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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	Abhinav Tyagi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	22 703
Center	Online	Date	22 Aug 2019

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

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. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
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. 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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
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।

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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।

Recent Lok Sabha saw only 14% of seats being won by women which is very less than global average of 35%.

Ensure meaningful political participation

- ① women constitute half of population and reservation can ensure they are fully represented.
- ② Reservation would result in developing women leaders who will raise women issues.
- ③ similar to progress in SC & ST communities due to political representation, women would also progress.

106th constitutional amendment bill

- ① Preceder for 33% reservation to women at central and state level
- ② This reservation would also apply to the SC and ST seats.
- ③ It would continue for 15 years.
- ④ Each time different seats would be reserved.

Issue with reservation of seats

- ① May just promote women and mothers of present leaders.
 - ② Against democracy by forcing voters to vote for women.
 - ③ 15 year is too short for effective change.
- Reservation for women at local body level has shown many success stories. Thus also not perfect reservation would ensure meaningful political participation.

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।

In a recent supreme court judgement, government has been allowed to provide reservation in promotion without collecting quantifiable data as provided in Nagaj.

Historical background

- ① Reservation in promotion struck down in the Indra Sawhney Case 1992
- ② Government introduced through constitutional amendment. 77th by adding clause 4A in Article 16
- ③ In Nagaj Case supreme court upheld but government had to ensure.
 - ↳ efficiency
 - ↳ Prove lack of representation
 - ↳ 50% limit is not breached.

- ④ Recent judgement has ruled
government does not need to
remove lack of representation but
other conditions need to be
fulfilled.

Advantages of reservation in promotion

- ① Social discrimination may continue
in job.
- ② Efficiency measurement is very
subjective and hampered by
social attitudes of seniors.
- ③ Only few people of backward classes
at post post.
(only 4 SC/ST officers at secretary level
(2017)).

Issues with reservation

- ① Promotions made fixed may
discourage excellence in work
- ② Reservation has to be balanced
with efficiency.

Thus reservation in promotion
should be implemented but keeping
following

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

are provided under the VIth schedule of the constitution in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

Reasons for underperformance of Autonomous District Council (ADCs)

- ① lack of financial autonomy as finances are provided by ad-hoc transfer by states.
- ② limited role of village council in functioning.
- ③ Though legislative powers have been transferred, its usage has been limited.

- (4) monopolised by few dominant tribes.
- (5) Ambiguous role of governor
↳ whether to act independently or
at recommendation of state
executive
- (6) lack of accountability of these
bodies.
- (7) limited participation of women or
no compulsory reservation

Improving performance

- (1) Fund transfers on recommendation
of state Finance commission
- (2) Reservation for women
- (3) expanding strength to include all
tribes.
- (4) Accountability through social audits
and independent external audits
Recent constitutional amendment
has steps to improve functioning

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।

Official secrets Act prescribes
for punishment for stealing, stealing
or securing any document marked
as secret, top secret or confidential
with imprisonment upto 10 years.

Need for continuation of official
secrets Act

- ① Prevention against espionage and
spying.
↳ sections 3 and 5 of act have
provision against espionage
and stealing such information.
- ② No other acts prescribe for protection
and punishment for such acts.
- ③ Ensure government secrets not
leaked and security not hampered.

RTI should be given precedence

- ① The word secret or confidential not defined anywhere and used for a blanket secrecy.
- ② RTI act states that if public need is assured RTI act should trump official secret Act
- ③ 2nd ARC recommended repealing official secret Act
- ④ High level parliamentary committee recommended marking / classifying documents according to RTI Act

Government Stand

- ⊕ Highlighted importance of official secret Act and said both RTI and official secret Act have different purposes.

Balance needs to be made between RTI and official secret Act by repealing act and adding provisions under National security Act.

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)

framework ~~is~~ has been proposed
for ensuring standardisation of
governance standards in its
country.

Main principles of IndEA

- ① Transparency in decision making.
- ② Accessibility to public and other departments
- ③ Red tapism to be eliminated
- ④ Use of e-services.

⑤ ensuring accountability.

Improving existing governance

Present government architecture

suffers from following issues :-

- Delay due to multiple level of authorisation.
- Difficulty in assuring accountability due to multiple decision makers
- limited transparency
- Government decisions not automatically available for scrutiny
- Public service delivery is limited by form of rendering service.
- Data openness is missing.

IndEA would ~~reduce~~ eliminate all above issues and fulfill the aim of good governance

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 दृष्टांतों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Cooling-off period refers to the compulsory break a civil servant should take after retirement before taking any post in private or public sectors.

Rationale behind mandatory cooling off period

- ① Assures civil servant does not favour any party during service in hope for post-retirement job.
- ② Civil servants work at highest decision making posts and can influence decision for post-retirement benefits.

③ Reduces chances of collusion
corruption.

Numerous instances of violation have
been seen in civil servants joining
political parties and even private
institutes.

Change in Civil Services Conduct Rule

Advantage

- ensure objectivity and transparency
in decision making
- cool-off period would remove
the people in power whom civil-
servant worked with.

Issue

- excess limitation as some civil
servants resign to work in
private sector even before
completion of service.

Thus the best way forward is a
minimal cool off period and increased

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 launched by
NITI Aayog aims at fighting
malnutrition in India

Key Features

- Reducing ^{malnutrition} underweight children by 2 % per year, stunting by 2%.
- Reducing anemia by 3% per year, stunting by 2% in 2022.
- Focus on most backward of Indian districts.
- Implementation through coming together of central, state and local government.

Improvement over previous interventions

- Regular tracking of progress.

- NO new scheme launched but would be implemented by harmonising various already running schemes.
- A top-level committee would be responsible for regular tracking called National Council on Nutrition (NCN)
- Making POSHAN abhayan a far-reaching endeavour by also bringing out behavioural change

Need of POSHAN Abhayan

- Implementing SDG 3
- Present status : stunting : 36%
undernourished : 36%
wasting : 23%
one of the highest in the world

POSHAN Abhayan success would ensure India produces a healthy workforce of tomorrow and studies have shown early intervention provides

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 refer to medicines whose trademark has lapsed and can be produced and sold by companies under name of actual ingredient.

Need of generic medicines

- ① 60% of expenditure on health in India is out of pocket expenditure
 - ↳ majority on medicine
- ② each year 4-5 crore of people fall into poverty due to health expenditure.
- ③ generic medicine provide same benefit as branded at fraction of cost.

Reasons behind low availability and adaptation

- ① Pharma companies and doctor alliances to market and prescribe branded medicines
 - ↳ Profits for companies and kick backs to doctors
- ② lack of awareness among people
 - ↳ feel branded are more effective
- ③ lack of quality control on generic medicine as found out by ministry of health and family welfare.

Steps taken by government

- ① Jan Aushadhi Kendras provide generic medicine.
- ② Improving quality control by more laboratories for testing.
- ③ Doctors advised to use generic medicine.
- ④ Mobile application and website where citizens can search for generic name.

Generic medicine have potential to make healthcare affordable.

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 system

established after World war 2 has in
form of WTO, IMF, World Bank and
United Nations has come in scenes.

Challenges to multilateral rule based
trading system

- ① Increasing protectionism in all
major developed countries
- ② America First policy which has
lead to Trade war with China.
- ③ Inability of developing countries
to get assurance.
↳ India on stockholding and
SSM.
- ④ Trade groupings being formed

such as RCEP and TTP.

- ③ Increasing bilateral trade disputes
 ↳ India - USA over solar panel
 and H1B Visa
 ↳ China - Japan over steel

Addressing the challenges

- ① Making decision making bodies more
 representatives in WTO.
- ② WTO should ensure implementation
 of old promises before negotiating
new policies
 ↳ eg: decision on stockholding
 before negotiating e-commerce
 policy.
- ③ Faster dispute resolution
- ④ Punishing unilateral actions
 ↳ eg: USA increased tariff on aluminum.
- ⑤ More room to developing nations for
protection industry.
WTO is beneficial for developing nations
 and they should come together for reforms

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 stagnated in the last few years

Impediments affecting India-US trade relation

- ① election of President Trump has resulted in policies of protectionism

↳ Tax on aluminium

↳ Change in H1B segment.

- ② lack of trust on negotiations by US authorities

↳ President Trump using Twitter for retaining India for duties on motorcycles

- ③ global slowdown has further affected trade.

- ④ Rise of China as large power of world.

Consequences of withdrawal of GSP on India-US trade

- ① Indian textiles and MSME industry would be affected by withdrawal of GSP (generalised system of Preferences) which are unilateral benefits to Indian goods.
- ② Indian export would reduce.
- ③ India would look for new markets
↳ move closer to ASEAN and China.
- ④ Disturbance would affect other discussions
↳ H1B, motorcycles - solar panels.
- ⑤ India would try finalising multilateral trade pacts
↳ RCEP and BTIA with Europe

India and US should negotiate under WTO for rule based trade for benefit for both

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।

Judiciary is one of the 3 pillars of the governance of the country. Judiciary ensures the constitution of the country is not undermined by the legislature or the executive of the country.

Need for independence

→ Indian constitution provides for the supremacy of judiciary
↳ Article 13, Article 32, Article 225

→ ensure checks and balances are upheld

Need for balance of independence with accountability

- ① Ensures judiciary does not impede in the executive and legislative sphere of governance
 - ↳ Eg, ban on liquor shops
- ② Corruption in judiciary can be eliminated.
 - ↳ Eg, charges against CJ in medical admission corruption
- ③ Nepotism in judiciary appointments would be rooted out
- ④ Trust among people would increase
- ⑤ No organ of governance can be completely independent
 - ↳ Against checks & balances
- ⑥ Functioning of judiciary can be improved
 - ↳ 3.5 cases cases pending
 - ↳ outside ideas may help.

- ⑦ Representation of all sections at
highest judicial posts
↳ eg: lack of women and dalits
judges in Supreme Court

How can accountability be ensured

- ① Bringing judiciary under RTI.
- ② Formalisation of memorandum
of procedure between judiciary
and executive for appointment
- ③ making collegium decisions available
online with its reasoning.
- ④ Open competition in form of
All India Judicial services for
appointment at subordinate level.
- ⑤ Ensuring constitutional cases
heard only by bigger bench (Article
145)
Accountability along with
transparency would ensure improvement
in judicial functioning and increased

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 governance structure of department has ensued India's growth story since independence but is not without flaws.

Various strengths of departmental structure

- ① Hierarchical structure ensures decisions taken at top reaches grass root level.
- ② Permanent bureaucracy has ensued peaceful transfers of officers.
- ③ Large number of departments have ensued specialisation.
- ④ Inter departmental transfers ensue

better collaboration

Weaknesses in existing departmental structure

- ① strict hierarchy does not allow for decisions being taken at grass root level.
- ② large number of departments make accountability difficult.
- ③ specialisation of civil servants has not been possible due to frequent transfers.
- ④ Inward looking accountability is against citizen-centric governance.
- ⑤ Focus on inputs instead of outcomes makes governance inefficient.

⑥ single project to be passed by
various departments leads to
red tapism

↳ eg: No single transport ministry

⑦ System of seniority based transfer
does not promote excellence.

What steps can be taken

① Putting similar departments from
various ministries under a single
ministry.

② Reducing departments and merging
ministries eg: MEA and MAFO

③ Specialisation should be promoted
by fixing transfer scope.

④ Annual Confidential Report to be
replaced by 360° appraisal

Department structure reforms
would lead to good governance.

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 the upper house of the parliament has been under criticism for delaying of bills and opposing all government reforms.

Criticism of Rajya Sabha

I Composition

① Does not provide for equal seats for all states.

↳ Large states can have monopoly.

② Residence in state requirement was removed by amendment in RPA, 1951.

↳ legislators not aware about state issues.

③ Nomination of experts used by

entire party to increase their
influence

④ Functioning

- ① Recent years have seen reduction
in efficiency of Rajya Sabha.
- ② Do not have power to form or
to remove a government.
- ③ Financial powers are limited
- ④ Voting on party lines due to
Anti-defection Act has reduced
state welfare.
- ⑤ Used by political parties to
appoint senior leaders or large
donors.

However Rajya Sabha has significance

- ① special powers under Article 249
and Article 312 which strengthens

federalism

↳ Article 249 : transferring state power on subjects to center

↳ Article 312 : All India service.

② Acts against haphazard decisions of Lok Sabha.

③ Nominations of 12 experts from various fields provide different point of view

④ Permanent chamber which ensures continuation in governance.

Rajya Sabha can be strengthened by

① Removing anti defection application on Rajya Sabha.

② Passage of bill as money bill to be decided by independent committee in Lok Sabha.

③ Equal representation of states.

Rajya Sabha is not just a secondary house however can be

further strengthened

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?

A recent report of Association of Democratic Reform (ADR) showed that a decade till 2015, 70% of funding for political parties came from anonymous sources

legislative changes with respect to funding

- ① Introduction of electoral bonds for clean funding.
- ② Removal of political parties from under the ambit of FCRA act. (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act)
- ③ Making it mandatory for political

parties to put IT returns

Challenges existing

- ① majority of funding from unknown sources.
- ② of the funding from known sources 90-1. from corporates
- ③ corporate limit of funding has been removed.
- ④ electoral bonds opaque to the election commission

State funding of elections

→ state funding refers to the funding of political party by government through tax-payers money.

Advantage of state funding

- ① India being a poor country, individuals do not have much capacity to fund political parties.

- ② Accountability standards for political parties could be ensured
- ③ Inter-party democracy can be introduced as well as increasing participation of women.
- ④ Removing money capitalism through eliminating corporate funding

Issues with state funding

- ① A citizen is forced to pay to parties he does not support.
- ② Capacity of election commission to ensure parties do not get funding from outside limited.
- ③ Preponderant status quo as new parties would get less funding
Joshiwami committee and 2nd ARC
recommended state funding and should be looked into.

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 बिरस्थायी 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।

Census 2011 estimated around 30% of population living in cities which is estimated to rise to 50% by 2030. This needs strong urban governance for long-lasting transformation.

Challenges plaguing urban governance

- ① limited functions delineation to the urban bodies by the state government.
- ② limited capability to raise funds.
 - ↳ limited taxation power
 - ↳ most funds project specific
- ③ limited decentralisation as used

committees have not been formed.

④ limited capability as institutional-
isation has not happened.

⑤ Panchayats are being promoted by
state government which undermines
these local bodies.

⑥ The human resource working for
urban local bodies not trained
and not accountable to them.
↳ Accountable to state government

⑦ Delay in elections

⑧ District commissioners still the
executive head which reduces
accountability to people.

Strategy to overcome challenges

⊕ For funding

↳ Increase in rates of services

requested to ensure no losses.

↳ Using land as resource by
regular updation of land records
and taxation rates

↳ More taxation powers such as
professional tax should be
delegated to urban bodies.

② Improving functions

↳ More functions provided under
schedule XII to be delegated.

↳ Use of parastat should be
minimised.

③ Improving functionaries

↳ More powers to mayor

↳ Powers of commissioners to be
reduced

④ Timely election within 6 months

⑤ Permanent and trained human
resource.

cities are centres of development

and strong urban governance is needed

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 group of people from similar background who come together for mutual economic development.

Role of SHG's in poverty alleviation

- ① Increases linkage to formal finances.
- ② Improves saving habits
- ③ Promotes for loans
- ④ Recent survey by NSSO shows
 - ↳ 25.1% increase in jobs
 - ↳ increase in assets.
 - ↳ Improved saving
- ⑤ gives the opportunity of collective bargaining for better financial reach.

Shortcomings of SHG - Bank linkage

- ① These loans are seen by banks as high risk loans and thus not ~~enthusiast~~ given easily.
- ② last mile connectivity of banks is still limited.
- ③ mostly encouraged in rural and semi-urban areas.
↳ urban poor left out.
- ④ limited capability development of members to best usage of the loaned amount.
- ⑤ Such linkages have not happened in the poorest states of UP, Bihar and north-east

Improving SHG - Bank linkage

- ① SHGs themselves acting as banking correspondents not only

to their members but whole rural
community.

② encouraging banks to develop
special products and open specialisation
branches for SHGs serving.

③ such loans can be secured by
RBI funds.

④ Promoting SHGs in urban areas
too for fund availability for
urban poor.

⑤ special insurance plans to be
compulsary provided along
with funds.

SHG-bank linkage has seen
loans of 90,000 crore already
being sanctioned. Further strengthening
can ensure transformation of rural
economy and upliftment of
poor.

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।

Indian higher education has seen increased enrollment of 25% but lowly rank in WEF's Human Resource Capability Index shows its shortcomings.

Initiatives taken by government

- ① Higher Education Funding Authority has been established for increased finance availability
- ② Introduction of NIRF for ranking
- ③ schemes like Sneakyam for MOOCs
- ④ Opening of IIT's - IIM's and AIIMS
- ⑤ creating Institute of excellence

Challenges in Indian higher education system

- ① Vacancies in teaching posts and low quality teachers
- ② lack of research in education institutes.
- ③ Indian graduates not industry ready
↳ Only 10% engineers job ready
- ④ Outdated curriculum which is not regularly updated.
- ⑤ Inequity in access to higher education
↳ low access to dalits & women
- ⑥ Discrimination against students
↳ suicide of Rohith Vemula
- ⑦ low ranking in international university ranking

Reforms needed

① Draft education policy recommends

3 types of institutes

- ↳ Research
- ↳ Training
- ↳ colleg.

② more flexibility to institutes for
fixing curriculum.

③ changes in liberal education

↳ 4 year courses

↳ core common syllabus with
specialisation.

④ encouragement of new courses
which are multi sectoral

↳ eg: Medical engineering

⑤ Increasing institute industry
linkage

⑥ Annual committee recommendation
to reduce suicides.

Indian higher education institutes
should be fine tuned to develop
doctors and scientists of tomorrow.

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 has

2 components PMAY- rural and PMAY-urban and aims to build

2 crore houses.

Progress made by Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- only less than 20% of the targeted houses have been built
- capacity development of rural mason.
- Partnership with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for building toilets
- loans at low rates for 1st time house buyers

Challenges in achieving target

- ① Difficulty in procuring land for houses construction.
- ② Many houses constructed remained empty due to no takers
↳ Built far away from city centres.
- ③ Funding not provided to states on time.
- ④ Increasing costs of house construction
- ⑤ Houses built in -silo and other services such as sewage - water and transportation not provided
- ⑥ In-land rehabilitation using land value has not been taken up in many cities.
- ⑦ Reduction in bank loans due to increase in bad loans

Implementation can be fast tracked

- ① GIS mapping of houses and online dashboards for regions.
- ② Focus on slum rehabilitation in urban areas.
- ③ Providing basic facilities along with houses through integration with other schemes.
 - ↳ Rural drinking water programme
 - ↳ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- ④ Funds to be transferred in real-time with no delay.
- ⑤ PPP projects can be encouraged under PMAY-urban.

low cost housing demand is predicted to high rocket in coming decade and success of PMAY would ensure cities and villages become centres of equitable development.

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 is one of the most important ocean in terms of security and trade. Indian ocean nations such as seihanka, maldives, mauritius, seychella, comoros etc have strategic value for India

strategic value in shaping geopolitical contours

- ① Indo-pacific has become the focus of all world powers
- ② China has been expanding its influence.
 - ↳ Cocos Island Myanmar
 - ↳ Hambantota seihanka

↳ Djibanti army base.

- ③ India can become net security provider.
- ④ Important for India's trade security
↳ trade with Japan, ASEAN
- ⑤ Protection against piracy specially of the coast of Africa (Somalia)
- ⑥ Ensuring freedom of navigation and upholding global law under UNCLOS.
- ⑦ success of Indian MAUSAM project

Steps India has taken

- ① developing Agal Magely island in mauritius
- ② maldives new president re-iterated India friend policy.

- ③ Developing Andaman . Aceh
links
- ④ Pact with France for mutual
access to ports
↳ Reunion island
- ⑤ strengthening relations with
ASEAN
↳ Access to Changi port Singapore

What more can be done

- ① Developing Andaman as
security research center.
- ② Working with other nations
specially QUAD grouping.
- ③ extending principles of Gyaal
doctrine to the small nations
of Indian ocean

Indian ocean would be of
strategic importance in future and
Indian ocean island nations could

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। यविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Development Assistance has become an important part of India's foreign policy.

Expansion in scope

- ① Increase in foreign assistance by 26.1% (2017-18) compared to previous year.
- ② Development projects in various countries
 - ↳ Zareng Belacan highway
 - ↳ Afghanistan
 - ↳ Salma dam Afghanistan
 - ↳ Tala and Chuka hydroelectric plants Bhutan.

- ↳ Rogues nuclear plant in Bangladesh along Russia
- ③ line of credits to nations
 - ↳ \$100 billion to ASEAN for IT linkage
 - ↳ To Nepal after flood.
- ④ Working with other nations
 - ↳ Japan in Africa
 - ↳ Russia in Bangladesh.

expansion in reach

- ① Precisely focussed on neighbours only now reach more wide
- ② support to pacific nations
- ③ line of credit to middle Asian countries.
- ④ Assistance to all African countries
 - ↳ ITEC programme.

- ↳ Solar Mammaz program
- ↳ Pan Africa e-network

What more can be done

- ① completion of projects on time
 - ↳ eg: Tirumukh project in Nepal pending.
- ② Not committing more than we can provide for and handl.
- ③ co-operation with more countries
 - ↳ specially in Afghanistan
- ④ Assuring local jobs are created and local social cultural values are upheld.

Development Assistance has been a tool used by China. Although India can not match in term of amount it can ensure more sustainable and less exploitative assistance.