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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	NUPUR GOEL		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	6667
Center	ORN	Date	3/9/19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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।

In spite of being 50% of total population, women represent only 11.4% in Parliament. Their representation in state legislatures is more dismal.

Govt has come up with 108th constitutional Amendment Bill for increasing political participation of women.

Features - Maximum 1/3rd seats to be reserved for females at National & state level.

Merits for such reservation :-

- 1) Increase in political representation of women
- 2) More inclusive and representative Parliament.
- 3) Issues like health, sanitation, education come to front when ladies are more → Eg- in PRIs & urban local

- bodies.
- 4) Deal with patriarchal notion of society.
 - 5) Equal status of women ensured.

Challenges for 108th Bill:-

- 1) Will of politicians across political parties.
- 2) Women themselves willing to take such posts - Eg- Panchayat Prati syndrome in PRIs.
- 3) Low status of women due to patriarchy.

on top of it, reservation isn't a panacea for low representation of women. It is also due to various socio-education-economical reasons like less literacy amongst women, lack of their empowerment, lack of awareness and social influence.

We need to work on all these multiple fronts besides 108th Amendment bill to make an equitable and inclusive India.

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।

In spite of reserving seats for SC & ST in public employment by way of A 15(4) & 16(4), the representation of SC & ST in higher posts is abysmally low. [Just 3-5%].

Thus, there have been many steps taken by govt as well as supreme court to make these posts more inclusive.

* 77th Constitutional Amendment Act gave way for Article 16(4A) → promotions of SC & ST to be reserved

- consequential seniority

Article 16(4B) → carry forward policy.

* But SC in 1992 in M. Nagaraj case ~~substantive~~ substantive case

gave certain benchmarks:-

- 1) State to give proof of backwardness
- 2) Not adequate representation of SC & ST in higher posts
- 3) Efficiency not to get hampered due to such reservation.

* Here supreme court had reversed its stand taken in Indira Nagaraj case in which it had held such reservation to be unconstitutional.

Pros of Reservation

- 1) More inclusiveness and representativeness in public organisations.
- 2) Social Justice.
- 3) Undoes the historical wrongs.

Cons of such policy :-

- 1) Usually benefits cornered by rich & affluent SC, ST - The really needy people get marginalised again.
- 2) Efficiency suffers.
- 3) Demand of various other communities to be given similar reservation.
- 4) More of a political populism.

inspite of reservation, govt must work to give health, education & skills to SC, ST (Empowerment Approach of Amartya Sen). Also, creamy layer can be introduced in SC, ST (as suggested by supreme court).

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 made under the 6th scheduled areas in the states of ^{Assam} Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura & Meghalaya.

Features - constituted by Governor
 - Have legislative & financial functions
 - Also work as judiciary to solve local disputes
 - funds given by consolidated fund of state.

inspite of they being constitutional in nature, they are underperforming because :-

- 1) Lack of funds - Most of funds are tied funds, delays in getting funds & lack of adequate taxation powers.
- 2) Lack of functionary - don't have necessary staff, expertise is lacking in governance matter - usually governs by rule of thumb.

- 3) lack of adequate functions - it has overlapping functions with state ministries & departments.
- 4) lack of inter-sectoral coordination.
- 5) lack of adequate participation of locals i.e. tribal people - inadequate support by NGOs, civil society. Also bureaucratic apathy.
- 6) corruption.

Measures to reform them :-

- 1) ARC II says actively mapping must be done in order to clearly demarcate their roles, functions & responsibilities.
 - 2) Adequate & timely provision of funds by states & finance commission to supervise the same.
 - 3) Increase in awareness about ADE by working in NGO, civil society etc.
 - 4) Mandatory social audit to be done by ADE of all the govt developmental programs.
- we need empowered ADE to have empowered tribal areas & thus, a developed India.

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 British legacy which was passed in 1923 so as to preserve all the govt information & further the British interests.

But after liberalisation, privatisation & globalisation there was an increase in need of transparency. Thus, we passed Right to Information Act, 2005 after CM's Conference.

Rationale behind continuance of OSA, 1923 :-

- 1) security and integrity of nation.
- 2) espionage, sedition dealt.
- 3) Maintenance of foreign relation.
- 4) Important for critical arms like army, navy, etc nuclear establishments etc.

Yes, RTI must be given precedence over OSA :-

- 1) OSA is a British legacy. It considered citizen → servant & govt as master.

- But today, govt → servant, ^{citizen} state → master.
- 2) section 22 of RTI says that it has precedence over OSA.
 - 3) section 8 of RTI also give various provisions wherein information is withheld from public.
 - 4) RTI leads to transparency & OSA shreds secrecy. ARC II says RTI to be masterkey to good governance.

NO, it shouldn't get precedence:-

- 1) National security & integrity is paramount.
- 2) The democratic culture isn't yet mature in India & RTI can be misused by vested interests.
- 3) New challenges - cyber laws, molecular war, environmental change, water war etc emerging.

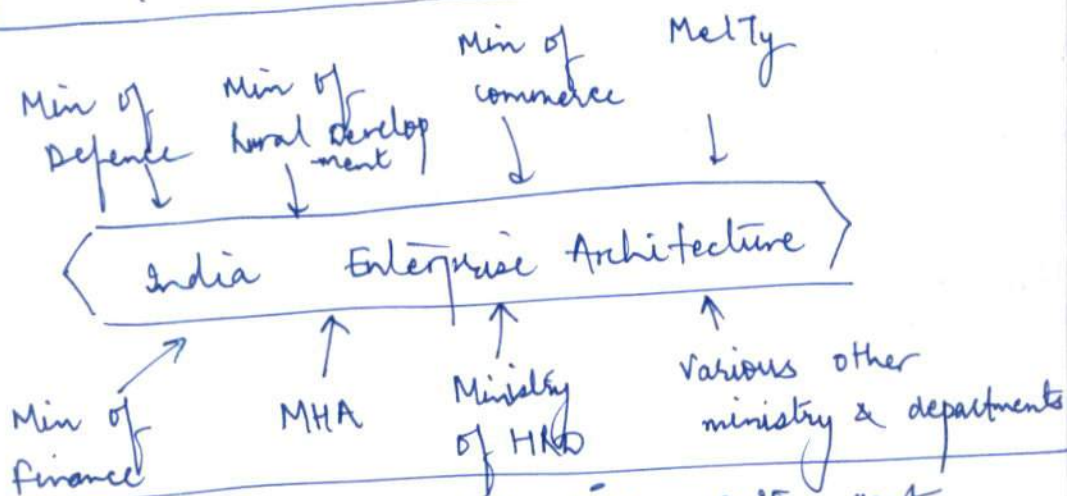
ARC II recommended that RTI must be given precedence over OSA. However, we can add its clauses to National security Act so as to have a balance between openness & security.

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 treats the govt of India as one enterprise. It is a 'whole of govt' approach to give holistic experience to the citizens for availing different govt services.



It'll give ONE govt experience to entities & aims to standardise streamline all the govt processes on one site.

Principles of IndEA :-

- 1) Integration of various ministries & departments

and to deliver their services.

- 4) Holistic & Comprehensive experience of citizen/entity.
- 5) SAG Linkage - SAG aims linked to IndEA.
- 6) Inter-sectoral & interministerial cooperation & coordination - Data sharing
- 7) Use of technology - Mobile phones mandatory for delivery of services.

How it can improve governance?

- 1) Efficiency & effectiveness will be increased.
- 2) More transparency - More accountability.
- 3) Most cost-effectiveness as better resource optimisation.
- 4) Less delays - Faster service.
- 5) IndEA to become a model for 'Agile Governance' → Better service delivery.

But, there are some challenges:-

- 1) Till now, the ministries working in silo - difficult to integrate them.
- 2) Need huge expertise.

Data is the new oil as suggested by Economic survey. IndEA can usher in faster growth using the same oil.

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?

Cooling off period can be understood as mandatory time period, say 1-2 years, after retirement only after whose completion, the person can take next job.

It is right now 1 year according to civil services conduct Rules, 2014 & if a civil servant wants employment before its completion, he has to seek the permission of Centre.

Rationale :-

- 1) Reduce the misuse of public office and power.
- 2) Decreases corruption by increasing accountability.
- 3) Decrease the politicisation of civil servants - Maintains their neutrality.
- 4) Ensures independence of civil servants.

But, there have been a number of violations of such cooling off period :-

~~Eg:-~~ Retired civil servant ^{allowed} ~~made~~ to join a private firm, Reliance Industries.

This calls in for a
relook at civil services conduct rules:-

- 1) UPSC to decide further employment instead of it being a discretion of central government.
- 2) Even after the completion of cooling off period, they must not be allowed to join the firm of the sectors in which they have served.
- 3) In wake of increasing life expectancy, Economic survey 2018-19 makes an appropriate case of increasing the retirement age itself.
- 4) Reducing discretion in public activities so that even officers at higher levels of policy formulation aren't able to tweak policies favouring private interests.

Apart from these, there must be a code of ethics for all civil servants to guide an ethical conduct as recommended by ARC II.

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

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

India is still grappling with malnutrition.

Stunting - 38%.

Anaemia - 50% girls & females

Wasting - 28%.

SMR, IMR, neo-natal deaths - also high

In this scenario, govt has come up with POSHAN Abhiyan to eliminate malnutrition in India by 2022.

Features of POSHAN Abhiyan:-

- 1) convergence of all national govt & state govt schemes.
- 2) ICT-led - Real time updation of data through mobiles, tablets etc.
- 3) implemented by ASHA, MNM, Anganwadi workers.
- 4) To be funded by 60:40 pattern between union & state.
- 5) synergetic approach - Ministry of Health, child & family welfare, Mo HRD, Mo RD all to take coordinated part.

- 6) ICDS - common Application software for real time monitoring & feedback.
- 7) competition & incentivisation.

How is it an improvement? :-

- 1) community participation - by involving ASHA, gram panchayat, NGOs, SHGs etc.
- 2) earmarking of funds for nutrition mission.
- 3) Mission mode approach for transparency & accountability.
- 4) focus on not only curative but also preventive healthcare - awareness generation programs.
- 5) outcome & output monitoring - Focus on reducing stunting to 25%, IMR by 2% etc.
- 6) Incentivisation - Nudge theory better suited for behavioural change.

We need to be
hunger-free Bharat in order to
become a sashakt Bharat by 2022.

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।

India has become a hub of generic medicine manufacturing in the world. It is the low-cost drug that is equivalent to branded drug in terms of appearance, dosage, effect etc but produced through alternative methods.

Need for generic medicine in India:-

- 1) Out of pocket expenditure very high in India - Around 78%.
 - 2) Low availability of branded drugs in rural areas.
 - 3) Low cost of generic drugs.
 - 4) Produced locally, so not reliant on imports of these medicines.
 - 5) Also used for soft skills abroad - India supplying these in Afghanistan, Africa.
- But still, the availability

and adoption of such drugs is low:-

- 1) Doctors - do not prescribe these drugs
 - Nexus amongst doctors & big pharma drug dealers.
 - Loss of medical ethics.
- 2) Raw material - India dependent on china for Active pharmaceutical ingredients
 - The generic drug manufacturers have to wait till patents of actual drug expires.
 - Reverse engineering to make such drug has its own limitations.
- 3) Less incentive for pharmacist to sell these drugs due to less profit.
- 4) Poor supply chain management - even quality of these drugs are in question.
- 5) Lack of proper regulatory regime.

steps taken by govt :-

- 1) Jan Aushadhi scheme
- 2) PM Shree Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana
- 3) Directive to doctors to write generic drugs by MCS.
- 4) Mohalla clinics in Delhi where they are distributed free of cost.
- 5) Plugging loopholes in its supply chain by making its procurement online.

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 became a norm for global trade after globalisation in 1990s. We saw WTO, A various multi lateral agreements like FTA with ASEAN, TIF, RCEP etc.

Features - Transparent, accountable
- proper grievance redressal system
- Rule-based system
- Deterrent effect
- seeks to lower direct & indirect trade barriers.

But, there are a number of challenges faced by them today :-

- 1) Growing protectionism - Donald Trump's 'Putting America First', China's 'currency manipulation' []
Brexit etc.
- 2) Rise in regionalism - RCEP, TIF challenge regime of WTO.
- 3) Rise in bilateral agreements rather than multilateral agreements.

- 4) Growth in vacancies:- USA deliberately delaying judges appointment to WTO Appellate Body.
- 5) Lack of consensus - WTO on majority of issues - resulting into deadlocks as in Doha Round.
- 6) Lack of power to enforce its orders.

Measures to be taken

- 1) Filling of vacancies in WTO as soon as possible.
 - 2) Making the decisions majority based (2/3 rd) rather than consensus-oriented.
 - 3) Developing nations like India, China, Brazil to take a lead to revive WTO as multilateralism is better suited to all everyone's interests.
 - 4) Giving adequate powers to WTO for enforcing its orders.
 - 5) Better rules to be framed with periodic updation & revision so as to suit changing needs.
- We need to revive WTO so as to have an equitable & balanced growth in the world.

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?

After the end of cold-war, the trade between India & USA has increased manifold to \$ 160 billion. They have a target to achieve \$ 500 billion trade in near future.

Impediments affecting India - USA trade relation:-

- 1) Tariff & Non-Tariff Barrier → Donald Trump recently insisted for reduced tariff by India (Harley Davidson case), it → also imposed tariffs on steel & Aluminium → Various sanitary, phytosanitary barriers by USA.
- 2) IPR issue - India's reluctance for evergreening of patent, generic medicines are also a concern.
- 3) Lack of market access to India, especially
 - H1B visa
 - Mode 4 service delivery
 - Pharmaceuticals, agricultural exports.

- 4) S-400 case - India Russia relation is also taken as negative by USA -
- 5) Recent domestic procurement in case of solar cells under ~~the~~ solar Mission, E-commerce policy guidelines by min of Commerce etc.

USA has withdrawn India from Generalised system of preferences. It allows duty free entry of selected goods from given nations.

Negative fallouts

- Indian exports to USA will decrease.
- Increase in duty'll reduce competitiveness
- Affect on MSME, agricultural, electronic goods.

Positive :-

USA says that GSP is for low developed economies & India no longer needs this special preference.

Instead of vying for GSP, we must recalibre & strengthen our global value-chain system to make our exports more competitive in USA market. India can use its diplomacy to have more market access from USA.

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 one of the most important organ in a democratic set up which is responsible for - adjudication

- substantial question of law
- guardian of constitution.

this it needs to be independent. its independence is ensured by :-

- 1) constitution :- Article 32, 226, 142, 124 ensure their independence.
- 2) Appointment by collegium of judges.
- 3) Removal by special majority in Parliament.
- 4) their ~~own~~ salaries, expenditure etc ~~can't~~ be charged upon consolidated fund of India.
- 5) Posting, promotion, transfer all decided by judiciary without executive interference.

Although, we have given various safeguards for judicial independence,

but they aren't accountable :-

- 1) Not under ambit of RTI, 2005 inspite of supreme court saying it to be a fundamental right.
- 2) Cases of corruption against SC, HC judges :- Even CJI was said to have conflict of interest in Prasad Education Trust case!
- 3) Press-meeting of senior judges of supreme court showed of aqness in its functioning - Against Master of roster doctrine & arbitrary handling of cases.
- 4) striking of NJAC as ^{it was} against judicial independence.
- 5) Appointment - culture of uncle judge, nepotism, opaque functioning of collegium.
- 6) ~~Non~~ Arbitrary use of contempt of court provision.
- 7) There is also huge pendency ~ Around 3.5 crore pending cases for which judiciary must be held accountable.

We need balance between both as :-

- 1) Accountability'll uphold public trust
- 2) Only a clean judiciary can ensure clean politics, executive & legislature.
- 3) Not only the justice has to be done, it must also appear to have been done.
- 4) Transparency, openness'll lead to more meritorious individuals joining judiciary.
- 5) strengthening of democracy.

It can be done by :-

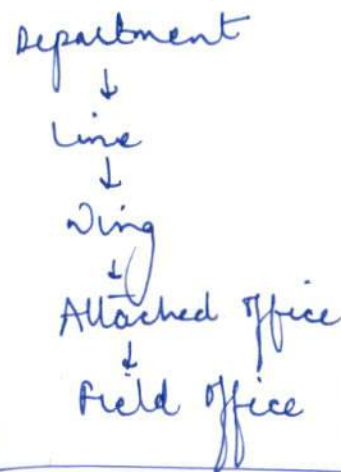
- 1) Passing Memorandum of procedure as soon as possible to fill vacancies.
 - 2) Bringing them under RTs.
 - 3) Technology - National judicial grid, e-courts etc.
 - 4) strict implementation of judicial standards & Accountability bill.
- we need an independent
as well as accountable judiciary in
New India.

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।

India has a Parliamentary system of democracy. It has various ministries & departments formed under Rules of Business Act;

It is usually headed by a secretary as administrative head & a minister as political head. We have around 70-75 ministries & 100-120 departments.



Strengths of departments :

- 1) Efficiency - They are repository of knowledge & skill.
- 2) Ensure smooth operation of their area of functioning.
- 3) coordination amongst various stakeholders.
- They provide a link between policy formulation & policy implementation.
- 4) staff agency - involved in assisting the

attached ministry

- 5) effectiveness of govt service delivery as they work in non-partisan & neutral manner.

6) Institutional Memory -

However, they have certain

weaknesses too :-

1) Ad-hoc departmentalisation:-

- too many departments having overlapping jurisdiction.
- lack of coordination amongst them.

2) lack of research & development while forming these.

3) Formed more due to political pressures rather than sound decision-making.

4) Gresham's law - Instead of being innovative, they focus more on routine operations.

5) High centralisation and concentration of power towards top - not able to take decision on ground level.

6) General tendency to delay, weak work culture - nai-baap attitude, chalta-

hai culture in Indian bureaucracy.
7) sanskritisation of corruption (Kaushik Basu).

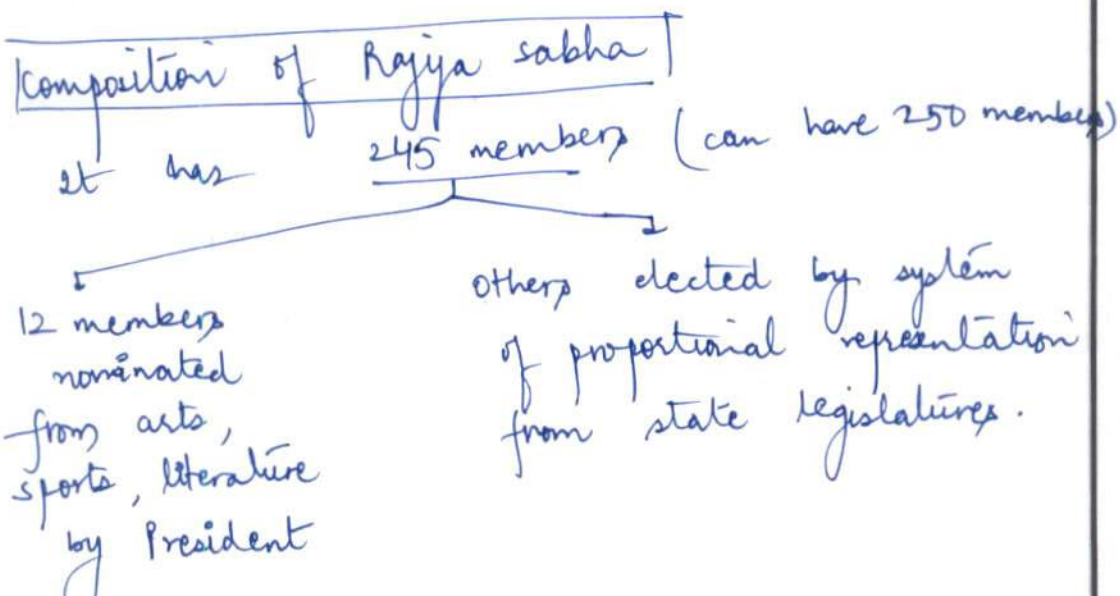
Thus, we need to
restructure our departments. 2nd ARC
in its Report 'Restructuring govt'
recommends that there must be
periodic review of these departments &
their roles, functions to be analysed.
If found redundant, they should be
eliminated.

Departments must be
formed on the basis of principle of
subsidiarity, research & analysis, etc.

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 also called the Upper House is the second house of Indian Parliament. It is permanent in nature wherein the members get elected for a 6-year tenure.



Criticism:-

- 1) states not given equal representation → as in USA's senate, rather based on population.
- 2) Used to field defeated political leaders
- 3) Removal of domicile requirement in 2006 further diluted its function as state's

representative.

Functioning of Rajya Sabha:-

- 1) In ~~16th~~ ~~to~~ tenure of 16th Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha's performance was very low - only 20% questions answered,
- 2) Frequent disruptions walk-outs,
- 3) Rampant misuse of money-bill provision to bypass Rajya Sabha - Eg - Aadhaar Bill.
- 4) The quality of debates going down.
- 5) Now, functions more as delayatory house rather than revisionary house.

Rajya Sabha is considered secondary house not only due to composition & function but also due to :-

- 1) More power to speaker in Lok Sabha.
- 2) Joint sitting - Lok Sabha has edge.
- 3) Budget to be passed by Lok Sabha.
- 4) It can't pass No-confidence Motion.
- 5) It can't pass a resolution revoking Emergency.

But still, it can't be a secondary house as:-

- 1) Acts against the hasty bills & legislation of Lok Sabha.
- 2) Representation to eminent personalities from sports, arts etc.
- 3) It also has similar constitutional amendment & legislative power in ordinary matter.
- 4) Only Rajya Sabha can create a new All-India service.
- 5) It ensures continuity - as permanent in nature.
- 6) Representation in various Parliamentary committees to uphold govt's accountability.
- 7) Rajya Sabha can ask centre to make law on state list subject in public interest.

Thus, overall Rajya Sabha isn't a secondary House as that in UK but we need to strengthen it by

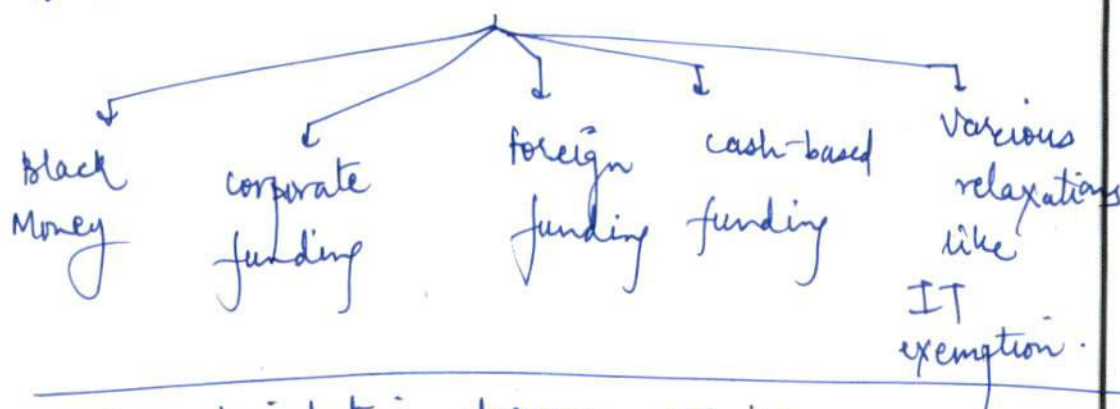
- intraparty democracy
- codification of laws to be classified as money law or ordinary law
- Research & Analysis wing.

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?

Political parties are an important part in democratic system. They are generally governed by representation of People Act, 1951 & 1956.

The funds received by political parties have time & gain come under scanner due to



Various legislative changes are :-

- 1) Introduction of Electoral Bonds in 2017.
- 2) FCRA amended for foreign funding of political parties.
- 3) Companies Act, 2013 - amended so that only 7.5%

of profit can be donated to political parties.

- 4) Cash donations reduced from ₹ 20000 to ₹ ₹ 2000.

Despite these changes, there are several challenges that still remain:-

- 1) No political party based limit on election expenditure.
- 2) Opaqueness in funding.
- 3) Now, even shell companies can be created for purpose of political funding.
- 4) Anonymous nature of electoral bonds.
- 5) Indian elections in 14th Lok Sabha witnessed expenditure to the tune of ₹ 6000 crore (ADR).

Why these challenges:-

- 1) Electoral bonds - give more power to party in power, also anonymous in nature.
- 2) Use of money & muscle power in politics - criminalisation of politics & politicisation of criminals.
- 3) Political parties outside RTI ambit.

Can state Funding be a solution - Yes

- 1) Indrajit committee, 2nd ARC all recommended for this after having a regulatory ecosystem in place.
- 2) level playing field for all candidates.
- 3) Political parties'll no longer have to depend on corporates, foreign entities for donation.
- 4) Might decrease corruption.

No, it can't be a solution :-

- 1) State funding instead of replacing, might be used as a supplement to fund elections.
- 2) extra-burden on public exchequer.
- 3) Might be discriminative towards new parties.
- 4) Might lead to new political parties which are formed just to avail benefits.

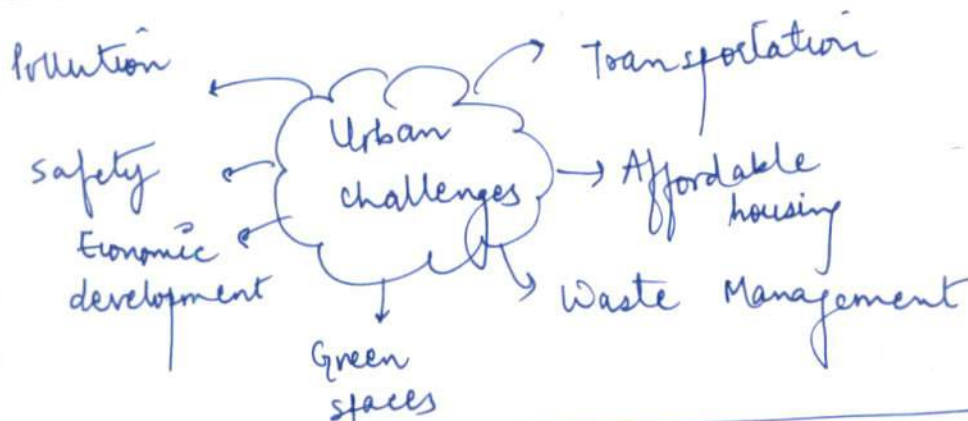
WAY FORWARD :-

- 1) Intra party democracy
- 2) Maturing of our political culture.
- 3) Bringing them under RTI ambit.
- 4) strengthening ECI by giving it adequate powers

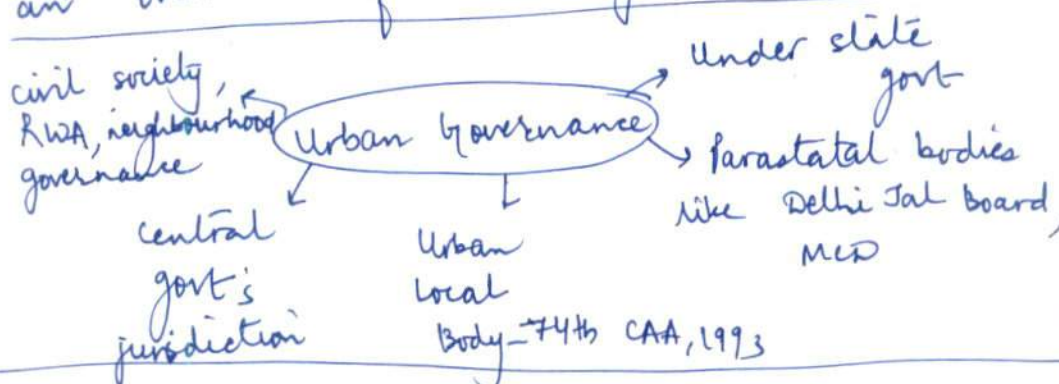
15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation critically depends on reforming the way our cities are governed. In this context, highlight the challenges plaguing urban governance in India and suggest some strategies to overcome those challenges. (250 words) 15

सफल और चिरस्थायी शहरी रूपांतरण मुख्यतया, हमारे शहरों को शासित करने के तरीके में सुधार पर निर्भर करता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी शासन को दुष्प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Today, around 34% of Indian population lives in cities & it'll increase to 50% by 2050. Its total contribution to Indian GDP is however, 65%.



To have a successful & long-lasting urban transformation, we need an overhaul of urban governance.



Various challenges in urban governance :-

- 1) Too many bodies having overlapping jurisdictions - leads to low cooperation & lack of accountability.
- 2) Lack of funds for urban local bodies.
~ Only 15% funds earmarked for cities.
- 3) Local bodies have been depoliticised as well as disempowered.
- 4) District Planning Commission & Metropolitan Planning Commission (243 2D & 243 2E) not formed, or their recommendations not implemented.
- 5) Lack of devolution of power by state government.
- 6) Lack of adequate resources - financial, human, physical.
- 7) New challenges emerging today - sustainable development goals, human rights, migration, cyber terrorism, climate change etc - lack of expertise to deal with them.

Strategies to overcome these :-

1) Empowering Urban local bodies through

- funds
- function
- functionary

2) Having an elected mayor at the head of executive committee to implement the various developmental plans (ARC II)

3) Municipal bonds to be floated by all major cities eg- done by Pune, Mumbai, Delhi.

4) clear activity mapping demarcating the roles, responsibilities of all the local bodies.

5) MPC & APC to be formed & empowered to make Master plan for cities.

6) Citizen participation in urban governance
Govt has launched AMRUT,

HRIDAY, SMART city Mission for urban transformation. We need to transform our rural areas as well so as to make development sustainable in nature.

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।

SHG is a small group of voluntary people who come together for resource mobilisation through spend-thrift & savings.

Role of SHG in poverty alleviation:-

- 1) SHG pool their resources & lend it to others for some commercial activity.
- 2) Increase in credit at low interest rate.
- 3) Increase in savings
- 4) Empowerment of women - over 80% of SHG in India are women-led & women-owned.
- 5) Increase in income as ownership of all leads to continuous check on corrupt, spurious activities.

example :- Lijjat Papad
SEWA, Kudumbashree, NYSRA.

Bank - SHG linkage program:-

It was initiated by NABARD on the lines of Mohammad Yunus' Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

Features - launched in 1992.

- Bank to give credit to SHG without any collateral needs.
- Easy KYC norms
- Training to SHG in ~~deco~~ financial education.

Why did it not able to ~~reach~~ succeed?

- 1) Uneven formation of SHG - south India has over 90% SHG while they are more needed in UP, Rajasthan etc.
- 2) Banks penetration was low at that time. It is only 65% today also.
- 3) Delay in sanctioning of loans.
- 4) The SHG members also came together just to avail benefit & then dissolve SHG - it defeated the purpose of SHG.
- 5) Widespread illiteracy, poverty
- 6) Bureaucratic apathy, political support not there.

7) Lack of proper awareness generation.

Measures to improve its performance :-

- 1) Regional inclusive development - with SHG in all North, West India.
- 2) Spreading awareness about this program by involving NGO, civil society, etc.
- 3) Integrating SHG, Banks & Gram Panchayats for ensuring their regulation & accountability.
- 4) It to be made a flagship program of govt as PMJDY, SBM etc.
- 5) Increasing bank penetration, moving such loans to priority sector lending.
- 6) Direct Benefit Transfer can also be used here.

We are today moving towards SHG 2.0 according to World Bank. Thus, we need to train our SHG to online market & advertise their products, have better access to markets etc.

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

(250 words) 15

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

India is witnessing a demographic dividend phase with around 35% of its youth in the age group of 15-29 years.

NITI Aayog 2016-17 advised to invest in health & education of this youth so as to prevent it from becoming demographic liability.

Various initiatives taken by
govt for higher education in India:-

1) Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) - to focus on tertiary & secondary sector.

2) HEFA - Higher Education Financing Agency - to act as fund of funds to develop infrastructure in Indian universities.

3) setting of new AIIMS, IIT to provide quality education.

- 4) ~~the~~ start-up India scheme - incubation centres in universities, Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Innovation Mission by NITI Aayog.
- 5) QIAN scheme - to have foreign teachers teach in Indian universities.

But still, a number of challenges remain:-

- 1) Governance - Multiple regulatory institutions like UGC, AICTE, MCI
- 2) Functioning - universities more of degree distributing machines.
 - lack of employability in youth.
 - lack of vocational education & skill development.
 - lack of academia-industry linkage.
 - sub-standard teaching.
- 3) focus on rote learning rather than innovation, - number of patents, research papers less.
- 4) Too many institutes but not even 1 in top 200 in world.
- 5) less expenditure by govt (Around 0.5%),

Reforms required for increasing quality & relevance:-

- 1) Funds earmarked for education to be increased to atleast 2.5% of GDP
(New Education Policy by N. Kasturirangan)
- 2) Convergence between Union & state govt policies for better resource optimisation.
- 3) Teachers - Adequately trained, sensitised training, periodic updation of curriculum
- 4) Academia - Industry linkage - by mandatory internship, apprenticeship programs.
- 5) Focus on innovation, IPR, patents, research papers in universities.
- 6) Technology to be adequately used - NPTEL lectures, SWAYAM- MOOC programs, National Digital Knowledge Library 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 was launched by Modi govt in 2015. It aims for 'Housing for All' by 2022.

Features - Affordable Housing for all
- 2 components - PMAY (Rural) & PMAY (Urban)
- Under Min of Rural Development & Min of Urban Development respectively
- House to have functional toilet, electricity, LPG connection, water connection.

Success :- Around 90 lakh houses already built under PMAY.

Challenges facing PMAY :-

1) shortage of land in urban & rural areas.

- Lack of adequate land rights & digitalisation of land records not yet done.
- 2) Funds - It needs huge funds to get implemented on ground.
- 3) Governance - Beneficiaries to be identified by state govt - leads to delay.
- 4) Lack of monitoring & regulation of allotted houses - sometimes, they are sold / transferred to other people.
- 5) Cases of corruption, nexus, political interference in PMAY.
- 6) Lack of coordination amongst different departments also complicate the process.

Measures to be taken for fast-tracking PMAY

- 1) Updation of land records, their digitalisation.
- 2) Master plans in cities properly demarcating the residential areas to be allocated to PMAY beneficiaries.
- 3) beneficiary identification to be done on the basis of SEC data.

- 3) Integrating technology - Geo-tagging of household assets made, etc.
- 4) strict monitoring & implementation through Gram Sabha, urban local bodies.
- 5) Building of sustainable homes in sync with disaster management policy, plastic rules, building code etc.
- 6) spreading awareness about PMAY.

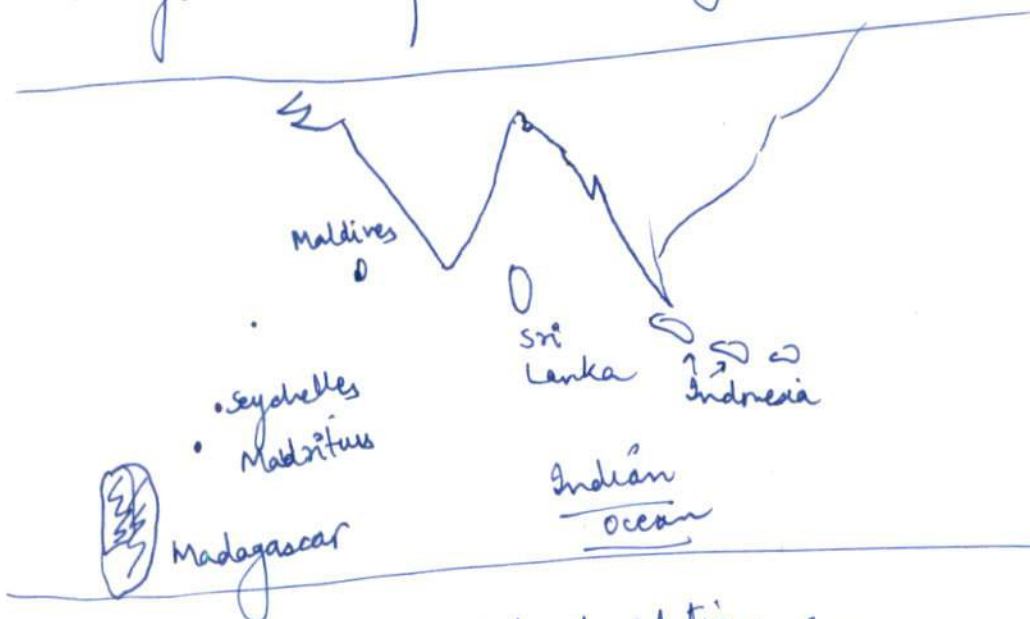
Right to Adequate Household
is a basic fundamental right under
Article 21 of Indian Constitution, UDHR etc.
PMAY seeks to achieve the same.

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।

Indian Ocean has risen significantly in terms of its importance. Over 90% of trade by volume flows through Indian Ocean.

Similarly the island nations in the Indian Ocean have also gained importance today.



Strategic Value of Island Nations :-

- 1) Geographic location - situated in Indian Ocean near of strait of Malacca (Indonesia).

- 2) Trade - Global trade flowing through this region is very high.
- 3) Naval base of USA - Diego Garcia
- 4) string of Pearls Theory of china - Hambantota island in Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Bangladesh etc → Assertive china.
- 5) Huge oil reserves found. Eg - off-coast of Bombay & Gujarat.
- 6) Presence of rare earth minerals, polymetallic nodules etc.

#

Maritime security :-

- 1) Piracy off the coast of Somalia.
- 2) sea lanes of communication to be guarded - Indian Navy has emerged as net security provider in the region.
- 3) china - its Belt & Road initiative, string of Pearls Theory can be dealt only by good & friendly relations with these island nations.
- 4) Human trafficking, smuggling of arms, electronics goods through Indian Ocean

also a concern .

- 5) Increase in terrorist activities & need high-tech surveillance of region & 24x7 continuous engagement with all stakeholders -

India has launched MAUSAM, IORA, SAGAR ie security & growth for all in this region. It has focussed on BIMSTEC as new regional grouping for its Look East Policy. Apart from this, it has also signed a number of agreements with these island 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।

Development assistance has emerged as a new tool in foreign policy environment wherein a nation gives concessional loan, grant, line of credit etc for rapid socio-economic growth of the nation.

India has also increased development assistance in past some years, in both scope & reach.

Scope & Reach has been extended :-

- Nepal - 11 billion dollars LOC, various hydropower projects eg- Tipaimukh, etc.
- Bhutan - Indian supports it by training its personnel, skill development, line of credit as well as hydropower projects.
- Africa - \$120 billion dollar to various nations, \$46 billion FDI invested in Africa, Japan's cooperation with Japan on Asia,

- Asia Africa Growth Corridor, Solar Mama project
- Afghanistan - salma dam, for parliament of Afghanistan, giving it helicopter & other military devices, training its army.
 - Sri Lanka - development ^{assistance} on basis of demand generated, around 40 lakh houses built in Tamil majority province.
 - Bangladesh - Tropic Nuclear Plant, Russian collaboration to invest in Bangladesh.
 - India also gives development assistance by skill development scholarship to students pharmaceuticals (generic medicines).

However, there are a number of challenges:-

- 1) Limited capacity of India as it is developing economy itself.
- 2) China - It can't match the amount given by China.
- 3) Delays in execution at ground-level

implementation of various projects.

- 4) big brother attitude - Neighbouring nations have a trust deficit with India.

Overall, developmental assistance has been successful in increasing soft power of India around the world.