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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	GURLEEN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	292784
Center		Date	2/09/19

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		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	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		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	10		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	10		
7	10		
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19	15		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
20	15		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।
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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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.

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।

Reservation of seats in legislature of 33% for women has been in news in light of 108th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Reservation is seen as a tool to ensure meaningful political participation of women in light of Low Gender Gap Index ranking especially in political empowerment (where Bangladesh has been successful in achieving 50:50 parity)

* Is it a tool Will it ensure meaningful participation :-

A) NO :-

(i) Already 33% reservation in Panchayats and Local bodies sees women as ^{only} fact of administration ~~only~~ and not true power i.e. concept of Panchayat Patis.

- (ii) Women ^{may} not ^{be} given crucial portfolios if they do stand and win elections.
- (iii) Societal prejudices → considering women unworthy of power.
- (iv) Patriarchal society.
- (v) Women themselves unwilling to step into political light which might not be solved by the reservation.

B) YES:-

(i) Will promote parties to push women candidates.

(ii) Women candidates'll be able to

- promote gender sensitive policy making
- act as role models.
- empower other women

which shall encourage other women to participate in elections themselves thereby initiating a virtuous cycle.

Currently, women participation is low $\approx 11\%$ in 16th Lok Sabha elections and 78 MPs in 17th. This needs to increase if we are to achieve SDG goal 5 anytime soon.

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।

Recently Supreme Court ^(SC) came out with judgement to do away with provision of proving "backwardness" for ~~pro~~ reservation in promotions for SCs & STs.

This ~~is~~ reservation in promotion issue began with:-

1) Mandal Commission 1980

and

2) Indra Sawney case (1992) where ^{Supreme Court} SC validated the policy of reservation in promotion in lieu of their backwardness. (Consequential seniority provided later by Amendment Act)

3) Then came:- M. Nagaraj Case (2006) which upheld earlier judgement subject to 3 types of data i.e. on ~~and~~ backwardness, under representation, administrative efficiency

Now, 1st one has been done away with considering it to be against 1992 judgement.

Supreme Court has also asked Central Government to look into creation of creamy layer for SC & STs.

* Need for reservation in promotion

• Favour :-

- (i) Social and historical backwardness
- (ii) Promotion only on basis of 360° audit.
- (iii) Low representation at higher levels.
(only 4 at Joint Secretary level in 2017)

• Against :-

- (i) Against meritocracy.
- (ii) Already uplifted once during appointment.
- (iii) Most such reservations used by powerful in SCs and STs (not weaker)
- (iv) Discrimination still remains.

Therefore, if the objective of removal of "backwardness" is to be fulfilled 1st societal change is necessary.

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

(150 words) 10

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

Autonomous District Councils are established under Section 6 of Schedule 6 of Constitution for devolution of power to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. Even after such devolution these areas haven't seen much improvement due to underperformance of ADCs.

* Reasons for underperformance :-

- (i) Lack of financial resources (^{overdependence} on states)
- (ii) Lack of willingness of local leaders to impose taxes.
- (iii) Misuse of funds.
- (iv) Improper planning.
- (v) Lack of adequate representation of minority tribal interests.
- (vi) Lack of voice of common tribals to reach

★ How to improve?

- (i) Proper utilisation of taxation, legislative and administrative powers devolved to them under Schedule 6.
- (ii) Planning on lines of Gram Panchayat Development plans with people participation.
- (iii) Upholding minority interests.
- (iv) Creation of grievance redressal mechanisms.
- (v) Finance Commission of states should allocate funds.
- (vi) Funds under MPLAD and MLALAD scheme of that area may be used.
etc.

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 of 1904 and 1924 are a continuation of India's colonial legacy of keeping the governed unaware of the decisions of the governing.

"Secrecy is a weapon created by democratic ~~beaure~~ bureaucracy" - Max Muller

But post independence is a democracy and people are sovereign who being masters are entitled to information which led to RTI Act, 2005

* So why is Official Secrets Act still around? Should RTI be given precedence?

- ~~NO~~ :-

- (i) Prevent misuse of information especially one of sensitive nature.
- (ii) Protect sovereignty, security, integrity of nation
- (iii) Protect ~~prava~~ Right to privacy of individuals
- (iv) Liberties can't be absolute and this is a

kind of reasonable restriction
(v) To maintain friendly relations with other nations.

* Should RTI be given precedence?

→ YES:-

- (i) People are sovereign ∴ entitled to information
- (ii) Increase transparency → ↑ trust in government
- (iii) Increase accountability
- (iv) Increase people's participation
- (v) Makes choices parsimonious.

Thus, a balance needs to be maintained between divulgence of information and official secrets but most of and most of the information must be voluntarily disclosed by government so that when it does hide something, citizens are certain it is only ^{for} their well being that the information is being kept.

5. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India.

(150 words) 10

इंडिया एंटरप्राइज आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) फ्रेमवर्क पर एक संक्षिप्त लेख लिखिए। इसके प्रमुख सिद्धांतों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इसका पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन भारत के वर्तमान शासन परिदृश्य को उन्नत बना सकता है।

India Enterprise Architecture framework (IndEA) is a technological framework connecting all Government department to create a single inter dependent enterprise.

- * It aims to provide & has :-
- maximum governance with minimum government via e-governance.
 - single window approach.
 - linkage to SDG goals
 - Vision of one government.
 - use of mobile channels.
 - data sharing.

* Its full fledged implementation can help by :-

- (i) Reducing duplication of efforts.
- (ii) Increase productivity

- (iii) Better service quality
- (iv) Better accessibility,
affordability
- (v) Reduced consumer confusion
- (vi) Increase consumer satisfaction
- (vii) Inculcate trust in citizens.
- (viii) Improve impression of government
services
- (ix) Fullfil role of "parens patrie"

Thus, IndEA is necessary to
achieve ~~gove~~ our founding father's
vision of welfare state.

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 have a mandatory "cooling off" period of 1 year after retirement.

There is provision of it being over-riden via assent of Central Government.

* Many instances of its violations have been seen :-

(i) End period seen as ticket to political career.

(ii) Acceptance of corporate jobs immediately.
etc -

* For this reason debate on whether the Civil Services Conduct rules need updation have arisen.

* Should they be? and what can be done?

A) YES :-

- Civil servants should be given ethical

training at regular intervals to remind them of why they took up this career in 1st place.

(*) Provision of exception can be done away with
 OR

(*) Civil servants can act as consultants in government departments without pay during that 1 year.

(*) Retirement age can be increased

(ii) Their ~~is~~ knowledge of sensitive government data can be misused for corporate gain

* NO :-

(i) Exception is used in rare circumstances

(ii) Civil servants themselves competent enough not to divulge sensitive information.

* What can be done?

* increase ~~ret~~ retirement pension to prevent attraction to corporate jobs.

7. Highlighting the key features of POSHAN Abhiyan, explain how it is an improvement over previous interventions in achieving the goal of malnutrition free India. (150 words) 10

पोषण (POSHAN) अभियान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समझाइए कि यह कुपोषण मुक्त भारत के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में पिछले हस्तक्षेपों की तुलना में कैसे समुन्नत है।

POSHAN abhiyan launched by Government of India to reduce

- ~~the~~ under weight births by 2%
- stunting by 2%
- anemia by 3% every year.

* Required because :-

- (i) Low B rating on Global Hunger Index = 103 / 149
- (ii) 1 in 5 children stunted
- (iii) Highest burden of stunted, wasted children in world.
- (iv) > 50% women (15-49 years) anemic

* Advantages over previous interventions :-

- (i) Targetted approach.
- (ii) Mission mode project.
- (iii) Wants to establish nutrition as Jan

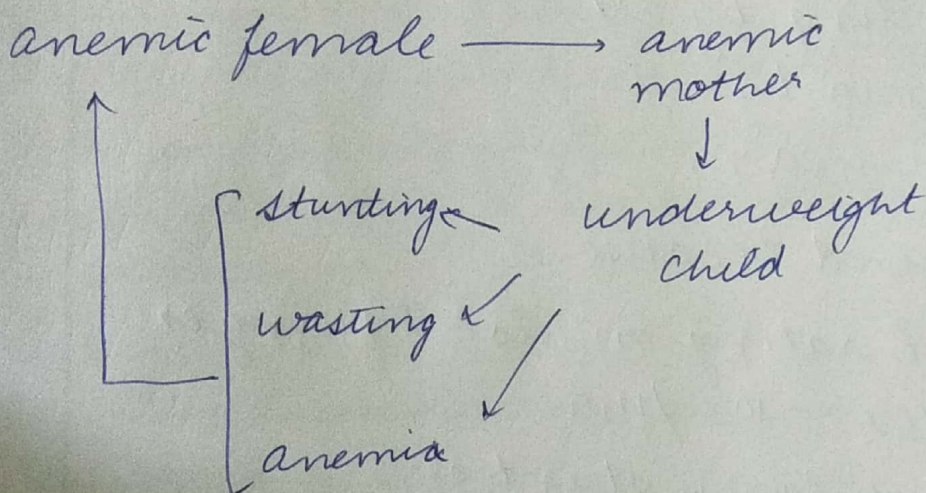
andolan.

(iv) Utilisation of :-

- fortified food.

- Technology → ICDS app.

(v) Gets to root cause of issue and targets vicious cycle :-



Thus, very well planned initiative and must be implemented well. for it has already reduced stunting and malnutrition burden in past 3 years

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. (250 words) 10

भारत में जैनेरिक दवाओं की उपलब्धता का प्रश्न उत्पन्न हुआ, उसकी कम उपलब्धता की स्वीकारण हेतु उपलब्धी दवाओं का विकल्प प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, उन कदमों में संक्षेप द्वारा उल्लेख करें, जिनमें का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Generic medicines are ones which are low cost alternatives (with similar Active Pharmaceutical Agent) of high cost ~~strong~~ brand name drugs

* Necessary in India because:-

- (i) High out of pocket expenditure = 70%
- (ii) Poverty rate very high
= 25% expenditure by poor on health services.
- (iii) High cost pushes people into poverty
- (iv) Lack of insurance coverage (even Ayushman Bharat covers only in patient care)

* Low Availability and adoption because:-

- (i) Impression of low quality of drugs.
- (ii) Lack of awareness.
- (iii) Evergreening of Intellectual property

- rights by large companies
- (iv) Lack of accessibility
 - (v) Culture of doctors → not prescribing generic medicines
 - (vi) Chemists → keep them out of display for increasing profit

★ Government steps taken:-

- (i) Health and Wellness centres :-
- will ~~sell~~ sell cheap drugs.
- (ii) Fight at international level for Compulsory Licensing (WTO)
- (iii) Health insurance via Ayushman Bharat.
- (iv) Guidelines to doctors to prescribe generic medicines.

Further, incentivising chemists to display such drugs and spreading awareness is necessary along with ~~make~~ spreading understanding about their quality (which is good.)

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

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

Multilateral rule-based trading system is facing problems like :-

- (i) Increased protectionism worldwide
- (ii) Increasing violation of WTO's core concepts of
 - free and fair trade
 - predictable trade trends.
- (iii) Increased tariffification
- (iv) Use of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures as non-tariff barriers.
- (v) E-commerce ~~by~~ companies :- issue of taxation or not.
- (vi) Trade facilitation agreement in services → not yet signed.
- (vii) Trade war at global level. Especially between USA - China.
- (viii) Developed v/s developing nations at WTO level.
- (ix) Violation of GSP (Generalised System of

Preferences) against developing countries.

* Ho Solutions :-

- (i) Strengthening WTO's penal mechanisms
- (ii) Re-adoption of Core principles of WTO
- (iii) Acceptance of differential situation in different countries.
e.g.
 - Poverty alleviation as issue for public procurement and distribution
 - Evergreening as issue
 - allowing Compulsory licencing for human health issues
- (iv) IPR promotion for making research remunerative
- (v) Sanctions against nations starting the trade wars.
etc.

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

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

India-US relations have been improving in the last decade or so due to :- ^{growing}

- (i) Common fear of Chinese influence
- (ii) Afghan issue
- (iii) Anti terror stance
- (iv) Defence cooperation etc

* But major impediments remain like :-

- (i) Trade protectionism by USA :-
- withdrawal of GSP (Generalised System of Preference) by USA in view of increasing trade deficit with India.

- (ii) WTO based issues on solar panel procurement etc.
Levy of increased import duties on iron steel and aluminium imported from India.

- (iii) Issue of data localisation → seen as impediment to trade by e-commerce companies of USA.

- (iv) USA's withdrawal from JCPOA and sanctions on Iran may increase India's

dependence on Shale gas of USA.

* ^{Possible} ~~What~~ Consequences of GSP withdrawal on India - US trade relations :-

- (i) ~~It~~ Reduced India-US trade deficit in USA's favour.
- (ii) Decrease competitiveness of Indian goods in US market \rightarrow \downarrow exports \rightarrow devalue rupee \rightarrow \uparrow Current account deficit \rightarrow \uparrow Fiscal deficit \rightarrow \downarrow Growth rate.
- (iii) India-US tensions in WTO might worsen
- (iv) Reduced Growth rate in India might reduce FDI investment in India.
- (v) India will look for alternative export destinations. Thereby, increasing its export portfolio.

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।

Democratic setup is about the welfare of citizens which can be achieved only through balance between independence and accountability.

e.g.

(i) Executive :-

- must be independent enough to make decisions for governance.
- Yet, must be able to justify them in legislature (accountable).

(ii) Legislature :-

- independent to pass laws.
- accountable to people through elections.

(iii) Judiciary :-

It too must have a sweet balance between independence and accountability.

* Indian Judiciary is independent in lieu of Constitutional separation of powers doctrine.

Independence can be proved by:-

- (i) Salaries, allowances of judges charged on Consolidated fund of India.
- (ii) Removal of judges a long and cumbersome procedure
- (iii) Even appointment of new judges via collegium system recommendation.
- (iv) Art 142 → Supreme court can define own jurisdiction.
- (v) Conduct of judges cannot be discussed in legislature (except impeachment proceedings)
- (vi) Provision of contempt of court.

* But this independence must be balanced by accountability:-

- (i) Press allowed to give true account of proceedings.

- (ii) Impeachment possible if misuse of power by judges.
- (iii) PIL (Public interest litigations) can ask for review.

Yet, not much is accountable in case of judiciary

e.g.

- (i) Outside ambit of RTI (Delhi HC issue)
- (ii) 101st Constitutional Amendment struck down.
- (iii) Internal complaints committee has no power over senior judges. apparently (botched up ~~to~~ and improper proceeding in recent issue of sexual harassment)
- (iv) Contempt proceedings used extensively if judicial pronouncements are bad mouthed.

Thus, need is for the Supreme Court (seen as a beacon of justice) to itself allow for transparency in its proceedings e.g. appointment of judges, RTI etc to re-establish faith in its purity.

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।

Governmental departments' ~~have~~ current structure has various strengths like :-

- (i) Internal accountability. The superior of superior of superior, all keeping an eye on the subordinate.
- (ii) Separate departments for separate functions allow for specialisation etc.

But certain weaknesses exist as well such as :-

- (i) Lack of coordination between different departments leading to
 - overlap of functions
 - reduced efficiency
- (ii) Lack of set accountability for public acts (external accountability)
- (iii) Lack of transparency in functioning

- (iv) Lack of participation by citizens.
- (v) Lack of grievance redressal mechanisms and if present, lack of timely resolution.
- (vi) Lack of citizen charters release by departments.
- (vii) Corruption and incompetency are kept under wraps making the institution hollow from within.
- (viii) Callous, careless attitude of the public servants.
- (ix) ~~Lack of~~ Monopolisation of social service provision. Thus, preventing alternatives for citizens.
- (x) Lack of proper arrangement or filing system of documentation
Thus making decisions :-
- slow
 - cumbersome
 - difficult.

★ What can be done :-

- (i) Greater Digitisation of records
- (ii) Utilisation of technology for :-
 - intra governmental (G-G)
 - Government to Business
 - Government to Citizen transactions.
- (iii) Allow for social audit, grievance redressal mechanisms and resolutions
- (iv) Setting set accountability on department and personnel for different decisions.
- (v) Promotion based on merit and outcomes.
- (vi) Coordination and collaboration mechanisms.
- (vii) Voluntary disclosure of functioning methods.

Thus, the government must work to better its image and build trust within citizens for truly achieving Good Governance.

13. In the light of criticism surrounding the composition and functioning of Rajya Sabha, do you think it exists merely as a secondary house of the Parliament? (250 words) 15

राज्यसभा की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली से संबद्ध आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

Rajya sabha is a permanent house of Indian parliament with 1/3rd members retiring every 2 years.

It has provision of 12 nominated members (experts) from areas of art, literature, science, social service.

It functions as a upper house and as a representative of states.

* There has been rising criticism regarding its composition and functioning as:-

- (i) Slows down / obstructs passage of important bills.
- (ii) Less / no power with respect to money bills and Financial bills. type I
- (iii) Lower power in case of joint sitting
- (iv) Emergency National emergency revocation → no power.

etc.

So, it has been considered to be a useless secondary house which of Parliament.

But this is not the case because:-

- (i) Prevents hasty, emotional decisions by the Lok Sabha.
- (ii) Provides perspective of experts.
- (iii) Equal power in case of Constitutional amendment bills and ordinary bills.
- (iv) Creates accountability for Executive and prevents illogical / ill thought out bills from passage.
- (v) Provides option for experts to come out with own bills (private member bills) and bring issues to light.
- (vi) Protector of federalism :-
 - Art. 249 → only Rajya Sabha can provide power to Parliament for legislation in state list.
 - Art. 312 → All India Services can only be allowed via it.

(vii) Acts as

- National emergency, Presidential (Art 352)
- State emergency, (Art 356)
- Financial emergency (Art 360)

cannot be started without its sanction.

Thus, although it has lesser power in certain areas than Lok Sabha (which is justified as Lok Sabha is a directly elected house), yet it has certain crucial functions which keep it from being deemed useless.

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?

Recently, electoral bond scheme was forwarded by the central government to deal with the lack of transparency in electoral funding.

Issues with electoral funding:-

- (i) Extravagant use of money power for "buying votes"
- (ii) Use of black money for funding
- (iii) "Star Campaigners" expenditure kept out of party funding to be declared.
- (iv) Fancy accounting to hoodwink taxation officials.
- (v) Issue of RTI (Right to information act) application on political parties.

The recent reform 'electoral bonds' could very well further worsen the situation because:-

- (i) No cap of corporates on how much they can fund.
- (ii) Lack of disclosure as to which party the funds went to.
- (iii) No cap on how many bonds a particular party can receive.

Thus, further reforms are required such as :-

- (i) Continuation of small denomination electoral bonds but with caps on corporates and party (how much they can receive)
- (ii) OR
The electoral bonds could be pooled into single resource and equal funds transferred to all parties
i.e.

State funding of
elections

State funding of elections :-

A) Advantages :-

- (i) Equal funds with all parties
- (ii) Reduced spending on populist goodies. \therefore reduce inflation
- (iii) Can cap the amount spent on elections. Excess funding received may be utilised for public services.

B) Disadvantages :-

- (i) Lower money spent during elections \rightarrow less liquidity in market.
 \downarrow
 lower growth rate \leftarrow less demand
- (ii) Black money may yet play a role through illicit channels.

Thus, unless state funding is accompanied by stringent monitoring of expenditure of parties, it'll have no large impact in increasing transparency.

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 शामिल 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।

Local governance became a reality in India after 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993 which provided constitutional recognition to Urban local bodies like Municipal corporations, Notified area committees, municipalities, cantonment boards etc.

These local bodies are crucial in reforming governance of cities because :-

- (i) Closely linked to local issues
∴ well aware of them.
- (ii) Possibility of community participation at huge level.
- (iii) Empowerment and feeling of participative governance. Feeling of being heard.
- (iv) Possibility of social audit at higher scale.

(v) Accountability to community higher.

Yet, urban local bodies have been unable to do much since in the past 3 decades because :-

(i) Lack of financial resources

- States do not devolve many funds to urban local bodies (ULBs)
- Unwillingness of leadership of ULBs to levy duties

(ii) Lack of administrative, executive power :-

- State leadership unwilling to devolve power
- Lack of experience to handle such functions.

(iii) No power in case of legislative matters.

(iv) Lack of planning, comprehensive plans for area development.

* What can be done?

- (i) State finance commissions can recommend allocations to ULBs
- (ii) Outcome based future financing.
- (iii) Competition among cities can be set up by ranking at state levels.
- (iv) District level monitoring & evaluation plans of ULBs
- (v) Funds from MPLAD scheme could be utilised.
- (vi) ULBs ~~need to be assured~~ must not cringe away from levy of duties for services
e.g. in waste management / collection function.

Thus, ULBs have a lot of potential which needs to be actualised by providing greater financial, legal and executive functions along with ~~acc~~ set accountability for them.

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।

SHGs (Self Help Groups) ~~to~~ are a method of self employment which help inculcate a sense of self reliance, confidence, independence and courage among the members. These have been instrumental in poverty alleviation in India via :-

- (i) Linking credit availability :-
 - better collateral
 - better sense of payment of interest (reduce chances of default)
 - larger credit can be obtained.
- (ii) Collaboration and utilisation of differential talents of individuals
- (iii) Creation of employment for oneself
e.g.
"Lijjat Papad" = ^{local} women have been selling homemade papads and pickles

- (iv) Women empowerment → by providing economic independence.
- (v) Farmer welfare → farmer based SHGs have been instrumental in providing
- forward linkages ∴ increased income
 - provision of organic products for consumers.
 - promotion of zero budget, organic farming.
 - etc.

But, SHGs have faced various challenges in credit linkages such as :-

- (i) SHGs which are unable to provide collateral (especially landless and women) unable to obtain credit.
- (ii) Lower credit availability of deemed 'unprofitable' ventures.
- (iii) Priority sector lending focussed more on MSMEs etc.
- (iv) Liquidity crunch of banks in recent times due to NPAs.

(v) Banks unwilling to take risks to prevent further NPAs etc.

* What can be done?

(i) Mudra Banks on the lines of Gramin banks of Bangladesh can be strengthened.

(ii) Land reforms → taken up with seriousness → provide land as collateral etc.

(iii) Universal Basic income (at least partial) could be ~~thoro~~ considered.

(iv) One time investment schemes for budding SHGs can be provided without collateral.

(v) Private sector involvement in form of Angel investor etc.

(vi) Civil society organisations could promote their cause.

SHGs like MSMEs are independent, self governing, self profiting ventures which must be promoted in face of rising population (>131 Cr in 2019) and unemployment (6.1%).

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।

Recently government has taken various steps to address challenges of Indian higher education such as:-

- (i) RISE (Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education)
 - under financing from HEFA of 10,000 Crore.
- (ii) Institutions of Eminence scheme
 - to increase autonomy of 10 private and 10 public institutions
- (iii) GIAN and VAJRA schemes
 - to attract foreign faculty to teach in Indian universities
- (iv) UGC's outcome based curriculum framework.
- (v) AWSAR scheme
- (v) DIKSHA, 32 DTH channels, ~~Shaalaa~~

Digi Locker scheme etc.

Yet, higher education faces many problems even now :-

- (i) Lack of proper amount of financing
 - Till now = 3% of GDP
 - Kothari Commission recommended = 6%.
- (ii) Lack of proper accreditation environment causing balatant spread of "Fake Colleges"
- (iii) Lower employability of graduates.
- (iv) Mechanistic pedagogy :-
 - lack of curriculum flexibility
 - lack of options for students. Thus, churning out similarly taught and having same knowledge graduates.
- (v) Lack of focus on Research and development :-
 - in colleges for students.
 - by teaching faculty themselves.

* What can be done :-

(i) Adoption of Draft education policy's recommendations especially for

* teacher training

(- no extra curricular activities during teaching hours,

- Continuous professional development training etc)

* National accreditation framework.

* Technology based education

e.g. National Education data repository

(ii) Linking Academia - Industry to increase employability

(iii) Increase autonomy for curriculum setting to enhance innovation.

(iv) Outcome based promotion and tenure for teachers.

(v) Inculcate sense of scientific inquisitiveness from childhood with promotion of remunerative research based jobs.
etc.

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

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

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been able to built 26 lakh homes for poor and has sanctioned 81 lakh others which are yet to be built.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was started to provide one of the most basic human needs :-

Housing over the head of its weaker sections.

* Achievements :-

- (i) 26 lakh homes built
- (ii) Shifted people out of slums
- (iii) Drinking water (safe) and sanitation provided in these homes.
- (iv) Thus, reduced loss of human resource (by diseases)
- (v) Employment generation by linking PMAY with MGNREGA.

* Challenges faced :-

- (i) Lack of availability of Land
- (ii) People sometimes sell the built house and move back to slums.
- (iii) Slow progress :- with demand rising faster than availability.
- (iv) Lack of financing
- (v) Very low participation by private sector and civil society.

* How can these be countered and implementation fast tracked?

- (i) Utilisation of funds in MPLAD scheme for set villages.
- (ii) People's participation → make it a Jan Andolan.
- (iii) Punitive measures ~~a~~ could be set against those who sell off.
- (iv) Labour/employment provided to the beneficiaries for building own house.
- (v) Civil Society organisations could keep

a review over the post establishment stage.

(vi) Increased participation of private sector through CSR.

(vii) Utilisation of ISRO maps to find non-agricultural areas to establish residential colonies along with employment opportunities in the area.

e.g. SEZ (special economic zones)
* surrounded by residential colonies.

Thus, PMAY is a very crucial step to achieve 100% housing by 2022 and must continue with gusto to achieve SDG target 1, 6, 11, 12 along with upliftment of the weak.

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।

Traditionally, Indian Ocean (Thus named after India) had major influence of India over it. But in recent times things have started to change such as :-

- Increasing influence of China through its string of pearls.
- Piracy related issues.
- Terrorism.
- Free and fair trade related issues etc.

which have increased its strategic value even further.

Similarly, Indian Ocean's Island nations hold immense strategic value in shaping :-

(i) Shaping geopolitical contours of region as seen by :-

- As Influence of China increases over island nations, India's security

interests come under pressure



ISSUES IN INDIAN OCEAN AND ISLAND NATIONS

- With growth of String of Pearls of China including → Hambantota Port
 - Djibouti base
 - Guadhar Port

India's influence over the region is decreasing and its strategic interests are under pressure.

(ii) Maritime security:-

- India has a long coastline of 17,500 km making it vulnerable to security threats especially in

- the wake of 2008 Mumbai attacks
- Piracy threats are common in areas near Somalia etc which pose threat to free and fair trade in the ocean.
 - Threat from incursion by other nations. With existence of long range missiles and lack of trust among neighbouring countries, this may be used as another war frontier against India.

* To tackle this India:-

- (i) Countering with own ports → Chabahar, Dugm, Surgi etc
- (ii) Development of Maritime sensors along coastline
- (iii) Coordination centre for Intelligence at Gurugram.
- (iv) Deployment of 3 types of forces (Navy, Coast guard and police) with different objectives at different levels.

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 माध्यम के रूप में 'विक्रम सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफी विस्तार देखा गया है। यवित्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Development assistance refers to financial as well as skill based assistance provided by one nation to another to aid in its development.

India has been a huge receiver as well as giver of Development assistance since independence (earlier → receiver; now more to other nations). Thus, it forms a key instrument of India's foreign policy.

* Recent expansion seen as :-

- (i) Asia - Africa growth corridor by India and Japan → technological help and skilling by India.
 - Work of Kudumbshree NGO in Eritria etc.
- (ii) South Asia :-
 - Bhutan → Tala Dam, Chukchi Dam etc.
 - Sri Lanka → Talks of developing East Colombo Port, Trincomalee port.

- Nepal
- Maldives →
- Afghanistan →
 - Male port
 - Zaranj - Delaram Highway
 - Parliamentary building
 - Herat Dam
 - skilling of army etc

(iii) Iran → Chabahar Port etc.

Therefore, there has been expansion in both scope :-

- Port development
 - Dams (economic investment)
 - poverty alleviation
 - skill development
 - technological support etc.
- by Government and even civil society (NGOs) and

- reach :-
- S.A South Asia
 - Middle East
 - Even African Nations etc.

This expansion has been necessary for :-

- (i) developing friendly diplomatic relations
- (ii) Act as soft power
- (iii) Increasing India's standing in

global circles.

- (iv) Strategic use :- Prevent China's inroads and counter its influence of "Checkbook Diplomacy"

~~It is truly no wonder that the~~ Thus, developmental assistance provided by India has become a very crucial part of India's diplomatic endeavors.