
Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.

Separation of Powers between various organs Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions.

Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with that of Other Countries.

Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.

Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/Informal Associations and their Role in the Polity.

Salient Features of the Representation of People’s Act.

Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.

Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

Development Processes and the Development Industry — the Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
• Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the population by the Centre and States and the Performance of these Schemes; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the Protection and Betterment of these Vulnerable Sections.
• Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
• Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.
• Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency and Accountability, E-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; Citizens Charters, Transparency & Accountability and institutional and other measures.
• Role of Civil Services in a Democracy.
• India and its Neighborhood- Relations.
• Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
• Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India’s interests, Indian Diaspora.
• Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

Polity

Indian Constitution

**Historical Underpinning & Evolution**

- Regulating Act (1773) to Independence Act (1947)
- Constituent Assembly
- Objective Resolution
- Enactment & Enforcement of Constitution

**Features**

- Written
- Flexible & Rigid
- Federal & Unitary
- Parliamentary Form of Government (Presidential vs. Parliamentary Type of Government)

**Amendments**

- List of Significant Amendments & Their Provisions
- Procedure for Amending Constitution

**Significant Provisions**

- Fundamental Rights
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Judicial Review
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Separation of Powers

**Basic Structure**

- The Doctrine
- Judgments & Cases
## Functions & Responsibilities of the Union and the States

- 7th Schedule
- Legislative Functions
- Financial Functions
- Administrative & Quasi-Judicial Functions

## Issues & Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

### Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?

### Cooperative & Competitive Federalism

### Centre-State Relations

- Legislative Relations
- Administrative Relations
- Financial Relations
- Trends in Centre-State Relations

### Inter-State Relations

- Inter-state Water Disputes

### Devolution of Powers & Finances to Local Levels & Challenges Therein

- Role of State Government
- Role of State Finance Commission
- 11th & 12th Schedule
- Reasons for Ineffective Performance
- Panchayat Devolution Index (NITI Aayog)
- Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance

### Separation of Powers Between Various Organs

### Emergency Provisions

### Role of Governor

### Reports of Various Commissions

2nd ARC, Punchhi, Sarkaria, etc.
- Doctrine of Separation of Power
- Separation of Power in Indian Constitution
- Doctrine of Checks & Balances
- Provisions for Checks & Balances in Indian Constitution
- Related Judgments - Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain, Ram Jawaya vs Punjab

**Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions**

- RTI
- PIL
- Tribunals, etc.

**Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries Parliament & State Legislatures**

**Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges**

- Written Constitution
- Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility
- Federal System with Unitary Bias
- Parliamentary Form of Government
- Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy
- Integrated and Independent Judiciary
- Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties
- Secular State
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Emergency Provisions
- Three-tier Government
- Due Process of Law vs. Procedure Established by Law
- Impeachment of President, etc.

**Structure, Organization & Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary**
Executive

- **Union:**
  - President
  - Prime Minister
  - Council of Ministers
  - Cabinet Secretariat
- **State:**
  - Governor
  - Chief Minister
  - Council of Ministers
  - Secretariat

Ministries and Departments of the Government

- Cabinet Ministries
- Other Ministries
- Parliamentary Secretaries

Judiciary

- Three-Tier Structure
- Chief Justice of India
- SC & HC Judges
- Jurisdiction

Pressure Groups & Formal/informal Associations & Their Role in Polity

- Characteristics of Pressure Groups
- Pressure Groups & Political Parties
- Pressure Groups & Interest Groups
- Types of Pressure Groups
- Functions, Role & Importance of Pressure Groups
- Techniques/Methods of Pressure Groups
- Pressure Groups in India
- Shortcomings of Pressure Groups

Salient Features of Representation of People's Act

Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts
Appointment, Powers, Functions & Responsibilities of:

- Election Commission
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commission
- Finance Commission
- National Commission for SCs
- National Commission for STs
- Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Attorney General of India
- Advocate General of the State

Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial Bodies

- NITI Aayog
- RBI
- National Human Rights Commission
- State Human Rights Commission
- Central Information Commission
- Central Vigilance Commission
- Central Bureau of Investigation
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas
- National Commission for Women
- National Commission for Backward Classes
- National Commission for Minorities
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Competition Commission of India
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
- Central Pollution Control Board
- Medical Council of India
- Inland Waterways Authority of India
- Central Ground Water Authority
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- Bar Council of India
- University Grants Commission
- Financial Stability and Development Council
- All India Council for Technical Education
- National Green Tribunal
- Competition Appellate Tribunal
- Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal
- Cyber Appellate Tribunal
- Intellectual Property Appellate Board

Governance

Government Policies & Interventions for Development
Government Policies & Interventions in Various Sectors

Health, Gender, Education, Poverty, Economic etc

Issues Arising Out of Their Design & Implementation

- Concerns/Issues
- Suggestions for Improvement
- Critical Assessment of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)
- Rationalisation of CSS

Analysis of Main Schemes:
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Smart City
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- MGNERGA
- Digital India
- Make in India
- Skill India
- PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- Start-up India etc.

Development Processes & the Development Industry

- Role of Social Capital Organisations
- Indian Context
- Classification
- Provisions for the Third Sector in the Indian Constitution
- National Policy on the Voluntary Sector 2007

Non-Governmental Organisations

- Role and Impact of Non-governmental Organizations
- Issue Areas: Accreditation, Legitimacy & Accountability, Foreign Funding etc.

Societies, Trusts and Cooperatives

- Challenges
- Measures to Make SHGs Effective
- Case Studies: Kudumbashree (Kerala), Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (Maharashtra)

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

- Need for SHGs
- Benefits of SHGs
- Weaknesses of SHGs

Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability
Governance

- Dimensions of Governance
- Good Governance (GG)
- Aspects of GG
- Barriers to GG
- Necessary Pre-conditions for GG
- How to Ensure GG

E-Governance

- Applications
- Models
- Successes
- Limitations
- Potential
- Recent e-governance Initiatives by Government

Citizens Charters (CC)

Components of CC

Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

- Features of CC
- Six Principles of CC
- Shortcomings of CC
- Measures to Make CC Effective
- Sevottam Model

Aspects of Transparency

Elements & Types of Accountability

Means to ensure Transparency & Accountability

- RTI
- Social Audit
- Whistleblower Protection Bill
- Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act
Relationship Between Civil Service And Democracy

Role Played By Civil Services

- Advisory Role in Policy Making
- Institutionalise Socio-economic change
- Discharge Delegated Functions
- Administer Law of the Land
- Watchdogs
- Continuity in times of Political Instability
- Record-Keeping
- Channel of Communication

Ailments/Issues Afflicting Indian Civil Services

- Lack of Professionalism & Poor Capacity Building
- Inefficient Incentive Systems
- Outdated Rules & Procedures
- Systemic Inconsistencies in Promotion
- Lack of Adequate Transparency & Accountability Procedures

Reforming Bureaucracy to Strengthen Democracy

- Setting Right the Asymmetry of Power
- Insulating Civil Servants from Undue Political Interference
- Professionalisation with Stability of Tenure & Competition
- Citizen-Centric Administration
- Accountability
- Outcome Orientation
- Promoting Public Service Values & Ethics

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections

Schemes for the Following Vulnerable Sections

- SCs & STs
- Minorities
- Children
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Women
- Transgender

• STs:
  - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
  - Tribal Sub Plan
  - TRIFED
  - Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act
Performance of These Schemes

Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies Constituted for Protection & Betterment of These Vulnerable Sections

- **SCs:**
  - The Protection of Civil Rights Act
  - The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
  - National Commission for Scheduled Castes
  - Scheduled Castes Sub Plan

- **Disabled:**
  - The Rehabilitation Council of India Act
  - The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act
  - Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act
  - The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act
  - Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act

- **Minorities:**
  - National Commission for Minorities
  - National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

**Women & Children**

- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act
- The Dowry Prohibition Act
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal)
- Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act
- Gender Budgeting
- National Policy for Women
- Domestic Violence Act
- Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act

**Elderly**

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act

---

**Issues Relating to Development & Management of Social Sector/Services**
Health

- India’s Performance on Various Health Indicators
- Weaknesses of Indian Healthcare System
- Health Infrastructure in India
- Universal Health Coverage
- 12th FYP Strategy
- Universal Health Coverage
- Health Insurance
- National Family Health Survey
- National Health Policy
- National Health Mission
- Maternal & Adolescent Health
- Child Health
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Disease Burden in India
- Measures to Ensure Good Health Outcomes
- Government Initiatives

Education

- Status of Literacy in India
- Education Structure in India
- Challenges Faced by Education Sector in India
- Reforms Required
- Government Initiatives
- ASER Report
- Financing Education
- Subramanian Panel Report

Human Resource

- Need For Skill Development
- Skill Development Initiatives
- Challenges in Skilling Landscape in India
- Shortcomings of Current Skill Development Initiatives
- Reforms Required
- Steps that can Be Taken

Issues Relating to Poverty & Hunger

- Relation between Poverty & Hunger
- Distribution of Poverty & Hunger
- Magnitude & Trends of Poverty & Hunger
- Causes of Poverty & Hunger
- Cost/Impact of Poverty & Malnutrition
- MDGs & SDGs
- Food and nutrition insecurity - a consequence of structural inequities
- Constraints in Reducing Poverty & Hunger
- Measure to Reduce Poverty & Hunger – National Food Security Act, Mid-day Meal Scheme, MGNREGA etc.
## India and its Neighborhood – Relations

### India’s Relations With
- China
- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Bhutan
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Maldives

### Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests

### India’s Major Foreign Policy Doctrines Since 1947
- Non-aligned Movement (NAM)
- Nuclear Doctrine
- Gujral Doctrine
- Look East to Act East
- Think West, etc.

### Bilateral Relations With
- Major Powers Like – USA, Russia, Japan
- Central Asian Countries
- West Asian Countries
- African Countries
- Australia & New Zealand
- EU & European Countries
- Latin American Countries
- Pacific Countries

### Regional & Global Groupings
- SAARC
- BRICS
- BBIN & BCIM
- BIMSTEC
- IBSA
- ASEAN & RCEP
- India-Africa Forum
- SCO
- Ashgabat Agreement
- FIPIC
- IOR-ARC
- Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)
- Raisina Dialogue
- Heart of Asia Conference
- East Asia Summit
- G-20
- Asian Development Bank
- National Security Summit
- Multilateral Nuclear Export Regulatory Regimes: Wassenar, MTCR, Australia Group
- Asian Development Bank
- APEC, etc

### Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests
• One Belt One Road
• International North–South Transport Corridor
• Global Trade War
• Global Currency War
• Syrian Crisis
• UN Reforms

• WTO Reforms
• South China Sea Conflict
• Brexit
• Deglobalisation & Protectionism – US
  Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc.
• OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc.

Indian Diaspora

• Spread of Indian Diaspora
• India’s Diaspora Policy & Engagement Initiatives
  ○ OCI
  ○ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
  ○ Know India Programme, etc.

• LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the Diaspora
• Role played by Indian Diaspora
• Issues Concerning the Diaspora:
  ○ Dual Nationality
  ○ Remittances, etc.

Important International Institutions

• UN & its Agencies
• WTO
• World Bank

• IMF
• World Economic Forum
• Commonwealth of Nations, etc.