Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the governance challenges faced by slum dwellers in Indian cities. Suggest measures to ensure inclusive urban development and equitable access to basic services.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Urban poverty; water and sanitation; affordable housing; land tenure; municipal governance; urban planning; social justice; participatory decision-making; inclusive development

Model Answer

Introduction

Slum settlements reflect the challenges of rapid urbanisation, inadequate affordable housing and unequal access to essential services. Inclusive urban governance requires cities to protect dignity while improving living conditions.

Major Challenges

1. Inadequate Basic Amenities

Many vulnerable settlements face irregular water supply, poor sanitation, drainage problems and limited waste management, increasing health risks.

2. Housing and Land Insecurity

Unclear tenure, overcrowding and the threat of eviction can discourage investment in safer housing and essential facilities.

3. Livelihood and Social Exclusion

Informal workers often face insecure employment, limited access to public services and inadequate representation in urban decision-making.

Measures for Inclusive Development

- **Basic services:** Ensure reliable water, sanitation, drainage, electricity and healthcare access.
- **Affordable housing:** Expand suitable housing programmes and in-situ slum redevelopment where feasible.
- **Secure tenure:** Provide transparent, legally compliant processes for addressing land and housing claims.
- **Participatory governance:** Consult residents and include their priorities in municipal plans and election manifestos.
- **Accountability:** Strengthen grievance redressal, social audits and monitoring of municipal services.

Conclusion

Inclusive cities require more than infrastructure expansion. Empowering slum residents and ensuring equitable access to services can make urban development more sustainable and socially just.

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