MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES (MAUS)

MAUS 1ST YEAR

Assignments

(July 2026 & January 2027 Sessions)

School of Extension and Development Studies

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi -110068

Dear Learner,

You will have to do one assignment with five questions for each course. Each assignment carries 100 marks with 30% weightage in the final assessment. Irrespective of the year and session of the registration, you need to submit the latest assignments uploaded on the website.

Instructions

1) Please write the following details on the first page of each assignment:
    - Name & Full Address:
    - Enrolment No.:
    - Admission Session:
    - Course Code:
    - Course Title:
    - Regional Centre:
    - Study Centre:
2) Use A-4 size plain / ruled paper for your responses. Write on both sides with a margin and tie/staple all the pages carefully - course-wise.
3) Write the question number with each answer.
4) You should write in your **own handwriting,** and **only handwritten assignments are evaluated**.
5) Last date for submitting the assignments for the **July 2026** Session is **31st March 2027** and for the **January 2027** Session is **30th September 2027** (Check University website for date extension, if any).
6) **Submit the assignments in the allotted study center only.** Keep a scanned copy of assignments with you until the marks are reflected in your grade card.

Guidelines

1) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully. Go through the self-learning material/web references on which they are based. Make points regarding each question and then rearrange these in a logical order.
2) **Organization:** Be a little more selective and analytical. Give attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer a brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarize your response to the question.
3) **Make sure that your answer:**
    a) is around 800 words for each question.
    b) is logical, coherent and has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs.
    c) is written correctly, giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation.
4) **Presentations:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write the final version for submission. Write each answer neatly and underline the points you wish to emphasize.
5) **Please contact the respective course coordinator for any academic help/clarification.**

ASSIGNMENT - 1

Course Code: MEDS-041
Maximum Marks: 100

Answer all questions. All questions carry 20 marks each.

1. Critically evaluate the socio-economic and infrastructural challenges arising from rapid urbanisation. Suggest sustainable strategies to mitigate these issues.
2. Assess the functional effectiveness of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in managing modern civic infrastructure. What structural and financial reforms are needed to strengthen local urban governance?
3. Examine the impact of unplanned urban expansion on local ecosystems and natural resources. Highlight the role of climate-resilient planning in preserving urban biodiversity.
4. 'Good governance is a prerequisite for sustainable development.' Discuss this statement with examples showing how administrative efficiency directly impacts economic growth.
5. Define the core tenets of modern urban management. Elaborate on the essential institutional and technological frameworks required to achieve smart, inclusive urban growth.