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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	NIDHI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	24237
Center	—	Date	23-08-19.

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. 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)।
2	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5	10		5. 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 जान चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (प्रयुक्ती) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेगा।
6	10		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7	10		7. 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।
8	10		
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20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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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 Constitutional Amendment Bill.

(150 words) 10

महिलाओं की सार्वजनिक राजनीतिक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने एवं लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को सही ढंग से समन्वित बनाने हेतु विधायिका में सीटों के आरक्षण की आवश्यकता है। 108वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के अन्तर्गत में इस कथन की विवेचना की जायेगी।

108th Constitutional Amendment Bill provides for 33% reservation of seats for women in the Parliament. This is a long pending reform for making democracy inclusive and participative.

⇒ Through 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment, $\frac{1}{3}$ rd reservation has already been provided at local level, so it's necessary to implement it at higher level.

RESERVATION OF SEATS benefits :-

- 1) POLICY-MAKING would be more inclusive as now WOMEN ^{themselves} will be ACTIVE AGENTS for their development & empowerment.

ii) Women constitutes almost half of the population, while their representation in Lok Sabha is just 14%.

iii) It will ensure their social empowerment, women-led development and Institutionalisation of Gender-sensitive laws like Gender-budgeting.

But, we need to take care that representation doesn't remain merely a paper-based policy [Ex: SARPANCH PATIS with effective power in hands of male member], accompanied with behavioural change.

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।

Reservation in promotions for SCs and STs has been provided under article 16(4A) and 16(4B).

M. Nagaraj Case provided for reservation in promotions with 3 conditions —

- Empirical data on backwardness.
- Empirical data on inadequate representation.
- Data on efficiency.

Recently, SC in one of its judgements has done away with data on backwardness.

→ SC argued that SCs & STs have been under historical injustice so there's no need to show data on backwardness.

→ Also, Reservations has been provided under Constitutional mandate of EQUALITY OF STATUS & OPPORTUNITY

→ Reservations in promotions is necessary as in 2017 only 4 people were holding Joint Secretary posts.

AGAINST RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS :-

→ It might hurt efficiency and merit.

→ Benefits of reservation are cornered by few people.

→ Reservation at entry level is fine but once into the service, might be inappropriate.

Reservation issue, in recent times, has acquired political & social importance which need to be handled with utmost care.

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 provides for the formation of Autonomous District Councils for the administration of Autonomous districts in 4 States - Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura.

Reasons behind underperformance?

- Lack of skilled professionals to run the ADCs effectively.
- Financial funding have remained inadequate for smooth functioning of ADCs.
- Effective devolution of powers from State has not been done.
- Representation from women & other vulnerable sections is not upto the mark.
- Also, some tribes have over-representation.

For their improvement, many committees like Venkatachaliah committee, Ramachandran committee have been formed who has suggested :-

- Remove overlaps between functioning of States and ADCs.
- Devolution of funds to be done to ADCs.
- Formation of democratically chosen Village devolution committee to undertake participative planning
- Assign Professional training to members to ^{run} smoothly.

ADCs are step from representative democracy to participatory democracy which needs to be strengthened.

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

Official Secrets Act or Anti-Espionage Act deals with government^{officials} and citizens' acts of espionage, sedition or other threats to the INTEGRITY OF THE NATION.

Rationale behind continuance :-

- To ensure sovereignty, integrity and territorial integrity of the nation.
- Continuance of threats like state-led terrorism, Porous Borders in Nepal, Myanmar, etc.
- Collusion of Pakistan-China nexus in sensitive areas.
- Cases of ISRO spy case, Madhuri Gupta case for passing on the sensitive information.

RTI Vs OSA

- Section 22 of RTI provides it primacy vis-a-vis provisions of other laws including official secrets act. This gives overriding effect to RTI Act.

However, Government can withhold information under section 8 and 9 if it's SENSITIVE.

⇒ Many times used as shielding effect to not exude information

Both the acts are for different purpose but ultimate aim of preserving India as a 'DEMOCRACY' therefore there should be a balance between the two.

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 उत्तम बना सकता है।

Existing governance landscape of India is clasped by corruption, non-transparency, delay in services, etc.

India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework brings governance of country under 1 umbrella to ensure :-

- ↳ Quick delivery of services.
- ↳ Smooth Interface between Citizens & Government.
- ↳ To bring Standardisation in quality of services.

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?

Retired civil servants are storehouse of vast knowledge, experience & wisdom in diplomacy, policy-making and administration.

RATIONALE BEHIND COOLING-OFF PERIOD:-

- To ensure political neutrality while they're in office.
- To ensure that they don't engage in illicit activities or illegitimate gratification during office for posting soon after the retirement.
- To ensure Integrity & Accountability from civil servants.
- Might be used for other Specialised areas.

There've been various instances of violation where civil servants are posted soon after retirement mainly because of !

- ↳ Bureaucrats - politicians nexus.
- To get favourable policies.
- Illegal gratification.

Need to re-look the Civil Service conduct rules →

- To bring probity in service.
- To bring Neutrality in civil services.
- To ensure Honesty.

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 (National Nutrition Mission) is an intervention for malnutrition, stunting and wasting.

KEY FEATURES !

- COORDINATED APPROACH among various ministries to reduce malnutrition.
- USE OF ICT so that real-time monitoring can be done.
- DECENTRALISED APPROACH involving ASHA workers, community-level health workers as well as communities.
- 'NUTRITION' needs not seen in silos but a CONTINUUM CARE, starting from early childhood to adult.

Benefits over previous interventions

- Bottom-up approach prev. top down.
- Community participation was not done before.
- Technology wasn't used in monitoring.
- Graded approach National Nutrition management committee & state level committee was not formed previously
- Supplementary dietary needs through Fortified foods like Goldenrice, etc.

India's malnutrition levels at 38.4%

& anaemia at 58% requires holistic approach, Mission mode approach to reach our SDGs. To eliminate double burden of hunger, India needs active participation from all sections.

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 स्वीकृति हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, इन संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

India's health expenditure still hovering around $\sim 1.5\%$ of GDP with huge out-of-pocket health expenditure brings out the need of generic medicines.

→ Also, generic medicines are cheaper, easily available And have same effects as original medicines.

Reasons for lower adoption :-

- They don't follow proper guidelines.
- Might not work effectively.
- Weakens Immune system
- Doctors don't suggest/prescribe generic medicines.
- Government didn't give push

to generic medicines earlier.

Steps by Government;

- Has amended Indian Medical Councils Regulation to prescribe generic medicines.
- Also, ^{under} Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana stores need to supply generic medicines.

Generic drugs can be a big relief to the hole in pocket due to branded drugs & will help in universal affordable healthcare goal of government.

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 देने हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

WTO, (World Trade Organisation) in its present form organised after Uruguay round in 1994. Its aim is to enhance rule-based trade, democratic structure with one vote-one-country & sustainable development.

Challenges faced at WTO :-

It's not suitable to and prepared to deal with new issues like e-commerce.

→ changing geo-political order with rise of new economies like China, India.

→ It's unable to find a permanent solution to Doha development Agenda.

→ Rising protectionist policies by US, China, UK, etc.

How these challenges be avoided!

- Consensus based decision making leads to delay & therefore in some decisions other voting patterns can be explored.
- Agreement on trade related to services should be upgraded.
- New issues like e-commerce, ~~to~~ data tax, be incorporated, discussed and finalised upon.
- By avoiding Green Room meetings.
- Emerging economies and developing world to have more say in how to shape multilateral institutions.

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 ऑफ प्रेफरेंस: GSP) की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

India-US trade relations, of late, have come under scanner with some impediments like :-

- US Motorcycles face high tariff rates in India.
- India's IPR regime is seen with skepticism and has been placed under watch list of Special 301 Report.
- US is against India's provision of giving subsidies and also on renewables → 'DOMESTIC CONTENT REQUIREMENT'.
- US is also against India's MSP regime.

Generalised System of Preferences
Is a program which allows exemption on tariff barriers to developing nations to ensure their growth & development.

Impact of GSP withdrawal on India!

- It will widen the current Account deficit and might also weaken rupee against US dollars.
- It will impact small size industries in India & difficult to compete with already competent companies of Vietnam, Bangladesh in textile sector.

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 अन्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Judiciary, third bedrock of Indian democracy, hinges on its independence and accountability.

It's there to protect and defend the constitution of the land.

Independence of Judiciary:

- ① Security of tenure of judges
- ② Impeachment of judges requires special majority in Parliament.
- ③ Salary, allowances are charged upon Consolidated Fund.
- ④ Powers with regard to contempt of court.
- ⑤ Their behaviour can't be discussed unless removal motion is going on.

But, accountability issue of judiciary
- i.e. to whom are they accountable
is posed by recent events like
harassment charges against CJI.

Issues with accountability :-

- i) Appointment of Judges under
a collegium system where executive
has hardly any say.
- ii) Impeachment process is quite
cumbersome.
- iii) Values to be upheld by judiciary
are not defined anywhere.
- iv) Overriding powers with regard
to contempt of court.
- v) Many cases of Judicial overreach
Ex! National Anthem Case.
- vi) Opacity in hearing of cases.

There need to be a balance between Independence of judiciary for ensuring 'rule of law' and accountability of judiciary.

It can be ensured through:

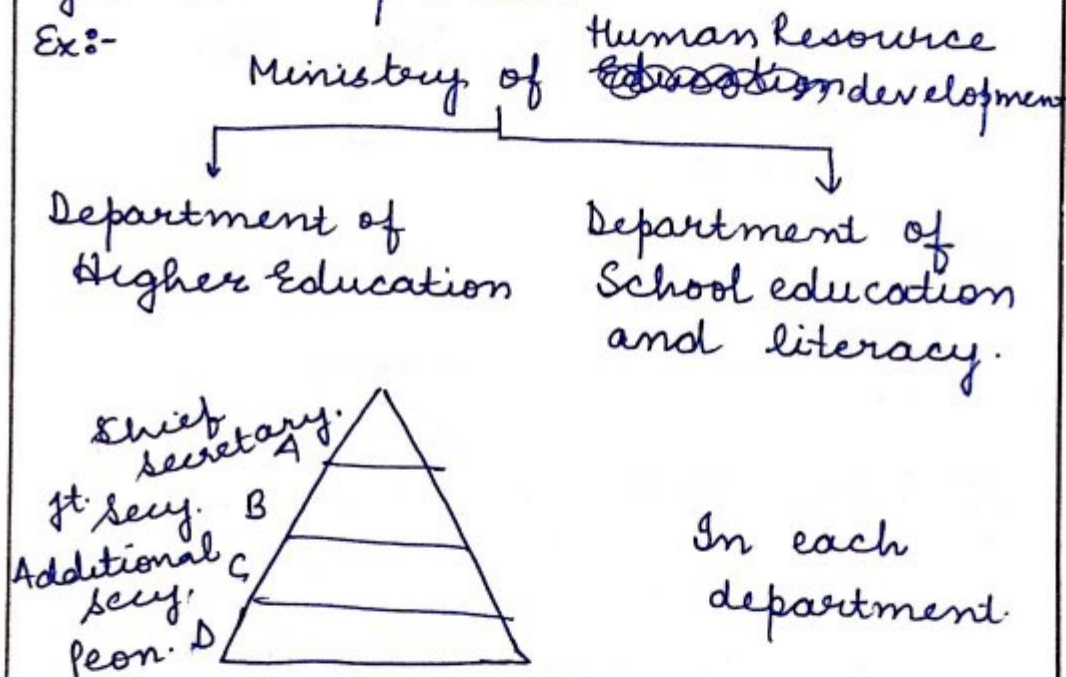
- 1) National Judicial Appointment Commission to be formed.
- 2) Judicial Standards and Accountability bill, 2010 need to be passed.
- 3) Judiciary be brought under RTI.
- 4) Code of conduct for judges for good behaviour.
- 5) In-house mechanism for punishing judges who disrespect court & constitution

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।

Government adopted HIERARCHICAL and DEPARTMENTAL approach for the governance process.

Ex:-



Strengths of existing system:

- It ensured responsibility and transparency in the system.
- It brings out accountability from the system.

- We can easily analyse whom to approach as per our demands.
- It ensures 'division of labour' in the system.
- It brings out clarification of powers in the system.
- It helps to bring Impersonal management of the governance.

Weakness inherent in the existing system →

- +→ As there is hierarchy, there is inordinate delay in the simplest of tasks.
- +→ It fails to bring specialisation in the governance.
- +→ Government ^{at top} is aloof of ground root problems and

→ therefore sometimes lead to
POLICY PARALYSIS.

→ Division of labour sometimes
lead to failure of any particular
person taking responsibility of
the problems.

Way forward:

→ Convergence approach whereby
unnecessary departments be reduced
f removed.

→ Proper Accountability & Grievance
Redressal System to be charted
out.

→ Citizen's Charter to be formulated
out by each department.

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?

Rajya Sabha or Council of states
is the 2nd house representing
the interests of state in our
Federal democracy.

Composition → 245 members with
representation from states & UTs.
where 12 members are nominated
by President from the field
of arts, social sciences etc.

Functioning →

- It's the permanent house and hence brings out the stability & continuance of policies.
- Federal Interests are represented.
- It prevents hasty legislations & has experts, therefore specialised.

debates and discussions.

→ No bill can become an act unless passed by Rajya Sabha.

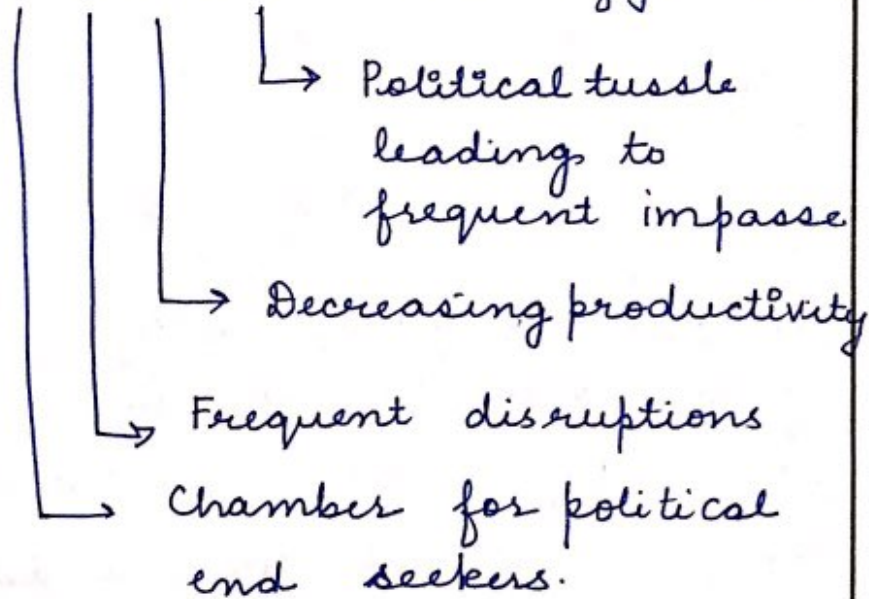
Why Rajya Sabha considered as Secondary?

- No money bill can be introduced in Rajya Sabha & can be delayed for a maximum of 14 days.
- No demand of grants can be discussed.
- During joint sitting, speaker presides over the sitting.

Why it is not Secondary?

- U/A 312, RS has powers to create an All India service by passing a resolution with 2/3rd majority present & voting.
- Equal say in Ordinary Bills.

Recent criticism about Rajya Sabha



Nevertheless, RS holds a special place in ~~the~~ Indian Parliamentary system which lays down the bedrock of Indian federalism.

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?

Indian political parties ~~require~~ require money for their functioning, campaigning, etc. but the FUNDING process has of late come under scrutiny of citizens as well as Election commissions.

Legislative changes w.r.t. funding :-

- Electoral bonds scheme.
- disclose ^{all} donations above ₹ 2000.
- tax exemptions provided to those who disclose their funds through ITR.

Challenges w.r.t. electoral funding:

- Opacity in funding → despite various reforms & legislative changes, source of funding is still opaque.
- Large amount of foreign contributions, which are difficult to scrutinise.
- Tax exemptions provided to political parties help them to take a large chunk of tax.
- Lack of transparency despite section 29 of RPA which calls for ITR.
- Criminalisation of politics
- hamper political equality
- breeds inequality.

State funding of elections as suggested by Vohra committee, Indragit Gupta committee has following

benefits :-

- It can limit the influence of wealthy people.
- Enhanced transparency as state will know where the money is coming from & going to.
- It limits the influence of political party in power & brings all political party at equal footing.
- It'll bring corruption down, internal democracy in party.

State funding have some limitations

- +→ Tax payers are forced to support even those political parties they don't subscribe to.
- +→ It may lead to candidates running into elections just for sake of money.
- +→ Political parties tend to become organ of the state.

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 शासन 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 UN reports, more than 2/3rd of populations will live in urban areas. Despite this, Urban areas are plagued with various Governance challenges :-

① → Lack of funding :-

- Non-popularity of Municipal bonds
- Non-devolution of taxation powers to states.

[India is way behind its counterparts ULB in Brazil].

Strategies :-

- Value capture financing framework

- Increase rating of municipal bodies to increase their popularity.
- Devolve taxation powers to ULBs.

⊖ → SANITATION is still a major concern.. Also, half of the households don't have connected drinking water supply.

Strategies:-

- drainage system based on natural flow of topography to be developed.
- Water supply & water charges to ensure efficient usage.

⊖ → Lack of planning

- leads to haphazard growth of cities.
- disaster prone institutions due to lack of planning.
- Rise of slum areas in the periphery of cities.
- Increased population, & hence rise of demand of housing.

Strategies:

- Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- Data based planning like in Smart Cities.
- Mass housing schemes to be started.
- Recognition & Integration of slums.

Steps taken by government →

- ① Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.
- ② Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-Urban
- ③ Smart Cities Initiative
- ④ AMRUT initiative
- ⑤ 74th Amendment Act giving constitutional recognition to ULBs

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।

'If Panchayats are institutions of representation, then women-SHGs are institution of participation' -
Sairam Ramesh.

SHGs are informal group of people who come together for their shared interests and shared role in poverty alleviation.

Role as poverty alleviator:

- They've provided source of livelihood to people, thus raising their income.,
- They've proved efficacious in reaching out to poor people through delivering government schemes.

→ Movements like Kudambshree has raised the stature of women in our society.

Other Ex. of SHGs ⇒ Indira Kranti Ratham Yojana by Society for Elimination of Poverty in Andhra P.

_____ x _____ x _____
SHG-Bank linkage programme was started by NABARD in 1992 to provide finance & credit to SHGs.

But, they've faced challenges -

→ Higher rate of interest (8-10%) which is difficult to repay with current inflation rates.

→ Diversion of funds for consumption activities instead of productive outputs, & hence leading to

NPA problem for banks.

- Regional disparity → Funds given by banks to SHGs are mainly concentrated around Southern region & therefore fails to develop all regions equally.
- Majority of poor still borrow from Informal sources.

Suggestions to Improve :-

- Bringing interest rates down.
- To bring regional equality, ensure formation & their strengthening in other regions too.
- To divert funds into productive activities through awareness generation, recent push by Prime Minister.

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।

India's higher education system is
clashed with many structural,
institutional, pedagogical and
technical flaws.

⇒ STRUCTURAL flaws:→

- Indian higher education doesn't lead to multi-specialisation as is the need of the hour.

Ex:- An engineer can't study arts.

- It's clashed with 'SILOS' mode teaching program with no connectivity with real life.

⇒ INSTITUTIONAL flaws:→

- No institution ranks in TIMES ranking of top 100.
- Institutions are mired in deep

problems related to management,
funding, etc.

PEDAGOGICAL flaws!

- It's still entangled in rote learning.
- Very low R&D levels ($\sim 0.77\%$ of GDP is spent).
- Subject of contemporary importance like AI, Machine learning, Big data, etc. are still out of league.
- No connect with foreign researchers & professors.

Steps taken by Government :-

- HEFA (Higher Education Financing Agency) which will fund institutions of higher education.
- EQUIP Programme supported by World Bank.
- M. Visveswarya fellowship scheme.

- New draft education policy.
- 'Institutions of Eminence' creation to improve their ranking.
- INSPIRE and MANAK schemes to enhance research
- GIAN Reforms needed? →

- Convergence & coordinated approach in classroom learning and practical application.
- Increased funding for R&D.
- Lab to land related inventions & commercialisation to penetrate the discoveries.
- Foreign exchange programs to be ~~also~~ made mandatory.
- To engage foreign professors.
- Ensure good code of conduct for management positions

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 Yojana -
'Housing for All' scheme is currently running behind its schedule, unable to complete 10M houses in rural areas and 12M houses in urban areas.

Challenges that are faced :-

- ① Sanctioning of funds after first installation is not done in timely manner.
- ② Availability of land and land clearance & acquisition is a major impediment.
- ③ Property records in our country are not streamlined.

④ Building of houses in slum areas as they fear they might be evicted is an issue here.

⑤ Availability of skilled labour to build the houses at a faster pace in cost-effective manner is an issue here.

Implementation to be fast-tracked

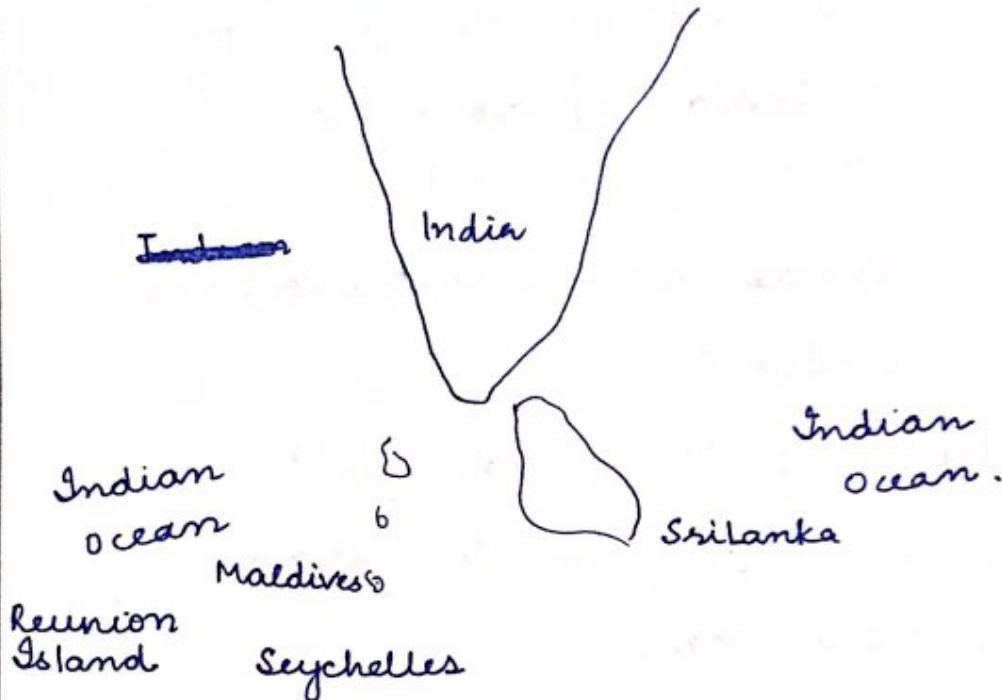
- Convergence with other financial assistance schemes to release enough funds for building house.
- PPP collaboration in building the houses can be done.
- Land records be streamlined under Digital Land Records Monitorisation Programme.

- Governments can create Land Banks as done by Odisha.
- Adequate compensation for land to be given.

PMAY is a step towards empowerment and 'CAPABILITY Building' approach towards the rising population in India.

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।



Indian ocean region has been at the ~~the~~ fulcrum of diverse countries with diverse strategic interests and economic interests.

Indian recognised the strategic value of island nations in Indian Ocean and engaged with them through:

- ↳ Bilateral negotiations
- ↳ Net Security Provider.
- ↳ Multilateral foras like Indian Ocean Region Symposium, etc.

Why Islands nations so important for India?

TRADE:

- Most of the trade route through the ports to strait of Malacca.
- Maritime security → Propagation of ISIS to Maldives, piracy, drug smuggling, etc. can enter India through these countries.
- CHINA'S STRING OF PEARL and military bases in these countries has led to CHINA-FACTOR to

be countered by India.

→ They're source of abundant natural resources and oil & energy is essential for India.

→ A stable regime favourable for India is necessary to strengthen relations with Island nations.

Island nations, have indeed, shaped the geopolitical contours as many countries like China, US, Britain, etc have interests in this 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 काफी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

India's foreign policy has embedded values like 'RESPONSIBLE NATION' based on values like Vasudheva Kutumbham.

Development assistance by India is based on these values →

→ Line of Credit → It has increased considerably over the years aggregating to \$ 28 billion to more than 60 countries.

→ Humanitarian Assistance and disaster relief → Recently after Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, after earthquake in Nepal.

→ Development Projects beyond neighbouring states:-

- Afghanistan → Zaranj-delaram highway, Salma dam, Parliament
- Iran → Chahabaz port.

→ Asian-Africa Growth Corridor,
Sending generic medicines,
Pan African e-Network Project, in
African countries.

→ Military & basic needs aid-
military in operation Cactus in
Maldives, water during water
crisis ; helicopter to Maldives
and Dornier aircraft to
Seychelles.

- UPSC has been helping and collaborating with many nations for exam conduction & pattern.
- Capacity building & training programmes in various areas through Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation.

Thus, it's fairly correct to say that India's development assistance has increased in its ~~reach~~ and scope.