response, financial constraints.

(vi) Technological Awareness -

lack of education in the fast changing digital era of AI, IOT.

Strategies :-

- (a) Innovative Land Use Instruments
Land Leasing, planning.
- (b) Devolution of funds to III tier of
the government (Kerala Model)
- (c) A public service delivery Act
on the lines of Malaysia Right to
Service Act.
- (d) Implementation of LARR Act 2013
in true spirit.
- (e) Comprehensive Slum Policy and
Affordable Housing (PMAY).
- (f) Creating digital awareness and
capacity Building (PMDISHA).
- (g) Performance linked Appraisal and
Business Process Reengineering in
the departments.
- (h) Multi Modal Mobility Scheme
complementing the Smart electric
charging infrastructure are few
steps ahead.

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।

SHGs are the voluntary associations of the like minded people with the goal of the financial inclusion and credit uptake of the members.

Significance - Poverty Alleviation

- (i) Microfinance Institutions — where only 53% of the population has access to formal credit.
- (ii) Alternate to exorbitant money-lender's clutch.
- (iii) Promotion to Inclusive Growth, Gender justice and women empowerment.
- (iv) MSME sector which benefits the most specially in rural areas.

Shortcomings of the Bank-SHG Linkage

- (i) Lack of the promoters.
- (ii) Credit Crunch : stringent PSL Norms.
Rising NPAs.
Credit Penetration Low.
- (iii) Structural Constraints : Absence of
the Bank Branches (CSDS Study :
No Bank within 5kms in various
districts of M.P.)
Banking infrastructure, correspondents -
- (iii) Restricted Social mobility of the
women.
- (iv) Collateral free loans to the SHGs.
which impacts the credit structure
in the next cycle (MUDRA Loans :
danger of default - crisis mentioned
by Raghuram Rajan)
- (v) Lack of the Viable small scale
Businesses with short cycle of 1-2
years hampers the payback.

Suggestions

- (a) Malegoan committee suggested to fix the interest rates cap to 25%.
- (b) Increase the Banking outreach through Mobile Correspondents.
- (c) Use of technology to transfer the hassle free loans.
- (d) Usage of 1.5 Lakhs Post office infrastructure under Post offices Modernisation Scheme.
- (e) Concessional Loans and Interest Subvention to women on timely payment of the dues.

NABARD's SHG-Bank Linkage programme inspired from Md. Yunus father of Microfinance coupled with democratic decentralisation has potential to transform our robust Rural Economy.

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।

Higher Education is the bedrock of the productive social capital. It is a means to leverage our Demographic dividend attaining a robust two-digit economic growth.

However, it is marred with following Challenges

(i) MHRD - GER still hangs at 25.77% in higher educational institutions.

(ii) Institutional Autonomy :

Aspects of the curriculum, infrastructure, provide bottlenecks with multiple regulators - UGC, MHRD, etc.

(iii) Quality of Education :

Study by McKinsey shows that

only 5% of the passouts form part of employable workforce.

(iv) Proliferation of Universities :

NITI@75 shows more than 5,800 colleges and universities present.

(v) Accreditation and Framework Issues :

AICTE, UGC follows stringent guidelines which half of universities don't pass.

Steps Taken By Govt

- Institutes of Imminence (10 universities – to be under top 200 Times Global Ranking)
- Creation of HEFA addressing financial mobilisation of 1,00,000 crores over 5 years.
- SHREYAS apprentice scheme 'earn while you learn'
- Replacing UGC with HECI Bill 2018.

- Aims to increase R&D to 1% of GDP (current 0.8% stagnated) - Israel 4% of the spending
- NAA C of India - accreditation framework.

Reforms further to be taken

- (i) Investment in the Research and analysis (1-2% of GDP)
- (ii) Quality of Teachers Education - NIT1@75
 - Performance Appraisal
 - Electronic records Management
 - Continuous Evaluation framework (CCE)
- (iii) Improved usage of MOOCs and Scholarships.
- (iv) Graded Autonomy to the Institutions as suggested by TSR Subramaniam committee.

The National Higher Education Policy with public Investment of 6% of GDP can be a right step in the direction following China Model.

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?

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna is the flagship scheme of the Govt to ensure the dream of Affordable Housing to the most vulnerable section.

Significance and Progress :

- Aims to construct 1.5 crores houses by 2022 'Housing for All'
By march 2019, it has completed 80% of its target in PMAY-G
- Components such as Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS), Partnership Framework Model, formed the highest recipients as per FS-2018-19.

challenges :

- (a) Housing Infrastructure requires capital investment of more than 45,000 crores envisaged under the scheme.
- (b) Lack of PPP in the sector (only 8%) projects.
- (c) Stagnation in the demand and absence of a Model Leasing/Rent Law for the consumers.
- (d) Failure of the Slum Rehabilitation Policy.
- (e) Quality of the Houses formed and ROI (Return on the investment)
- (f) Credit structure for the rural poor (1.5 lakhs - 2 LG) MIGs too less.

Steps to Implement In Fast track mode :-

- (a) Monitoring and Appraisal through PRAGATI platform.

- (b) Provisioning^m of the loans and the credit to the most vulnerable under LIG :- strengthening the Bank Linkage.
- (c) Ensuring the PPP models in innovating investment regimes following Hybrid Models.
- (d) Using Technology to penetrate into the consumer requirements on the ground, listing and taking appropriate demand-management measures.

Art 46 and SDG 4, 5, 6, 11 are the goals which envision a safe, resilient and sustainable living standard for the All. and our policy must follow same guiding principles.

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।

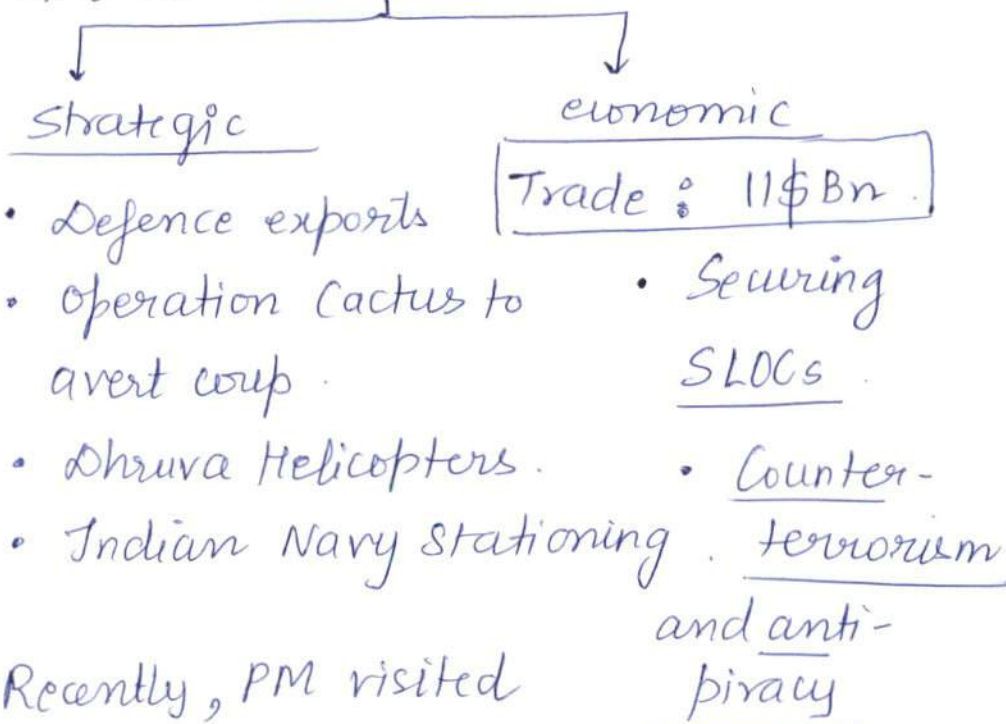
India's goal of the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All) is incomplete without involving SIDS (small Island Developing States) and Island states.

Strategic value of these Nations can be outlined as follows :-

- (a) Growing influence of the Indian Ocean in world order as 'center of economic gravity shifts from Atlantic to Indian Ocean'
- (b) Understood in the backdrop of rising China and prospects of an 'Asian Century' - DBOR project.
- (c) Various avenues of the political participation in multilateral and regional forums -

- IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium)
- IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association)
- BIMSTEC, etc.

Ex: (d) Maldives closest neighbour of Indian subcontinent.



Recently, PM visited on appointment of the new President.

(e) Similarly, Sri Lanka, Seychelles the Leader of the Small Island Nations.

Constraints

- (a) Heavy Chinese Investment (debt-trap diplomacy) - eg: Malaysian President calling it neo-imperialism
- (b) US-China trade war.
- (c) Security of the sea lanes of communication (UNCLOS)
- (d) Political instability (coups) and domestic factors.
- (e) Rising menace of the radicalisation (New Zealand - Christchurch call of Action)
ISIS in the region.
- (f) China overcoming the Malacca dilemma.

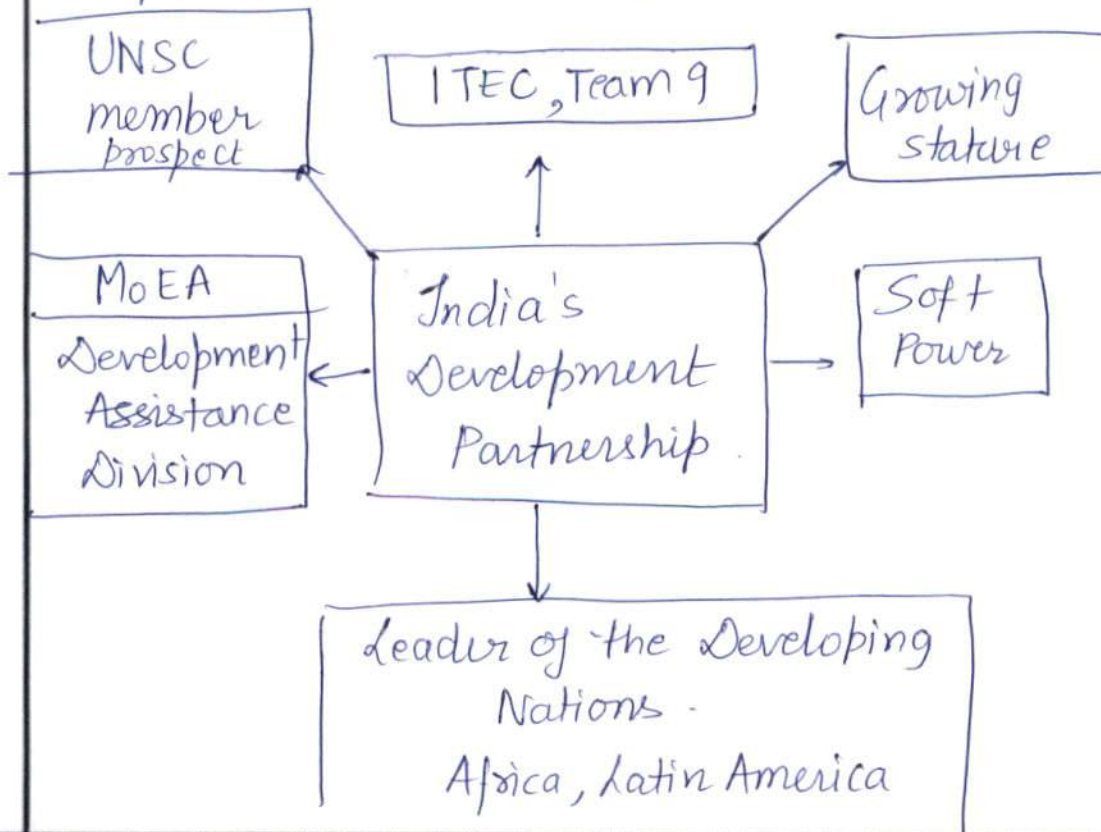
Thus, India needs to rebalance itself using multilateral groupings such as QUAD, initiatives such as ARIA with USA to ensure its economic clout and safety and the goal of 'Net Security Provider' in the region.

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 काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

India's growing economic clout, strategic value and a Key player in global world affairs necessitates its transition from an aid receiver to a Development Assistance Provider

It has seen considerable expansion over the years.



MoEA highlights more than 4.2 Bn \$ aid given to the developing countries over last five years.

Various prospects and examples are enlisted as follows: -

- (a) Bhutan receives 63% of the total aid with our treaty of friendship
- (b) Seychelles been promised a LOC of 200 Mn \$ during the recent PM's visit.
- (c) [Africa] has been the biggest beneficiary as against the Chinese 'exploitative and debt ridden' model. India provides
 - ↳ military aid
 - ↳ Cultural (Yoga, Project Mausam)
 - ↳ LOC of \$2 Bn over next three years
 - ↳ Joint exploration of the Copper, and Gold mines

↳ Educational programmes and training such as ITEC, PANe-African Network, TEAM-9, etc

(d) Afghanistan with building of people to people connect, SALMA friendship dam, Parliament Building Training, etc.

India's cultural heritage principles of 'Cosmopolitanism' and Vasudev kutumbakam can be the utilising factor to use the soft power in the changing global economic scenario.