Geography · GS - I

How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Smart Cities Mission, inclusive infrastructure, basic services, digital governance, affordable housing, public transport, spatial inequality, distributive justice

Model Answer

Introduction

A smart city should not merely deploy technology; it should use technology and infrastructure to improve equitable access to urban opportunities and basic services.

1. Addressing Urban Poverty

Smart urban infrastructure can improve access to water, sanitation, electricity, healthcare and public transport. Integrated command systems can improve delivery of civic services and grievance redressal.

2. Employment and Livelihoods

Improved connectivity, digital infrastructure and urban economic facilities can expand employment opportunities. Skill development and support for informal workers can strengthen livelihood security.

3. Distributive Justice

Public investment should prioritise underserved settlements rather than concentrating benefits in affluent areas. Affordable housing, accessible transport and equitable public spaces can reduce spatial inequality.

4. Challenges

Technology may deepen exclusion if digital literacy, affordability and accessibility are ignored. Therefore, smart governance must remain citizen-centric and inclusive.

Conclusion

The true measure of a smart city is not technological sophistication but whether its infrastructure and services produce greater inclusion, accessibility and fairness.

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