



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2419)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	874484
Center	Online	Date	22 July 2023

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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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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## 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.

VisionIAS

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 is a premier financial investigation agency of India under Ministry of Finance.

Role in money laundering and foreign exchange laws :-

- ① Implementing agency for Fugitives of Economic Offenders Act (FEWA) and hence coordinates for return of economic fugitives.
- ② has power to attach and seize properties in case of financial crimes.
- ③ Implementing of agency for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

④ has power to investigate flow of foreign exchanges under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

⑤ Coordinates with international agencies such as Interpol etc

eg: Mehul Choksi case.

**Issues**

1. Politicisation of office to stifle opposition
2. Concern over loss of autonomy of ED chief.
3. Over last decade (2010-2020) due to changes in tenure there have been only 9 convictions.

Government must ensure that ED does not become a tool in political game. It must be provided with capabilities for speedy resolution & conviction in cases

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

liberty and democracy are two values enshrined in Preamble of Indian Constitution.

Framework for liberal democracy

- ① Fundamental rights under Part III have provided for liberty of speech, expression etc. as well as recognition of religious freedom (Art 25-28)
  - ② Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) mentioned in Part IV promote social and economic democracy too.
- ④: places responsibility upon state to decrease inequality. (Art 38).

3. Ensure social justice through provisions of reservations, National Commission for SC (Art 338), Offices for linguistic minority (Art 350) etc

4. Protection of rights of minorities and the vulnerable sections.

eg → Schedule V and VI protect tribal rights to their culture

5. Flexible nature of constitutional amendment and interpretation has allowed legislature & judiciary to expand these

However, the 73rd & 74th Amendment <sup>rights</sup>

However, the nature of Indian democracy must ensure that regional, social and gender inequality is reduced to ensure true liberal democracy.

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 is a judicial and governance principle that states that the implementation of policies must take place at smallest level (unit) of governance.

Examples → 1. Economic planning through Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

Importance

1. Ensures greater efficiency in implementation as local needs, circumstances are taken into account.

eg: tribal belief systems.

- ② Ensures fast feedback and hence improvement in policies. eg: exclusion from social welfare schemes can be corrected.
- ③ Easier ensures true democratic decentralisation as it becomes a participative process.
- ④ Easier to check corruption, leakages due to easier process & clearer accountability. eg: Social Audit.
- ⑤ Much more, sustainable approach due to vested interest of locals, capability building of local institutions etc.  
eg: Own sources of revenue (OSR) for PRIs.

Principles of subsidiarity along with competitive federalism will ensure a true 'Swant Kaal' in such a diverse India.

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

Mahatma Gandhi stated that it is only through performance of our duties that we can attain our rights.

- Fundamental duties mentioned in Part-IV-A of Indian constitution are complementary to fundamental rights:-

① Citizens that perform duties automatically respect and protect fundamental rights of fellow citizens.

eg:  
1. Respect dignity of women complements Right to equality (Art 14).

2. Respecting composite culture compliments

Freedom of religion (Art 25) and

freedom of minorities (Art 29 & 30)

② Fundamental duties



Thus, fundamental rights and duties cannot be separated. Awareness about the latter must be increased among especially the younger generation to ensure civic sense of duty.

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 is practise in Indian executive in which only a framework of law is passed in parliament & the rules are made by executive within the framework.

Against separation of power

1. Encroaches upon legislative power to law making.
2. Weakens parliamentary control over executive
3. Increases arbitrariness among the executive actions.
4. May lead to encroachment of fundamental rights.

However, there has been argument that delegated legislations are within the separation of power principles : —

① Rules are within parameters set by parliament

② Supreme court in Raj Narain Case has upheld it

③ Rules are too technical and beyond expertise of parliament

④ India does not have strict separation of power

⑤ There exists a parliamentary Committee on Subordinate legislation

Subordinate legislation and its increased use is merely indicative of weak functioning of parliament in recent decades. Annual calendar, less disruptions, constructive debate etc will ensure greater parliamentary control.

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

Compartmentalisation or working in silos is characteristic of Indian civil service.

It refers to absence of information sharing, coordination and cooperation among horizontal departments.

Factor behind poor governance

① Delays in decision making, implementation of policies as there is no single authority that makes decisions.

② Duplication of efforts and hence wastage of public resources.

③: FAME scheme could be placed under Ministry of Transport, Renewable or Heavy Industries.

③ Leads to lack of transparency and accountability as everyone passes the buck.

④ Decreased oversight due to culture of non-sharing → leakage & corruption  
→ arbitrary use of power.

Way Forward

④ Increased deputations

to foster cooperation.

⑤ Promotion of ICT as per HOTA Committee.

③ Lateral entry as they bring different work culture

② Problem specific working groups

④: Inter-ministerial groups (IMGs)

Demands of governance are changing. Today's India requires a faster, agile responsive civil services that ensures a coordinated and integrated approach to governance issues.

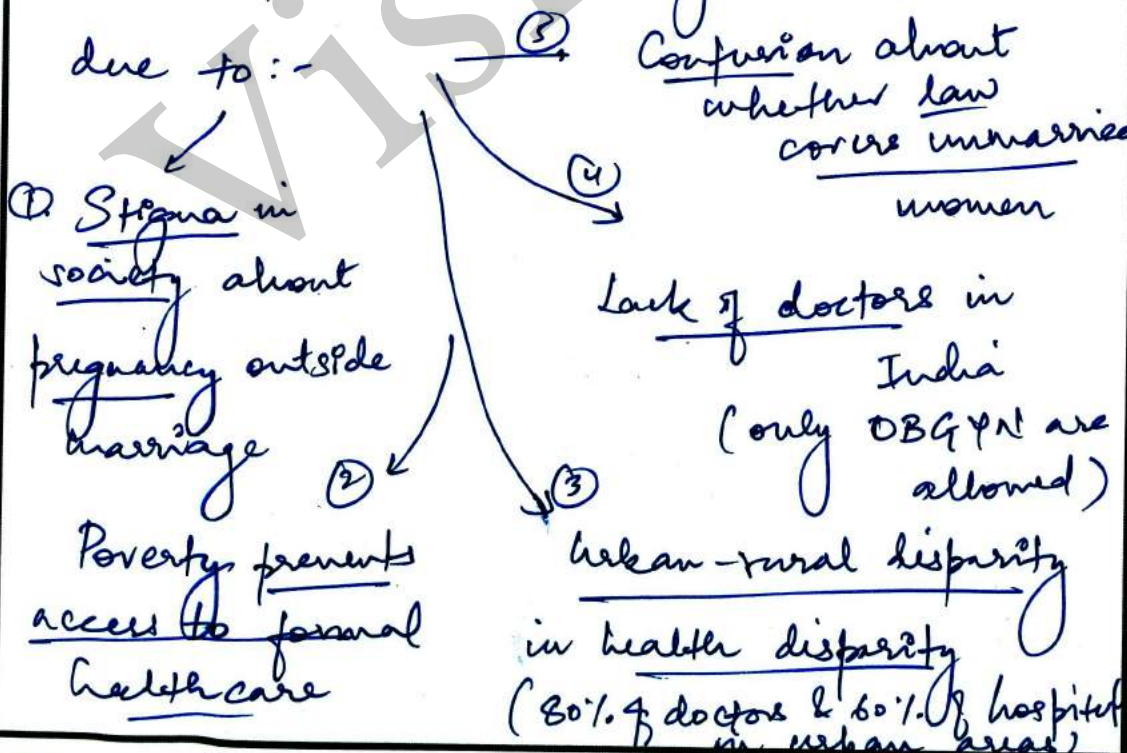
7. असुरक्षित गर्भपात भारत में महिलाओं के प्रजनन और मातृ स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित करने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। इसके लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों की पहचान कीजिए और उपचारात्मक उपाय भी बताइए।

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

In India, abortions are governed by Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP) Act.

- MTP Act allows abortion upto 20 weeks of pregnancy and further with consultation with more doctors.

However, there are many unsafe abortions due to :-



Impact

1. Increased maternal deaths among teenagers.
2. Psychological and physical trauma
3. Difficulty during marriage
4. May lead to infertility due to damage caused to reproductive system.

Remedial measure

4. Sex education in school curriculum

- 1. Sanitization and destigmatization regarding abortion
2. Greater public awareness about reproductive rights  
eg: MTP Act
3. Inclusion of Abortion in govt. schemes eg: Ayushman Bharat for greater outreach.

Voluntary or involuntary loss of reproductive rights severely violates women's dignity which is protected under Article 21.

8. डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य देखभाल भारत में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक पहुंच और उसकी वहनीयता से संबंधित स्थायी मुद्दों का समाधान करने में सक्षम है। इस संदर्भ में, देश को 'डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य' क्रांति के मुहाने 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

Digital healthcare refers to provision of healthcare services through digital technology & use for better decision making, policy planning etc in healthcare.

### Perennial issues

- ① 80% of doctors & 60% of hospitals are in urban areas
  - ② 1 doctor per 1511 citizens  
(WHO recommends 1:1000)
  - ③ 48.20% of expenditure is out of pocket (2018-19)
- } National Health Account Estimates (2022)

### Role of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

1. Consultation through digital medicine

decreases the accessibility burden.

② Tele-medicine ensures democratization of healthcare (eg): e-Sanjeevani

③ Consultation with medical students / interns can prove affordable for non-serious ailments.

④ Maintenance of centralized health record will lead to : → Better decision making and diagnosis (as all information is easily available)

← Better policy formulation for social health

← Greater choice of doctors (as information about available doctors maintained for)

Along with consultation and diagnosis, India must also leverage its India Stack to promote 'Preventive healthcare' such as fitness tracking, nutrition information dissemination etc.

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 group of 20 countries who account for 3/4th of global trade and 65% of global population.

India as South Asia's Voice

① Opportunity to showcase South Asia's cultural ~~divers~~ and regional diversity.

② Shed light upon challenges of the region.

Required reforms in multi-lateral organisations

Need for finance for infrastructure & connectivity issue.

Vulnerability & susceptibility to natural disasters

⊕: floods, landslides

Cross-border terrorism

③ Showcase India's new technological development

and promote it in other South Asian  
nations @: UPI.

④ Platform for dialogue & diplomacy as  
SAARC, BIMSTEC are dormant.

⑤ highlight climate change & its impact  
on South Asia (one of the most vulnerable  
region).

⑥ highlight commitment to environmental  
conservation goals ~~of~~ under COP26.

G20 provides India with unique opportunity  
of voice & presence of not just South  
Asia but 'Global South' and promote  
an inclusive growth.

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

UAE is India's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest trade partner  
and largest in West Asia.

CEPA as catalyst

- ① Greater access to Indian goods which are in high demand due to large Indian diaspora.
- ② Promotion of Indian financial and digital services such as UPI, India Stack etc.
- ③ Greater trade balance as India is reliant on UAE for mineral oil, natural gas etc.
- ④ Greater access to employment market especially in hospitality and construction.

sector.

⑤ Easier flow from UAE of foreign investment in Indian public and private sector

⑥: In India's strategic reserves of oil

⑥ Promotion of Indian education institutes such as IIT Campus (upcoming), BITS Campus at Dakari etc.

⑦ New market for India's growing defence equipments industry.

UAE can act as an gateway for India into middle-eastern countries due to large number of cultural linkages.

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

As per National Judicial Data Grid, currently around 94 crore cases are pending at 3 levels of judiciary combined.

Absence of well-considered legislation

① Adds to pendency of cases with frivolous cases.

② Impinges upon fundamental rights of citizens and hence judiciary must intervene

②: Section 66A of IT Act in Shreya Singhal case

③ Need for Domain Justice

① Anomalies of judicial reach are widening such as privacy under Puttaswamy Case,

environment as seen in M C Mehta  
case etc

② Judicial activism requires judiciary to  
have expertise or else leads to inefficient  
judgments.

eg: Deadline for BS-VI engines was  
extended numerous times as it was  
arbitrary.

### Dysfunctional criminal justice system

① High number of undertrials → currently  
8/10 prisoners are undertrials → NCRB  
(2020)

② Overcrowded prisons (130% as per NCRB)  
which leads → unhygienic conditions  
↳ physical and mental  
wellbeing affected.

③ Understaffing in police and prisons  
(25000 vacant)  
posts

## Way Forward

- ① Integration of technology in courts through FASTER system, e-courts mission mode etc
- ② Mahabadi Committee recommendations:
  - Uniform bail application policy
  - Greater use of Nyay panchayat for smaller cases
  - Increase number of judges to 50 per million citizens
- ③ Creation of All-India Prison Services as recommended by AN Anulla Committee.
- ④ Sensitisation, better investigative training, upgradation of scientific facilities among police. @: forensic practices
- ⑤ Prevention of corruption and greater accountability among judiciary  
@: Bengaluru Principles of Judicial conduct

We must remember Right to Speedy Trial is fundamental right and alone steps must be implemented at earliest.

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

Anti-Defection law was passed through 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act (1985) which added Schedule X to prevent legislatures changing parties after the election.

- The law has been largely unsuccessful as seen in several recent cases of defection → NCP MLAs in Maharashtra  
→ Congress MLAs in Madhya Pradesh

### Causes for failure

- ① Deficiencies in the law itself:

Allows for merger  
thus promotes mass  
defection

Paragraph IV has  
confusing definitions  
about 'legislative  
party' & new party.

- ② Lack of consequences in electoral politics
- ③ The power of disqualification lies with Presiding officer of the house → there based when defection is into joining party.
- ④ No time frame for disqualification process.
- ⑤ leaves no room for legitimate dissent, democratic debates etc as one cannot go against whip.

Defection has turned Indian democracy from democracy of people to democracy of political parties.

### Way Forward

- ① Changes to authority that decides upon disqualification :-

- ECI : by Governor or President upon recommendations of ECI
  - 2nd ARC : by Election Commission
  - Supreme Court : by independent tribunal.
- ② Allow room for democratic debates through increased and efficient functioning of parliament
  - ③ Promote intra party democracy as recommended by Law Commission.
  - ④ Fix a time-frame for decision upon disqualification.
  - ⑤ Clarity and consistency upon application of paragraph IV definitions.

Academic revisiting of Xth schedule by Supreme court or independent commission is necessary to protect true spirit of representative democracy

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

Article 262 of Indian constitution deals with governance of inter-state rivers.

Issues due to conflictual federalism:-

1. Complex and opaque nature of inter state water tribunals. (e): appointments
2. Politicisation of issue which leads to feeling of relative injustice or deprivation during award.
3. Non-compliance with tribunal awards.
4. Extremely difficult and technical tasks due to non-uniform flow

of Indian rivers, complex terrain etc

5. Dependence of Indian agriculture-led economy on rainfed & monsoon irrigation → increases the gravity of conflict.
6. Inefficient data regarding water flow and non-sharing of such data when present.

### Mechanisms available

- ① River Boards Act (1956) provides for boards which facilitate information sharing.
- ② Tribunals established under Inter State River Disputes Act (1956). (eg): Krishna Water Tribunal
- ③ Inter State Council (Article 263) and Zonal Councils to facilitate discussions between states.

## Way Forward

- Pass River Basin Management Bill (2019) to ensure watershed management
- Promote inter-river linkage to decrease number of such disputes.
- Amend Inter state River Disputes Act to include Dispute Resolution Tribunal to ensure compliance (CRT)
- Promote data sharing and collection through National Water Informatics centre (NWIC).
- Depoliticisation of river

Inter-states river is a multipronged, multi domain issue that can only be solved through dialogue and discussions with various stakeholders.

14. उत्तर-औपनिवेशिक दस्तावेज होने के बावजूद भारतीय संविधान के उन मूलभूत पहलुओं का सविस्तार 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 was enacted on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950 after long deliberation in the constituent assembly constituted under Cabinet mission.

Differed from contemporaries

- ① References from various existing constitutions and political practices to choose best suited system -  
 (a) parliamentary system from UK  
but Judicial system from USA
- ② Wide and long consultation from various groups (Caste, religions, regional) leaders which involved heated discussion for more than 2 years.

- ③ Blend of rigidity and flexibility to allow for constitutional supremacy as well as adaptability.
- ④: Not as flexible as UK or as rigid as American.
- ④ Inclusive of all the diversity of Indian culture which enabled a peaceful & thriving coexistence of communities.
- ⑤: 22 official languages of India vs Sri Lankan struggle for linguistic groups.
- ⑤ A good mix of western and indigenous values such as :- 'Secular' from west while different form of secularism already existing in India.
- ⑥ Guarantees not just political equality but also social and economic welfare through Directive Principles.

of State Policy.

④ Protects individual as well as

community rights (eg): Art 25-30

Due to accommodations of various demands

and nature of formulation process, Indian

constitution has been successful in

maintaining democratic order for 75 years

while many contemporaries have failed.

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 refer to concessions (material or otherwise) or promise of concessions given during electoral cycle to persuade voters for votes.

Example

1 → Free electricity, public transport etc

Promises  
debt  
forgiveness  
etc

2 → Promises of reservation for particular community.

More harm than good

① Voter behaviour is influenced towards voting for material benefits:

↳ affects quality of democratic leadership.

↳ ~~seen~~ voting seen as one transaction rather than democratic duty.

- ② Unfair advantage to ruling party  
as they have control of government  
machinery - eg: fury of concessions  
given before MCC starts.
- ③ Influence of moneypower & stranglehold  
mentality in elections → criminalisation  
of politics. eg: 49% of MPs in Lok  
Sabha (2019) have criminal cases.
- ④ Increases incentive for corruption as  
the money needs to be recuperated after  
election + leakages enormous increase.
- ⑤ Bad public fiscal practice  
↳ often decision  
taken without  
know-how of  
functioning of government  
↳ pressure on state  
finances.  
↳ affects economic  
growth in long  
term
- eg: Recruit issue in Karnataka

Positives

1. Incentivises political participation  
 Ex: still many electors see around 60% voting
2. Legal and hence only a tool of electoral politics
3. Public must be enabled to make right choice for their future (ultimate aim of democracy)
4. Ultimately aimed at social welfare

Way Forward

1. Delineation between welfare and freebies
2. Empowering Election Commission to take decisions regarding freebies.
3. Statutory recognition to Model Code of Conduct.
4. Change in voter behaviour & attitude through awareness etc.

Bottom to top approach is the most successful in this case as failure to run elections despite freebies will change culture.

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 aims to launch & revamp too digitally enabled, sustainable cities to provide for India's increasing urban population

31% of Indian population lives in cities as per Census, 2011.

### Mixed Results

- ① Around 50% of completion in projects (way short of its target by 2020)
- ② Emergence of several new urban public transport projects & ITe digitisation.
- ③: Mumbai metros, water meters in Kerala etc.

- ③ Proliferation of digitalisation using  
'India Stack' such as UPI, FASTag  
, etc.

However some failures to : —

- ① Quality of infrastructure has been  
questionable (eg): Recent roof collapse in  
Port Blair airport, bridge collapse etc
- ② Environmentally unsustainable seen in  
recent Delhi floods, water shortage in  
Chennai etc

### Challenges faced

- ① Unplanned sprawl in cities are  
difficult to clear or even reform.
- (eg): Supreme court stayed Jahangirpuri  
demolition
- ② Inadequate finances with urban local  
bodies and hence lack of decisional  
autonomy.

- ③ Lack of private participation, market instruments in finances are underdeveloped, etc
- ④ Lack of integrated planning ~~down~~ at top resulting in ad-hoc decisions.
- ⑤ Lack of technical and managerial human resources regarding urban planning.
- ⑥ More focus on big-name projects rather than local needs such as sanitation, potable water etc.

As per NITI Aayog's 'Reform in Urban

Planning' - a statutory urban planning body at state level, inclusion of courses in curriculum and development of both private financial instruments is required.

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

As of 2023, India has more than 100 unicorn startups (evaluated at more than \$ 1 billion).

### Several hurdles faced

- ① Lack of adequate funding resulting in cash crunch, impacts scalability etc.
- ② Very complex and multilayered regulatory regime with trend towards greater centralisation and censorship.
- ③ Recent Fast check unit of PIB, IT rules amendment about significant social media intermediaries.
- ③ limited entry space to people from good colleges due to dependence on

contacts with alumni + regional disparity  
to only few cities (Bengaluru etc).

④ Lack of concrete corporate governance

structure resulting in misgovernance,  
corruption, employee harassment etc

eg: BYJU's financial statement +

recent video from Coding Ninjas etc.

⑤ Overdependence on Indian market resulting  
in customized products and practices which  
are very difficult to scale outside.

### Future of India

① Employment generation especially in labour  
intensive industry startups such as  
Food Processing.

② Skilled upgradation of population due to  
high number of startups in digital  
service industry.

③ Ripple economic effect on traditional

- industries :
1. Seamless cash transactions due to UPI, Paytm
  2. Democratization of information (eg): Weather updates from apps to farmers.
  3. Incoming of FDI resulting growth of finance industry
  4. Promotes research and development due to necessity of new indigenous tech

④ Important for geostrategic autonomy through indigenous defence tech

(eg): ASTROME tech's collaboration with Army.

Regulatory bottlenecks must be cleared through single-window clearances, full capital account convertibility, etc. must be ensured to ensure startups act as 'engines' of Indian economic development.

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 Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched in 2015 to combat female foeticide and promote women empowerment.

Much needed attention to gender discrimination

① Improvement in sex ratio from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011.

② Improvement in female enrolment ratio from 45% in 2014-15 to 49% in 2020-21.

But failed to yield desired results :-

① Decrease in female labour force participation ratio to 29% (PLFS 2020-21)

② Decrease in sex ratio at birth to 919

indicating poor trend especially in Haryana.

Poor implementation of and monitoring

1. As per report from Ministry of Women and Child Development → 79% of funds allocated were used for TV advertisement rather than on scheme.
2. NGO Daksha estimates 23 million girls have dropped out of school showing poor monitoring.
3. Sex-determination scanning takes place despite stringent punishment under PCPNDT Act → lack of grass root monitoring at clinic level.
4. Lack of political will to go against age-set social customs and loose vote banks.

5. Patriarchal norms are entrenched in Indian society and requires changes in attitude-behaviour.

May Forward

4. Gender specific employment & skilling programmes

3. Remove entry barriers for girls' education through girl toilets, mid day meal etc

1. Attitudinal change through good role models  
eg: Dangal movie's impact in NW India

2. Stringent punishments for medical practitioners that violate PCPNDT Act.

5. Empowerment of women specific NGOs and SHGs  
eg SEWA.

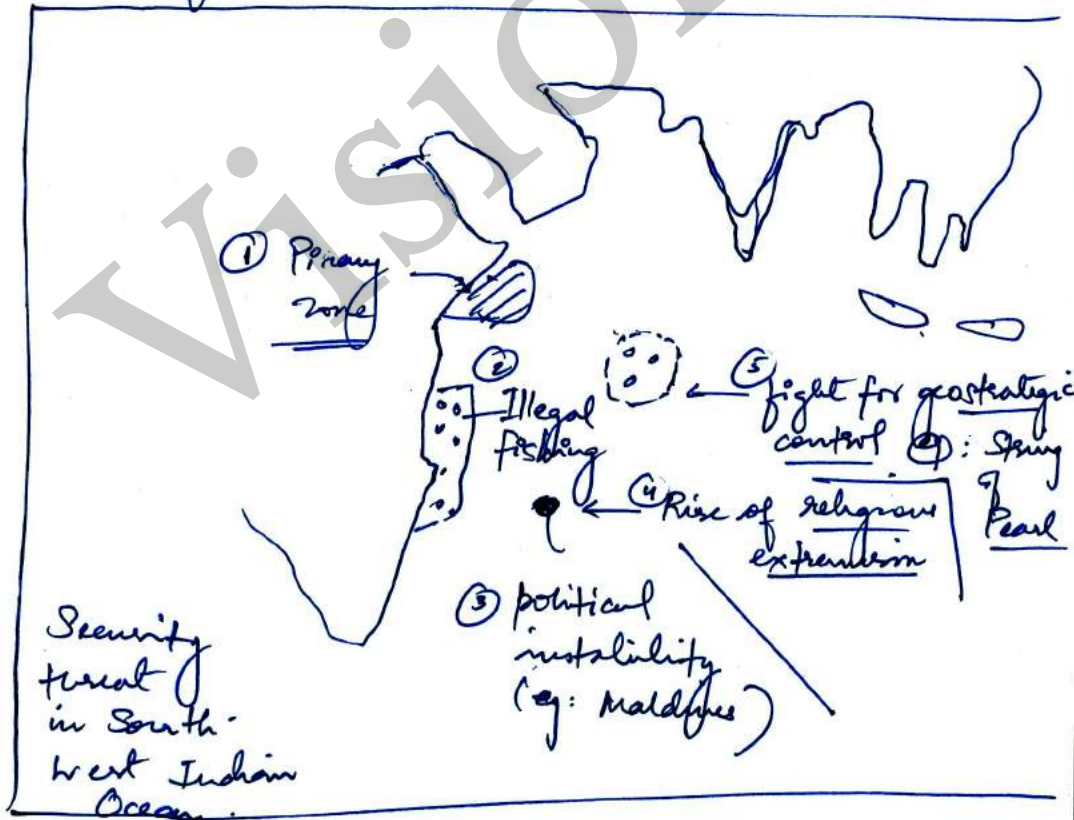
SDG-5 ensures gender equality and BBBP Scheme is merely first step towards the long journey.

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

South-West Indian Ocean consists of many sovereign islands (Seychelles, Reunion, etc) & home to many important sea-lanes of communication and trade.

### Security threats



## Role played by India

- ① Sharing of information regarding security threats through Information Fusion Center - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).
- ② Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance (HADR) by India to SIDS countries.
- ③ Cooperation and collaboration under Centre for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to help with climate change & adaptation.
- ④ Assistance in anti-piracy operations by Indian Navy by under Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).
- ⑤ Provision of defence equipments such

as marine radars, coast guard boats  
etc

- ② Provision of mitigation & adaptation  
fund through Global Climate Facility  
(GCF) for adaptation.

SIDS nations due to their size & loca-  
tion are in unique position of critical  
location but no capability. India must  
be voice of 'Global South' to promote  
'a secure, inclusive & low-carbon  
Indian ocean'.

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

Despite India having a large land boundary, it lacks in cross-border trade and connectivity.

Reimagining cross-border connectivity

① North Western Border :

- Promotion of connectivity with Afghanistan through Chabahar port and Zaraj - Delasam highway.

② Trilateral highway and multimodal connectivity projects through BBIN with Thailand, Myanmar etc.

③ Central Asia connectivity through Ashgabat agreement, International

North - South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

- ① Bangladesh : promotion of railway links  
(Agartala - Akhaura link), seamless border  
crossing etc

Issues

- ① Cross-border terrorism has stopped any  
cross border connectivity through Pakistan.
- ② Difficult terrain due Himalayas,  
tropical forests etc in North Eastern  
Region
- ③ Regulatory clearance such as recent  
Supreme Court case over Himalayan  
roads
- ④ Illegal migration of refugees leads to  
loss of trust among border population.

## Ways Forward

- Promote sustainable linkage with employment generation and skill upgradation of local population.
- Seamless border checkpoints with single window customs clearance.
- Signing multi-lateral and bilateral trade agreements with neighbouring countries to enhance trade links.
- Cooperation between security agencies for cross border terrorism @ : India - Myanmar operation

Cross-border connectivity in South Asia will enable India to promote its vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas' globally aligning it with Nusdev Kuthumbakan