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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	107820
Center	ORN	Date	28.08.19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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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।

Women comprise of almost 50% of the population and electorate, but their representation in Lok Sabha, though highest ever, is a mere 14%.

This necessitates the need to make legislature more representative and meaningful by reservation of seats for women. Features of 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill are:-

- ① 1/3rd seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislature Assembly reserved for women
- ② Reserved seats selected on rotation
- ③ 1/3rd of seats reserved for SC/ST would be reserved for SC/ST women
- ④ The reservation would continue for 15 years

Advantages

- ① make legislature more representative
- ② women centric issues at the forefront
- ③ More gender analysis on seemingly neutral aspects like skill development, infrastructure development
- ④ Social and political empowerment of women

However, there are certain challenges like 'Panchayat Pali Syndrome', ~~se~~ seeing women as not compelling on merit, dominance of women with political connection which needs to be taken care of.

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।

The reservation in promotion for SCs and STs in public employment as seen a tussle between legislature and judiciary before taking a final form.

① In 1992, 77th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) was brought to provide ~~reservation in promotion to SC/STs.~~ reservation in employment to OBCs

② ~~It was struck~~

③ In the Indra Sawhney judgement, SC upheld the reservation but ruled that there can be no reservation in promotion

④ To counter this, Article 16(4A) was added through 85th CAA

⑤ SC ruled that SC/STs cannot be given consequential seniority and vacancies cannot be carried forward.

⑤ To counter this Article 16(4B) was added in the Constitution

⑥ In Nagaraajan case, SC upheld reservation in promotion but gave certain criteria

- (i) There should be data regarding inadequate representation
- (ii) There should be proof of backwardness
- (iii) It should not hamper efficiency of administration (Article 338)

⑦ In 2018, SC removed the first condition, i.e., requirement of data as it was against the 9 judge judgment of Indra Sawney

Today, the present scenario is that reservation in promotion for SC/STs is allowed with 2 conditions given in Nagaraajan case

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?

The 6th schedule areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur were created as these tribes had not mixed with the general population and had their indigenous culture preserved

10 Autonomous district councils were created to provide autonomy to them in administrative, financial, judicial matters but they have not performed well because :-

- ① The devolution of funds is inadequate
- ② State government has not ~~also~~ given all the powers as prescribed in Schedule 6.
- ③ The Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) do not have adequate representation of all tribes.

- ④ The ADCs meet infrequently.
- ⑤ Lack of political will among the tribal leadership
- ⑥ Disconnect between ADCs and general public
- ⑦ corruption and diversion of funds.

Some remedies

- ① These districts can have Gram Sabha and the ADCs would be accountable to Gram Sabha
- ② Finance Commission could suggest ~~at~~ divulution of funds to ADCs as done for PRIs
- ③ The size of ADCs should be increased from 30 to include more tribes.
- ④ Social audit type mechanism should be used

These steps are also being taken by government and ~~that~~ there is a plan to amend the 6th Schedule to incorporate these

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 (OSA) is a colonial era act which was used to protect and preserve the colonial government's secret to enhance British rule in India.

It is continued even after independence as:-

- ① Certain official information pertaining to military assets, defense establishment if leaked can endanger the security of India.
- ② Diplomacy is essential and ~~the~~ government documents related to them can cause tension in relationship between nations.
- ③ Issues pertaining to sovereignty and integrity of the nation, public order etc. can have grave concerns if disclosed improperly.

Right to Information (RTI) should not be given precedence over it as

- ① The matter protected under OSA are essential to preserve the security of state
- ② These matter are not for public consumption and serve no public purpose
- ③ Any malpractice or corruption can be caught by CAI audit and public need not be involved

RTI should be given precedence because

- ① Section 8 of RTI already prohibits matters which can be disclosed.
- ② OSA matters ~~also~~ need not be disclosed entirely but matters related to public interest can be disclosed

To maintain a balance, there has to be time clause after which the matter in OSA are declassified and becomes public knowledge.

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

(150 words) 10

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

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

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

The Civil Service Conduct Rules (1963), mandates a mandatory cooling off period of 1 year before joining a private firm but no cooling off period before joining a political party

Cooling off period is required as:-

- ① There is possibility of conflict of interest
- ② The civil servant can engage in quid pro quo favouring a party so that he/she can get ~~ten~~ ticket after retirement.
- ③ The civil ~~for~~ servant have government knowledge which can be abused
- ④ It is against impartiality and neutrality -

two core values of civil service.

- ⑤ ~~The entire~~ civil service is increasingly becoming a path to join politics

There has been instances of violation in recent past where civil servants have quit and directly joined politics such as Shah Faizal in J&K, Amresh Chaudhary in Chhattisgarh.

Hence, there is a need to ~~be~~ re-look:

- ① The cooling off period must be increased and more if the civil servant was in a critical post
 - ② Apart from private sector, cooling off period should also apply for politics.
 - ③ There should be a high penalty for leaving before retirement as government has spend considerably on training and
- These steps may reduce the violations

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।

The National Nutrition Mission or Poshan Abhiyan is a flagship scheme of Central government to provide a nutrition free India.

key features

- ① Horizontal collaboration between various ministries - Women and child, Health and Drinking Water and Agriculture
- ② Vertical convergence by bringing all schemes of central and state governments at the district levels
- ③ set targets of reducing ^{low birth weight} ~~rate~~, stunting, malnutrition by 2% every year and anaemia by 3% every year.
- ④ There would be a mass information, Education and communication campaign to generate awareness.

⑤ The Aangan wadi's will be integrated with the facilities under National Health Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission

It is improvement over previous schemes as :-

- ① There is vertical and horizontal collaboration and cooperation
- ② ^{Fight} ~~War~~ Against malnutrition is taken on a war footing
- ③ Specific and achievable targets have been set.
- ④ The ministries do not work in silos and complement each other

The goal of nutrition free India is highly dependent on the ground level implementation of the scheme.

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।

It is ironical that India is called the 'pharmacy of the world' but supply of generics is itself faces generic medicine shortage.

Need for generics

- ① High out-of-pocket expenditure on health at 70%
- ② Low cost of generic medicines
- ③ Easy availability
- ④ India Health Insurance does not cover medicines for out patient care
- ⑤ India has expertise in medicines

Reasons for low availability and adoption

- ① Most are exported as profit margin are higher
- ② Need patent to expire before producing generics.
- ③ Low trust on generics as opposed to

branded medicines.

- ④ Doctors do not prescribe generics but brands they are affiliated to

Steps taken by government

- ① PM Jan Aushadi Kendra to provide generic medicine
- ② Promotion of generics
- ③ Advisory to doctors to write salt name instead of brand name
- ④ Committee under Karoch to increase the supply of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) which are the base of generics.

Apart from these, various steps like setting up manufacturing parks for API production, permanent license for generic production can also be taken.

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।

In today's current scenario, the world is increasingly moving against globalization and its benefits.

Challenges faced

- ① More importance to bilateral agreements than multilateral agreements. For eg:-
USA quit from TPP.
- ② More unilateralism and protectionism.
For eg: USA slapped 10% tariff on Steel and 25% on Aluminium ~~unilaterally~~ unilaterally.
- ③ Global trade war between China and USA.
- ④ Reducing importance of multilateral and international organizations.
- ⑤ Inability of international organization to resolve the issue.

addressing these challenges.

① Institutions like WTO should ~~speed~~ step up and provide speedy resolutions to these disputes.

② Countries should come together and resist the forces of unilateralism and protectionism.

③ If international cooperation has failed, regional cooperation should be looked at such as RCEP.

④ More dialogue at forums such as G7, G20 so that issue between the countries can be resolved.

It is imperative that these forces of protectionism and trade war be reversed other there would be global slowdown affecting everyone including India.

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

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

India-US have a strategic partnership which has reached heights in terms of defense and security. For ex- DEMOA, COMCASA, STA-1 status, major defense partnership etc.

However there are some impediments:-

- ① USA is planning to change H1-B visa rules which can affect Indian IT companies
- ② USA has removed GSP (Generalised system of Preference) benefit ^{from} ~~to~~ India
- ③ USA considers India a tariff king
- ④ USA suggested India is no longer a developing countries and benefits given are reduced.
- ⑤ USA and India have disputes over Solar subsidy in WTO
- ⑥ India introduced FDI rules in e-commerce

and Date ~~some~~ ~~location~~ localization norms,
which USA resists.

- ⑦ USA is against India relation with Russia (CAATSA)
and Iran.

Consequences of withdrawal of GSP

- ① Trade deficit of USA with India
would reduce and India exports
would be stopped with new tariffs
- ② Indian ~~industry~~ exports mainly agricultural
and textile were under GSP → these sectors
are already under high distress.
- ③ India-USA trade relations would be
Sour

The need of the hour is to discuss and
deliberate and not to retaliate.

India-USA share a good partnership
and these irritants must be removed
through dialogue.

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 organs of the state along with legislature and ~~ex~~^{executive} and has acquired the status of first among equals. It enjoys high trust among the people of India.

Independence of judiciary is guaranteed by :-

- ① Appointment made by collegium system
- ② Removal process required strong parliamentary strength.
- ③ Expenses charged on the Consolidated fund of India
- ④ Power to make rules for its own functioning (Article 144)
- ⑤ Power to complete justice in any matter (Article 142)
- ⑥ Judges conduct - cannot be discussed in Parliament except for ~~the~~ removal.

⑦ Contempt of Court Act, 1971

However, the independence has raised several issues about accountability of Judiciary such as:-

- ① opaque collegium system reduces trust in appointment
- ② Primacy of judiciary in appoint has become Judicial exclusivity.
- ③ Judiciary has exempt itself from RTI ~~even~~ even after being a public authority under 2(h) of RTI Act
- ④ No mechanism of Judges removal except the politico-legal process of impeachment.
- ⑤ In-house enquiry of judiciary violates the principles of natural justice.
- ⑥ Article 142 has led to Judicial overreach
- ⑦ Contempt of court has reduced judicial criticism

There is a strong need to balance independence and accountability because in a democracy, all 3 organs of state are in a balance.

Desirable steps :-

- ① The appointment process should be made transparent with some say of executive
- ② Contempt of Court should only be civil in nature
- ③ Accountability of judges can be set in 2 steps
 - (i) Rescind, remove from cases, transfer
 - (ii) Impeachment
- ④ A National Judicial Oversight Committee is required which can evaluate cases against judge independently.

The independence and public trust enjoyed by judiciary can be lost if the judiciary is not seen accountable to the public.

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 department system of Indian polity can be traced back to the Indian Council Act of 1901 which introduced the Portfolio system.

The current system has certain strengths :-

- ① It provides for division of labour
- ② Civil servants having specialization in certain fields can be appointed as secretaries to their Department
- ③ It allows special attention to a particular Subject - For eg:- Ministry of Tribal Affairs was bifurcated from Ministry of Social Justice in 2008 to give special focus to Tribals.

④ It helps bring different perspectives on an issue. For eg:- Ministry of Highways ~~Finance~~ and Ministry of Environment may have different views on a road through a protected area.

⑤ It makes the decision more consultative and broad based.

However, it has given rise to some challenges.

① The paperwork has to route through different departments making the process slow.

② Secretaries are not willing to take decisions and keep moving the files

③ An applicant has to take permission from various departments making the process cumbersome.

④ The deliberation and discussion process is ~~slow~~ often cumbersome and many

⑤ times different departments work at cross purpose

⑤ Different departments ~~then~~ often have overlapping functions. For eg:- National Skill Development Council was earlier under Finance Ministry.

The current system can be tweaked to make it more effective.

① Clubbing different department/ministry which have overlapping function. For eg. Ministry of Drinking Water and Ministry of water resources became Jal shakti Ministry

② Solving Inter-Ministerial conflicts with the government and not resorting to litigation

③ More coordinated and directed meeting between the governments.

④ Single window clearance to get approvals. These steps ~~sto~~ could make the current structure more efficient

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?

(RS)
Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Parliament in India's Bicameral Parliamentary System. Its composition and functioning is slightly different from Lok Sabha.

Composition

- ① It consists of people indirectly elected ~~through~~ ~~from~~ ~~from~~ Vidhan Sabha of the respective ~~assembly~~ states.
- ② The ~~people are~~ parliamentarians are supposed to represent interests of their state but they represent interest of their Political party.
- ③ RS was introduced to bring scientists, industrialists, academics into policy making but it has become a retirement home for lost politicians.

functioning

- ① RS has no financial power over the government
- ② It cannot withhold the passage of Budget, money bill or finance bill.
- ③ The government is not accountable to Rajya Sabha
- ④ In case of joint sitting, RS loses due to its low numbers.

However, RS is not just a secondary house of Parliament. It is important because:-

- ① It has equal say in Constitutional Amendment Act and can prevent any un-constitutional change due to brute majority.
- ② It has equal power in passage of any other (except money bill) acts.

- ③ It has the sole power to create an All India Service through Article 312
- ④ It has the sole power to authorize Parliament to make law on state the subject (Article 249)
- ⑤ It is a permanent house of the Parliament and provides continuity

The RS is a very important aspect of the Parliament. Lok Sabha being popularly elected is the House of Pensions whereas Rajya Sabha is the House of Corrections

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 is an important aspect of election which is linked to corruption, electoral malpractices and criminalization of politics.

many legislative measures have been taken such as :-

- ① Political Parties have to maintain the names of donors donating above ₹ 2000.
- ② Electoral bonds introduce so that digital means of money transfer are promoted
- ③ Political Parties have to show the source of funds in IT returns
- ④ There was a limit of 7.5% of net-
of a company
profit that can be donated but it

was removed.

- ⑤ ~~The~~ limit on the expenditure by a candidate in an election.

However, certain challenges are still there:-

- ① Electoral bonds have in fact reduced transparency in electoral funding.
- ② Removing the 2.5% cap allows shell companies to route money to political parties.
- ③ ADR data shows that 69% of political funding between 2004-05 and 2014-15 came from unknown sources.
- ④ Most money collected by political parties is shown as coupon sales of ₹5, ₹10, ₹100 which is not recorded.

State funding of elections can address these challenges to some what

- ① The ~~per~~ candidates would be given money based on some ~~max~~ parameters.
- ② The candidates would collect money and

same amount will be matched by state

- ③ limit on how much one person can donate to keep check on corporate
- ④ Setting minimum amount to deter non-serious candidates
- ⑤ Higher matching ratio for women can be more.

This method also has certain challenges such as biased against new entrants, verification of collections would be a tedious process among others. These challenges can be overcome with careful planning and state funding is a welcome step.

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।

As per 2011 census, 31.2% of India's population lives in cities. This percentage will reach 40% by ²⁰³⁰ ~~2030~~.

There is a dire need ~~to~~ for a successful, long-lasting and sustainable urban transformation.

A critical aspect is urban governance which has certain issues :-

- ① Mayor is just an titular ^{head} ~~head~~ and power is with civil servant.
- ② The Municipal Development Plans ~~do not~~ are top-down and do not take citizen input.
- ③ The planning process do not ^{include} ~~include~~ experts ~~and~~

- ④ Revenue generation of the cities is poor. (It is only 0.25% of the GDP)
- ⑤ Existing resources such as user fees for waste collection, property tax are not utilized properly because of fear of reprisal.
- ⑥ The different bodies in cities like Tal Board, Electricity Board do not work in coordination.

Strategies

Government has taken some steps

- ① Schemes like Smart City, HRIDAY etc.
- ② Reform Matrix Index by ministry
 - (i) Trust and verify model where payment first and verify later
 - (ii) Credit Rating of Municipalities so they can get fund from market
 - (iii) Land Record Management

- ③ SEBI has brought regulations regarding market borrowing
- ④ Reform Incentive Fund increased from ₹ 500 → ₹ 3000

Other steps

- ① Area based approach where different parastatal bodies work together
- ② Metropolitan plan must have spaces for green areas, slum re-development etc. ~~so they can~~
- ③ The plan must be futuristic catering to the need of future when urbanization would increase.

WHO reports that there is hidden urbanization in India, i.e., actual level is at 51%. and most build up is at the out-shirts of city. This makes urban transformation even more critical.

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

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

Self-Help groups (SHGs) are a small group of people who have come together to pool their savings and/or to undertake entrepreneur activities.

~~write~~ Right since the Integrated Rural Development Programme was introduced SHGs have helped reduce poverty as:-

- ① It provides a common platform for people to come together and generate Synergy
- ② The resources pooled together can be used to get loans ~~from~~ ^{from} Micro-finance institutions
- ③ SHG-Bank linkage also provide SHGs with resources and direction

to start entrepreneurial activity.

- ④ People who are part of SHGs have seen more saving (NABARD report) and has spended more on productive items (NABARD report)
- ⑤ It has provided for women empowerment and made them more independent and entrepreneurial.

Shortcomings of SHG-Bank Linkage

- ① The Resource Persons to direct the SHGs are not present
- ② Banks have less presence in rural areas.
- ③ Micro-finance Institutions (MFI) who are the backbone of SHGs ~~are~~ also mostly focus on urban slums (71%)
- ④ Most activities do not take off in the absence of proper guidance and direction.

Suggestions

- ① Financial support should be supple-
mented with administrative and
and knowledge support
- ② MFI should increase their presence
in the rural economy
- ③ There should be dedicated drive to enroll
at least one ^{per household} person in SHG as in
NRLM.
- ④ Registration and proper handholding
from time to time to see that SHGs
is working properly.

SHGs are important tool of poverty
reduction and proper support
should be given to them to make
them efficient.

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।

The higher education sector is the ~~po~~ most focused area of education in India, yet it has seen the least progress.

Starting from establishment of IITs, IIMs and regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE the government in recent times has taken following steps : -

- ① Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) to improve educational and social infra in higher, medical and school education
- ② HEPA will raise ₹ 1 L core for RISE
- ③ TEQIP to improve the quality of teaching in colleges in remote areas.

- ④ GIAN to collaborate with international teachers and University.
- ⑤ VAJRA and OVDF to bring best talent from outside to teach in India
- ⑥ HECI, Bill to replace University Grant Commission.
- ⑦ EFVIP (Education Quality Upgradation and Infrastructure Promotion) to focus on 10 key areas.
- ⑧ Institute of Eminence (IoE) tag

Challenges

- ① Regional equity - college density in Bihar is 8, in AP it is above 50.
- ② ~~Gender equity~~ Low Gross enrollment ratio of 25.4
- ③ ~~out of~~ more than 50% of the funds for higher education goes to national institutes which house only 3% students

- ④ Low quality of teaching and research
- ⑤ None of the higher education is in top 100 of the world
- ⑥ Low quality of infrastructure
- ⑦ Lack of multi-disciplinary studies and outdated syllabus

Reforms needed

- ① Providing operational autonomy to institutions to choose their curriculum
- ② More induction of foreign students
- ③ More multi-disciplinary institutes (today 40% of institutes teach only 1 ~~set~~ discipline)
- ④ Funding should be ^{equitably} ~~evenly~~ distributed between regional and national institutes
- ⑤ Research and development must be improved.
- ⑥ Increased emphasis on becoming a top quality institute as in the IOE programme

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

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

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)
aims to provide 'Housing to all' by
2022. It has 2 components -

PMAY-Rural and PMAY-Urban.

PMAY-Rural has replaced the erstwhile
Indira Gandhi Gramteen Awas Yojana

Progress made under PMAY-U

- ① 3% of the intended houses have been completed
- ② Construction has begun on more than 50% of the houses to be developed.

Progress under PMAY-R

- ① More than 50% of the houses have been constructed or are under construction.

Challenges

- ① Issue of land in urban areas
- ② Financing as it has long gestation period
- ③ Lack of participation of private sector in affordable housing
- ④ The houses made are not of good quality
- ⑤ Inclusion and exclusion errors in identification of beneficiaries
- ⑥ Dominance of corruption and black market in the real estate sector

Reforms needed

- ① Private sector must be incentivised to participate

- ② In cities like Mumbai where 43% population lives in slum, the incentive should be on in-situ slum redevelopment
- ③ Land pooling can be used to get access to land
- ④ The tax on affordable housing and its ancillary industries can be rationalized
- ⑤ Housing for all scheme can be coordinated with other schemes like Skill India (skilling of masons) and Digital India.

Affordable housing is a dire requirement of today and PMAY is a good step in this direction.

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।

India has a ^{mainland} large coastline of 7,500 km along the Indian Ocean and is an important country in the Indian Ocean region.

As the focus of the world is moving from Pacific to Indo-Pacific, the Indian Ocean and Indian Ocean Island Nations of - Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Reunion gain importance.

They are important because

- ① 90% of India's oil import comes from Indian Ocean.
- ② 95% of trade by volume and 70% by volume moves through sea route.

③ Indian ocean is seeing non-traditional threats like IUU fishing, piracy, trafficking etc.

④ Indian ocean is getting militarized with US base in Diego Garcia and Chinese base in Djibouti

⑤ China has a policy of encircling India where cooperation of island nations is necessary.

⑥ India is vulnerable to attack via sea routes as in 2008 Mumbai Attack

⑦ Indian ocean are important sea lanes of communication and commerce whoever dominate it, will dominate the region.

Indian has taken various steps for:-

① Shaping the geo-political contours

→ Quad grouping with USA, Australia, and Japan

- ② forming Indian Ocean Rim Association and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium to connect with Island Nations
- ③ Bilateral cooperation with Island Nations such as in Mauritius (development of Agalga), Seychelles etc.
- ④ strengthening the coastal security by raising jurisdiction of coastal police to 200 nautical miles
- ⑤ Providing attack helicopters to Maldives and Shi-jets to Mauritius to strengthen their capability.

Both India and the Indian Ocean Island Nations are important for each other, to shape the political countour of the region and for maritime security

20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. (250 words) 15

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

India is a developing country and is often a recipient of assistance ~~for~~ ^{from} other countries, but at the same time India is one of the key countries to provide developmental assistance.

In fact, in recent year developmental assistance has seen a considerable jump and is a key part of foreign policy :-

- ① Development of Afghan Parliament, Salma Dam in Afghanistan.
- ② Line of credit to Nepal after the 2015 Earthquakes
- ③ Assistance to Bhutan for their 5-year Plans

- ④ line of credit to African countries
- ⑤ use of Indian Technical^{and} Educational
cooperation to provide training to
thousands of individuals
- ⑥ Scholarships to foreign students
mainly from SAARC and Africa
- ⑦ Fresh line of credit to Mauritius Maldives
to help them manage Chinese debt

India's developmental assistance is different from official development assistance (ODA) by developed countries as:-

- ① It is not seen as a aid but as a partnership
- ② India seeks to enhance its cooperation with the country.
- ③ It increases India's soft power

④ Apart from the LOC, India provides other expertises also.

In the past few years, ~~to~~ India's ~~reception~~ provides more in development aid than it receives and hence is using development assistance as key instrument in foreign policy to increase its soft power and good will.