

Current Test Explanation 27

Question 1

Answer: D

Key Features of MPLADS

In addition to the regular State Government departments and the three levels of Panchayats, the rural areas of many districts are also being serviced by Area Development Authorities/Rural Development Boards. These organizations receive sizeable grants from both the Union and the State Governments for schematic expenditure in their jurisdiction with emphasis on crop improvement, creation of minor irrigation facilities, up-gradation of local infrastructure, and other area-specific needs.

Government schemes are an important part of the UPSC syllabus. Aspirants must be thorough with the objectives and the activities of these major schemes for the IAS exam.

Some of the key features of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) are:

- It is a government-funded scheme where the annual fund provided to each MP constituency is Rs. 5 crores.
- The initial assistance under the MPLAD scheme was Rs. 5 lakh / MP. From 1998-99 onwards, this amount has been increased to Rs. 2 crore / MP, and the amount currently available under this scheme has been increased to Rs. 5 crore rupees.
- Recommendation by the MPs should be done annually with works costing at least 15 percent of the MPLADS entitlement for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 percent for areas inhabited by the ST population.
- A sum of Rs. 75 lakhs is provided for building assets by trusts and societies as per the scheme guidelines to encourage the trusts and societies for the betterment of tribal people.
- Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their Constituencies and Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works within the State of Election. Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

Implementation of MPLADS

- An MP is required to provide his/her choice of the nodal district to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in a prescribed format. A copy of the same should be given to the State Government and the District Magistrate of the chosen district.
- The Government of India releases an annual entitlement of Rs. 5 crores in two equal installments. This amount is given to the District Authority of the Nodal District selected by the concerned MP.
- The Implementing Agency should be identified by the District Authority. The Implementing Agency should have the capability to execute the eligible work qualitatively, timely, and satisfactorily.
- All the recommended works must be sanctioned within 75 days from the date of receipt of the recommendation after the completion of all formalities. If any work is not sanctioned within the prescribed time period, the District Authority shall, however, may inform the MPs regarding the rejection of the work within 45 days from the date of receipt of recommendations.
- This scheme can also be converted into individual/stand-alone projects under the Central and State Government schemes provided they meet the eligibility conditions of MPLADS.
- Funds from local bodies can be similarly pooled with MPLADS works but the funds provided by other scheme sources should be used first. MPLADS funds should be released later for the successful completion of the project. As soon as a work under the Scheme is completed, it should be put to public use.

Guidelines on MPLADS

In June 2016, the government came up with MP Local Area Development Scheme Guidelines. A few important details from these guidelines are mentioned below:

1. The guidelines mentioned to use the MPLAD funds for the implementation of the following:
 - Swachh Bharat Mission

- Accessible India Campaign
- Water Conservation using rainwater harvesting systems
- Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

2. MPLADS funds could be converged with MNREGS and Khelo India Schemes for the formation of durable assets

Question 2

Answer: C

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Question 3

Answer: C

It has 3 components:

- e-Prison Management Information System (MIS): It is used at the prisons for their day to day regular activities.
- National Prisons Information Portal: It is a citizen centric portal showing statistical data of various prisons in the country.
- Kara Bazaar: Portal for showcasing and selling the products manufactured in various prisons of the country by inmates.

Inter-operable Criminal Justice System:

- It is a common platform for information exchange and analytics of all the pillars of the criminal justice system comprising Police, Forensics, Prosecution, Courts, Prisons.
- Purpose: To reduce errors and time taken in sharing of necessary information between the pillars, which often lead to larger challenges like longer duration of trials, poorer convictions, transit losses of documents etc.
- Some other critical benefits arising out of the ICJS ecosystem are usable analytics products like the National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO) to identify & track repeat and habitual sexual offenders.

Prisons/'Persons detained therein'

- It is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments.
- However, the Ministry of Home Affairs provides regular guidance and advice to States and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.
- The Supreme Court had in September 2018 appointed the Justice Roy Committee to examine the various problems plaguing prisons, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.

Question 4

Answer: C

Recently, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a project named Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD) from the village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

- Under the project 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – *BambusaTulda* and *BambusaPolymorpha* from Assam – have been planted over 16 acres of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land of village NichlaMandwa.

- KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- It is the first of its kind exercise in India. It seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- It has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- Reason for Selecting Bamboo:
 - It grows very fast and in about three years' time, they could be harvested.
 - It is also known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.
- Significance:
 - It will reduce desertification and provide livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.
 - It will also act as havens of sustainable development and food security.

Question 5

Answer: A

- MPLAD is a Central Sector Scheme which was announced in December 1993.
- The objective of the scheme is to enable the Members of Parliament (MP) to suggest and execute developmental works of capital nature based on locally felt needs with emphasis on creation of durable assets.
- Initially, it came under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.