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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	461604
Center	Delhi	Date	2.09.19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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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।

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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 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 108th Constitution Amendment Bill aims to reserve 33% of seats in Parliament and State legislatures for women. This has been supported as a measure to increase female participation from the current rate of 14.2% which is dismal, and make it more inclusive.

It will have many advantages:

1. Female voice - currently female issues like anaemia/surrogacy do not get enough attention.
2. Representation - comprising 50% of the population women should be present in making decisions

3. Quality of legislation - will improve due to unique viewpoint of women on many issues. eg: feminist foreign policy of Sweden which aims to change masculine/aggressive foreign policy atmosphere.

However, many concerns have been raised that doing so could have implications such as:

- 1) Reduction of representation of OBCs by women belonging to General category.
- 2) Many women themselves do not want the aid of reservations which carries stigma.
- 3) It may promote nepotism by giving representation to women from political families.

Thus, the Bill needs further debate among society.

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।

The Nagaraj case in Supreme Court (2006)
outlined 3 conditions for reservation
in promotions to SC/STs :

- 1) adequacy of representation
- 2) need for administrative efficiency
- 3) Quantifiable data to measure backwardness of SC/STs

~~Re~~ This had been in response to Constitutional
Amendments in 1996, 1999 which had
given consequential seniority to SC/STs
going against the Supreme Court
verdict in Indira Sawhney case (1993)
↳ which had prohibited reservations
in promotions.

① Recently, the Supreme Court in the Jarnail Singh case ~~permitted~~ permitted SC/ST reservations without the qualification of data on backwardness. The removal of this condition does not remove the other 2 requirements of the Nagaraj case (2006).

② The Supreme Court also permitted SC/ST reservations in State Governments after Karnataka submitted a plea with quantifiable data collected by the Ratna Prabha committee.

③ SC/ST reservations have also been extended in Public sector employment which had become cause of confusion due to conflicting HC judgements, under Nagaraj case (2006) conditions.

→ Thus, ~~Reserve~~ reservations in promotion are permitted to enable adequate representation.

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?

Autonomous District Councils (ADC) are permitted under 6th Schedule of the Constitution for the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

- ↳ They preserve tribal autonomy and customs in their territory and are given special ~~privileges~~ privileges.
- ↳ However, they also suffer some problems which affect their performance:

1) Resource dependency on Central funds

↳ inability to become financially independent.

2) Unaccountable to local people due to distribution of patronage

3) Patriarchy and the protection of customs that are misogynistic

(4)

There performance has become a cause of concern moreover because the transfer of funds was often dependent on State government.

Measures to resolve problems in ADCs

- 1) Recent Constitutional Amendment will transfer funds directly to ADCs from the Centre through Finance Commission transfers.
- 2) Allow reservation of seats to women, amendment has been passed recently but yet to be operationalised.
- 3) Enhanced autonomy from State govt which often controls officials of ADCs and curtails jurisdictions/funds.

Thus, ADCs can perform effectively & bring peace to North East if they are strengthened to provide basic public services to people.

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।

The Official Secrets Act (OSA) is a colonial law which was enacted to prevent leakage of critical information by officials.

It classified vast amounts of information as official secrets and this practise was continued after Independence by many governments. This had many adverse consequences:

- 1) Unaccountable government - which did not answer to people because it suppressed information.
- 2) Lack of transparency - bureaucratic control did not permit questioning of decisions.
- 3) Hiding of failures - many governments hid their mistakes from their citizens.

However, the OSA continues to remain in place because:

- 1) National security cannot be compromised
→ such as defense, intelligence
- 2) Some decisions should not be in public domain
→ deliberations on foreign policy and national strategy.

The RTI (2006) cannot be given precedence over it :

- 1) Information cannot be blanket classified as necessary for public knowledge, there has to be nuance
- 2) RTI itself has provision for refusal on grounds of national security.
- 3) Moreover, the Central Information Commission has ruled that OSA cannot be invoked against RTI as Information is now a constitutional Right under Article 21.

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 (IndEA) is an overarching architecture of E-Governance which will include all existing (brownfield) and new (greenfield) initiatives of Government.

Main principles →

1. Ease of Access: all citizens will have universal access to all e-governance services on single integrated platform
2. Information / Collaboration: to bring all information from silos and have better data to make decisions.
3. Security - to ensure privacy of individual and security of data.

Benefits of Implementation:

- 1) Better utilisation of resources - due to targeted schemes with precise data profiles.
- 2) Dynamic monitoring - with real time data of service delivery
- 3) Updated beneficiary list - will remove leakages/errors in schemes such as basing on SECC 2011.
- 4) Complete integrated e-Governance experience - will make citizen more aware of possible schemes and enhance ease of access.

Thus, INDEA is a potentially transformative endeavour that can reduce discretion in government, deliver services faster and reduce the dangers of bureaucracy.

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?

Rationale behind a cooling-off period for retired civil servants is:

- 1) promote impartiality in decisions of serving public servants
- 2) prohibit revolving door character of public service - corporate sector which can lead to corruption
- 3) level playing field for all companies in procurement / regulation as civil servants cannot be influenced.

↳ However, there have been incidents of violation which bring to light the efficacy of this provision of Civil Services Conduct Rules (CSCR).

But I am not of the opinion that the Conduct Rules should be changed because of the solid rationale for their formulation. Instead, it would be better to bring in other measures:

- 1) enforcement - strict monitoring by Department of Personnel & Training of retired civil services declarations.
- 2) penalties - for violation of cooling off period such as revocation of pension, eg: policy in European Union.
- 3) Integrity Pacts - signed between companies not to hire ^{ex} civil servants within the cooling period. Possible amendment to Companies Act, 2013.

↳ Thus, with these comprehensive measures the danger of possible collusion between companies and civil servants can be averted.

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 a strategy of the government to address the critical challenges of anaemia, malnutrition and stunting among children/mothers in India.

Features

1. National level body to coordinate strategy and achieve goals by 2022 across State and district levels.
2. Emphasis on mandatory food fortification with micro-nutrients.
3. Targeted approach - to aspirational districts program (of NITI Aayog) that suffer from most deprivation.

Improvement over past schemes :

- 1) Convergence approach to direct all levels of government and enforce strict targets from National level
- 2) Population level approach with food fortification that will cover blanket population — this takes care of leakage / targeting error
- 3) Moreover the optimum use of Midday Meal + ICDS + ASHA all point towards action oriented program that mobilises all resources.
- 4) Ambitious targets of reducing malnutrition by 10% and anaemia by 15% in 5 years.

↳ Therefore, POSHAN Abhiyan marks an ~~important~~ important intervention to address the lived experience of the most vulnerable.

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।

Generic medicines are medicines with same formula but without branding of the original manufacturer, offered by other companies after expiry of patent or under compulsory license (CL).

Reasons for Lower Availability

- 1) Lack of awareness - major pharma companies employ branding and convince doctors to only prescribe their expensive medicines.
- 2) Collusion with doctors - pharma companies give monetary incentives to doctors based on their prescriptions.
- 3) Lower profits for pharmacies is also a cause as generics have smaller margins.

Steps taken by government →

1. Jan Aushadi Kendras which grant free medicines or at nominal rates to people - stocked with generic medicines.
2. CGHS - procurement from generic companies to create large market for them.
3. Compulsory Licensing - while this provision does exist in India it has been used only once. More effective use can expand generic medicines.

→ Thus, generic medicines can reduce out-of-pocket expenditure which is the cause of 60% of healthcare costs for poor. There is need for greater emphasis on them.

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।

Challenges to Multilateral trading system-

1. Protectionism by US - to address trade deficits unilaterally and maintain economic dominance
2. Weak Dispute Resolution - WTO Trade dispute body will be defunct by December 2019.
3. Failure to agree on Public Stockholding
Peace clause is only temporary, India is concerned at targeting of farmer subsidies -
4. Plurilateralism - end of Single Undertaking in WTO, seen in ITA 2 and Trade in Services (Tis) which were agreed on a parallel track by only some nations.

Possible Solutions → in WTO

1. EU + India proposal to set timelines and procedures for appointments to Dispute resolution body.
2. Increased access to developing countries to Green Room discussions.
3. Enable Doha Round to be achieved, and ending of excessive US demands

Unfortunately, developing countries like India and China are at the forefront of defending the multilateral trading system while it is the USA which is trying to practise realpolitik and maximise its advantage by →

1. ending TPP deal with Japan & others
2. ending NAFTA and renegotiating it.

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?

Major Impediments to Indo-US Trade

- 1) US protectionism which focuses on deficits rather than causes - such as loss of US competitiveness
- 2) Indian trade policy which lacks coherence - imposes tariffs itself while protests US actions.
- 3) Visa ~~Relations~~ Requirements which are important to Indian service sector exports to the US - H1B visas have been curtailed to Indian companies & shifted to MNCs while total quota remains the same.
- 4) withdrawal of GSP by US → as it does not recognise India as "developing" status

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES →

1. Retaliatory Indian tariffs
2. expansion of trade war to India
as well as China
3. Disruption of MSME exports from
India which will become uncompetitive
4. Hit to the rural economy and
labour intensive handicrafts
5. Slowdown in the informal sector
6. Mass unemployment due to fall in
exports and lack of alternative
markets with similar market size.

Therefore, although the size of the GSP exports is only approx. \$4 billion it is concentrated in the MSME and artisan sector. This will have rural implications and for informal sector facing credit crunch already.

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 की जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Under Article 131 - 134 the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over federal matters and appellate jurisdiction on civil & criminal law.

As a critical guardian of Constitution it has the duty to safeguard Fundamental Rights under Article 32, and the High Courts are similarly empowered under Article 226.

These articles ensure the independence of the judiciary. Recent debates arise on how to ensure accountability within the institution in light of challenges:

- 1) Judicial activism - interference in matters of executive / legislature
eg: deciding compensation to flood victims of Thelum (2015)
- 2) Nepotism / Sexism - underrepresentation of female judges and many descendants of earlier judges.

The Judiciary currently is accountable only to itself pursuant to the Collegium System :

1. Appointments / transfers made by Chief Justice & 4 senior most judges.
2. Government can return recommendations only once to the Supreme Court. It requires "concurrence" of the Chief Justice.

These norms have evolved over the 1990s under the First, Second and Third Judges case which :

1. established judicial independence in First Judges case
2. expanded collegium in the Second and Third Judges case.

The NJAC (National Judicial Accountability Commission) Amendment Act was passed by Parliament in 2015 but was declared by Supreme Court as "threat to judicial primacy" and ultra vires.

↳ In a democracy, there cannot be judicial primacy. All institutions have to be equal stakeholders.

Therefore, the NJAC was a model law that included the executive (PM), the legislative opposition (LoP in Parliament) and the judiciary itself (the Chief Justice) along with eminent jurists (legal community).

- ↳ The clear conflict of interest of the Supreme Court in guarding its privileges over clear legislative consensus must be addressed.
- ↳ Otherwise this can threat public trust in judiciary and lead to breakdown in institutional checks and balances.

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।

The existing structures of the government departments are governed by the Conduct of Business Rules, 1961 of the Government.

They do have certain strengths:

1. clear delineation of responsibility
2. some specialisation due to distinct cadres
3. coordination by Cabinet Secretary and Council of Ministers.
4. Clear Rules / procedures

However, as Crozier noted, this can lead to bureaucratic attitude which is marked by ① slowness ② ponderousness and ③ complicated procedures.

This makes the system unresponsive to new situations.

Weaknesses

1. Weberian character and emphasis on procedure and rules. Outcomes are not measured at all.
2. Generalist character of structure which does not encourage flow of specialists from district to state to Union.
3. Silo division of all departments, which do not allow either horizontal or vertical flow.
4. Lack of cohesion / coordination between departments leads to stress on Group of Ministers (GoM), essentially informal structure.

Measures

Keeping in mind these challenges, the structure of government has to be reorganised to deliver quality governance in the 21st century. These can be →

1. Shift from procedures to outcomes.
2. independent evaluations from third parties.
3. Shift from monitoring (by officers) to assessing results and modifying schemes and projects.
4. Citizen charters to allow feedback from stakeholders like citizens and NGOs.
5. e-Governance to improve accessibility and improve government services. Also need to redesign processes
6. Reducing layers of decision making

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

In recent years there has been debate on the functioning of Rajya Sabha and some criticism:

1. functioning - marked by walk-outs and delays that prevent legislation and scrutiny of government by the Opposition.
2. composition - the weightage of some states gives smaller states less of a voice in the chamber. Dominance of UP and Bihar are noted in this regard.

⑥ However, this criticism does not do justice to the Rajya Sabha. It is envisaged as a distinct House to give its opinion on legislation and government policy. In many spheres it has privileges over its counterpart Lok Sabha →

1. Under Article 249 it can ^{certify} ~~legislate~~ on State Subjects if its a matter of national importance which become part of Union List.
 2. Under Article 253 it can enact laws under International treaties even if they impinge on State Subjects.
 3. It is the sole judge of the merit of creating additional All-India Services (article 312)
eg: proposal for IJS (Indian Judicial Service)
- ↳ Moreover the Rajya Sabha enjoys equality with Lok Sabha on many measures:
1. Ordinary laws require passage in both Houses
 2. Both Houses are represented on the ~~Public Accounts~~ Public Accounts Committee
 3. Both Houses have standing departmental committees to supervise government.

Thus, the Rajya Sabha cannot be merely termed as a secondary house of Parliament.

There are some spheres in which the Lok Sabha enjoys superiority →

1. Accountability of Council of Ministers
2. Passage of Money Bill (debate on Aadhar Act passage)

Thus, both Houses of Parliament have different and balancing functions under the Constitutional order.



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?

①

Recent legislative changes under the Finance Act introduced electoral bonds as instruments of political funding to discourage cash funding.

②

Amendments to the Companies Act, 2013 removed the limit of 7.5% of profits as the limit to political donations by a company. Also removed need to declare in Annual Report.

③

Changes to IT Act (Income Tax Act) made political donations tax deductible.

However these changes do not address the challenge of transparency. Indeed, it further obscures:

1. source of funding
2. extent of funding by company

State funding of elections has been a proposal that has been suggested by many committees. There are some advantages to this proposal :

1. Reduces inequity among political competition, all have level playing field.
2. Transparency in source and extent of funding to parties.
3. Facilitates democracy, access to candidates without wealth compared to current assets of elected MPs.
4. Also will encourage all sections of society and increase participation among women, dalits and STs — currently 14% only for women.

However keeping in mind these advantages we have to consider whether it addresses challenge of transparency.

Yes ~~at~~ the proposal of state funding of elections will address transparency but it has some other practical changes: ~~संशोधन~~

- ① Quantum of funding has to be decided based on last election which is status quoist and gives advantage to incumbent.
- ② Removes voice of citizens to support only their candidate, taxes used to support all candidates which may not represent citizens.

→ Therefore recent election reform proposals such as state funding or simultaneous elections have some advantages but the negatives ~~of~~ have to be kept in mind.

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।

The 74th Constitutional Amendment (1991) granted democracy and devolution of functions to the urban local bodies.

However the spirit of the reform has been plagued with problems. The Janagraha Annual State of City System (ASICS) Report 2017 states →

1. Only 9/18 metropolitan cities have a Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC).
2. ~~These~~ Parastatal and state departments control most areas of devolution
3. Bureaucratic resistance to grassroots democracy has stymied reforms.

Challenges to Urban Governance :

The 2nd Administrative Reform Commission addressed some important urban governance problems →

1. Absence of direct elections for Mayor.
2. Bureaucratic control of ULBs through an unelected commissioner
3. Insufficient Devolution - only 18 subjects for Urban local bodies while panchayati raj institutions have 27.
4. Absence of dedicated functionaries - no clear staff for municipal activities
5. Fragmentation of Responsibility
 - vertical fragmentation between State and ULBs
 - horizontal division between ULBs / State departments like police and parastatals like DTC or Delhi Jal Board.

All these pose significant challenges to a unified, ~~autonomous~~ ^{and} accountable government that can give efficient administration to India's cities/towns.

Possible Strategies :

1. Merge all parastatals into the ULB →
DJB, Delhi Transport Corporation, etc.
 2. Have direct elections for Mayor - clearly
accountable
 3. Devolve funds to ULBs
Through State Finance Commission →
incentivise through Finance Commission
under Article 280
 4. unified metropolitan transport authority
for planning / operations - like Transport
for London
 5. Expand revenue base through property taxes.
 6. create dedicated municipal cadre of
officials
 7. Janagraha also recommended City Deals
that merge cities into bigger concentrations
such as NCR or Greater ~~Bangalore~~
Bangalore.
- with effective devolution of 3Fs - funds,
functions & functionaries it is possible to
turn urban spaces into engines of growth
with regulated and clean administration.

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 organisations of individuals in rural areas generally composed of women. As Tairam Ramesh once said, "if panchayats are institutions of ^{representation} ~~participation~~, then SHGs are institutions of participation."

SHGs have multiple roles:

- i) Financial - access to credit through bank linkage / livelihood option.
- ii) social reform - through associations of women giving voice to opinions
- iii) participation - through social audit during Gram Sabha

They have a crucial role in poverty alleviation through credit access and schemes of government, which allows small scale enterprise for livelihood.

Shortcomings of the bank linkage →

1. reliance on ~~paperwork~~ paperwork/
documentation, difficult for SHGs
to meet bank conditionalities.
2. Does not help in scaling up SHG
enterprises to formal sector, only
small-scale loans.
3. Absence of effective financial training
for SHG to deal with financial
planning.

→ Therefore, some reforms are required
in the scheme →

1. Market information to be supplied to
SHG clients by banks as part of
services
2. financial literacy to be given to
SHGs so that they can take
advantage of credit access and expand
their enterprises.

3. Process redesigning and simpler documentation for loans → eg: ~~stand~~ Startup India in which loans are given to female entrepreneurs.

↳ Thus, with sufficient handholding and responsive banking facilities SHGs can gain scale and gain entry into formal sector.

↳ SHGs already are expanding their activities → for eg: women in SHG, Maharashtra who took up System of Rice Intensification (SRI) to get better yields and now are expanding SHG.

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। विधेयन कीजिए।

The Indian education system is currently underpinned by Article 21 A of the Constitution, the Right to Education given to all children ~~under~~ aged 6-14.

There are many challenges in the public education system:

1. poor outcomes: 55% of children aged 14 do not have basic numeric capability
2. poor infrastructure: a huge number of single teacher schools with absence of facilities
3. High drop out rates - even through 97% enrollment ratio
4. Teacher absenteeism - exceeding 30% in some states
5. Low funding - only 2.7% of GDP

Required reforms: The draft National Education Policy by Kasturirangan Committee advanced some recommendation →

1. Restructure schooling from 10+2 to 5 + 3+3+2 so that RTE applicable from 3 years to 18 years.
2. Professionalisation of teachers - greater training and regularisation
3. Make vocational education part of education at every level beginning with school.
4. Regulatory reforms - to enhance quality
 - ↳ National Higher Education Regulation Authority (NHERA) to oversee all ~~other~~ universities
 - ↳ No fragmentation such as control by BCI, MCI or AICTE.
5. 'No detention' policy scrapped
6. National Research Foundation to focus grants of ₹20,000 per year for R&D.

→ These measures will enhance quality and relevance of public education which still caters to 70% of population.

However, financing will be the most important component to ensure 6% of GDP is spent on education. This has been a recommendation since Kothari Commission in 1964 and repeated by TSR Committee and Kasturirangan committee as well.

Recent ~~initiatives~~ initiatives like:

1. Scrapping no detention policy
2. NAAC accreditation for all institutions
3. College autonomy in syllabus/fees

are all important steps whose significance will ~~be~~ be realised in the years ahead.

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?

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims to enable "Housing for All" by 2022. This will be through 3 main methods:

- i) financing for home expansion
- ii) grants for construction
- iii) interest subvention for home loans

The Awas Yojana is also divided spatially into →

- i) PM ~~Gramin~~ Gramin Awas Yojana
- ii) PM Awas Yojana - Urban

However, it has faced some challenges in completion of the targets:

- 1) slow expansion and implementation
- 2) low awareness of schemes which prevents beneficiary access.

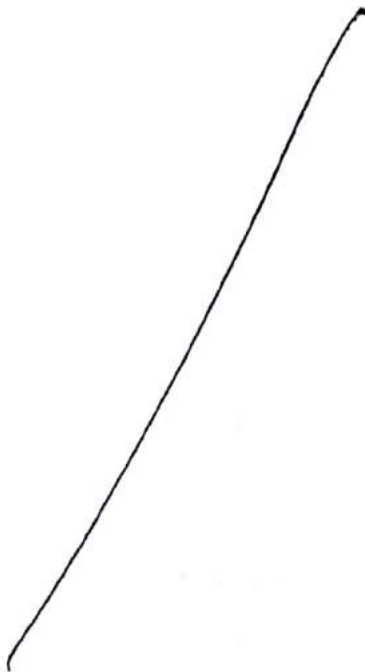
- 3) High corruption which requires payment before applications are approved
- 4) Inequitable Access - concentrated among urban and middle class who can afford home loans/have existing homes.

Yet the targets should be achieved if all levels of government are mobilised towards this goal:

- 1) Convergence with other schemes - such as NREGA to construct rural housing for all rural landless
- 2) Linkage with technology to adopt modular designs - mass market applications like fabricated homes
- 3) Eco-friendly features such as rain-water harvesting to be built into design.

Implementation of this goal can be fast tracked by →

1. Redesigning procedure and adopting 'positive silence'
2. E-Governance should be used to minimise discretion and have ~~faceless~~ faceless interface.
3. Adopting third party audits and social audits at panchayat level.



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।

The island nations of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are close partners of India historically. Due to their locations they also have immense strategic value.

Some of the most important partners are →

1. Seychelles
2. Maldives
3. Mauritius.

Recent interest by China in IOR has given rise to fears that it is building a "string of pearls" of ports to contain India. These include ports built by

China in:

1. Chittagong - Bangladesh
2. Kyaukse - Myanmar
3. Hambantota - Sri Lanka
4. Gwadar - Pakistan

Keeping in mind the maritime security of IOR and the role of India as net Security provider in the region, India has embarked on securing facilities in →

1. Assumption island - Seychelles
2. Agalega island - Mauritius

India has also advanced considerable assistance to Maldives financially and by capacity - building / training.

↳ To address the threat of piracy to maritime security, India formed the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) of all littoral states of Indian Ocean

↳ The navy also supports the exclusive economic zone of Seychelles and Mauritius in realm of security by ~~pat~~ patrolling ~~there~~ there.

Keeping in mind the other islands occupied by outside powers →

1. Diego Garcia - US
2. Reunion island - France
3. Christmas island - Australia

it becomes imperative for India to assist island nations in development and maritime security to keep Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

↳ The threat of great power competition is, however, rising. The basing of Chinese navy in Djibouti and increasing incursions all point to a period of unsettling ~~manoeuvres~~ manoeuvres.

↳ The nations of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles will be essential to securing India's maritime security, along with our own Andaman & Nicobar islands.

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।

Development assistance is financial or technological assistance by India to assist the recipient nation in its aim ~~to~~ to improve quality of life of its citizens.

In recent years there has been a rise in developmental assistance to neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Afghanistan.

There has been an expansion to its scope :

- 1) technological - ITEC (Indian technological and economic cooperation)
- 2) ICCR - Indian Council for Cultural Relations
- 3) RIS - Research in Systems for building planning capacity.

There has also been an expansion in reach with increased recipients in Africa and South America:

1. Africa : engagement in agricultural Research & Development, dairy farming and renewable energies.
eg → Rwanda / Uganda assistance in dairy sector.

2. South America : expansion to Peru and Bolivia for the first time.

↳ As a key instrument of foreign policy development assistance promotes goodwill among the people and encourages positive orientation in receiving state.

This can lead to foreign policy successes, such as → Afghanistan preference for Indian relations and Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

Development assistance comprises:

- 1) community funding → for local area improvements such as schools, health centers.
- 2) Area level projects → such as Selma Dam in Afghanistan or Zaranj - Delaram highway.
- 3) Technology cooperation - collaboration in R & D between Indian institutions

↳ The sum total of developmental support leads to :

- 1) Support for disadvantaged/vulnerable communities
- 2) strengthening of Indian partners within such nations
- 3) Public support for friendly ties with India.