



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	292569
Center	Karol Bagh	Date	02/07/2019

### 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).
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
- All questions are compulsory.**
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- 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.
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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

The 17th Lok Sabha has the highest number of women legislators since Independence. But this too (14%) is far below their number in democracy, which ultimately leads to conclusion of Indian democracy being uninclusive.

108th Constitutional Amendment Bill proposes to ~~reserve~~ reserve 33% of seats in legislature for women so as to increase their participation in democracy.

This would ensure --

- Representation of views, problems and issues of one half of population in the legislature.

- Women will come out of home to raise issues which do not pertain to men like menstruation, abortion rights etc.

• Will give the impression of an inclusive house, which will increase the soft power of India as not just procedural democracy but also substantial democracy.

• Since the political parties are generally a gender dominated, reservation will ensure the women to participate not only in house but also in the grass roots of democracy.

However there are concerns -  
• The political houses will name their siblings, wives etc., as candidate and exercise real power. eg as in Panchayati Raj.

• The reservation will symbolise them as weak.

• The real issue of gender imbalance & empowerment would take a backseat to the political debates of reservation.

Given the no. of women in Parliament and their condition in general. It is imperative that they should be represented in house. ~~but~~ reservation would be one of few steps.

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

Reservation is affirmative action by the state, to nullify the historical injustice done to a section of population.

Reservation in Promotion has always been a thorny issue given the general perception that once they get into job, all are equal.

Supreme Court in its landmark "Indira Sawney Case" held it unconstitutional on the above ~~line~~ of argument.

Government then brought 81st Constitutional Amendment Act to add Article 16(4A) which gives promotion reservation in Promotion.

Then Supreme Court in M. Nagaraj Vs Union of India 2006, held 81st amendment as constitutionally valid.

But gave conditions of reservation in promotion -

- i) Inadequate Representation of SC/STs.
- ii) Backwardness of the SC/STs.
- iii) There should be No loss in Efficiency of administration.

In recent review of "Nagraj Judgement", Court of the land, remarked that Backwardness of SC/ST is not to be counted, as it was against the Indira Sawney Judgement; which held backwardness as test only for OBCs & not SC/ST. Thus reservation in SC promotion is now constitutional.

- The reservation in promotion is necessary as -
  - Since SC/ST complete their studies late, so join the service late, so remain underrepresented at highest level.
  - This would increase inclusiveness in policy making which is done by higher level officials.
  - However, it is unjust as
  - Once the person join service, he is equal to all so no notion of caste and ~~caste~~ class in service.
  - It perpetuates casteism in system.
  - It leads to nudge from other officials.
- Hence, reservation is needed for inclusiveness but that should not be at cost of efficiency or merit.

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

(150 words) 10

Autonomous District Council are constitutional body made by Sixth schedule of Indian constitution. in the 6th scheduled states of Assam - Meghalaya - Mizoram - Tripura.

Regularly, there has been complain that these bodies underperform their assigned task & duty effectively, which is to ensure welfare of tribals and tribal culture.

Reasons:-

- Lack of funds → Since they do not receive aid in the form of schemes like MGNREGS, they lack the fund & depend completely on the grant of state.
- Lack of functionaries → less humanpower has also lead to decrease in their efficiency of doing work.
- collusion & corruption → The ADCs are routinely wired in corruption & nepotism.
- Functions → Their functions are also

less and depend on laws of government.  
So the autonomy is not there in real sense.

They, in order to make the welfare of  
tribals & protection of culture, need to be  
strengthened. §

• More of funds → should be given to them by  
Center as well as states.

↳ 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act  
has been brought for this as this will  
allow Finance Commission to recommend aid &  
grant to these councils.

• Autonomy → Autonomy and powers to  
formulate & execute the policies should be  
enhanced.

↳ 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act  
enlarges the scope of their function.

• Regular vigilance by Social Audit can  
decrease corruption & not interfere in  
culture.

Tribals are vulnerable section of Indian  
society, their strengthening will strengthen India  
& key point to strengthen them is by strengthening  
& empowering the Autonomous District Councils.

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

Official secrets Act, first brought by Lord Curzon in 1904 & ammended in 1923 is one of the draconian laws of colonial power. Unfortunately this legacy of Curzon has continued to remain in books even after 72 years of independence.

It punishes the official (& the one who took information) for releasing any secret document of state. Moreover the word "secret" is not defined thus giving full power to state.

However, inspite of opaqueness and seemingly undemocratic, it is essential to be retained due to following reasons →

- 1.) Security → Security of nation is of prime importance to state. In order to strengthen the security, the credentials should remain secret.
- 2.) Integrity → Since there are information of the ultra leftist or ultra rightist, Integrity would be in danger if this opened.

• Efficiency → To do a function more efficiently, the information should not be disclosed to everyone, otherwise that may lead to chaotic order.

• However, RTI tries to give information to citizen on the governance of country - RTI should be given precedence over official secrets Act because -

- RTI acts as disinfectant so it purifies the system.
- RTI has itself provisions for hiding of information if it is not ~~balance~~ outweighed by benefits.
- RTI has strengthened Indian rule of law by various shortcomings noticed by citizens.

However, RTI should not be allowed as →

- It may decrease the security & integrity of nation.
- It may lead to chaos in international order as certain deals have to be behind the doors.
- It may overall lead to chaos in society.

Since the RTI has provision to non-disclosure of certain information, it must be given precedence of over the draconian act, in order to increase transparency and hence trust of people.

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**



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

"Cooling-off" period refers to a time gap between the administrative work which official did before retirement and the new work assigned by government eg chairing a committee, giving a post (like CAG) etc.,

- It had been in the rules because -
  - It decreases the chance of collusion in the administration.
    - eg A civil servant who worked in a department for many years would be likely to be biased for one of his colleague.
  - It increases impartiality.
    - eg In case of CAG, if CAG is retired in a department who had just been working the reports made by himself while in department.
  - So it also removes conflict of interest.
  - It increases professionalism in working as the official would not adhere to his duty than to party in power.

→ reduces influence peddling & hence corruption. as it decreases the chance of "quid pro quo" appointment by government.

There have been numerous cases of violation of this rule, eg the just retired civil servant have continuously be posted as Governors, chairpersons etc.,

So the conduct rules need to be changed so as to make the provision more strict.

~~The provision of option~~  
Also the Conduct Rules were formulated in 1964, the time, since has changed and so have the personal values of people manning the system.

So a new rules in line with new era of governance will indeed be needed for New India.

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

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> women in India is anaemic, every third child is stunted and every fourth child is malnourished. This has been even

after decades of planning.

So a new Mission - POSHAN Abhiyan was launched in order to have Malnutrition free India.

Aim → It aims to decrease stunting & wasting by 2% per annum & Anaemia by 3% per annum.

Features → (1) A body - National Nutrition Mission will be nodal agency to fix target, plan and achieve.

(2) It will be driven by ground level persons like ANM, ASHA workers

(3) It will be lead by local government

(4) It will be based on principle of convergence - coordination & synergy.

- It is different from previous programs in way that -
    - earlier programs like ICDS → focussed only on one section eg child, it rather depends on inclusivity on the basis of ~~ICDS~~ RMCHA principle.
    - Earlier were top-down approach, it is bottom to top approach where a AASHA worker knows better about needs of a child in her area than an official sitting in secretariat.
    - Involvement of Local Govt. increases not only administrative accountability but also social accountability of the workers.
    - Earlier plans were segmented in approach, It is HOLISTIC in nature.
- POSHAN Abhiyan holds a hope of malnutrition free India. If it is success, it has the capacity to transform the human capital of future India and achieve the SDG 2 (hunger-free world by 2030)

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

Generic medicines are the copy of brand medicines which have same formula but no branding. Due to poverty in India and increasing incidences of diseases, it is of high need in India.

Need →

- It costs less so more valuable to poor.
- Branded drugs are not easily available in rural areas, these have the power of penetration in the far areas.
- High no. of people are falling to Non Communicable Diseases (55% of DALY according to state of Health Report) which take a long time to cure, so Generic medicine can be helpful.
- The out of pocket expenditure is already high in India (62%), which ~~is~~ drives people to poverty, so this can increase the other productive use of the money.

~~Reason~~ However their availability & adoption rate is lower in India, This may be due to -

~~Less~~ Advertisement → Since these medicines don't give commission to middle men, the reach to doctor itself is less.

Less stores → The chemist shop do not have high range of profit of or these, so they prefer branded drugs.

Perception that costly drug is more effective → is also one of the reasons.

~~In India~~  
However now it is increasing due to awareness in people, primarily due to steps by government.

Steps →

• Launch of ~~Jan~~ Jan Aushadhi Kendras in districts has increased awareness

• Awareness campaign against the loot of branded drugs has also increase rationality

in people.

• Advisory to doctors so as to write the name of generic drug in their prescription has increased demand.

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

Multilateral - Rule based trading is facing existential crises in this world due to the "TRADE WARS", and ~~is~~ especially between the large economic powers like USA & China.

Challenges to Multilateral Rule based Trading →

- 1.) Unilateralism by the countries in order to protect loss of jobs and the growth of their economy at cost of global growth.
- 2.) Bilateral Trade relations are seemingly increasing their extent, as it is easier to negotiate with one than with 193.
- 3.) Trade war → between large economic powers. eg. Tariff & counter Tariff by USA & China.
- 4.) Dispute Resolution Mechanism is oftenly seemed to be ~~big~~ biased against small nations. eg. in WTO.

5.) New Trade like digital economy, e-commerce need new set of rules which were not present in cold war era.

6.) Blockage at Institution → eg WTO has been virtually disfunctional since the dispute between the developed & developing countries over issue of food.

Way Ahead →

1.) Trade war has to be ended before it ends trade between nations.

2.) ~~the~~ Institutions like WTO have to be reformed to gain trust of both - developed and developing.

- The Multilateralism should be respected and there should be provision of punishment to a nation who does not respect rules.

- Dispute Resolution Mechanism has to be made more inclusive & transparent.

- New issues be taken only after the issue at table are solved.

- More Meetings are need of a hour, eg Norms should be once in a year than currently ~~two~~ once in two years.

Decreasing the authority of global institutions will lead nowhere but chaos, so solving challenges is the only way out to a prosperous world.

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

India - US has been described routinely as "Natural Ally" or "strategic Ally". However when it comes to trade, the tension rises between the two.

### Impediments

- Trade Imbalance → while India is beneficiary of overall trade, USA is in loss.
- Market Access → US claims markets are not as much open in India for US companies than in US for Indian companies.
- Cultural Difference → eg USA does not understand ~~diff~~ the value of ~~milk~~ milk in Indian houses, which is the reason for restriction in Dairy sector in India.
- Jobs → More of the native americans are losing jobs to Indians, Chinese & Mexican.
- Tariff → US claims India to be a "TARIFF KING" and demands decrease in tariff.

In the above arguments, USA has removed India from list of Generalized system of Preference, which gave ~~trade~~ tax free entry to Indian goods in US Market.

### Implications →

- Trade in favour of India would reduce.
- Trade Tension may rise
- Trade war may escalate.
- India would loose competition to other countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh.
- The Current Account Deficit in India may increase, thus stressing the US-India trade relations.

However since not many items ~~that~~ exported from India were in list so this would not give a much concern. \*

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

Montesquieu, long back remarked that "Separation of Power" is necessary for liberty of people. ~~But~~ this separation of power gave an Independent Judiciary in India.

3. The courts in India are independent by their
- constitutional status
  - freedom to appoint the parajudicial staff
  - security of tenure to judges.
  - Salaries and expenses of Supreme Court & High Court are ~~in~~ charged on consolidated fund of India or states.

But ~~it~~ it has been seen ~~as~~ that this independence has given impunity to ~~the~~ judges of higher court, ~~as the~~

Reasons →

- Accountability to themselves → Judges are accountable only to themselves except in the extreme circumstance of Removal.
- In house system to cleanse Judiciary is based on the ~~staff~~ infallibility of Chief Justice

which is not always true.

- Judicial Activism has only a thin line difference with Judicial overreach, which has been crossed many times.  
(eg Madras High Court ordered that students of Tamil Nadu to mandatorily taught Tirukural)

- Opacity of Collegium → low commission has said that corruption & nepotism prevails in collegium.

- Primacy has given way to supremacy → eg in collegium, CJI has virtual veto over decision of executive.

However independence is important →

- It gives impartiality
- It gives sound decision making by judges.
- It gives objectivity
- It gives freedom to question state.

However, our constitution makers did not want to give absolute independence to Judges.

- Thus Independence should be balanced with accountability in democracy as-
- Trust in the people is oxygen for stability of Judiciary, and accountability increases trust.
  - Independence does not only mean independence from executive, it also means independence from self's biasness. This itself increases accountability to conscience of oneself.
  - In a democracy, supreme court is not supreme but supreme are the people of India. They have all the rights to question and Judiciary, in order to be fair & transparent has the duty to answer.

Thus Democratic values demand accountability from the institutions and the persons manning institutions, otherwise the credibility of Judiciary itself will decrease. The onus is on the Judiciary itself to be true to its motto - "Yatho Dharmas Thato Jaya" (where there is justice, there is victory) & Justice is itself unjust without accountability.

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

The structure of departments of government were formed decades back. Though they were ideal at that time, and useful even today but there are inherent weaknesses in it.

Strengths :-

- Robust Manpower - decreases chance of error.
- Strict Adherence to rules → decreases chance of corruption
- Segregation of officials → increases their professionalism in work.

Weaknesses →

- Excessive levels of checks → a file needs to pass many table before it is accepted or rejected.
- Excessive human role in the works which could be done by machines now

increases scope of corruption.

• Red Tapisim → Though rules & order need to be followed but the complexity of these rules & orders give red tapisim.

• Disintegrated departments → one department is seldomly intricately connected to the other.  
This gives tardyness in system.

• Department Vs Department clashes → Since the persons are to man their department, rivalries between person often translates in rivalry between departments.

• Over dependence on hardcopy and Manual labour is needless in era of Internet of Things.

These weakness translates into slowness & increase complexity of systems as →

• Over dependence on human labour ~~decreases~~ ~~the~~ ~~to~~ increases the time by manifold.

- No inter connection between departments delays the clearance of projects.
- Red Tapisu increases the ~~to~~ complexity and hence corruption.

Thus, system needs to be revised and new features be brought in like-

- Integrated departments.
- Nodal department in each ministry.
- Decrease man holding chair of the work which can be done by machines.
- Business process Reengineering.

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

According to Article 79 of constitution, Rajya Sabha is an integral part of parliament and according to Article 80, it consists of persons - elected by the elected MLAs of state and nominated by the President.

Due to its unequal representation from states and its functioning it has been criticised to be a secondary house of parliament.

Reasons →

- It does not have power to amend or stop the Money bill which are lifeblood for government.
- It does not have power in revocation of National Emergency.
- Its views can easily be shut down by a Joint sitting of Parliament (Art. 108).
- The Members of house do not represent people directly as in case of lower house.

- ~~How~~ functioning has been routinely disrupted by the members.
- Its representation is unequal from states even when it is taken as platform for federalism.

However, it would not be fair to call it secondary house as →

- It has equal power ~~in~~ to Lok Sabha in every other bill except Money Bill.
- Indian federalism is not typical federal system so ~~is~~ inequality of representation is justified.

• The fact that Joint sitting has been convened only twice in last 70 years is testimonial to the importance of Rajya Sabha.

• Its special power of Art 249 (to allow Parliament to make law on any state item) and Art 312 (All India service) forms the basis of our fed sui generis system.

• While the Lok Sabha always acts ~~is~~ under pressure of people's view, which may not always be right.

Rajya Sabha is place for ~~the~~ other - not so populist laws?

• The nomination system ensures that law making is done by acclaimed persons of society.

• In the Majoritarian government, which has majority of in lower house. It is actually the Rajya Sabha which controls the executive.

• It acts as balancing wheel of Federalism, where equality is not given to states but given to each citizen of India. (because representation of states in Rajya Sabha is based on population of state.)

Thus from above arguments we can conclude that although it lacks power in few areas but its equality of power at par with Lok Sabha and its special power makes it SECOND HOUSE of Parliament and not SECONDARY HOUSE.

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

Funding of political parties has always been a dubious issue in otherwise glowing democracy of India. Since India has party based democracy, the transparency in funding to political parties is sine qua non for an effective democracy.

Various legislative changes have been made in recent years like-

- Electoral bonds to increase transparency of ~~so~~ funding.
- Removal of limit of donation by corporate house to clean the system of ~~donations~~ donations
- Allowing foreign based trusts to donate easily, this allows direct donation thus stops dubious ways.

~~It has lead to~~ However challenges still exist as →

- Transparency in donation has not been solved.
- Electoral bonds, which were brought for Transparency have instead decreased it.
- Political parties are not in RTI, so citizen can't know the funding.
- The corporates are not mandated to tell their shareholders about the party they donated.
- The large no. of donation in cash increase the suspicion.

To solve these issue state funding can be brought in →

- It will avoid the phenomenon of "Government capture" by corporates.
- It will increase intra party democracy which will give transparency.
- At the end party will be rewarded for its trust in people so increase its connection to ground.

- It will ensure the elections are clean & administration is corruptionless.
- It will help decriminalise the whole political system as criminals have power due to their power of money.

However it can't be sole solution as →

- It may be used as ~~step~~ complementary i.e. parties may continue to take funding illegally.
- A ~~state~~ burden over exchequer.
- It will reduce accountability of party which donation ensures.

3 ~~\*~~ Thus state funding of election are one way, as suggested by NCRWC, 2nd ARC, as well as Election Commission but other ways are also needed most important of which is decriminalisation of politics.

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

Cities are centre of development, job creation and economy is an empirically proven fact.

With ~50% of population living in urban areas by 2050 (NITI Aayog). India is truly going through urban transformation.

According to UN Report on Urban Development, development ~~means~~ is enticed by →

- Economic development
- Social development
- Ecological development
- Urban Governance.

Thus Urban Governance is critical factor to determine urban transformations.

Challenges →

- De-politicisation of Urban Local Bodies → as the elected persons are powerless as compared to officer.
- Parallel Body like development authority further erode the power

of the elected ones.

iii.) lack of resources → lack of funds  
would any plan of transformation.

iv.) Population → increasing population  
with no proportionate increase in  
elected persons, officials make the system  
• unresponsive.

v.) low equilibrium Trap → Economic survey (2017-18)  
defines it as overdependence on state govt  
for fund decreases its accountability to citizens.

vi.) less Manpower → decrease the  
efficiency of system.

Strategies to overcome these challenges →

① More Taxing power & tax collection  
on variables like house, market, garbage,  
& land taxes.

② Strengthening Municipal cadres of officials  
to increase efficiency.

- Stop the depoliticisation & empower the ward committees.
- Classify the "city" as distinct centre of governance, which was not envisaged in 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.
- A "City Economic Council" should be formed to act as single window clearance & nodal authority for developmental work.

The Above steps may give a better urban ideas for our future & dream of New India lies in the New Cities & New way of Governance.

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

Self Help Group (SHG) are groups formed at hyper local level to act as change maker in society.

Role in Poverty Alleviation →

- Increases the risk taking abilities of person - because SHG increases <sup>economic</sup> capital, & social capital. #
- Increases livelihood option → as group increases power of bargaining
- Increases opportunity as it offers links to larger sector.  
eg in Tripura → SHGs are being connected with Amazon, Flipkart. to increase their scope of livelihood.
- Increase capability of individual → so by definition of Amartya Sen that poverty is deprivation of capability also, SHG

help in poverty alleviation.

### Shortcomings of SHG - Bank linkage Program.

- ① The banks do not give capital to SHG which are not having much collateral.
- ② Banks think the cost of servicing of loan to SHG is high.
- ③ Banks are already grappling with high NPA so they are hesitant to link with SHG.
- ④ SHGs are oftenly ~~not~~ composed of uneducated people which decrease their ~~&~~ opportunity to get credit.
- ⑤ The activities done by SHGs are said to be of no potential so banks deny credit to them.
- ⑥ Attitude of officials of banks towards SHG of poor is also not good in general.

Way Ahead :

- Banks should be ~~made~~ mandatorily ~~be~~ linked to a specific no. of SHGs by law or order of RBI.
- The focus should not only to ~~to~~ increase the economic worth of SHG but also social capital of SHG.
- The bars of collateral be replaced by peer pressure to increase linkage.
- NAOs should help SHGs to get financial literacy.

SHGs are a proven way to free people from shackles of poverty, they must be strengthened.

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

With 800 university and 40000 colleges, India's education system is one of the largest of world. But its quality and productivity is very poor due to inherent weakness of system.

~~Reforms done by government~~  
Steps taken by government to address the challenges of Indian higher education system

- ① RUSA → as a scheme based on outcome funding, it has improved research & outcome of state based universities
- ② Reform of UGC to replace by HECI
- ③ Scheme of RISE to increase credit to colleges
- ④ Ranking by NIRF increases spirit of competition
- ⑤

But many reforms are pending →

like →

- ① Curriculum & Pedagogy needs to be improved if the ~~the~~ aim is to lead of world.
- ② Infrastructure has to be revolutionised, specially in colleges & universities of state.
- ③ Regulation be improved so as to prevent the spread of "DE GRASSE-MILLS" (private colleges)
- ④ Faculty should be well trained ~~for~~ of quality.
- ⑤ Governance of system needs to be improved, the beginning to be done by decreasing & merging the bodies like AICTE & UGC.
- ⑥ Partnership of Industry - Academia is sine qua non for research development.

- ⑦ World Class Universities should be allowed to enter in India.
- ⑧ ~~to~~ Inequity in access to higher education be reduced.
- ⑨ Gross Enrollment ratio (~25.8%) has to be doubled (China has 51%, Europe has 78%.)
- ⑩ ~~to~~ Interdisciplinary courses should be brought.

The Draft National Education Policy seems to be in the line of reform, this is a good start but the task is long, however fruits will be sweet for longer.

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

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a mission of government of India to enable the "Housing for All by 2022"

It consists of 2 schemes  
 (1) PM Awas Yojana (Rural)  
 (2) PM Awas Yojana (Urban)

Progress →

- Till now lakhs of people have been handed over keys.
- Millions of houses are in construction
- The Government is in confidence to complete its target well before 2022.

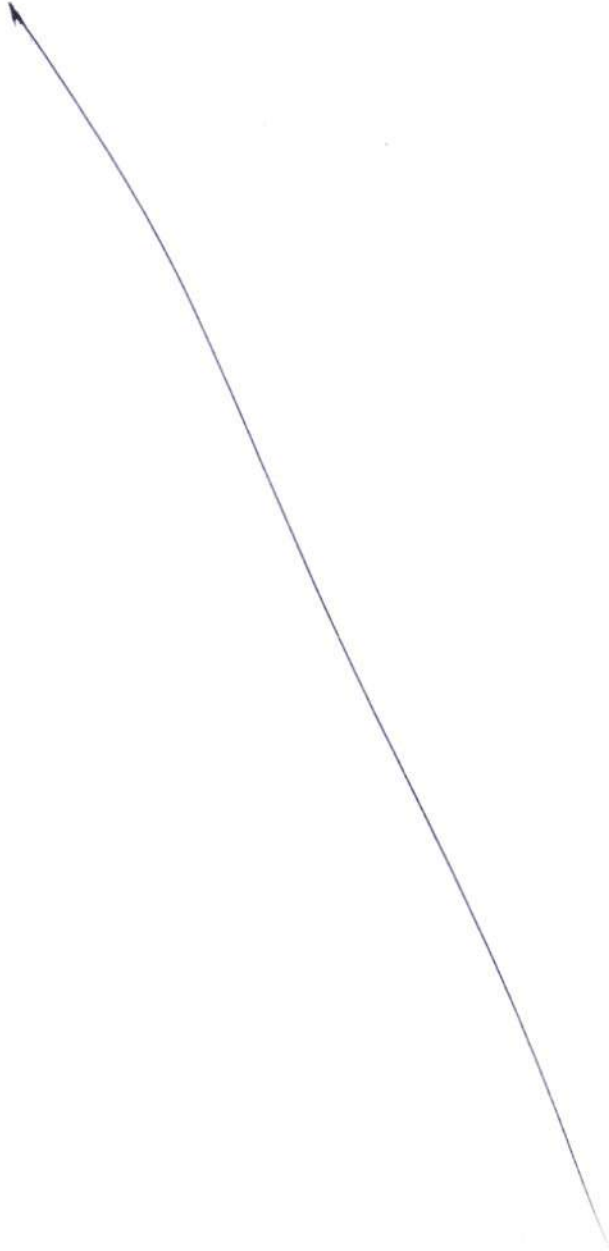
Challenges →

- Funding is the problem as huge no. of houses have to be built

- Land → Availability of land for construction of houses is also issue.

Suggestion →

- Use of Technology to oversee completion of projects - eg PRAGATI.
- The future householders be identified from beginning & included in fast tracking of completion of project.
- ~~The~~ land



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

Island nations of Indian oceans like Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar are high on priority list of India for their strategic values.

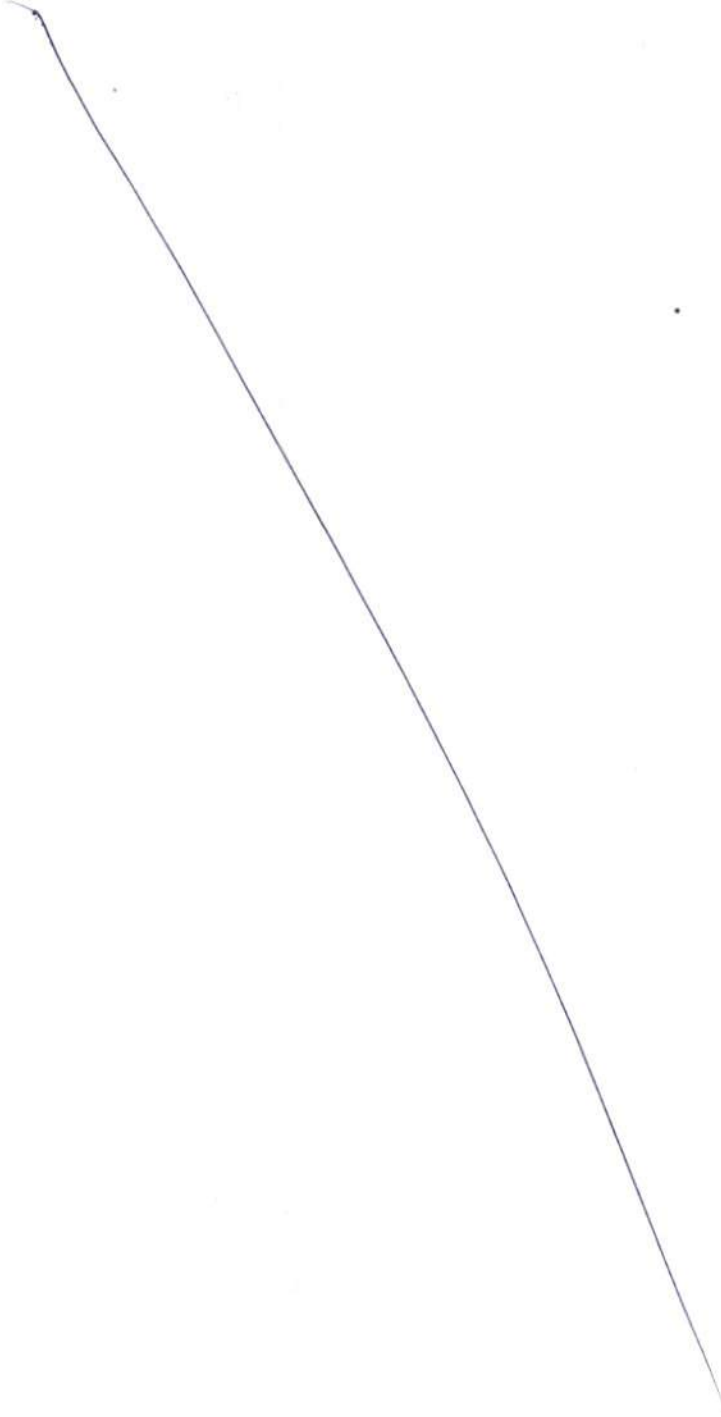
They are at a strategic position of Indo Pacific, which is lifeline of world trade.

Importance →

- Being in the way of trade of world, they are potential nations to increase or decrease the trade.
- With rising of Assertive China, they are soldiers of free, & rule based, open Indo Pacific.
- With near to the oil route of world, they can threaten the economic growth.

- Their presence in the areas of piracy in ocean also ~~inc~~ increase their importance.
- With shifting gravity of world from Atlantic to Indian ocean, they have the power to influence the world political.
- They are potential candidates to bring peace in larger global power.
- Being in the region of mineral rich areas, they hold high value & under the ocean.
- With bases of china, US and France in Djibouti, Dugm, & etc., their strategic importance further increases for India.

So, island nations are truly important for maritime security & geopolitical contours of ~~the~~ region & India is going well in partnership with these <sup>small but</sup> influential nations.



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

India has been long votary of soft power and development assistance has been one of the key instruments in foreign policy of India.

Launched in 1960s especially for the African continent, it has seen considerable expansion.

(1) In its scope → B like first it was mainly for health, education but now it has been increased

- to . use of technology of computer
- increase in no. of scholarship
- use of Space technology
- Agriculture
- Governance (i.e. Administrative training)
- Building institution of governance  
(eg Parliament in Afghanistan)
- Skill development  
(eg Training to "solar Mamas")

of Africa.

(ii) Expansion in reach →

While in later decades of 20th century it was mainly in the African continent, Now it has reached

other areas also like -

- Neighbourhood of India - eg Bhutan, Nepal
- Middle East like Iraq, Afghanistan
- Indian Ocean Islands like Madagascar
- Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan.

Overall, India has been successful in being developmental partner of countries through this scheme, the increase in span & reach of it is itself testimonial to rising power of India.

