



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	111460
Center	KAROL BAGH	Date	22/08/19

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

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.  
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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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।

Women constitute only 14% of elected MPs in 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. This political marginalisation of women is responsible for their marginalisation in other spheres of life.

108<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment bill seeks to provide one third reservation of seats to women in parliament & state legislature. It will help in

Meaningful political participation of women

- Better policy formulation affecting women & child (Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women & Child Affairs has only 2 women members)
- Their role in party activities as well

as in campaigning, voter participation will improve.

- Women in politics → Better socio-economic development
- ↑
- Better recognition and confidence ←
- ↓
- Increased literacy & financial independence

Make democratic process more inclusive

- Representation to SC/ST and other marginal section.
- Women participation will have positive impact on child development & poverty reduction

However there are certain challenges in the bill (1) freedom of choice of voters will be curtailed

(2) Not chosen on merit

(3) Paralyt Pat Syndrome - male member working on their behalf

Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended

→ parties to have internal quota for women

→ dual member constituencies.

Increasing women participation in politics will make it truly representative & meaningful.

2. Discuss the issue of reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment in the light of various judicial pronouncements and constitutional amendments. (150 words) 10

विभिन्न न्यायिक निर्णयों और संवैधानिक संशोधनों के आलोक में सार्वजनिक नियोजन में SCs और STs के लिए पदोन्नति में आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Reservation was provided as an affirmative action to end the historical injustice meted out to SCs/STs.

Act 15(4) empowered government to make provisions for welfare for SC/ST and backward classes. Act 16(4) provided for reservation in employment for SC/ST.

Judicial pronouncements In the M. Nagaraj case (2006), SC allowed reservation in promotion for SC/ST on 3 preconditions

- (1) Quantifiable data to show backwardness
- (2) Quantifiable data to show inadequate representation.
- (3) Does not hurt administrative efficiency.

This was done after 85<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment where government extended provision of reservation not only to

appointment but to promotion also.

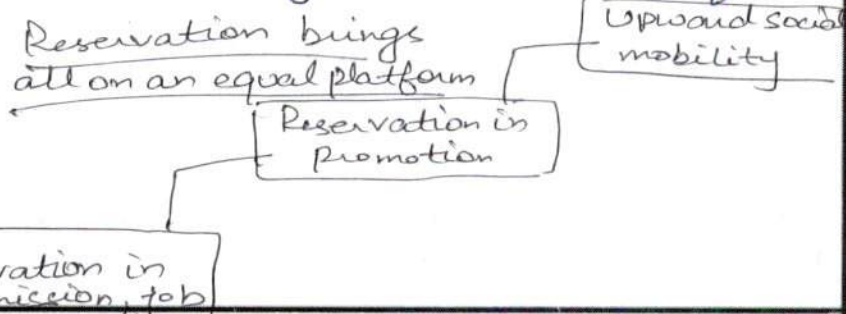
There are certain issues with reservation in promotion

- (1) Reservation is not a fundamental right but an enabling provision
- (2) Employment doesn't end social discrimination
- (3) Against the idea of merit.
- (4) Already enough reservation provided.

But the government took the stand that

- (1) Reservation in promotion aims to end historical disadvantage
- (2) Skewed representation of SC/ST at higher level (only 4 secretaries)
- (3) false notion of 'administrative efficiency'

Reservation in promotion aims to provide not only equality of opportunity but substantive changes in condition of SC/ST



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?

Constitution under Act 244 provided for Autonomous district councils for administration of Scheduled & Tribal Areas in Schedule VI regions (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura)

These ADC are endowed with judicial, legislative, executive & taxation powers but still they fail to empower communities at grassroot level because.

Reasons for underperformance for ADC

- (1) Discretionary role of Governor - impact their independent function
- (2) Lack of skilled professionals - hant efficiency
- (3) Corruption among members - led to leakage of funds meant for development
- (4) Lack of devolution of financial powers and inefficient utilization of existing

powers.

### Measures to improve performance

- 1) Codification of customary laws to ensure proper functioning & end protests in name of violating their traditions.
- 2) Increase numbers of female representatives.
- 3) Creation of elected ~~to~~ Village Municipal Council
- 4) Curb discretionary role of Governor
- 5) Skill training under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Karyakram

Recently an amendment was introduced in Parliament to increase number of seats in ADC to give representation of all tribes.

To let ADC function in the manner envisage, there is need of capacity building & clear devolution of functions

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, 1923 was enacted to curb espionage activities & attempts to subvert government. The act is a colonial legacy which is criticized for its use in a democratic country.

Ex- Recently editor of The Hindu was booked under OS Act for disclosure of document related to Rafale deal

Rationale for continuance

- 1) Protects from disclosure of secret information
- 2) Promote national security (Ex- few year back data from scorpene submarine leaked)
- 3) Help government to protect national assets (nuclear programme, space mission)

However, act is criticized for its vague nature, words like 'secret'

give discretionary power to officials & is prone to misuse.

RTI  
→  
to  
take  
precedence  
over OSA  
→

1) Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted to put public records to scrutiny & usher transparency in governance  
2) Section 23 of RTI act says, it takes precedence over other Acts

3) In era of information flow, public has right to know about functioning of government  
OSA to take precedence over RTI

- Section 8 of RTI Act empowers government to deny information
- Revealing information can hurt strategic interests of nation.

So a balance between RTI & OSA has to be kept to promote transparency as well as freedom of press.

2nd ARC recommended to repeal Official Secrets Act & add a chapter in National Security Act. Thus, a relook at the legislation is the need of hour.

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।

### Governance

India Enterprise Architecture is a framework to reinvigorate & reform the governance process by restructuring the Enterprise Architecture.

### Principles

- 1) Decentralisation work on principle of subsidiarity to ensure public participation & optimal outcomes
- 2) Capacity building → organisational capacity building  
→ individual skill development
- 3) Clear delineation of functions for each layer to ensure accountability & reduce confusion.

## Role in Improving Governance

- 1) Accountability - by clear role demarcation, public can hold officials accountable for their functions.
- 2) Enhance organisational capacity to perform its role & better service delivery to citizens.
- 3) Public participation - marginal sections to be stakeholder in policy making
- 4) Efficient utilization of resources, expanded reach of governance and optimal outcome achievement.

2nd ARC also recommended to ~~achieve~~ adopt India e-governance Enterprise Architecture to improve governance landscape in the country.

6. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules? (150 words) 10

सेवानिवृत्त सिविल सेवकों के लिए अनिवार्य 'उपशमन' अवधि होने के पीछे क्या औचित्य है? इस प्रावधान के उल्लंघन के कई दृष्टान्तों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Civil Servants are mandated to exhibit highest standards of integrity, probity & impartiality in their conduct. However, several post retirement appointments raises doubt over their apolitical functioning and thus, demand of a 'cooling off' period arises.

Rationale of 'cooling off period'

- Maintain political neutrality while in office
- Promote public trust in administration
- Work without 'fear or favour'
- Also utilize their valuable experience & insights.

Violations of this provision former CAC

Vinod Rai after retirement was appointed

head of committee overlooking transition of BCCI.

All these raises the necessity to have a relook at civil service conduct Rules.

### Measures

- 1) CSC Rules to mandate a cooling off period.
- 2) Separate body to look after post retirement appointment.
- 3) Not consider post retirement appointment while in office.
- 4) Similarly rules to bar post retirement appointment of important offices like election commission to ensure their independent functioning.

It is important to utilize vast knowledge to retired civil servants but at the same time there is need of a framework to ensure apolitical functioning while in office.

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।

India has the highest burden of malnutrition in the world.

38% children are stunted (1/3 of global)

21% children are wasted (1/2 of global)

48% girls below 5 years are anaemic

To address these challenges, POSHAN Abhiyan was launched.

Features (1) Timely targets to reduce stunting, wasting, under 5 mortality & anaemia by 3, 3 & 2% respectively

2) Mission approach - National Nutrition Mission to achieve targets.

3) Intersectoral & multidisciplinary approach - involve various ministries like health, women, HRD etc.

4) Monitoring and timely intervention for course correction.

Improvement over early programmes

- 1) Integration earlier programmes like ICDS, Mid Day Meal, PDS were in silos & lack integrated approach.
- 2) Clear cut role define & mechanism for coordination under POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- 3) Programme design ICDS focus on child in age 2-6 yrs while most development occurs in first 1000 day, POSHAN Abhiyaan corrects this.
- 4) Nudge theory POSHAN abhiyan aims to make its a Jan andolan & force people to act voluntarily.

Poshan Abhiyan will help to achieve several Sustainable Development Goals like SDG 1 No poverty, SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 3 Good Health & Wellbeing, SDG 10 Reduce inequalities etc.

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।

'Health for All' is an often quoted dictum however, the affordability of healthcare make it inaccessible for many in India. To address this generic medicines can be a gamechanger.

### Need of generic medicines

- 1) Improve healthcare affordability 46% people avoid consulting doctor, before need for hospitalization.
- 2) Reduce ~~out~~ Out of pocket Expenditure currently about 70% of healthcare expenses.
- 3) Reduce poverty 18% people meet healthcare expenses by borrowing.
- 4) Improve health outcomes access to quality medicines will improve health standards.
- 5) Fulfill global responsibility - export to Africa

Reasons for low availability & Adoption

- 1) Lack of awareness & distrust towards generics  
People are unaware that they have similar efficacy as branded medicines.
- 2) Lack of referral - doctors usually refer branded medicines.
- 3) Nudge people think cheap medicine have low efficacy & are substandard.
- 4) Lobbying by pharma companies to reduce availability of generics, use patent rights.

Government Initiatives (1) Pradhan Mantri

Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana to provide generic medicine in hospital compounds.

- 2) Medical Council of India mandated doctors to refer generic names of medicines.
- 3) Compulsory licensing provision under Patents Act to overcome intellectual property rights issues.

Generic medicines are requisite to provide Universal Health coverage &

achieve SDG 3 Good Health & Wellbeing

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 मामला 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।

Global trade rules as mandated by WTO are based on the principles of reciprocity & non discrimination. It has helped to promote free & fair trade & uphold consumer interests but lately facing several challenges

### Challenges

- 1) Rise of Regional Trade Blocs like TTIP, RCEP that seeks to thwart global free trade regime.
- 2) Issues in Dispute Settlement lengthy & costly.
- 3) Growing protectionism in US, Britain & led to trade wars, imposition of tariffs (withdrawal of Generalised System of Preference by US)
- (4) Slow reforms in WTO - Trade in services

still face high tariffs, despite covering 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of global trade.

Measures to address these challenges

- 1) Plurilateral agreements like minded countries to converge & agree on issues affecting them.
- 2) Speedier resolution of issues like trade in services, agricultural market access.
- 3) fight protectionism dismantle trade barriers, action against countries going against liberal trading systems.

WTO has been successful in liberalising global trade as 98% trade is under WTO norms & has led to 84% reduction in tariff. Democratic & consensus based working of WTO & necessitates to work for its revival & save world from plunging into deglobalized & protectionist era.

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

India-US are strategic partners sharing democratic ideals to pluralism & inclusivity. In recent times, the ties have broadened to cover defence, economic, cultural (P2P contacts) and strategic relations.

However, there are certain impediments affecting India-US trade relations.

- 1) Tariffs. US president pronounced India as 'tariff king'.

→ highlighted issues of 100% tariff on motorbikes import from US

→ imposed tariff on iron & aluminium import from India.

→ Put India on Priority Watchlist on US Trade Representatives.

- 2) Subsidies - dispute against Domestic

## Content Requirement under India's Solar Mission

→ objected to agriculture subsidies in India

3) H1B visa US curbed the number of visas and also strengthened the eligibility clause. This has restricted movement of skilled professional

4) Withdrawal of ASP → non-reciprocal market access to goods from developing countries

### Impact on India

- \$5.4bn worth goods affected, having benefit of \$70 million
- Affect agriculture exports & handloom sector

### Impact on US

- Reduce competitiveness of industries based on subsidized inputs.
- High cost to consumers due to imposition of tariff

India can't go for a tariff war with US. It need to increase exports & cut non-essential imports, diversify markets & lookout for a trade package with US. Both US & India need to tread cautiously as the relationship is much beyond only economic interests.

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।

Democracy is standing on twin pillars of independence (autonomy) and accountability. They help in emphasizing better performance as well as compels one to work under the limits set on it.

Independence without Accountability

- Lead to monopoly, discretion & corruption.
- Waste of public resources.
- Tyranny of those in power

Accountability without Independence

- Death of individual initiative
- Freedom to perform efficiently
- Poor service delivery & inefficient governance.

Judiciary in India is provided independence under several provisions like

- 1) Mode of appointment no executive interference.

- 2) Mode of Removal / Security of Tenure only on grounds of proved misbehaviour/incapacity.
- 3) Expenditure charged on consolidated fund of India
- 4) Power to Punish for Contempt of Court.
- 5) Freedom to appoint its staff
- 6) Ban on post retirement duty.

However, this independence is not balanced by equivalent instrument of accountability & has led to several issues

- 1) Judicial conduct - charges of corruption, sexual misconduct, etc.
- 2) Removal - Impeachment is a long drawn process & has political overtones.
- 3) Appointment - judges appointing judges, and uncle judges syndrome - charges of nepotism
- 4) Against balance of power.
- 5) Undemocratic - no check & balance,

opaque functioning

This raises the question, 'Who is judging the Judges?' Thus, there is need to

### Measures

1) Judicial standards & Accountability Bill

2) till now regulated by Restatement of Values of Judicial life, 1997

2) Memorandum of Procedure - to appoint judges.

3) Make minutes of collegium meeting public

2nd ARC recommended to appoint Judicial Ethics Commissioner & National Judicial Oversight Committee.

Judiciary has to set example to maintain its credibility & public trust by adopting equivalent instruments of 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

विभिन्न गुणों के बावजूद, सरकार के विभागों की वर्तमान संरचना में कुछ दुर्बलताएं विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Government departments are the tools to share burden & effective functioning. They work on principle of division of labour & effective delegation

### Strengths

- 1) Check & balance at every level ensures accountability.
- 2) Hierarchy prevents disorientations in functioning & consolidation of power in a single body.
- 3) Effective functioning by sharing of workload among various departments
- 4) Transparency by various tools like

audit, RTI, citizens charter etc..

Weaknesses (1) Opaque functioning despite RTI, there is no substantive declaration of information & poor quality information is provided. (Based on demand supply)

- 2) Red tapeism due to complexity to rules.
- 3) Attitudinal problem consider themselves as ~~for~~ regulator rather than facilitator.
- 4) Policy making still obsolete working methodology. Reactive rather than proactive.
- 5) Poor charter implementation
- 6) Due to 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendments, massive increase in size & working of departments, need of a complete overhaul & restructuring.

Reforms required1) New Public Management

- use of technology
- serve rather than steer
- service citizen not clients
- plan democratically & decentralised implementation

(2) Policy making —————> Policy Planning  
(fire fighting) (fire proofing)

(3) Effective cluster implementation - Implement Sevottam model

4) Outsource some functions to private sectors.

5) E-governance - to improve service delivery & reduce public-official interface

Thus, in wake of growing needs we have to structure government departments to ensure their transparent & effective functioning

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 / Upper House of the parliament plays an important role in the legislative role of parliament & helps in maintaining federal equilibrium in an otherwise 'federal with a unitary' bias polity of India

Criticism about composition & function of Rajya Sabha

Composition

- House to serve political end seekers.
- States don't have equal representation (UP has 31 members, Sikkim only 1)

Function

- Delay in legislative procedure
- Frequent disruption (172 bills in 354 sitting)
- No control over financial & budgetary matters.

• Certain nominated members have poor participations.

• Use by opposition to cause unnecessary delays - due to lobbying

All these criticisms doesn't Rajya Sabha a secondary house. It is an equal participant in legislative procedure.

Importance (1) Maintain federal equilibrium

as parliament can make laws on concurrent list, it protects interests of states.

2) Induction of experts who are otherwise, unable to get elected or don't want to get into hassle of elections.

Ex- Dr. Man Mohan Singh.

3) Check hasty legislations to keep in check absolute majority of Lok Sabha

4) Special powers to legislate on state list (Art 219) & create all India

services (Art 312)

To overcome these challenges & protect  
sanctity of Rajya Sabha we can  
introduce certain reforms. 2nd ARC  
recommended Office of Ethics Commission  
er for both houses. National  
Commission to Review working of Consti  
tution recommended minimum number  
of sitting (100 days) for Rajya Sabha.

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?

Fair and free elections are the hallmark of a true democracy. Certain issues like opaque funding, black money, lack of transparency in political funding hamper electoral process.

According to ADR, 70% of political funding is from anonymous sources.

Several legislative measures to bring transparency in electoral funding.

- 1) Limit on electoral expenditure ₹ 60 lakh for Lok Sabha.
- 2) Electoral bond to donate party via cheque / digital means to curb cash donations.
- 3) Parties to file their donations under

Income Tax Act Sec. 13A & also to report of EC under Sec 29 of RPA.

Despite these several challenges remains

- 1) No limit on corporate donations 7.5%  
limit of profit removed, may <sup>a</sup> lead to quid pro quo, favouritism
- 2) Limit on foreign funding removed
- 3) Electoral bonds further promotes anonymity, favours ruling party - 96.4% donations to BJP via electoral bonds.
- 4) Parties not file details of source of funding.

So the demand of state funding of election rises which has both its advantages & disadvantages

#### Advantages

- Level playing field.
- Curb money & muscle power

#### Disadvantages

- Promote status quo (difficult for new parties)
- Voter to support parties they don't subscribe to

- Improve women's participation
- Halt criminalisation of politics.
- Corruption in politics promotes corruption in other spheres of society  
Create a 'clean India'
- Make political party agent of state rather than civil society.
- Increase distance between party & citizens.
- Contesting election only for monetary benefit

2nd ARC, Indrajit Gupta committee also ~~repose~~ suggested state funding of elections, proper discourse is needed to decide on this.

Till then, several measures like bringing political parties under RTI, digital funding, make donations above certain amount public can be taken to bring transparency in electoral funding,

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।

Cities are the lifeline of an economy.

Today 31% (2011) of India's population is living in cities & it is even increasing.

This calls for rapid urban transformation to withhold this burden.

Role of Urban Local Bodies is going to be crucial in this transformation.

Challenges plaguing urban governance

Funds - lack of market based funding mechanism

- 19% revenue from own sources (depend on devolution) → leading to low liquidity trap
- Lack taxation powers.
- Not utilising existing powers - severe

undercollection of property tax.

Functions - creation of Special Purpose  
vehicles & parastatal bodies

- Distict council not constituted in many states (Gujarat)
- lack of scientific devolution

Functionaries. lack of capacity

- lack of accountability & oversight mechanism
- Mayor - ceremonial head.

All these led to crumbling cities with issues like rising slums, congested traffic, poor administrative capability, environmental degradation etc.

Measures to address these issues

- (1) funding - value capture financing & use of satellite data to collect property tax
- Municipal bonds - market based funding mechanism

- (2) land titling laws to create land banks & promote ease of doing business
- 3) Performance linked payment as suggested by Sumit Bose Panel.
- 4) Capacity Building of elected functionaries.
- 5) Programmes like ABDO, AMRUT, SMART city will help in improving infrastructure in cities.

Cities like Surat, Pune have introduced intelligent traffic management systems

- 6) Use of government data - to create innovative solutions (shortage of housing by using rental housing, 12 mn. vacant houses in urban areas)

Thus, to enable transforming India & Urban India, to achieve SDG 11 Sustainable cities & communities, we need to reform urban 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

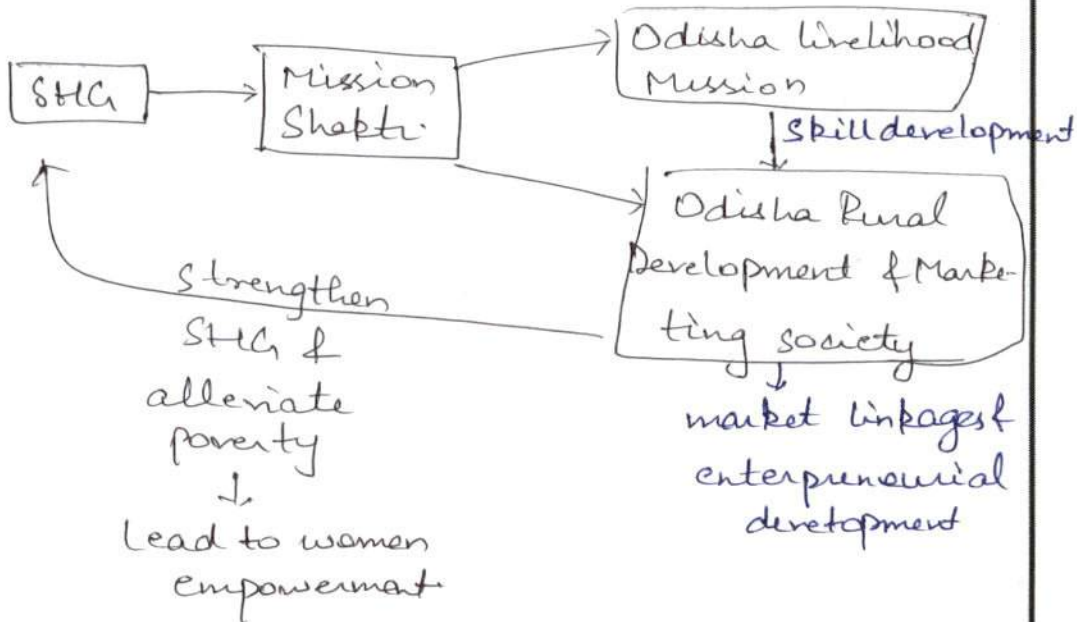
भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन में SHGs द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए। SHG-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम की कमियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके निष्पादन में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।

Self help groups are informal association of people who come together to address their common challenges. They help in building social capital among poor especially among women.

Role in poverty Alleviation

- 1) Provide saving & credit facilities
- 2) Provide access to credit
- 3) Help in saving & developing financial management skills.
- 4) Help people to address their issues by their common endeavour.  
(NRLM to provide vehicle to SHG for public transport)

Case Study Mission Shakti in Odisha help in connecting self help Groups to centers of skill development & promote income generating activity.



SHG Bank Linkage Programme to provide credit facilities to SHG to carry out their activities. It led to 80 lakh SHGs in India with over 10 crore members & ₹ 6700 capital, over 90% SHGs have exclusive women members.

Shortcomings (1) Only credit without financial management training.

- 2) Lack of forwardward linkages & entrepreneurial development.
- 3) Corruption in cooperative banks & regional rural banks.

### Measures to improve performance

- 1) Connect with State Rural Livelihood Mission



- 2) Greater regional expansion - Northeast is neglected

- 3) Linkages with MUDRA loans 78% MUDRA loans turned into NPA as loanee don't have knowledge to market products.

- 4) Focus on modern sectors like CoFe Kudumbashree by STIC in Kerala showcasing shift to service sector.

STICs are a great tool to accelerate poverty reduction, enhance rural development & women empowerment & thus need to 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

भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विगत वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों के बावजूद, इसकी गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने और इसकी प्रासंगिकता बढ़ाने हेतु अभी भी कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India has the largest number of graduates in the world but still there are issues about the quality of higher education in India as no Indian institute features in Top 100 on world institutions.

Challenges in Higher education

- 1) Equity
  - Regional - 7 colleges / mn in Bihar while 59 in Telangana
  - Gender - Gross Enrollment Ratio is 25% but has gender divide
  - Caste GER among SC/ST is lowest
- 2) Employability - According to India Skills Report, 2018, only 47% of graduates are employable.

- 3) Teacher availability and Quality - Pupil teacher ratio is quite high in India & teaching is not a preferred profession
- 4) Low focus on research & innovation  
outdated curriculum, less no. of seats in research institutions.
- 5) Shortage of infrastructure
- 6) Accreditation framework promotes poor quality institutes.
- 7) Low funding on edu. (3.4% of GDP)  
Government has taken number of measures to address these challenges.
  - 1) Institutes of Eminence - 20 institutes with Higher Autonomy
  - 2) Higher Education Finance Agency - to provide market linked finance for infrastructure development.
  - 3) Revitalising Institutions & Systems in Education - for infrastructure development
  - 4) Schemes like VAFRA, SRIMAN to promote research
  - 5) Schemes like IMPRINT to increase

women enrollment.

- 6) Higher Education Commission of India  
Bill to reform regulatory structures.

Further reforms required to improve  
quality & relevance

- 1) Tiered Regulatory Structure
- Research Institutions - Highest autonomy
  - Educational Universities - Balance between autonomy & regulation
  - vocational Institutions - Highly regulated.

- 2) Industry-Academia linkage to improve employability

- 3) Research - investigator led & project specific research.

- 4) Accreditation framework to have strict monitoring over higher educational institutes

- 5) Teacher Management open teacher training institutes

- 6) Promote distance & online learning.

Only an educated India will help in realising dream to become world power.

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?

After 70 years of Independence, still a large population in India is homeless, to provide housing to every Indian by 2022, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was launched.

### Features

- 1) Slum retrofitting & redevelopment
- 2) Credit linked Capital Subsidy
- 3) Financial Assistance for BPL families.

### Progress

- PMAY-Urbam has build 12 lakh houses by 2018
- Disbursal of loans to tunes of ₹ 3.4 lakh crore.

## Challenges

- 1) Issues in land acquisition
- 2) Poor private sector participation. due to low profitability
- 3) Poor technical involvement - still building houses by conventional methods.

## ⇒ Measures to fast track implementation

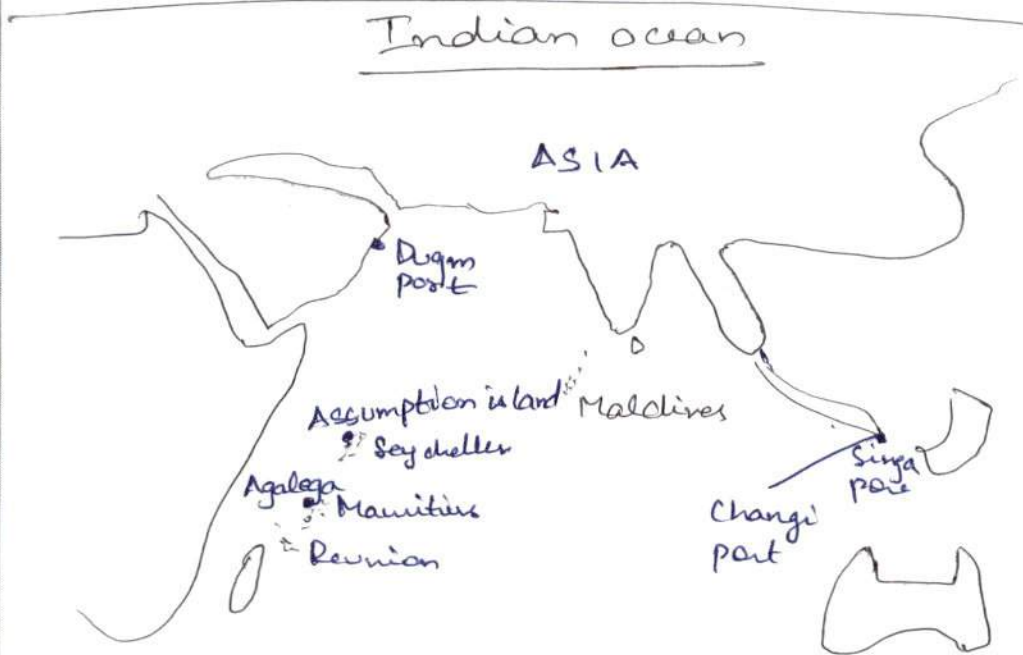
- 1) Better risk sharing arrangement under PPP mode to encourage private participation.
- 2) Create land banks to solve issue of land acquisition
- 3) Use innovative tech methods - customized housing blocks.
- 4) Increase interest subvention under credit linked subsidy.

There is a need to make rapid strides under PMAY to cover the targets set under the scheme & help everyone to have access to safe housing.

19. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हिंद महासागर के द्वीपीय राष्ट्र इस क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक रूप-रेखा को आकार देने और भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में अत्यधिक रणनीतिक महत्व रखते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India lies at the head of Indian Ocean & held extensive engagement with littoral nations to promote regional peace & prosperity. Island nations hold great importance in realising the dream of India to be the 'net security provider' in the region.



Indian strategic interests.

Role of island nationsGeopolitical  
contours of region

- Securing sea lanes  
of communication  
& freedom of  
navigation  
70% of Indian oil  
imports via this  
region
- Countering Chinese  
assertiveness through  
its string of pearls  
policy
- Rich sources of  
hydrocarbons- gas  
hydrates & Poly  
metallic nodules.
- Mapping continental  
shelves & fishery  
resources

Maritime Security  
of India

- Address non-conve  
ntional threats  
like piracy,  
drug trafficking
- Conventional  
threats like  
terrorism (Maldives  
has highest per  
capita recruitment  
to IS).
- Secure its  
energy supply
- SACAR security  
& growth for  
all in the region

Indian Initiatives

- 1) Cultural Project Mausam & Spice Route  
to connect with ancient civilizational partners.
- 2) Economic extends line of credit, infrastructure development.
- 3) Defence cooperation Mi25 helicopters to Maldives.
- 4) Institutional Indian Ocean Regional Association (IORA) & IONS.
- 5) Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief  
Bottled water supply to Maldives in 2014.
- 6) Developmental partnership & capacity building - patrolling shores of Mauritius to mapping hydrocarbons near Seychelles.

But needs to ~~to~~ step up its diplomatic engagement to counter Chinese influence & to safeguard its strategic interests

20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. (250 words) 15

भारतीय विदेश नीति के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में 'विकास सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

India has transformed from a foreign aid receiver to foreign aid donor (11<sup>th</sup> largest among 28 OECD donor countries). Recently India provided \$1.4 billion assistance to Maldives to overcome debt trap of China.

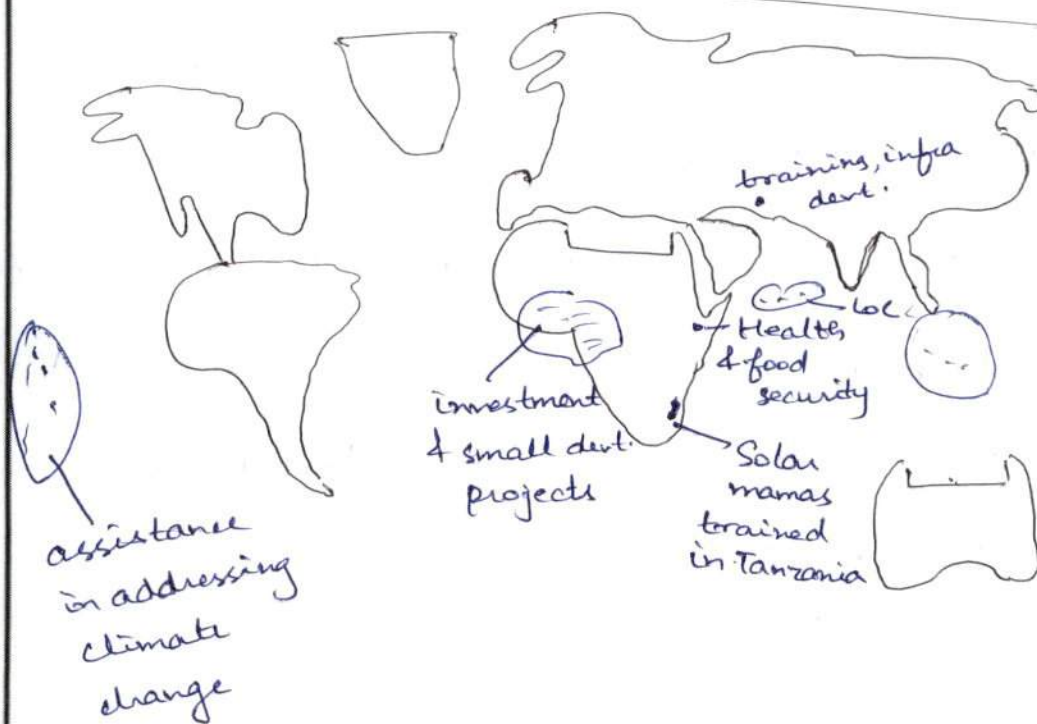
Over the ~~100~~ years, India's development assistance has become a key instrument in foreign policy & expanded in both scope & reach.

### Extended Scope

- (1) Line of credit of African nations
- 2) Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation provide educational, economic opportunities.
- 3) Defence training of Afghan forces.

- 4) Infrastructure - building housing complex in Sylhet
- 5) Deputation of experts & English teachers
- 6) Disaster relief - during Nepal Earth quake in 2015
- 7) Space cooperation launching 80 satellites at cost effective rates.

### Expanded Reach



Indian endeavours

Africa trained Solar mamas from Tanzania

- Cusinka Programme of Rwanda - gifted cows
- Ethiopia & South Africa - cooperating with Kudumba Shree Programme

Pacific Islands - climate change mitigation

Indian Ocean Nations — security, development as well as economic assistance.

Latin America & Caribbean sports cooperation, investment in infrastructure, policy to address drugs abuse.

Advantage of Indian development assistance

- 1) factory in priority of partner nation
- 2) Not development assistance but development cooperation

India has built a significant international goodwill by its developmental work & need to build on this rich experience.