Polity & Governance · GS - II

Unauthorised colonies pose challenges to planned urbanisation, public service delivery and land governance in India. Examine the causes and consequences of this problem and suggest measures to promote orderly and inclusive urban development.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Unplanned urbanisation, urban housing shortage, land mafias, land-use regulation, building permissions, 74th Constitutional Amendment, municipal governance, basic urban services, property rights, urban poverty, affordable housing, town planning, GIS-based land records, enforcement, RERA, inclusive urban development.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Unauthorised colonies develop without the required planning approvals or compliance with applicable land-use and building regulations. Their growth reflects weaknesses in urban planning, affordable housing and regulatory enforcement.

2. Causes and Consequences

1. **Housing pressure:** High land prices and limited affordable housing push households towards unregulated settlements.

2. **Governance gaps:** Weak monitoring, fragmented institutional responsibilities and illegal land transactions encourage unauthorised development.
3. **Infrastructure deficits:** Inadequate roads, drainage, sanitation and water supply increase health and disaster risks.
4. **Legal uncertainty:** Residents may face difficulties concerning property rights, services and access to formal finance.

3. Measures Required

1. Strengthen municipal planning and enforce development regulations fairly.
2. Expand affordable housing and serviced land for low-income groups.
3. Use GIS mapping, digitised land records and transparent building approvals.
4. Take action against illegal developers while providing lawful remedies to eligible residents.
5. Improve coordination among municipalities, development authorities and State Governments.

4. Conclusion

Effective urban governance requires both strict enforcement against illegal development and accessible, affordable housing so that cities become planned, liveable and inclusive.

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