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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2419)

Name of Candidate	Aniket Hirde		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1045939
Center	Online	Date	09-07-23

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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11	15	
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15	15	
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 **HINDI & ENGLISH** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी 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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Time: 9:06 to 12:06.

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.

1. मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग के अपराध और विदेशी मुद्रा कानूनों के उल्लंघन की जांच में प्रवर्तन निदेशालय द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।
Discuss the role played by the Directorate of Enforcement in the investigation of offence of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

was formed in 1956 to enforce foreign exchange laws which today focuses on money laundering & violations of foreign exchange laws.

Role of ED

① Enforcing of 3 acts :-

(i) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

(ii) Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

(iii) Fugitives Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

- ② Powers to seize property acquired by money laundering.
- ③ Special courts to try offences related to money laundering.
- ④ Acts as specialized economic offence agency of government - Local police transfer cases.
- ⑤ Jurisdiction throughout the country.

Some Issues

- ① ECIR (Enforcement Confidential Information Report) not shared with accused
→ against Natural justice.
- ② Investigating ~ 5500 cases, only 23 convictions.

ED is much needed to achieve \$ 5 trillion goal provided its working with transparency.

2. भारतीय संविधान भारत में उदार लोकतंत्र के विकास हेतु एक ढांचा प्रदान करने में सफल रहा है।
 विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Indian Constitution has been successful in providing a framework for liberal democracy to flourish in India. Analyse., (Answer in 150 words) 10

Liberal democracy refers to a system which allows an individual to develop & exercise his/her right provided it doesn't infringe upon other's rights.

Framework by Indian Constitution

- ① Preamble: Soul of the constitution prescribes liberty of thought, expression, etc.
- ② Article 19(1)(a): Freedom of ~~thought~~ ^{speech} & expression, Freedom of press, etc
- ③ Article 25: One can choose way to mould relation with god

- ④ India is a republic : All public offices are open to all.
- ⑤ Article 326 : Right to vote to every person ensuring democracy has voices of all.

Addition to Constitution

① Supreme Court Judgements:

(i) Delhi Riot Case - Right to protest is fundamental right.

(ii) Navtej Singh Johar, 2018: Decriminalized IPC 377

② Election commission reforms: VVPAT, remote voting for migrants, etc.

India is rightly called 'Mother of Democracy' with Liberty enshrined in its soul.

3. "समनुषंगिता के सिद्धांत" से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत के संदर्भ में इसके महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

What do you understand by the "principle of subsidiarity"? Discuss its importance in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Principle of subsidiarity refers to delegation of funds, functions, powers to subsidiaries rather than keeping them centralized.

Importance in India

- ① Strengthening of 3rd tier :
Panchayati Raj, Municipalities for ensuring effective governance.
- ② Division of labour: Article 246 divides subjects between Union - State for more efficient legislations
- ③ Enhancing participative democracy :-
Devolving power to people at

grass-root level.

- ④ Focus on local problems :- Issue of water scarcity in Bundelkhand v/s floods in Bihar — local approach is better.
- ⑤ Reduced corruption :- Due to power decentralisation. Eg:- One of the reasons for USSR failure was over-centralized corrupt bureaucracy.

Challenges

- ① Poor implementation of 73rd Amendment.
Eg:- 50% states don't have 6th State Finance Commission.
- ② Overt focus on Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Eg:- PMFBY opposed by Maharashtra.
- Subsidiarity can help in effective governance of diverse India with focus on local problems by locals with solution by locals.

4. "मूल कर्तव्यों का नैतिक मूल्य अधिकारों का दमन करना नहीं होगा, बल्कि लोगों को अपने कर्तव्यों के प्रति उसी रूप में जागरूक बनाकर एक लोकतांत्रिक संतुलन स्थापित करना है, जिस प्रकार से वे अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक हैं।" चर्चा कीजिए।

"The moral value of fundamental duties would not be to smother rights but to establish a democratic balance by making the people conscious of their duties equally as they are conscious of their rights". Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

42nd Amendment, 1976 inserted

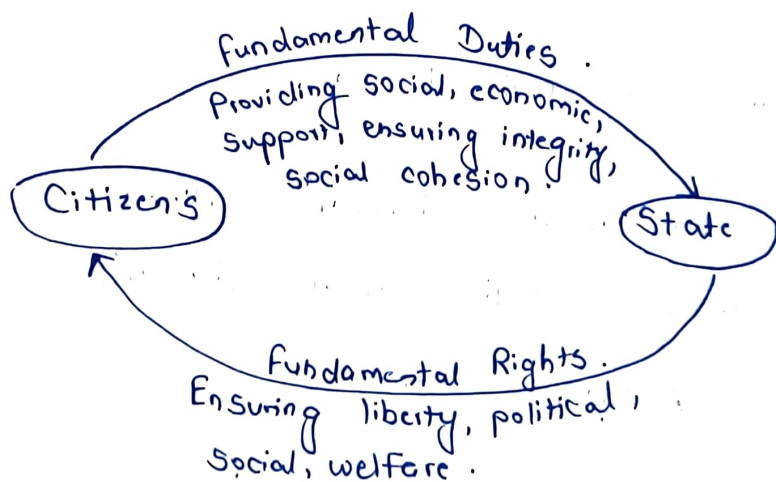
Article 51-A in the constitution which provided for fundamental duties of citizens.

Establishing Democratic Balance

> While state ensures citizen's fundamental rights, duties ensure citizen's obligation towards state as:-

- ① Protecting state's sovereignty & integrity.
- ② Ensuring fraternity, brotherhood
 ⇒ social peace, communal harmony

- ③ Promoting scientific temper ⇒
making India a super-power.
- ④ Safe-guarding public property to
ensure smooth public services.
- ⑤ Dignity of women - equality of
opportunity.



Hence, fundamental duties
rightly balances the democracy.

“Rights accrue as result of performance
of duties” — Mahatma Gandhi

5. क्या आपको लगता है कि कार्यपालिका द्वारा प्रत्यायोजित विधान का प्रयोग शक्ति के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत के विरुद्ध है? भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Do you think the exercise of delegated legislation by the executive goes against the principle of separation of powers? Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Delegated legislation refers to the powers delegated by Parliament to the executive to formulate rules within enacted legislation, for day-to-day administration.

Against Separation of Power

- ① Frequent resort to Ordinances:- Reduces effectiveness of Parliament / Assembly.
- ② Rules outside legislation: Digital Media guidelines were enacted under IT Act, 2000 which didn't originally cover digital media.

- ③ Contradictory to Statute / Constitution:-
Ordinance by Govt to form Civil Services
Authority against Article 239AA which
gives control to elected govt. of Delhi.

However, it is needed

- ① Parliament cannot meet 365 days/year.
- ② Day-to-day rules can only be understood by executive.
- ③ Administration needs quick implementation.

The problem is not in the principle but in its use. If delegated legislation is used within ambit of constitution, it can bring efficiency in administration.

6. दोषपूर्ण गवर्नेंस के पीछे प्रमुख कारण एक ढर्रे में सोचने की आदत और एकाकी कार्य प्रणाली है। भारत में लोक सेवाओं के संदर्भ में इसकी चर्चा कीजिए।
A key factor behind poor governance is a system of thinking and working in silos. Discuss in the context of public services in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Prime Minister in his meeting with secretaries asked them to be 'Secretaries of GOI' rather than 'Secretaries of their department / ministries.'

Poor Governance due to Silos

- ① Lack of coordination:- Newly constructed road by PWD dug by telephone / gas utilities.
- ② Slow execution: Multiple clearances across departments & are often sequential.
- ③ Cross-jurisdictions:- Coal under Coal Ministry, Coal Bed Methane under Petroleum Ministry has hindered

exploration of the latter.

- ④ Lack of synergies :- Best practices not shared among departments.
- ⑤ Lack of people-people connect due to strict hierarchy. Eg:- If 2 secretaries of same batch are to meet, one with lower AIR in UPSC goes to higher AIR.

What is Needed

- ① Technology :- Tools like PRAGATI, GATI-SHAKTI bringing multiple stakeholders on common platform.
- ② Training :- To be less formal, more professional. Eg:- Open-door policy.

Public servants across levels need to work collaboratively to ensure India is a developed country by 2047

7. असुरक्षित गर्भपात भारत में महिलाओं के प्रजनन और मातृ स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित करने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। इसके लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों की पहचान कीजिए और उपचारात्मक उपाय भी बताइए।

Unsafe abortions are a critical issue affecting the reproductive and maternal health of women in India. Identify the reasons behind the same and suggest remedial measures as well. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Unsafe abortions are 3rd largest
cause of maternal deaths in India.
(NFHS-5).

Reasons For Unsafe Abortion

- ① Societal Taboo: Associated with killing of a foetus.
- ② Strict laws: POCSO, 2012 prosecutes consensual pregnancy as well → underground abortions.
- ③ Son-metric preference: Still continues (Economic Survey) → strict PCPND Act drives abortions underground.
- ④ Lack of training to doctors / carrying of abortion by untrained

Staff.

- ⑤ Lack of awareness :- Among women on safe-practices, post abortion measures (to control bleeding, etc.)

Remedial Measures

- ① Removing taboo through campaigns like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao -
- ② Educating men/women about SRH - Sexual & Reproductive Health
- ③ Easing use of laws like POCSO, MTP (strict medical boards) on case-by-case basis.

Article 21 provides bodily autonomy to women - safe abortions with proper decision making can ensure improved socio-economic conditions.

8. डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य देखभाल भारत में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक पहुंच और उसकी बढ़तीयता से संबंधित स्थायी मुद्दों का समाधान करने में सक्षम है। इस संदर्भ में, देश को 'डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य' क्रांति के मुद्दाने पर लाने में आयुष्मान भारत डिजिटल मिशन की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।
Digital healthcare has the potential to address the perennial issues pertaining to accessibility and affordability of healthcare in India. In this context, discuss the role of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in putting the country at the cusp of a 'digital health' revolution. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

seeks to revolutionize healthcare in India by making it digital thus increasing affordability (60% out-of-pocket Expense) & accessibility (rural reach)..

Role of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- ① Digital health cards:- Ensure easy transporting & maintenance of health records, faster claim settlements, etc.
- ② Tele-consultation like e-Sanjeevani, KIRAN helpline will increase access at no cost.

- ③ Integrated supply chains: to ensure availability of medicines at all times
- ④ Smartphone based reminders — natal care, TB medicines, etc.
- ⑤ Preventive healthcare: Warnings based on weather, calamities, etc. Eg:- Dengue precautions during monsoon.

Way Ahead

- ① Integrating AI for faster diagnosis. Eg - AI hub-spoke model for heart attack detection in Godchioli
- ② Data Protection Law to safeguard user's privacy.

“Success of nation will depend on what its citizens take two at a time — pills or steps”

9. दक्षिण एशिया से एकमात्र G20 सदस्य के रूप में, भारत के लिए G20 का नेतृत्व वैश्विक स्तर पर दक्षिण एशिया की आवाज को बुलंद करने के लिए एक प्रभावी मंच के तौर पर इस समूह का उपयोग करने हेतु एक आदर्श अवसर है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

As the only G20 member from South Asia, the G20 leadership is an ideal opportunity for India to use it as an effective platform to amplify South Asia's voice at the global stage. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

G20 is a grouping formed in 1999 representing 60% of population, 75% of trade, 80% of world GDP

Opportunity For South Asia's Voice

- ① Reform of multi-lateral institutions :-
Eg:- Permanent seat to India at UNSC,
increased lending by MDBs to region.
- ② Region specific concerns :- Environmental threats. Eg:- 22% of disasters in BIMSTEC countries.
- ③ Terrorism control: Prevalent in Pakistan, Afghanistan & affecting India, Myanmar etc.

- ④ Technological Collaboration: South-Asia can be manufacturing hub provided technology from G20. Eg:- Semiconductor in India, Textile in Bangladesh.
- ⑤ Balancing economy with environment :- Through Common But Differentiated Responsibility to ensure South-Asia is not burdened by environmental commitments.

India's Steps

- ① Voice of Global South Summit to understand issues to be voiced.
- ② Calling for end to all forms of terrorism.

G20 can prove to be a right platform to bring global attention towards South Asia to ensure its rightful share in the world.

10. भारत-यू.ए.ई. CEPA दोनों देशों के बीच आर्थिक संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए एक उत्प्रेरक के रूप में कार्य करेगा तथा भारत को इस क्षेत्र में व्यापक पहुंच प्रदान करेगा। चर्चा कीजिए।
The India-UAE CEPA will serve as a catalyst to bolster economic ties between the two countries and give India greater access to the region.
Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India recently signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with UAE to deepen ties with region.

Bolstering Economic Ties

- ① Aim to double trade by 2030.
- ② Emirati investment is being evaluated in Kashmir.
- ③ Abolishing of tariffs on key imports/exports.
- ④ More stable access to India's oil needs.

Greater Access to Region

- ① Needed to Counter China :- Setting foot via Iran - Saudi peace initiatives.
- ② Region is stabilizing :- via Abraham, Neger Accords — India needs to shift from bilateral to regional strategy.
- ③ Enhance Indian Initiatives :- like I2U2 for economic gains. Eg. - 300 MW solar-wind park.
- ④ Enhanced diaspora: Due to more cooperation.

With US withdrawal from Middle East, India can play a greater role in the region. CEPA, INSTC, I2U2, etc. are steps in the right direction

11. एक दोषपूर्ण आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली, सुविचारित कानून की अनुपस्थिति और डोमेन विशेषज्ञता की कमी को भारतीय न्यायपालिका के लिए नई चुनौतियों के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। A dysfunctional criminal justice system, absence of well-considered legislation and need for domain expertise, are being seen as the new challenges for the Indian judiciary. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian courts have pendency of ~ 4 Cr cases with $\sim 40\%$ cases more than 5 years old. Further, the courts are seeing new challenges as:-

(A) Dysfunctional Criminal Justice System:

- ① Poor investigation by police. Eg:- Rajasthan High Court rebuked police for forcing a rape confession
- ② Lack of courts-police-forensic coordination due to lack of technology.
- ③ Lack of awareness among convicts. Eg:- Vishu Tiwari was incarcerated

unnecessarily for 16 years because he wasn't aware he was eligible for bail.

(B) Ill-considered Legislations

(1) Wrong interpretation: Amendment 102 - Supreme Court interpreted as powers to identify BCs only to centre which Parliament Nullified by 105th Amendment.

(2) Burden through PILs: Farm laws cases as farm laws failed to take people into confidence.

(C) Lack of domain expertise:

(1) New cases like cryptoregulation, ethics of AI, etc. are not included in law syllabus

(2) Tribunals are dysfunctional with

~ 250 vacancies, lack of infrastructure, etc.

Reforms Needed

<u>Criminal Justice</u>	<u>Legislations</u>	<u>Domain Expertise</u>
<p>① Integrated Criminal Justice System</p> <p>② Separation of investigation & L&O for police (Riberio Committee)</p>	<p>① Increased use of question hr. (currently ~50%)</p> <p>② Inviting subject experts while drafting</p>	<p>① Reforming tribunals - transparent selection criteria</p> <p>② New age syllabus in low school</p>

Right to justice is fundamental right under Article 21.

The challenges need to be tackled in & out for ensuring justice

12. दल-बदल विरोधी कानून भारत में राजनीतिक अस्थिरता के मुद्दे को किस हद तक हल करने में सक्षम रहा है? उपयुक्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

To what extent has the anti-defection law been able to address the issue of political instability in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. (Answer in 250 words)

15

- 52nd Amendment of 1985
inserted 10th schedule into
Constitution (Anti-defection) which
states that MP/MLA is disqualified
- ① He switches party after getting elected.
 - ② He votes/ abstains contrary to whip's direction.

Role in political stability

- ① Reduced allegiance switching v/s 1985.
- ② Largely governments have had 5 year tenure showing stability.

- ③ Reduced corruption / demand for ministries among MPs.

But, it has also failed

- ① Loopholes :- Large section leaving party. Eg:- Maharashtra case.
- ② Speaker bias: Often towards ruling party. Eg:- Mizoram speaker failed to take action against minister who defected → SC had to intervene.
- ③ Frequent changes of state governments.
Eg:- Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, etc.

What is Needed?

- ① Strengthening internal party democracy

to drive leaders by ideology & not
by material gains.

② Powers to ECI to decide defection
to remove speaker bias.

③ Voters need to play role &
actively voice their resentment to
defectors.

Although Anti-Defection
has been successful in providing
stability, it is high-time to
strengthen it more for effective
governance.

13. भारत में अंतर्राज्यीय नदियों का प्रबंधन परस्पर विरोधी संघवाद के कारण विभिन्न समस्याओं से ग्रसित है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उन तंत्रों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिनका उपयोग भारत में अंतर्राज्यीय नदी जल विवादों को हल करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।
Governance of inter-state rivers in India suffers from various issues due to conflictual federalism. Discuss. Also, highlight the mechanisms, which can be utilised to resolve inter-state river water disputes in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Inter-state water disputes are prevalent in India due to large agricultural dependence, water security, non-perennial rivers, etc. Article 262 provides for governance through River Boards.

Issues in governance

- ① Vote bank politics :- Dispute between Tamil-Nadu - Kerala over Mullaperiyar.
- ② Lack of understanding to give & take :- Every state wants maximum share.

- ③ Regionalist party demands:- Eg:-
TMC in Bengal claims over Teesta.
- ④ Unequal development: Economically
backward states wanting dams,
canals while others opposing. Eg:-
Madhya Pradesh - Maharashtra.
- ⑤ Lack of joint focus on national
development.

Mechanisms to resolve governance

- ① River boards:- States should oblige
to recommendations
- ② Basing water sharing on scientific
basis — need, flow of river,
climate conditions, etc.

③ Inhibiting Cooperative federalism :-
to have a more nationalistic view
v/s regionalistic.

④ Alternate water sources :- Encouraging
Rain water Harvesting, water recycling
via ~~As~~ AMRUT 2.0, etc.

Providing clean water to
all is sine-qua-non (SDG - 6). We
need to evolve to co-operative
federalism v/s conflictual to
ensure equitable distribution of
rivers.

14. उत्तर-औपनिवेशिक दस्तावेज होने के बावजूद भारतीय संविधान के उन मूलभूत पहलुओं का सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए, जिनके संदर्भ में यह अपने समकालीन संविधानों से भिन्न था।

Elaborate on the fundamental aspects in which the Indian Constitution differed from its contemporaries despite being a post-colonial document.
(Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian Constitution is the most voluminous & elaborate constitution in the world. Although, it has borrowed ideals from various constitution, it has many differences.

With USA

- ① Fundamental rights - carry arms, property, etc. lacking in Indian constitution.
- ② Supreme Court: Judges appointed by President (US) v/s Judiciary in India.
- ③ Religion: Complete separation of State (USA) v/s equal reforming in India.

With Sri Lanka

- ① Unicameral (SL) v/s Bicameral houses
- ② Presidential system v/s Parliamentary.
- ③ Multiple laws (Jaffna, English, Muslim)
v/s One common unified law (India)

With Britain

- ① Monarchy v/s Republic
- ② No concept of shadow cabinet
in India.
- ③ Supremacy of Parliament (UK) v/s
Supremacy of Constitution (India).

With Japan

- ① Constitutional monarchy v/s republic
- ② Unitary system v/s federalism

in India .

- ③ Judges appointed by legislature v/s
by judiciary in India .

However, similarities exist

- ① Concept of Liberty, Equality (France)
- ② Strong lower house (Japan) .
- ③ Concurrent list, joint sittings (Australia)

Indian constitution has
been formulated keeping in mind
the diversity while ensuring the
unity & integrity of the country .

15. मुफ्त उपहार, विशेष रूप से चुनावों से पहले, समाज के लिए लाभकारी होने की बजाय अधिक हानिकारक हैं। क्या आप सहमत हैं? अपने उत्तर के समर्थन में युक्तिसंगत तर्क दीजिए।
Freebies, especially ahead of elections, do more harm than good to the society. Do you agree? Give logical arguments in support of your answer.
(Answer in 250 words) 15

Freebies are goods & services given to public as free by political parties to sway votes. Eg:- Punjab govt. giving Rs 1000/month to women.

More harm than good

① Debt stress: Creates public debt on states which is often unsustainable.
Eg:- Debt to GDP at 70% (PB), 50% (RJ), etc.

② Complacency in voters: To get free goods, 'ask their price' — inhibits free & fair participation in democracy.

- ③ Distorts markets: Often the goods are of poor quality leading to failure of markets.
- ④ Slippery slope: - Once started, freebies in every elections have to be more.
- ⑤ Environmental damage: Free water & electricity = incessant use of pumps/ACs, etc. Eg:- Delhi, Punjab's free electricity upto ₹ 300 units.

However, they can be empowering

- ① Women empowerment: Maharashtra government's 50% concession in public transport - women ridership increased by 50%.

- ② Improving health, education outcomes:
Schemes like ICDS, MDM have
reduced stunting by 32%.

Way Ahead

- ① Categorizing goods into merit &
non-merit goods.
- ② Voter awareness through systematic
Voter Education Programme to not get
swayed.
- ③ State funding of elections (Indrajit
Committee).

Freebies can be helpful only
if they have long-term positive
impact on society. ~~States~~ ^{Parties} need to
avoid short-sighted behaviour to
ensure India is developed country
by 2047.

16. भारत के शहरी परिदृश्य को बदलने के लिए शुरू किए गए स्मार्ट सिटीज मिशन के मिश्रित परिणाम प्राप्त हुए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस मिशन को लागू करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

The Smart Cities Mission, which was launched to change the urban landscape of India has produced mixed results. Discuss. Also, highlight the challenges faced in executing the Mission. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Smart Cities Mission launched
 in 2015 sought to make 100 cities
 Smart — digital public services,
 cycling tracks, water supply, sanitation,
 proper waste management, etc.

Mixed Results

Success

- ① ~ 64% of ~ 7800 projects on track.
- ② Improved financing. Eg:- Municipal bonds.
- ③ Achievements like

Failures

- ① Disparity — some cities at 100% utilization while some < 20%.
- ② Major focus on urban infra while

- Indore securing 'water +' status | focus areas like environment, social infra lacking.
- (4) Digital services:-
Eg:- DigiThane app of Thane city.
- (3) Missed deadline of 2020.

Challenges Faced

- (1) COVID pandemic - delayed execution.
- (2) Overlapping agencies - Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Municipal Corporation, District authorities, etc.
- (3) Digital divide: Creating wedge between digitally aware citizens v/s unaware citizens.
- (4) Positions of Municipal Corporations:- Debt-laden, low internal resource

generation (C.S.I.) - Municipal Performance Index.

- ⑤ Land acquisition issues :- To remove encroachments, slums, etc.

Way Ahead

- ① Categorisation of cities into achievers - under performers - sharing of best practices
- ② More execution devolution to local bodies with SPV only supervising.

50% of India's population is expected to be urbanized by 2050 (Census 2011). Smart Cities Mission can ensure quality of life to its citizens

17. यह तर्क दिया गया है कि भारत में उद्यमिता परिवेश के समक्ष विद्यमान विभिन्न बाधाओं के बावजूद, भारत के भविष्य को इसके उद्यमियों द्वारा आकार दिए जाने की संभावना है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।
It has been argued that despite several hurdles faced by the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India, the future of India is likely to be shaped by its entrepreneurs. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Entrepreneurs are set of people who start their own business to solve issues of the society while creating jobs. India is 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world (World Bank).

Hurdles faced by Entrepreneurships

- ① Regulatory :- Complex laws like labour laws, plethora of clearances.
- ② Economical: Lack of funding in initial stages.
- ③ Social: Society expects youths to take stable jobs v/s explore via entrepreneurship.

- ④ Lack of mentorship for product development, marketing, etc.
- ⑤ Disparity between metros v/s tier-1 & tier-2 cities.

Entrepreneurs Shaping India's Future

- ① Revamping education :- Byju's has reached every nook & corner of India
- ② Providing healthcare :- NeoDocs providing instant diagnostic kits in rural Nashik
- ③ Empowering woman :- 44.1% of Startup founder / co-founder are women.
- ④ Job-creation in tier-2/3 cities :- 45.1% startups in these cities like

Bhopal, Nagpur, etc.

- ⑤ Global attraction: Indian startups are attracting FDI — 100+ unicorns currently

Way Ahead

- ① Creating district incubation hubs to nurture startups at district level.
- ② Embibing entrepreneurial spirit in school through NEP-2020.

As India reaps its demographic dividend, startups/entrepreneurs can help in increasing GDP while simultaneously creating jobs

18. हालांकि, 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ' योजना ने लैंगिक भेदभाव पर अत्यधिक ध्यान केंद्रित किया है, लेकिन यह खराब कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के कारण वांछित परिणाम प्राप्त करने में विफल रही है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Though the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme has given much-need attention to gender discrimination, it has failed to yield desired results due to poor implementation and monitoring. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Beti Bacha, Beti Padhao
scheme was launched to address
the falling sex-ratio in India
between 2001 - 2011.

Attention to Gender Discrimination

- ① Various advertisements on TV/ radio formulated to spread awareness.
- ② Campaigns can like painting walls of schools, urban areas undertaken.
- ③ Brought the topic of gender discrimination - low health, education of girls in public discourse.

Failure to Yield Results

- ① Son-Meta Preference continues (Economic Survey). Sex ratio at birth at ~~966~~ 929.
- ② Female infanticide increased in Maharashtra in 2017-2022 v/s 2012-17.
- ③ Health outcomes remain poor:- Every 2nd girl is anaemic.

Reasons - Poor Implementation, Monitoring

- ① 80% of funds of scheme were spent in advertisements.
- ② Low grass-root level awareness, person-person connect - focus more on mass campaigns.
- ③ Lack of measurement of outcomes in quantifiable way.

Way Ahead

With enough awareness, now there is need for action :-

- ① Ensuring future avenues. Eg:- Higher education for girls
- ② Spreading awareness about girls' rights, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), etc.

"No country can truly flourish if it stifles its women & deprives itself of contribution of half of its population"

— Michelle Obama.

19. दक्षिण-पश्चिम हिंद महासागर में सुरक्षा खतरों के स्वरूप और उनकी बारंबारता में वृद्धि के मद्देनजर, इस क्षेत्र में लघु द्वीपीय विकासशील देशों (SIDS) के संबंध में भारत द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

As security threats increase in form and frequency in the South-West Indian Ocean, discuss the role played by India in relation to small island developing states (SIDS) in the region. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Small - ~~an~~ Island Developing States (SIDS) are group of island nations in South-West Indian Ocean. Small in size but significant in terms of strategic importance.



Fig 1: SW Indian Ocean & few SIDS.

Increased Security Threat

- ① Increased piracy :- Due to instability

in countries like Somalia.

- ② China dominance: Setting up military base in Djibouti, Sudan, etc.
- ③ Environmental Security: Rise in sea level, ~~low~~ submerging of country's parts.
- ④ Economical Security: - Low productivity of fishes, difficult oil & gas exploration.
- ⑤ Social security: - Submerging of cultivable land → food insecurity.
- ⑥ Geo-politics: - US, China, India, etc. trying to establish dominance in Indo-Pacific.

Steps by India

- ① IRIS: - Infrastructure for resilient Island States seeks to build

disaster resilient infrastructure.

- ② Bilateral relations :- Greater Male Connectivity Project in Maldives, Sugar agreement with Madagascar.
- ③ Establishing Missions :- in SIDS.
- ④ Colombo Security Conclave :- With Maldives, Sri-Lanka with Seychelles as observer.
- ⑤ SAGAR initiative :- Ensuring maritime security in Indian Ocean.

SIDS can be very helpful due to their large EEZ, contributions in the UN to ensure India rises as global power.

20. चूंकि भारत अपने पड़ोस की पुनः कल्पना कर रहा है, इसलिए उप-क्षेत्रों के माध्यम से सीमा-पार कनेक्टिविटी तेजी से महत्वपूर्ण होती जा रही है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।
As India re-imagines its neighbourhood, cross-border connectivity through sub-regions is becoming increasingly vital. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India is re-imagining its neighbourhood through policies like 'Neighborhood First', 'Act East', etc.

New areas of cooperation

- ① Energy:- South-Asian Grid, diesel pipeline to Bangladesh.
- ② Neighbors as connection to other areas.
Eg:- Afghanistan to Central Asia,
Myanmar to ASEAN, etc.
- ③ Building cooperation in light of China's BRI.

Need for Cross-Border Connectivity

- ① Improve trade relations:- Maitri Setu

between India - Bangladesh.

- ② Strengthening people connect: Railway line between Jaganagar - Kutha.
- ③ Access to resources:- Hydrocarbons of Central Asia via Afghanistan.
- ④ Geo-strategic: Challenging China's BRI by own infra-projects: Eg: Chabahar as challenge to Gwadar.
- ⑤ Bypassing hostile Neighbours:- INSTC seeks to bypass Pakistan to provide India access to Eurasia.

Challenges

- ① Slow execution: Thailand - Myanmar - India highway way behind timelines.
- ② Political instability:- In neighbours like Sri-Lanka, Myanmar, etc.

- ③ China's influence :- Almost all neighbors in China's BRI & debt-trap. Eg:- \$62 billion debt of Pakistan.

Way Ahead

- ① Building Brand India :- By timely execution of projects.
- ② Gyral Doctrine :- To give as much as you can to neighbors without reciprocity.

Connectivity will play a key-role in India's neighborhood policies - PM's vision like Coastal Shipping Ecosystem (BIMSTEC), etc. can pave way for a well-integrated region.