



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

|                   |              |                     |            |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| Name of Candidate | NAVNEET MANN |                     |            |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | ENG          | Registration Number | 36473      |
| Center            | ORW          | Date                | 17/08/2019 |

### 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            |                |
| 16     | 15            |                |
| 17     | 15            |                |
| 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।

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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.

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।

The 108<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Bill is aimed at providing 33% reservation of seats in the Parliament and State legislature to women candidates.

### Women Reservation & Meaningful Participation

1) Women in India today constitute 50% of the voter base but the percentage of women MPs remains stagnant at 14% in 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha elections.

2) Women Reservation fulfils the Constitutional mandate of Right to Equality as given in the Preamble, Art 14 and Art 325.

It also fulfils the international mandate of women empowerment under the CEDAW [Convention Against Discrimination of Women].



## Women Reservation & Inclusive Democracy

1) Women candidates give voice not only to the female electorate but also the other vulnerable sections like children, elderly, etc.

2) Prevents entry of corrupt and criminals.

As studies show women candidates are estimated to three times less likely to be involved in criminal activities.

## Other Benefits

1) Women candidates are 'women as agency', thus promote social benefits like child nutrition, health, etc.

2) economic development with timely completion of projects (as shown by PM Gram Sadak Yojana surveys).

WAY FORWARD : Women Reservation is a step in the right direction but it should be accompanied by capacity building of women through education. This is because participation without capacity doesn't have much meaning.

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 the Supreme Court upheld the policy of reservation in promotions for the SCs and the STs.

### Judicial Pronouncements & Constitutional Amendments

1) Indira Sawhney case (1991) : SC stated its opinion against reservation in promotions.

2) 77<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act (1995) : Art 16(4A) introduced to ~~promote~~ provide reservation in promotion to SCs & STs.

3) 85<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act : Provides "consequential seniority" to SCs & STs in promotions.

4) M. Nagaraj case : SC upholds Art 16(4A) but provides the presence of 'quantifiable data' to prove backwardness, inadequate representation and administrative efficiency.



5) Jarnail Singh Case : SC upholds Nagaraj judgment but removes the need of data to prove 'backwardness'.

### Pros of Reservation in Promotions

- ① Historically disadvantaged
- ② skewed representation of SCs and STs in higher ranks
- ③ Vacancies due to lack of quantifiable data.
- ④ "efficiency" is a misconception. All depends on individual capacity.

### Cons of Reservation in Promotions

- ① Reservation is not a fundamental right.
- ② affects administrative efficiency.
- ③ Disadvantages end with entry in government services.
- ④ cornering of benefits by a particular class.

While reservation in promotions is needed to undo the historical disadvantages, but there is a need to reform the affirmative action policy to serve the needs of the truly backward sections.

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 (ADCs)

are self-administered areas of tribals as provided under 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution in states of Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

#### Powers of ADCs

- self-governance
- administrative powers like taxation, etc.
- legislative powers
- judicial powers

#### Reasons for underperformance

- 1) lack of technical capacity among tribals to govern themselves efficiently.
- 2) overlapping of functions between APLs and State legislatures



- 3) lack of clarity about Role of Governor
- 4) Security challenges: most of these regions ~~are~~ suffer from insurgency.
- 5) lack of adequate representation of women and other ethnic minorities

### Measures Required

- 1) capacity building with participation of state
- 2) Representation of women, ethnic minorities in councils (as under recent Constitutional Amendment Bill)
- 3) Greater clarity of functions and roles of the ADCs.
- 4) ~~Therefore~~, making Gram Sabha as nucleus of governance.

Thus, greater synergies with the state government can help ADCs to function efficiently.



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 (1923) [OSA]

is a colonial act which provides for punitive action against the acts of espionage, spying, etc. [Section 3 & Section 5]

#### Rationale behind Continuance

- 1) Emerging internal and external security challenges
- 2) to protect national security and integrity

#### OSA & RTI Conflict

The RTI provides national secrets as an exception under Sec 8 of the Act. But it also provides that if 'public interest' overrides, information needs to be disclosed.

### Need of RTI's precedence

- 1) Lack of clarity over terms like "official secrets" creates room for arbitrary use of power
- 2) shoots the messenger by stifling freedom of speech and expression (Art 19(1)(a))
- 3) against ethics of journalism

### Requirement - balance between RTI & OSA

- 1) 2nd ARC : calls for replacing OSA with a National Security Act more in sync with the RTI
- 2) Law Commission in its report "Offences Against National Security" too concurs.
- 3) High Level Panel Report of MHA (2015) too calls for bringing OSA in line with RTI.

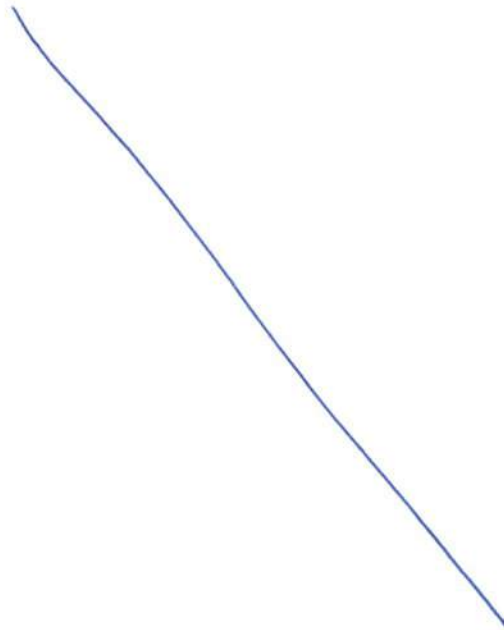
Thus, in today's time of increased citizen participation in governance, establishing synergies between OSA and RTI is the need of the hour.



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

**(150 words) 10**

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







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

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

A 'cooling off' period is a specific period of time for civil servants after retirement which they serve before joining office under the Government again.

Rationale behind Mandatory 'cooling off period'

- 1) prevents political interference and creation of spoils system
- 2) avoids conflict of interest and the 'revolving door' problem
- 3) prevents politicisation of bureaucracy

Need to Civil servants post retirement

Retired civil servants aid in good governance due to the immense knowledge and experience gathered over the years.

Instances of violation of provision

Civil servants entering political offices, becoming Members, members of constitutional bodies like CAG, UPSC, Election Commission.

Need of Relook at Conduct Rules

- 1) required to prevent the politics-civil servant nexus
- 2) Conduct Rules may be followed in law but not in spirit.
- 3) Presently, they remain vague and need to be updated.

Measures Required

- 1) civil servants should declare intention at retirement to join offices.
- 2) greater transparency in appointment procedures.
- 3) creation of a separate body to deal with appointment ~~and~~ of retired civil servants.

Thus, post-retirement contribution of civil servants is a requirement but there is also

a need to bring greater transparency in the appointments.



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।

Malnutrition is referred to as the imbalances - deficiencies and/or excesses of intake of energy or nutrients.

### Status of malnutrition in India

#### 1) Global Hunger Index

- India's rank fell from 100 (2017) to 103 (2018).
- Number of wasted children have increased from 19.8% in 2005 to 21% in 2015

[NFHS - 4]

2) Malnutrition leads to an economic loss of 9-10% for India per year.

#### 3) Global Nutrition Report 2019 :

- India has the highest number of stunted children (46mn out of 150mn) in the world

## POSHAN Abhiyan

1) Target: Reduce Rate of stunting, wasting, anaemia by 2%, 2% and 3% respectively per year with stunting to be reduced to 25% by 2022

2) National-state convergences by National Executive Council and state convergence plans

3) use of technology by frontline workers to reduce leakages, improve targeting

4) use of research and data analysis

5) Jan Andolan by public against malnutrition

### Improvement over previous interventions

- Has a specific target
- use of new-age technology
- focused at better targeting
- upholds spirit of cooperative federalism

Thus, POSHAN Abhiyan is a step in the right direction. It should further incorporate best practices of Dilli Annashri Yojana, ICDS Decentralised Programme of Odisha.



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 is known as the largest producer of generic medicines in the world. It has contributed to global health in this regard.

### Need of generic medicines

- cheaper alternative to branded drugs for majority poor population
- provides some benefits like branded ones
- promotes development of indigenous knowledge and research base
- prevents monopolisation by foreign drugmakers
- help other developing countries (eg's prevention of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa)

### Reasons behind lower availability and adoption

- 1) lack of awareness among public
- 2) misconceptions about effectiveness
- 3) doctors do not recommend it, ~~per~~ prefer branded medicines
- 4) lack of adequate marketing capacity by generic drug producers vis-à-vis branded ones.

### Government steps

- 1) Jan ~~recessed~~ Aushadi Program
- 2) Encouraging doctors to recommended generic drugs
- 3) Patent Act : Prevent evergreening and allow compulsory licensing.

Thus, generic drugs is an answer to affordable medical care in India. There is a need for the government to give further push to it.



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।

The multilateral trading system is facing its greatest challenges ever since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008.

### Challenges faced

- slow down of global growth of economy
- rising tendencies of protectionism and deglobalisation
- US-China trade war
- inadequate powers of developing world to mould the global finance architecture (eg → low quotas in IMF)
- issues in calibrating to changing nature of economy due to digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, etc.
- issue of safe haven countries, Base erosion and profit shifting

### Measures to address challenges

- 1) greater say of developing world in framing rules of the multilateral trading system (eg - Dispute Settlement body of WTO)
- 2) swift conclusion of the Doha Development Round
- 3) Issues like Data localisation and TRIPS-Plus norms should be decided only based on consensus
- 4) improvement in trade facilitation of services as well to allow free flow of labour.

Thus, radical reforms are required in the present multi-lateral trading system especially the WTO so that it remains the harbinger of growth of the global economy.



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 Trade relations today stand at a staggering \$142 bn. for India, US is one of the largest exporter destinations.

### Impediments in Trade Relations

#### 1) Trade Deficit

- US calls India "tariff king".
- US has consistently criticized India for higher duties on automobiles, medical devices.

#### 2) IPR Issues

- India featured as USTR's Sec301 Report's "Priority Watch list".

#### 3) Visa Issues

- India is one of the highest H1B visa recipients
- US has tightened visa norms: fee, eligibility criteria,

4) subsidies

- US opposes India giving subsidies to its farmers (MSP) and for solar production.

5) WTO: Both are at loggerheads in WTO disputes on local content requirement in solar panel dispute, etc.

General system of Preferences (GSP) is a non-reciprocal preferential tariff system extended by developed countries (US) to developing countries (India). It provides for reduced MFN tariffs for imports from India.

Withdrawal of GSP

- will adversely affect India's Current Account Deficit, narrow its trade surplus with US
- adversely affect India's handloom sector
- further tensions in relations given that India was the largest beneficiary of US' GSP

Thus, negotiations for greater cooperation between India and US must go on which should



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।

"The rule of law and maintenance of order is the art of governance".

- Kautilya (Arthashastra)

Judicial Accountability is one of the pillars of judicial system as well as governance.

Balance between Independence & Accountability

→ Judicial independence

- Basic feature of Constitution
- necessary for maintaining checks and balances against arbitrary use of power by executive and legislature
- aids judiciary to work without fear or favour, maintains separation of powers

→ Judicial Accountability

- required to check arbitrary use of power by judiciary

- to "guard the guardians"
- to strengthen separation of powers  
by preventing judicial overreach

### Issues in Judicial Accountability

- Appointment of judges under the collegium system, limited say of executive
- Removal of judges: a highly cumbersome process  
{Judges Enquiry Act, 1968}
- Conduct of judges (eg → Recent controversy of sexual harassment allegations against the CJI)
- In house operations of judges: Lack of transparency in allocation of cases
- Judiciary remaining outside RTI Act's ambit further erodes transparency



- Use of power under Contempt of Court
- Judicial Overreach (eg → recent changes in Domestic Violence Act)

### Present Mechanisms to provide for Accountability

- 1) In house mechanism of Supreme Court
  - "Restatement of Values of Public Life" (1997)
  - Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct
- 3) Judicial Accountability Bill, 2010
- 3) Recently, the S.C. provided for live streaming of the court proceedings
- 4) Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) in Judges' appointment

Thus further measures are required to enforce judicial accountability.

### Further Measures Required

- 1) Passing a new Judicial Accountability Bill, creating a National Judicial Oversight Committee

- 3) Niti Aayog recommends Judicial performance index.

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

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

The India system of governance works on the motto of "maximum governance and minimum government".

Strengths of government departments

- 1) formalisation of decision making powers
- 2) adequate checks and balances to prevent abuse of power
- 3) accountability through Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs)
- 4) citizen participation through RTI Act



## Weaknesses of Departments

- 1) focus on strict compliance of rules only, lack of focus on risk-taking, innovative ideas
- 2) output orientation, lack of outcome orientation
- 3) slow progress in digitalisation
- 4) political interference
- 5) constitutional and other legal safeguards doesn't create incentive to bring reforms (Art 311)
- 6) inability to detect and punish corruption, crony capitalism

## Consequences

- 1) delays in development projects, hampers ease of doing business

- 2) poor targeting and leakages in public service delivery
- 3) incomplete goal achievements of social welfare

### Measures Required

- 1) Improving infrastructure : 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC recommends 1% cost of flagship schemes for first 5 years in improving infrastructure -
- 2) Improving people connect by awareness drive, code of conduct, citizen charter
- 3) digitisation of records
- 4) Strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms
- 5) 360° Performance Appraisal system

Thus, reforms in the departmental functioning can bring out the goal of good and ethical 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?

Recently, the Vice President of India brought out an assessment report of the Rajya Sabha to highlight its reduced functioning.

### Criticism of Rajya Sabha

#### COMPOSITION

1) It serves as a route for the defeated candidates, loyalists, corporate heads to enter politics.

2) Population-Base ~~also~~ seat share doesn't give adequate voice to lesser populated states.

#### FUNCTIONS

1) Inadequate power vis-a-vis the

Lok Sabha like in money bills,  
Budgets, etc.

2) Constant disruptions

3) Politicisation of Rajya Sabha

4) Reduced working hours and legislative work

eg → 2004-09 → >250 Bills passed

2014-19 → 188 Bills passed

This has led to the Rajya Sabha to be regarded merely as the 'Secondary House'. But Rajya Sabha is the 'Second House' and not the 'Secondary House'.

Significance of Rajya Sabha

1) promotes cooperative federalism -

by giving voice to the states at the Union level



- 2) prevents the Lok Sabha going for populism
- 3) provides for expert opinion
- 4) prevents hasty legislation
- 5) shares legislative burden with Lok Sabha
- 6) As Permanent House, provides continuity in governance.

### Reforms Required

- 1) National Commission of Recommendation on Working of Institution (NCRWC) - recommends at least 100 working days of Rajya Sabha.
- 2) Performance Based Pay
- 3) Reforms in Anti-Corruption Law
- 4) Stricter enforcement of codes of conduct for MPs

Therefore, as the 'House of the Elders', the Rajya Sabha has great responsibilities. To perform these responsibilities, reforms in the Rajya Sabha is the need of the hour.

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 Funding remains one of the central challenges in India's electoral process.

Legislative changes in funding

1) Amendment to RPA, 1951 to reduce limit of anonymous donations from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2000

2) electoral bonds scheme

3) FCRA Amendment to allow foreign funding for political parties

4) Compulsory filing of election expenditures by candidates to the Election Commission

5) Declaring income/donation under Income Tax Act, and exemption from taxation.



### Challenges in Funding

- 69% of sources of funds unaccounted (ADR).
- inadequate powers of ECI to postpone elections in case of bribery.
- removal of cap of 7.5% of corporate sector contribution
- foreign funding and reduction of independence of electoral process

### State funding of Elections (SFE)

Under this the government will provide for election expenditure to political parties based on their vote share. It has been recommended by the Judrajit Gupta Committee, 2nd ARC and NCRWC.

#### Pros of SFE

- increases transparency in electoral funding

#### Cons of SFE

- may end up supplementing, not supplanting election funding

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduces <u>cash dependence</u></li> <li>- curb <u>black money</u></li> <li>- winding up of <del>xxx</del> <u>spurious political parties</u> created only for <u>getting tax benefits</u></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>tax payers</u> will pay for parties they don't support</li> <li>- <u>reduce disconnect</u> of parties with citizens</li> <li>- increased <u>dependence on states</u></li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### WAY FORWARD

- 1) Proposal of National Electoral Fund where donations can be contributed by the public
- 2) digitisation of all donations
- 3) Parties under RTI Act
- 4) Increased power of ECI under RPA 1951 to monitor funding.

Thus, along with SFE, other options need to be explored to promote clean election funding.



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।

The 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act provides for the decentralisation of power to provide local governance in urban areas =

Challenges in urban governance

- 1) multiplicity of bodies
- 2) rising population (due to migration) and unequal representation at level of municipalities
- 3) ceremonial powers of Mayor
- 4) political interference

- 5) lack of adequate financing  
w/m ULBs
- 6) lack of citizen engagement
- 7) absence of a urban planning  
strategy

### Steps taken by government

- 1) Smart Cities Mission - use of ICT  
in aid of governance
- 2) Ease of Living in Cities Index  
by MoHUP to assess cities on  
governance
- 3) schemes like AMRUT, DAY-NULM,  
PMAY-U, etc -



### Further strategies required

- 1) mohalla sabhas like in Dellhi to increase citizen engagement
- 2) use of citizen satisfaction surveys, charters, report cards (eg Bangalore)
- 3) increase powers of mayors
- 4) use of municipal bonds to improve financing.
- 5) creation of ~~city~~ city specific urban planning strategy and plan

In the coming years, more than 50% of India's population will be residing in cities. Urban governance's transformation, thus is of utmost requirement.

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 are voluntary associations comprising of self-governed, peer-controlled informal group of people; with common socio economic background and similar goals.

### Role of SHGs in Poverty Alleviation

- 1) promoted financial inclusion and literacy of the unbanked sections
- 2) community development through financial awareness, technical assistance.
- 3) development of village economy  
(eg → Telija Village in Jharkhand by SHGs through support of PRADHAN foundation)



4) empowerment of vulnerable sections  
like women - Today 46m women  
in India benefit from SHG networks.  
(eg → Kudumbashree in Kerala)

5) social upliftment - by improving  
child nutrition, health, benefiting  
demographic dividend

### Shortcomings of SHG - Bank linkage

- 1) less than average loan size
- 2) unequal access based on region  
(more in South than North India)
- 3) lack of support from SHG federations
- 4) Rising NPAs of SHGs in Banks
- 5) lack of adequate financial capacity,  
knowledge to sustain in long run
- 6) issues in coordination
- 7) lack of adequate entrepreneurial support  
from industry.

### Suggestions to improve

- 1) Implementing government schemes through SHGs
- 2) Rural Departments should promote awareness drives about SHGs.
- 3) structural support through handholding by SHG Promoting institutions
- 4) promote digital literacy among SHGs
- 5) adopt Kudumbashree model of Kerala all across India.

SHGs form an important pillar in providing for inclusive growth in India. In this regard, measures need to be taken to sustain their good performance.



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।

Higher Education is a key to unlock India's demographic dividend and a necessity in today's knowledge economy.

### Present status

- Gross enrolment ratio = 25.2%
- Government Expenditure  $\Rightarrow$  1.4% of GDP
- none of the Indian universities in Top 200 of THE's World Ranking

### Government initiatives

- 1) EQUIP (Enhancing Quality Upgradation & Improvement) in Higher Education.
- 2) RISE (Revitalising Infrastructure & Systems in Education) + HEFA
- 3) Institutes of Eminence

4) NIRF Ranking

5) UGC's learning outcome based framework

### Challenges of Higher Education Sector

- 1) Fragmentation: 40% colleges teach only one course.
- 2) lack of adequate infrastructure, teacher training
- 3) increasing gap between education and employability
- 4) lack of adequate research capabilities
- 5) restrictive space for students, no option to explore newer fields
- 6) lack of transparency in governance leading to creation of bogus colleges
- 7) expensive education (eg- Medical colleges)
- 8) lack of sufficient autonomy for teachers to work and innovate
- 9) lack of adequate funding



Reforms required

- 1) governance: streamline functioning of multiple-bodies like UGC, AICTE, etc
- 2) Curriculum Reform: focus on employability
- 3) Teacher training: compulsory performance upgradation programme at regular intervals
- 4) focus on vocational education  
(eg → Chhattisgarh's Livelihood colleges)
- 5) digital education - MOOCs and open school learning should be promoted to increase access.

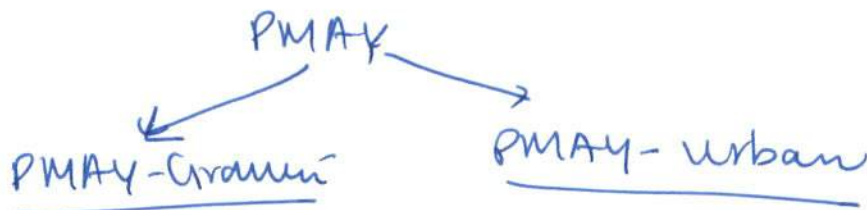
There is urgent need of reform in India's Higher Education Sector. This is recognised by the Draft Education Policy (2019). It calls for reimagining the institutional architecture, more liberal education, creation of a National Research Foundation and a reformed Accreditation Process.

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?

PM Awas Yojana is aimed  
at providing "Housing for All" by 2022.

PMAY has two components.



### Progress made

- The halfway mark has been reached in providing housing infrastructure.
- emphasis has been made on use of local resources.
- employment generation for locals



### Challenges

- 1) lack of adequate funding
- 2) inefficiencies in monitoring mechanism
- 3) deficiencies in local bodies especially  
ULBs in implementation
- 4) lack of adequate skilled labour

### Measures Required

- 1) creation of National Dashboard to  
track progress
- 2) creation of a digital App - to monitor  
entire process - from fund disbursement to  
asset creation
- 3) skill development in construction -
- 4) improve urban financing.

Housing is one of the critical requirements for a sustainable livelihood. PMAY is aimed at fulfilling this promise. Thus, implementation challenges of PMAY need to be addressed to meet this promise.



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 in the recent times has emerged as the centre of the maritime cooperation among nations in the Indo-Pacific Space.

### INDIAN OCEAN REGION



### Importance of IOR

1) Economic Potential :

- accounts > 90% of India's trade
- source for > 30% of oil & gas resources
- freedom of navigation necessary for free exports and imports

## 2) Strategic value:

- role of India as 'net security provider'
- India as centre of Indo-Pacific as regarded by USA
- to counter China's clout in the region
- extension of India's Act East Policy.

## 3) Security value:

- protect important sea lines of communication
- address concerns of piracy
- protect important ports and other ocean assets



Steps taken by India

- 1) Separate Indo-Pacific Division
- 2) SAGAR Approach
- 3) Project Mausam
- 4) Port Development → Agalega (Mauritius),  
Dugm (Oman), Chabahar (Iran)
- 5) Strategic grouping like QUAD, JAI
- 6) Maritime exercises like MILAN
- 7) Military deterrence (INS-Airant)

Thus, India vision of the IOR  
and the larger ~~and~~ Indo Pacific  
is guided by the ~~new~~ SSS  
given at the Shangri-La Dialogue.  
These are Samman, Samvad, Sahyog,  
Shanti and Samridhi.

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 काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Development assistance of India forms a key pillar in expanding India's soft power across the world.

### Increased Reach of Assistance

#### 1) Neighbours

- ↳ Afghanistan (Parliament, Salma Dam)
- ↳ Bangladesh
- ↳ Nepal
- ↳ Bhutan
- ↳ Sri Lanka

#### 2) Africa (PAN Africa Initiative, Team9, ITEC)

#### 3) Latin America (ITEC, HIRD)

#### 5) Pacific Islands states

#### 4) Central Asia



## Increased scope

- 1) Humanitarian Assistance  
(eg - Tsunamiic HADR 2004)
- 2) Development of institutions  
(eg Afghan Parliament)
- 3) Enhancing connectivity  
(eg → INSTC, Dargay Deloram highway,  
TAPI project)
- 4) Security Assistance  
(eg → After chusoh blasts in Sri Lanka)
- 5) Health sector (eg generic medicines in  
Africa)
- 6) Education (scholarships for students  
from Africa, Central Asia)

## Challenges to Development Assistance

- 1) Rising clout of China  
(eg BRI project)

- 2) fund crunch in Ministry of External Affairs
- 3) lack of timely completion of projects  
(eg - India Myanmar-Thailand  
Trilateral highways)
- 4) Internal dispute, conflicts among  
partner countries, create threats for  
India. ~~the~~ assets there  
(eg → Africa, Afghanistan).

Thus, development assistance of India is important not only for enhancing India's world position but also to promote South-South cooperation. For sustaining this, India needs to address the systemic challenges it faces.