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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	687496
Center	KB	Date	28/08/19

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained		
1	10		1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)। 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं। 3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।	
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Total Marks Obtained:				
Remarks:				

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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 108th constitutional amendment bill provides for women reservation in central to the tune of 30%. This is the step towards making the legislature more inclusive & gender friendly.

The reservation of seats is needed to ensure meaningful political participation because,

- ① The persuasive measures have failed.
 - despite the active campaigning by women groups and other interested stakeholders, there is no active steps to include more women.
 - the representation of women is hardly near 5% in central legislature.

② The legislative measures have succeeded in past.

→ for eg the 73rd & 74th amendment act provided for reservation this has increased the women representation in these bodies significantly.

③ Law is needed to change the attitude of political parties and generation of right based attitude among women.

Issue :- Some women argues that it would generate feeling of "being provided" than "gained by merit".

Way forward.

The reservation is needed because first the law of land should ensure equality than only the mindsets will change.

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 to SCs & STs were provided' to fulfill the obligations of society towards them. However the question of reservation in promotions was brought various judicial pronouncements & constitutional amendments.

- SC in Indra Sawhney case while accepting the reservation policy rejected the idea of reservation in promotions. saying that ~~as~~ being in service remove the disability hence further promotion is not needed.

- The constitution ~~is~~ constitutional amendment act provided for reservation in promotions.

— Again the question arose of consequential seniority, where the court once again rejected the provision of consequential seniority whereby the reserved candidate was to be promoted even if he/she was junior to ~~other~~ other candidates.

→ The ~~of~~ legislature in subsequent ~~as~~ constitutional amendment rejected the court's pronouncement and provided for consequential seniority.

→ In M. Nagaraj case the SC put 3 conditions for giving promotions to SC/STs. However one among them i.e. Collection of relevant data is rejected by court in its latest pronouncement.

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 Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are provided in the Schedule 6 of the constitution for Tribal areas. They are constituted by the governor. It consists of 80 members.

However over time their performance have declined. because of following reasons.

- the limit of 80 members cannot accommodate the growing interest.
- There is no proper representation for women.
- There are no representation to subject matter specialist.
- Proper auditing and critical evaluation of their functions is lacking.
- The complexity of issues requires.

expansion in their mandates.

The following steps can be taken to
improve their functioning.

- The women and ~~the~~ other minor
tribal groups should be given proper
representations.
- The state government should devolve
enough funds for their proper function-
ing.
- There should be expansion of seats.

way forward,

- The tribal institutes should be
protected & strengthened for proper
development and assimilation.

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।

The official secret Act (OSA) though colonial legacy, has been re-inserted in Independent India and has survived judicial scrutiny over a period of time.

The continuance of Act is on following rationale:-

- ① The govt should be empowered to check espionage to safeguard the security & integrity of India.
- ② It is provided as reasonable restriction on rights given under article 19.
- ③ It is needed given various forces working against security of nations especially in hostile neighbourhood.

Right to Information Act 2005 was passed to give Indian citizens access to information affecting their interests from govt. in status it has been precedence over all other statutes. However information protected under OIA is denied on various instances.

Argument in favour of RTI over OIA.

- Official secrets is a vague term hence can be used by officials to deny otherwise non related information.
- The corruption which can hamper national security can not be shielded under OIA.

Argument in favour of OIA :-

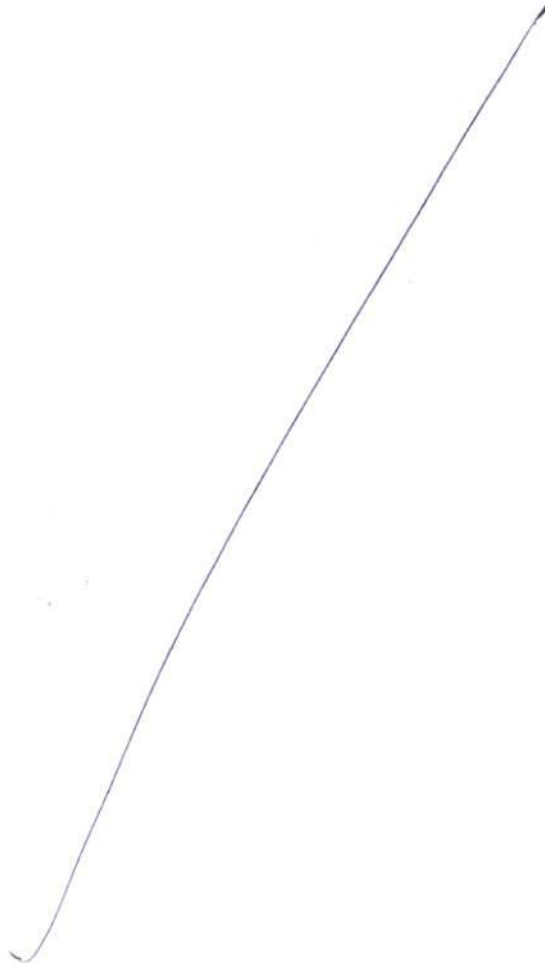
- Malafient interests seeking sensitive information through RTI.
- blackmailing officers over secret information.

Way forward :- fine balance between national interest & RTI should be maintained.

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?

Civil servants in India after retirement are posted on various important posts including governors and now to ministers also, this has ignited the debate around the cooling off period.

The various instances of violation include appointment S. Jaishankar as the foreign minister of India, directly from being the Secretary of foreign affairs, &

There are numerous other instances where various civil servants are appointed as governors to various states.

~~The necessitates~~ the revision

The rational behind "cooling off" period are as follows:-

1) This avoids conflict of interest and keeps the government servant politically neutral.

2) The seeking / promise of welfare post service can affect the integrity of the officer.

3)

This necessitates the change in Civil Service conduct rules.

→ To maintain the impartiality of civil services,

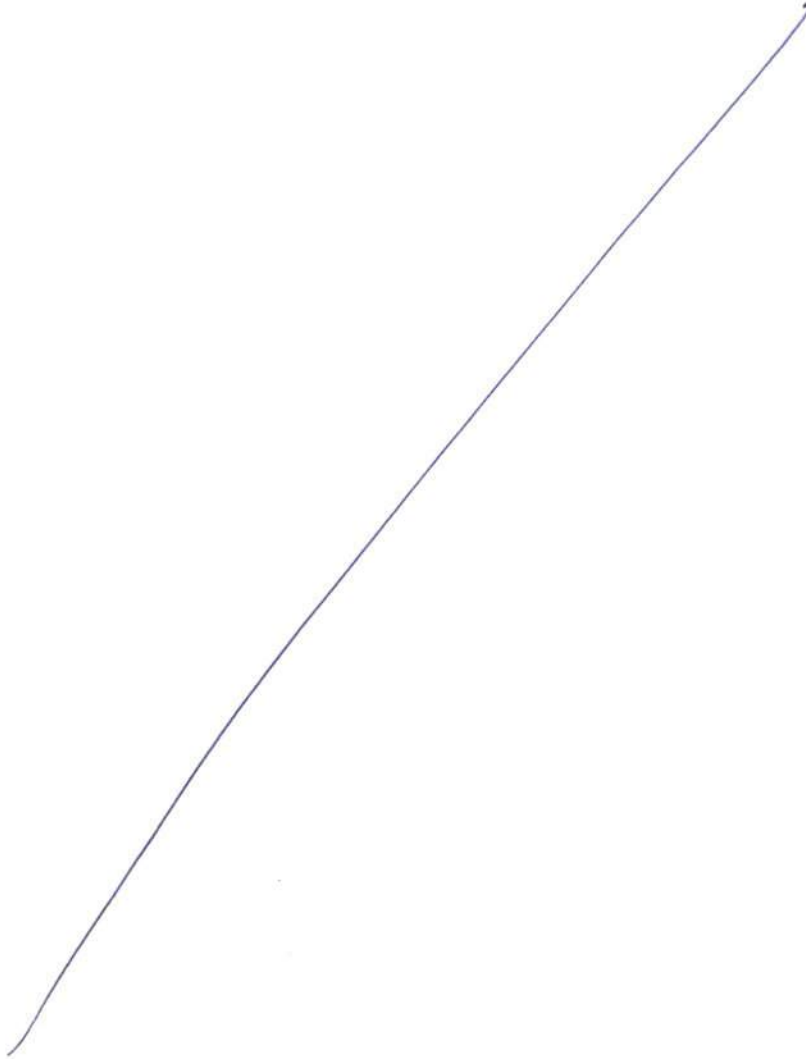
→ To secure the image of Indian civil officers as being ~~in~~ upright & ethical.

Way forward:-

The cooling off period should be necessary to ensure ethical conduct of officers.

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।



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।

Generic medicines are the medicines which are cheaper version of already existing medicines. They are chemically the exact copy of other medicines but are not branded.

Need of generic medicines in India.

- Large proportion of Indian population is poor cannot afford the branded medicines.
- The research and development facilities are not well developed hence generic medicines (GMP) provides better alternatives.
- as major portion of health services directed towards poor, and provided by state → GMP decreases the bill on government exchequer.

Reasons for lower availability

- ① lower manufacturing capacity along with various issues regarding patents & ~~the~~ IPR.
- ② Non-preference among physicians because they are less expensive.
- ③ Lack of awareness $\rightarrow$ low demand $\rightarrow$ lower production & quality concerns.

Steps taken by Indian government -

- ① Various exemptions under new act regime.
- ② Promotion through schemes like AYUSHMAN BHARAT, etc.
- ③ Policy to advocate them on international forums like REEP etc.

Way forward:

More awareness and improvement in quality is required to ease the availability. It should be coupled with ease of manufacturing.

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 developed in the aftermath of 2nd ww and with the institution of WTO, IMF and alike. It expanded. ~~It~~ It expanded to benefit all the countries with 90% expansion in world GDP.

However it is under stress in present situation owing to factors like:-

- ① Growing protectionism in western economies.
- ② Crumbling trade unions like EU.
- ③ Disenchantment of Eastern & Emerging economies with functioning of Bretton wood institutes.
- ④ Growth in number of bilateral agreements & plurilateral agreements like REEP.

⑧ Open Trade area between bigger economies like USA & China.

The following measures can be taken by WTO to arrest these challenges.

- ① The functioning should be made more representative by giving proper recognition to emerging economies.
- ② The dispute resolution measures should be less political as they are seen skewed by western powers.
- ③ The concerns of developing & emerging economies like India regarding agricultural subsidies should be addressed.

Way forward:

WTO should take active measures to arrest the threat to international rule-based trading system which starts from its own disorientation & reformation.

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?

US is one of the major trade partner of India in the west. The trade relations expands over number of articles ranging from agricultural products to defence articles.

However following are regarded as major impediments to India-US trade relations

- ① Growing Trade deficit of US with India coupled with protectionist measures of US administration is cause of concern for US.
- ② The visa issues which affects Indian service sectors.
- ③ Various tariff & non tariff barriers put by both sides across different sectors. eg. US tariff on Indian food articles and Indian tariff on US motorcycles.

- (4) Clashes in WTO over subsidies extended ~~extended~~ by India towards its agricultural sector. US also extends substantial amount of subsidies (40% of agricultural budget ~~&~~ against India's 8%).
- (5) Defence trade with Russia. (60% of Indian defence supplies).

~~Raise~~ US called India the 'tariff king'. As a measure of reprimand it withdrew GSP.

GSP withdrawal affects:-

- Indian sectors especially agriculture sector, which got non-tariff entry to US markets.

Way forward:-

India is not in position of Tit-for-Tat with USA; hence constructive engagement through WTO is the most suitable way to solve the trade issues.

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।

India is a democratic country and is
run by 3 institutions with checks &
balances. They are legislative, executive
and judiciary.

The executive is responsible to
legislature and the legislature is responsible
to people. In this way the independence
of each branch of Indian state is balanced
by accountability.

However there are questions about
the functioning of Indian judiciary.
Indian judiciary headed by SC is
independent and exercise power &
control over the functioning of legislative
& executive.

The independence of judiciary is ensured in the constitution, by providing various safeguards, such as,

- ① Security of Tenure
- ② Expenses are charged on Consolidated fund of India & states.
- ③ The judges can be removed only through the complex procedure of impeachment.

Need for accountability.

There are various aspects of judicial functioning which generates the requirement of accountability.

- ① The opaque nature of appointment of Judges.
- ② The negligence of Judiciary to open itself to RTI

- ③ Various allegations of corruption.
- ④ Non-representative nature of higher judiciary i.e. various sections of society including women are not represented properly.
- ⑤ Judicial activism & excesses - surpassing constitutionally mandated functions.

Steps taken to improve accountability & issues

- ① Various bills are proposed to ensure accountability of functioning Judges.
- ② National Judicial Appointment Council ^{Act} ~~Bill~~ was rejected by Judiciary as unconstitutional.

Issue & way forward.

These steps are seen as ways to subvert the judiciary; which can be right but Judiciary should itself take measures to improve its accountability & respect the basic structure doctrine.

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 Indian government functions through various ministers & these ministers in turn functions based on various departments working either under ministry or independent.

The department system exhibits following strengths.

- ① As governance grows the procedure becomes complex & cumbersome. departments ease the burden.
- ② They provide specific expertise & efficiency relating to particular area.

- ③ changing priorities of government needs special departments.
eg. consumer protection & welfare - by
Department of Administrative reforms
& public grievance,
farmer welfare :- DACFW.

- ④ Sensitive works under specific departments which are directly under the PM
eg. Department of Space, Department of Science & Technology.

However the system of departments pose following challenges.

- ① Complexity of procedures; which makes the governance ineffective & lazy.
- ② Doubling of efforts due to growing redundancy.

- ③ Growing red tapism, nepotism & Bureaucratic machinery.
- ④ goes against the concept of minimum government & maximum governance.

Way forward:-

Hence keeping in view the growing complexity of work & the aim of minimum ~~governance~~ ^{govt} & maximum governance rationalisation of these departments is required.

The recent step of creating Jalshakti ministry by amalgamating relevant departments is a positive step worth emulating.

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?

Indian parliament consists of upper house & lower house. Upper house/Rajya Sabha functions as federal chamber of legislature giving representation to states at centre.

However the following are the concerns surrounding the composition :-

- ① The states do not have equal representation in Rajya Sabha (RS).
- ② The eligibility criteria is debated gives Indian citizenship as the sole criteria
→ taking away the federal nature.
- ③ It consists of nominated members.
These questions regarding being

representative

functioning

- 1) Rajya Sabha mainly functions as democratic chamber.
- 2) ~~the~~ Certain bills (money bill) can not be introduced in RS.
- 3) RS cannot reject money bill.
- 4) Chairman (RS) do not head the joint sitting.
- 5) RS cannot vote for repealing of national emergency.

This suggests that RS exists merely as 2nd house of parliament. B which can at best delay the bills with no effective voice on various crucial matters.

However R performs following functions.

- ① It decides for the introduction of new ~~central~~ Civil Service.
- ② R approves constitutional amendment bills.
- ③ It only can empower parliament to legislate on state list matters.
- ④ It approves various emergencies.
- ⑤ Has equal say in ordinary bills & financial bills (except money bill).

Hence R is not mere dilatory chamber but functions as democratic chamber of Indian parliament.

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?

The electoral funding has been is
center again due to recent Lok-sabha
elections,

Various measures have been taken from
time to time to improve the electoral
funding. The recent being electoral
bonds.

The electoral bonds were proposed as
an advancement over previous
measures. It provides,

- ① Anonymity to donor.
- ② KYC norms necessitates that ~~clear~~
only clean individuals can donate.
- ③ The income returns filed by

political parties gives transparency to total funding received.

However following concerns remain,

- ① It removes limits from corporate house donations increasing their influence on polity and also giving scope for money laundering.
- ② The identity of donors can be revealed to the govt of the day putting other parties at disadvantaged position.

Hence the best option - state funding of election is the most logical step because:-

- ① Provides even playing field for all political parties.
- ② It can limit the election expenses.

- ③ No need for separate accounts and
Single account will be made from
which money will be disbursed.
- ④ It can check nexus between politician
& criminals.

Issues

- It can put extra pressure on govt
exchequer.
- criteria for allotment of funds should
be made out.

Way forward,

The election expenses should be checked
to ensure level playing field and
free democracy. Electoral bonds are
step in right direction however
before envisaging state funding
further improvements to electoral bond
can be tried

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 the Indian economy grows followed by more and more migration. There will be unprecedented increase in size of cities. However about 5% of Indian urban population lives in slums. which paints dismal picture about the urban development & city governance. Challenges plaguing Indian urban governance are as follows.

- ① Lack of proper power dispersion as envisaged in 74th constitutional amendment by state governments.
- ② Consequently shortage of functionaries funds & functionaries at local

level.

- ③ The lack of institutional capacity & existence of numerous parastatals which complicate the governance structure
- ④ The ^{meagre} funds dispersed by state govt are coupled by reluctance of local bodies to collect taxes already under their authority.
- ⑤ Uncontrolled urbanisation, illegal construction & corruption even then about 10/10,000 households are homeless.
- ⑥ The civic services are dismal, especially drinking water etc.

The following strategies can be adopted.

- The taxing powers should be given to local bodies.
- proper measures to avert corruption.
- Institutional capacity to raise monetary resources like. — the municipal bonds.
- The number of parastatals should be rationalised through proper data collection.
- The technology should be tapped in to improve service provision.
- Various govt schemes should be streamlined like AMRUT, Smart cities through inclusion of local bodies

Way forward,

Local bodies empowerment is very crucial to improving the urban governance.

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 ~~was~~ the institutes which involves number of people with common interests coming together to achieve common welfare through pooling of their resources.

SHG plays following role

① Increasing capacity -

The pooling of resources gives the members the capacity to undertake

→ projects of their interests e.g. small processing centre.

→ to avail loans from banks.

→ to start co-operative to serve as source of income.

② Decreasing poverty.

→ helps in reduction of poverty by improving the income sources of poor households.

③ Empowering women.

→ women SHG are predominant in SHGs.

→ It gives them economic source of income.

→ gives them agency

— The women SHGs are the most successful one eg. Kudumbashree. etc.

Keeping in view the importance of SHGs, the SHG-bank linkage programme was started. However it did not produce the desired results.

The issues were:

→ Banks are wary of giving loans to SHGs.

- SHG lacks proper expertise in field of credit management.
- They lack proper records & collateral to avail loans.
- defaulting by SHGs. on repayment.
- Some fraud SHGs are formed especially to avail the loans.

The following steps can be taken to improve the situation.

- Proper capacity development of SHGs.
- The lending capacity of banks should be improved.
- Steps should be taken for computerisation of records.

Way forward -

SHG are nascent institutes they need support to increase their capacity.

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 Indian Higher education system is very crucial to harness the Demographic dividend and to realise SDG-4.

Over the recent years ~~the~~ government has taken various steps to improve higher education system. They range from improving the infrastructure to curriculum to the collaboration. The brief steps are brief.

- ① Steps to improve the governance.

The function to distribute grants is taken away from U.G. making it solely responsible for administration

→ The bill for replacing Medical Commission of India with Indian Medical Council.

② To improve infrastructure

→ Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to grant loans to higher education centres to improve the research infrastructure.

③ To improve research & world standing

→ Institutes of Eminence with autonomy.

→ Higher Education Ranking framework to generate sense of competition.

Despite all these steps many reforms are still required.

- ① Steps to arrest inequality → only 2% of Sts pursue higher education.
→ besides there is huge gender gap.
- ② Steps to encourage collaboration between the various institutes working in different fields.
- ③ Shortage of staff, especially professional teachers.
- ④ Political interference should be minimised.
- ⑤ There is need for autonomy in case of curriculum revision.

Way forward.

Govt should implement the salient points of New Education policy like segregation of institutes based on functions along with above mentioned steps.

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?

About 5% of Indian urban population lives in slums, the state vary from state to state. And 10/10,000 Indian households are homeless.

In this background government launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which envisaged public private partnership to provide housing for all by 2022.

The scheme has made considerable progress over last few year. The slums are modified and upgraded with the help of private sector.

There are provisions for availability of cheap credit at nominal rates. Besides individual initiatives for home upgradation that are supported by govt credit.

However these schemes face following challenges.

① Availability of resources.

→ The main problem is availability of land

→ The environmental clearances etc enhances the project cost.

③ Design of Scheme

→ The scheme envisages provision of permanent homes. However most of the landless migrate seasonally to cities

→ The homes are away from workplace creating problems of commutation.

The following measures can be taken to fast-track the programme.

- ① The speedy implementation of Real Estate Regulatory Act throughout the country.
- ② The collection of proper data on migration & tweak the scheme accordingly.
- ③ Resolving NPA problems in bank to ease the credit flow.

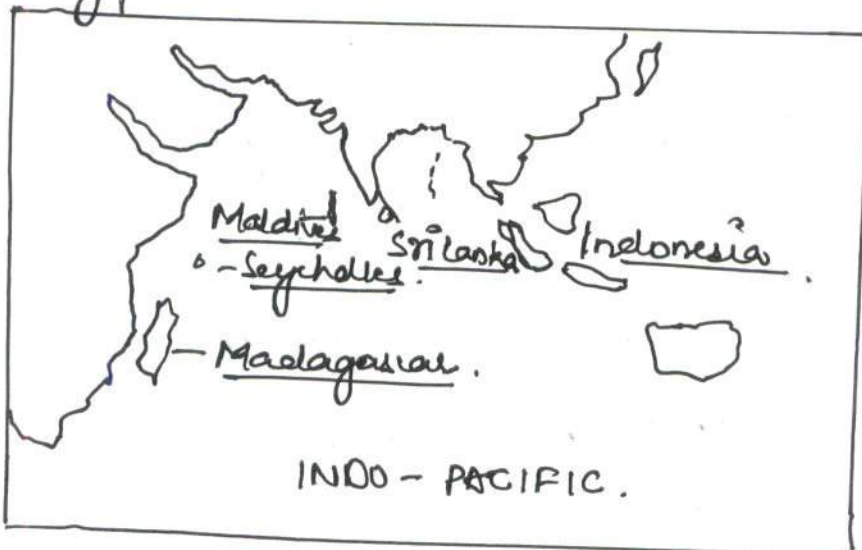
Way forward:

The scheme should be revised to accommodate concern of migrating workers.

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 is bound by Africa & Indian Subcontinent. contains various small island nations. These are important in India's geopolitical & maritime security strategy.



Role of Indian Ocean Island states in geopolitical contours (GG)

- These states spread across Indian Ocean from east to west - provides strategic

location for developing naval bases &
military logistic centres

- The vast EEZ provided by them ensures exploitation of BLUE ECONOMY
- They are located close to international Se lanes & oil transport corridors. This enhances their strategic importance.
- They are ~~are~~ the most ~~prominent~~ suitable candidates for exploration of deep sea resources.
- Can prove strategic partners in ensuring Emergent India's role in Indo-Pacific.

Role in Maritime Security.

- Enhances the surveillance capacity for both conventional & non conventional threats like pirates etc.

- Strategic partner is ensuring the freedom of navigation under UNCLOS
- Can help check the expansionist ^{Chinese} attitude through BRI, ~~Beijing~~ string of pearls.

However there are limitations.

- Most of them are tilting towards China
eg. Sri Lanka (Hambantota) & Maldives
- India has not enough resources to
engage them constructively eg.
delays in projects

Way forward:

India is taking active steps by engaging them through various platforms eg. humanitarian aid, military cooperation
However a comprehensive policy should be developed.

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^(DA) is a kind of debt/non-debt instrument in a foreign policy of a country. It is mainly directed towards countries which are less advanced across various aspects.

DA has emerged as very important aspect of India's foreign policy. India extends various debt/non-debt instruments to friendly countries.

Over the last decade with the growth and expansion in Indian Economy DA has become very important aspect of bilateral & multilateral engagements.

SCOPE

Indian development assistance ranges over various areas.

few important aspects among them :-

- Development of human resources.
it includes assistance for education,
healthcare development, and skill
training by involving forums like
ITEC.
- Special assistance for region specific
epidemics like assistance for Zud
(cold wave) in Central Asia
- Infrastructure development :-
Assistance for development of Salma Dam
in Afghanistan, various hydroelectric
projects in Nepal
- Improvement of agriculture and resource
utilization
Special line of credit is extended to
Bangladesh by India.
Likewise various projects are underway
in Africa (East Africa) eg. Girinka
project - helped by India.

Reach - over years the reach of Indian development assistance has grown manifold, mainly through 2 ways.

- a) Assistance directly by India.
- b) Through intermediate institutes like BRICS Bank etc.

The areas mainly covered under Indian DO:

- South Asian nations - like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Maldives. (as per GURUJI DOCTRINE)
- African countries under AARDO, Asia Africa growth corridor etc.

Way forward:

However there are limits to DO approach mainly due to resource crunch, competition

- on from countries like China.

Nevertheless it has become an emergent aspect of Indian foreign policy.