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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	SIMI KARAN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	577826
Center	ORN	Date	19/08/2019

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		<p>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)।</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।</p> <p>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।</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।</p> <p>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।</p>
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20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

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।

~~So~~ The constituent assembly rejected reservation of seats for women as it believed it will perpetuate unequal status. Yet today only 14% of Members of Parliament (MP) of Lok Sabha are women.

Benefits of Women Reservation Bill - 108th CABill-

- 1) Increase representatives, diversity of Legislature (50% of population is women)
- 2) Bring multiple perspectives & view points
- 3) Increase focus to matters like, sanitation, health, education - greater concern to women & children
- 4) Fair opportunity to participate in electoral process which is hampered due to criminalisation of politics

- 5) Improve ranking in Gender Equality Index
- 6) Increase assertiveness, position in family

Issues with Bill -

- 1) May be given seats where chances of winning low, ~~normal~~
- 2) Normal seats Not given
- 3) Proxy candidates - 3B - Bahu, Beti, Biwi
- 4) Poor connect with constituency due to rotation every ~~at~~ 3 yrs
- 5) May perpetuate inequality

Yet countries like Rwanda saw a massive increase in participation (52%) after reservations. Moreover 43% women sarpanch today after reservation in PRIs.

Alternatives -

Compulsory fielding of 1/3 women candidates by political parties may be explored

Ex - BJD in latest LS elections did and better winning outcomes for women

It is imperative that voice of 50% of population is not shunned and fair opportunity provided.

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।

Only 4 SC/ST candidates are present at the secretary level in India. This indicates how despite affirmative action at entry, there exists discrimination.

Judicial Pronouncements

Indra Sawhney case

- No reservation in promotion as it means equality of outcomes



Nagaraj case

- Promotion allowed but evidence of backwardness needed



latest judgement

- No need to prove backwardness

Several constitutional amendments have brought reservation for SC/STs in public employment but only at entry level.

Benefits of Reserava

Challenges of Reservation -

- 1) Efficiency, merit based system impacted
- 2) Once entered public service, no more backwardness
- 3) Reverse discrimination against general candidates

Need of reservation -

- 1) Poor representation in higher ranks indicates systemic discrimination against them
- 2) Social stigma still present
- 3) No conclusive study indicates effects on efficiency
- 4) Diversity, representation very low at higher levels
- 5) Non participation in decision making regarding own issues

It is imperative that action be taken to reduce this imbalance. Actions must start at younger stages itself via training experience, multiple exposures, competitiveness etc.

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

(150 words) 10

स्वायत्त जिला परिषदों (ADCs) के निम्नस्तरीय कार्य-निष्पादन के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। उनके कार्य-निष्पादन को कैसे बेहतर किया जा सकता है?

Autonomous District Councils ^(ADC) were introduced to ensure successful growth of backward regions in certain states without discrimination and according to local requirements.

Ex - Darjeeling ADC

Reasons for underperformance -

- 1) Ineffective devolutions of funds, functions, functionaries
- 2) Less teeth-to-bite & circumvention in several decisions
- 3) Poor public participation, playing out of ethnic politics in the councils
Ex - Nagaland
- 4) Imposition of state decisions in these regions without consulting ADCs.
Ex - Bengali ~~is~~ language

- 5) Poor implementation of plans, policies, grievance redressal at local levels.
Ex - Gorkhaland
- 6) Insurgency in these regions obstructs working

Performance can be improved by -

- 1) Devolution of greater funds by state, directly by centre & increasing own revenues
- 2) Social audit of ~~for~~ policy implementation
- 3) Better representative council - Inc women representatives
- 4) Improve law & order situation in the region
- 5) Increase trust among public by enabling ADC to undertake high impact, high visibility projects.

It is imperative that ADCs function well to ensure balanced regional development.

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 is a colonial law which has been continued today. It enables government to not release data which may affect -



Rationale behind continuance -

- 1) Several cases discretion and secrecy needed related to defence dealings, procurement etc
↳ Imperative for national security
- 2) Several foreign policy plans cannot be exposed immediately
Ex - 1998 Pokhran Nuclear tests

- 3) Certain data has to be kept secret
Ex - Demonitisation action

RTI should be given precedence as-

- 1) It is a fundamental right of citizens
- 2) Citizens must be made aware of activities of govt and matters which may severely affect them
- 3) Essential to expose corruptions, Scams etc in govt Ex - 2G / 3G scam
- 4) May be used to stifle dissent & hide behind it in order to prevent shaming of govt

Official secrets Act given precedence as-

- 1) situation in North East, J&K etc. still not completely secure due to insurgency
- 2) may prevent govt from taking any strong steps

A good balance and clear delineation of domain where secrets Act is applicable is required to prevent misuse.

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।

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

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

A mandatory "cooling - off" period is required ~~before~~ before civil servants (CS) can take up job with govt again. This means a break is needed before ~~joining~~ joining any service.

Rationale behind it -

- 1) To prevent partisan role of CS during work-period to ensure ~~counties~~ / favors later
- 2) Uphold integrity, professionalism & probity of civil servants
- 3) To ensure that recruitment to post-retirement jobs are fair & transparent
- 4) Build confidence among parties & civil society regarding impartial role of CS

Yet this rule has been flouted in several cases & CS have started appeasement to govt to secure jobs later.

Yes, there is a need to Relook at ~~CS~~ CS conduct rules -

- 1) No strict punishment / actions are taken for flouting rules by CS
- 2) No code of Ethics means no framework to hold CS accountable for objectionable actions
- 3) Narrowing of boundry between administration & govt
- 4) Strict provisions to ensure impartial role regardless of party at centre required.

It is imperative to reform the rules governing CS conduct to ensure that Rule of law is upheld & personal aggrandisement does not take over professional integrity.

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।

Recent issue of children dying due to ^{eating} hitchi in Muzaffarnagar highlights the challenges related to malnutrition existing in India.

Previous interventions challenges -

- 1) Worked in silos & poor coordination
Ex - Sanitation, Nutrition etc were separate
- 2) ~~Input~~ Input oriented rather than outcome oriented
- 3) Poor involvement of households, ASHA workers etc.
- 4) Awareness & capacity building poor - charity approach

POSHAN Abhiyan is revolutionary in this regards as-

- 1) It focusses on all dimensions of nourishment
Ex - micronutrients, health & sanitation, immunisation, mother & child health etc.
- 2) Focus on anaemic & poor health mothers & subsequent impact on children
- 3) Involving ANM, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers at massive scale
- 4) Entitlement & empowerment approach
- 5) Innovative measures like fortified food, nutrition gardens etc tried

Children are the future of this nation and with ~~14%~~ 27% population in 0-14 yrs it is imperative that severe focus is placed on their well-being. It will also help us achieve SDG2- No hunger.

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।

☞ A large number of poor people in India are due to massive out-of-pocket expenditure ~~due~~ for health. ~~These~~

Thus, generic medicines are important as -

- 1) Original medicines due to patents & profit motives are very costly and ~~useful~~ unaffordable by large sections of population
- 2) They push large no. of people into poverty every year.
- 3) Large ~~to~~ section of Indian population lives below poverty line (28% by UNDP)
- 4) Many discontinue the full course leading to anti-biotic resistance (India has largest no. of extreme drug resistant Tuberculosis patients)
- 5) Huge opportunity cost of medicine expenses & fall in productivity

Reasons behind low availability & adoption

- 1) Poor quality & quantity available
- 2) IPR conflicts involved Ex - Ranbaxy
- 3) Poor monitoring of composition
- 4) Doctors recommending branded medicines & unawareness of general public
- 5) Increasing possibility of multi-drug resistance

Govt steps -

- ↳ Increase competitiveness of pharmaceutical companies
- ↳ WTO disputes fight against USA for ensuring public health & safety
- ↳ Overhaul Medical Council of India and other institutions to monitor composition
- ↳ Stop ever-greening of patents & fight cases in international forums

India needs to ensure medical health & security of large sections of population. It must take further steps to increase accessibility

9. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. (150 words) 10

बहुपक्षीय नियम-आधारित व्यापार प्रणाली द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। WTO पर विशेष बल देते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

Several challenges are arising in the multilateral rule-based trading system due to reasons like -

- 1) Geopolitical
 - ⓐ L → US-China, US-Iran trade war-risk
 - ⓑ L → of closure of Strait of Hormuz
 - ⓐ L → China asserting itself in South China sea - defying International court orders
 - ⓐ L → Declining power of developed countries
 - ⓐ L → India-Pak conflict - Most favoured nation status revoked
- 2) Economic
 - ⓐ L → Protectionist tendencies - America First, Chinese dream, Brexit
 - ⓐ L → IPR challenges in WTO between developed & developing countries
 - ⓐ L → Agricultural subsidies issues
 - ⓐ L → Anti-globalisation movements
 - ⓐ L → e-commerce rules issues
- 3) Dumping policies & market flooding
 - Ex - China
- 4) Rise of Bilateral facts over multilateral systems

WTO was established to ensure a fair, rules-based multilateral order.

Challenges can be addressed as follows-

- 1) Dispute Resolution mechanism can be used to resolve issues between countries.
Ex - ~~IPR~~ IPR issue between India-USA
- 2) Being a plurilateral platform - consensus building ensures fair & equitable sharing
- 3) It can be used to force China, USA and other Western countries to open up markets and remove sanitary & phytosanitary measures
- 4) Special packages and assistance to help least developed countries
- 5) Enables poor countries to gain better bargain due to multilateral nature.

Dialogue and negotiation is essential moving forward to ensure no indiscriminate policies and fair international trading system.

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

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख अवरोधों पर प्रकाश डालिए।
हाल ही में, अधिमानता की सामान्यीकृत प्रणाली (जनरलाइज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ़ प्रेफरेंस: GSP)
की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

India-US have a "strategic partnership"
and have come a long way from
estranged democracies to engaged democracies.

Yet challenges in relations -

- 1) Huge trade deficit of US with India and accusing India of being tariff king
Ex - Harley Davidson bike 100% tariff
- 2) IPR issues of pharma companies of US in India and fights in WTO
- 3) ~~US complains~~ India providing agricultural subsidies while US gives huge R&D support - fight of boxes in WTO
- 4) Latest e-commerce guidelines by B.N. Srikrishna committee report & requirements of data-localisation
- 5) Social media companies complaints regarding data disclosure norms
- 6) Sanitary & phyto-sanitary measures to keep out Indian products Ex - Mangoes

7) Tariffs slapped on Indian industries like aluminium, metals etc and reverse tariffs by India → chances of trade war

India was the largest beneficiary of generalised system of preferences which allowed tariff free imports.

Possible consequences -

- 1) Possibility of trade-war
- 2) May spill over to other sectors like defense relations
- 3) US consumers worse off while Indian MSMEs worst affected
- 4) Difficulties in trying to contain China
- 5) Transactional nature may reduce strategic nature.

Moving forward, India can try to negotiate re-introduction of GSP with reduction in oil-imports from Iran and balance relations with USA. It is imperative that both democracies work together to ensure Rules-based International order.

11. In a democratic setup, it is imperative that independence be balanced with accountability. Discuss in the context of judiciary in India. (250 words) 15

किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Judiciary is an important pillar and safeguard of the Indian democracy. Therefore its independence is extremely crucial yet it must be balanced with ~~less~~ accountability.

Independence important as-

- 1) Ensure fair justice to all including the poor and marginalised
- 2) It should not become a tool in hands of Executive
Ex - Appointment via NJAC which was quashed
- 3) Essential to uphold dignity & trust in the institution
- 4) Prevent any hasty legislation which may undermine constitution
Ex - Coelho case and Sch 9

Yet questions are being raised on its accountability as -

- 1) The sexual misconduct allegations against CJI and poor enquiry mechanism
- 2) Impeachment motion against former CJI and opposition by senior judges
- 3) Keeping itself out of RTI ambit - "Sunshine is best disinfectant"
- 4) Appointment via collegium is non-transparent and no established guidelines Ex - Skipping of senior judges during promotion
- 5) Corruption charges especially among ~~lower~~ lower judiciary
- 6) Tedious impeachment process & poor in-house mechanism - "No action is best action"
- 7) Misuse of contempt of court powers

Balancing both can be ensured via -

- 1) Delineate the definition of contempt of court and external body can decide on these cases
- 2) Independent judicial lokpal
- recommended by law Commission
- 3) Establish principles & guidelines for promotion and appointment of judges
- 4) Passage of Judicial Transparency & Accountability Bill
- 5) Passage of stringent norms of conduct & disclosure norms strengthened
(only 7/31 SC judges have disclosed assets)
- 6) Ensure that position of SC not undermined in any appointments

Judiciary an independent & accountable judiciary is crucial for the future of this nation. Ethical practices need to be encouraged and cooperative constitutionalism practiced.

12. Despite various strengths there are certain weaknesses in the existing structure of departments of the government which render the system slow and cumbersome. Analyze. (250 words) 15

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

The Indian govt has various departments to carry out several functions like Foreign Affairs, Health, Education etc.

Strengths of departments -

- 1) well functioning bureaucratic support
Ex - IAS, IFS, IRS etc.
- 2) Non-influence of Military in civilian matters
- 3) Expert advice from academics, industry etc.
Ex - Nandan Nilekani in UIDAI,
Rajiv Montek Ahluwalia
- 4) Several analysis and well researched projects ~~& policies~~

Weaknesses -

- 1) Poor collaboration ~~and~~ inter-ministry & department
Ex - Skills & Education, Health & Water etc.
- 2) Top heavy bureaucracy, severe manpower crunch similar to
Ex - Indian diplomats size, that of Singapore
- 3) Poor coordination & suggestions from activists, ground workers
- 4) Top-sided policies due to poor on-ground research
- 5) Slow moving, "passing of file culture", chaotic work environment
- 6) Multiple approvals for projects & delays in implementation

Way Fwd -

- 1) Rational merging of departments & ministries to inc synergies
Ex - Jal Shakti Ministry
- 2) ICT Tools to ease working, documentation & increase evidence based policy making
Ex - PRAGATI app, e-NAM portal, GeM etc.
- 3) Increase interaction with civil society, activists in an institutionalised rather than ad-hoc framework
- 4) Create an overall insights committee to monitor working
Ex - In USA

We need to move from a bureaucratic & slow-moving culture to proactive & innovative work style to increase output of government.

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 is often blamed to be a mere "dilatatory chamber" or a house for post-retirement/burnt-out politicians.

Criticism ~~see~~ surrounding RS -

Composition

- 1) Place for retired bureaucrats ~~politicians~~ & lost politicians
- 2) Other than Delhi & Puducherry, other UTs don't have representation
- 3) All states don't have equal representation (Unlike in USA)
- 4) Nominated members reduces accountability and role as state representatives

Functioning

- 1) Poor efficiency, sit only for 22 days last session - Vice President report
- 2) Only populist & short-term agenda
- 3) Criticism not healthy & constructive
- 4) ~~Delay~~ Merely delay passage of bills and politicise legislative issues

~~Yet it plays a~~

Further it's role is diluted as -

- 1) No say in money bills
- 2) Cannot vote on grants & general budget
- 3) ~~•~~ less powers in joint sittings (also presided by Speaker of LS) due to lower strength

Yet, it plays a crucial role as -

- 1) Enables to check hasty & ill-considered legislation
Ex - ~~ABC~~ Amendment to Citizenship Bill
- 2) Provides opportunity for academicians and other experts to participate in policy making
Ex - Foreign minister S. Jaishankar
- 3) It gives a representation & voice to states in Parliament & put forth their perspective
- 4) L. Sabha may not be an effective check due to majority of ruling party

Rajya Sabha has an independent constitutional existence and does not exist at whims of Lok Sabha. The members must realize their crucial role and rather than involving in party politics must raise concerns on issue-based politics.

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?

The latest Lok Sabha elections saw a massive ₹60,000 Cr expenditure as given by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Several steps taken for funding of Political Parties (PP) -

- 1) Introduction of Electoral Bond Scheme
- 2) Maximum limit reduced to ₹2000 from ₹20,000 for independent donations
- 3) Disclosure norms regarding income & assets of leaders & spouse
- 4) Politicians who are convicted lose seats & ~~have~~ others have to disclose pending criminal charges
- 5) Black money, money laundering crackdown & laws

Challenges existing -

- 1) Election commission (ECI) raised concerns regarding transparency & ~~source~~ sources of Electoral bonds & 95% went to ruling party
- 2) Massive use of black money & money laundering
- 88% MPs are crorepatis
- 3) Foreign contribution regulations weakened
- 4) Criminal charges against existing MPs - 43% criminal charges
29% severe nature
- 5) Income tax evasion by Political Parties & money laundering
- 6) "Fly-by-night" and shell political parties
- 7) Reduced representatives & of political parties - only 14% women legislators.

State funding refers to state providing funds for elections to individual political parties. Recommended by Law Commission

Benefits -

- 1) Reduce black money use
- 2) Fair chance to smaller parties & independent candidates
- 3) Better tracking & monitoring of money usage
- 4) Infuse intra-party democracy & reduce pressure of "money bags"

Challenges -



Strong Political consensus and public & civil society pressure is required to implement it. Holistic electoral reforms also needed.

15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation ^{SPG} 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।

30% of Indian population lives in cities ~~with~~ which is set to increase to 42% by 2021. It provides 65% of the GDP hence sustainable cities are essential.

Challenges plaguing Urban governance-

- 1) Funds
- Poor devolution from states
 - lower self-revenue generation sources
 - Abolition of property taxes in Punjab & Haryana

- 2) Functions
- Silo working, mushrooming of several institutions
 - Poor coordination & collaboration
Ex - health & sanitation department
 - Unplanned expansion

- 3) Functionaries
- Mayor often dummy head
 - ~~Power~~ Power tussles and lower accountability

- 4) Road ^{& metro} planning for increase in transportation, climate issues, sustainability not taken into account

~~↓~~ ↓
Collapse of wall (Ex - in Mumbai), buildings etc

- 5) haphazard monitoring of requirement
Ex - Fire in Surat coaching building
- 6) law and order, crimes against women, traffics & accidents ↑

Steps to ensure successful & urban transformation -

- 1) New financing solutions -
Ex - Ahmedabad Corporate bond, Green bond, Solar bond
- 2) Bring all councils & departments under single head, remove politicisation & para-statal bodies
- 3) Increase civil society & citizen participation in ~~a~~ institutional manner
- 4) Long term plans ~~as~~ document, grants linked to performance
- 5) Handholding, best practices
Ex - Clean city Indore
- 6) ~~Guidelines~~ Area Sabha introduced at local level - 2nd ARC

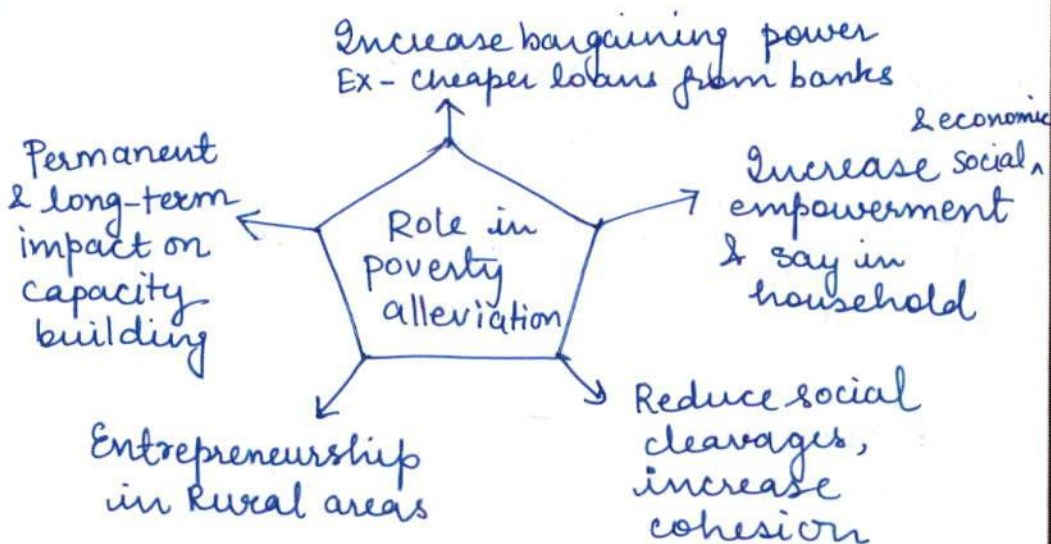
~~These~~ Revolution in urban governance crucial to achieve SDG of Sustainable cities & communities.

16. Explain the role that SHGs play in poverty alleviation in India. Highlighting the shortcomings of the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, give some suggestions to improve its performance. (250 words) 15

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

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are ^{small} groups of rural people (especially women) who pool in their savings to use for productive purposes. Today they have grown to huge scale and play crucial role in poverty alleviation.

Role in poverty - alleviation -



Shortcoming of SHG - Bank linkage program -

- 1) Despite lower lending rates than local money lenders, yet much higher than urban areas.
Ex - 15-18% ~~by~~
- 2) Poor awareness among people and procedures to ~~get~~ access loans
- 3) Poor targetting, innovative products lacking
- 4) Higher costs of operation for banks to run these accounts leads to less participation
- 5) Higher chances of defaulting despite group practices.

Suggestions to improve performance -

- 1) Incentivise Banking Correspondents
- form major link
- 2) Capacity building, training using
NGOs, CSR funds etc to deal
with banking requirements
- 3) Better networking of NABARD with
RRBs and other local institutions
to increase funds & better targeting
- 4) More schemes from govt
like ~~Jan~~ Jan Dhan, MUDRA etc
- 5) To ensure ~~do~~ that the groups
don't remain dependent &
dwarfed - bring policies with
sun-set clause by banks &
increase hand-holding to SHGs

70% of our population lives in villages.
If we cannot ensure their prosperity,
the demographic dividend may turn
into demographic disaster.

17. Despite initiatives taken by the government in recent years to address the challenges of the Indian higher education system, many reforms are still required to improve its quality and enhance its relevance. Analyse.

(250 words) 15

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

Indian higher education system has only 30% enrollment ratio with huge disparities among different sections.

~~Step~~ Initiatives by govt -



Challenges -

- 1) Low enrollment ratio and ~~low~~ poor SC/ST, women, disabled etc. representation
- 2) Lack of infrastructural facilities
- 3) Low investment in R&D - 0.7%
- 4) No universities in QS ranking Top 100
- 5) Poor competitiveness & recognition in International levels
- 6) Low ~~and~~ collaboration & research output - poor private investment
- 7) 30% of college graduates only employable - low relevance to mkt skills

Reforms -

- 1) Increase \odot govt investment ($<1\%$)
& ~~private~~ encourage private
collaborating
- 2) Handholding to poor & low-
performance colleges
(Ex - IIT-Mumbai to NIT Srinagar)
- 3) Invite foreign universities to
bring best practices & increase
competition
- 4) Grants linked to performance
of individual projects, not entire
college
- 5) Increase diversity portfolio on
lines of US universities
- 6) Introduce reforms to curriculum
& market ready skills

A robust and competitive education system is essential to enable India to become Global skills exporter and be prepared for IR 4.0.

18. Giving an account of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, mention the challenges that it faces in achieving its target. How can the implementation of the programme be fast-tracked? (250 words) 15

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत हुई प्रगति का विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इस योजना के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन को किस प्रकार त्वरित किया जा सकता है?

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) was introduced to ensure affordable housing for all.

Progress -

- 1) Several villages now have achieved the target of building pucca houses
- 2) Several urban poor have been rehabilitated
- 3) Sustainable housing options have been explored

Challenges faced-

- 1) Region specific requirements, local material for construction availability issue ~~is~~
- 2) Severe quality concerns regarding houses built
- 3) Poor funding, investment issues
- 4) Delays in ~~rehab~~^{in-situ} rehabilitation of slums & resistance by public
- 5) Labor availability issues
- 6) ~~Co~~ Silo working & parallel functioning of other projects

Fast-track of programme can be done
by -

- 1) Roping in private sector investment, innovative financing options like bonds
- 2) MGNREGA program labour used to construct houses
- 3) Local level involvement to enhance quality & regional requirements
- 4) NGOs, CSR funds usage explored
- 5) ~~Ensure~~ Implementation project in mission mode to ensure success
- 6) Mass movement encouraged, awareness built - align other projects like NRHM, NUHM

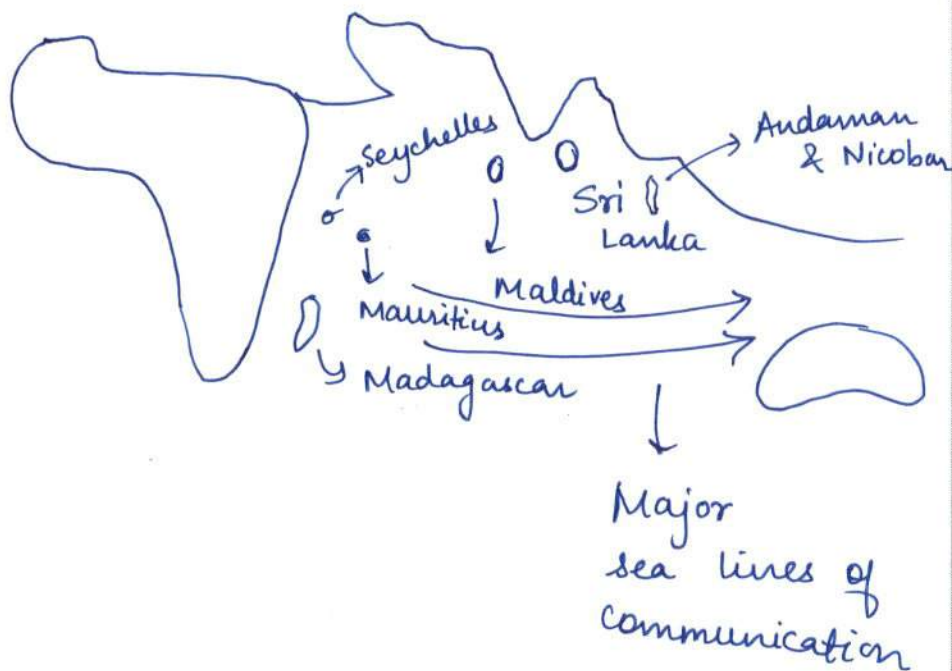
Fast-tracking of project is essential that Right to life & Dignity is upheld & suitable & respectable housing provided.

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।

~~with~~ with the shift ^{of focus} from Atlantic ocean to Indo-Pacific, island nations in Indian Ocean ^(IO) hold immense importance.

Diagram of nations of Indian Ocean



Strategic value -

1) Geopolitical significance

- ↳ located near major sea lines of communication
- ↳ EX - Strait of Hormuz, Bab-al-mandeb, Malacca
- ↳ Huge resources of oil & natural gas, deep sea minerals etc.
- ↳ Major trade routes & power-politics

2) Economic significance

- ↳ Blue economy - major fisheries
- ↳ 95% Indian foreign trade via IO
- ↳ Investment in disaster management & climate change adaptation

3) Maritime Security

- ↳ China's encroachment into IO - String of Pearls & enstrangement policy
- ↳ EX - Hambantota
- ↳ Major naval bases at Diego Garcia, Maldives
- ↳ India's ~~Tri-~~sta~~~~ Services command at Andaman islands

- ↳ Major regions of piracy off coast of Somali
- ↳ Indian naval investment in Agalega islands, assumption islands

Further engagement with IO Island nations -

- 1) India must increase development assistance and soft power to increase its influence
Ex - Cricket diplomacy with Maldives
- 2) Naval presence has to be increased
Ex - Madagascar, Sabang island etc.
- 3) Joint collaboration with countries like Japan, USA etc. in these islands to reduce China influence
Ex - Asia Africa Growth Corridor
- 4) Mediator role in various conflicts (UK & Diego Garcia) & role of representative in UN

India's future security crucially hinges on its engagement with these 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

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

India's Foreign policy is based on a crucial pillar of taking other nations forward & "vasudhaiva kutumbakam".

Development assistance is a key pillar to increase India's soft power and visibility in International sphere.

Scope & Reach expansion -

- 1) Various countries expanded
Ex - ^① African countries like
 Rwanda, Morocco, Nigeria,
 Congo

- ⑥ ~~Neighbouring~~ Neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives
- ② Crisis areas - Yemen, Syria
- 2) Focus on strategic sectors -
- ① Infrastructure (Parliament, library) in Afghanistan
- ② Blue Economy in Seychelles, Mauritius.
- ③ Port development in ~~Djibouti~~ Oman & Indonesia
- 3) Focus on equitable & sustainable growth, not cheque-book diplomacy
- ① High visibility, high impact projects - Ex - Resistant houses for Rohingya in Myanmar
- ② Benefit to poorest communities not infrastructure
- Ex - Dairy sector in Rwanda

- 4) Region-specific requirement focus Ex - Disaster management in S-E Asia
- 5) Based on principles of Panchsheel & non reciprocity

Way Forward -

- 1) India needs to focus on visibility & direct-impact of projects
- 2) Along with financial assistance, technology transfer, skills building must be focussed
Ex - civil servants of Afghanistan training
- 3) Focus on competitive sectors like pharma, services sector even in assistance.

Rather than following any other country's policies, India must charter its own path based on its competitiveness & synergies.