General Studies-II

(Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations)

- 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 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indian Constitution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical Underpinning &amp; Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant Provisions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- 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

**Basic Structure**

- The Doctrine
- Judgments & Cases

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functions &amp; Responsibilities of the Union and the States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 7th Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Legislative Functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Financial Functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Administrative &amp; Quasi-Judicial Functions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues &amp; Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative &amp; Competitive Federalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre-State Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Legislative Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Administrative Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Financial Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Trends in Centre-State Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-State Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Inter-state Water Disputes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Devolution of Powers &amp; Finances to Local Levels &amp; Challenges Therein</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Role of State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Role of State Finance Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 11th &amp; 12th Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reasons for Ineffective Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Panchayat Devolution Index (NITI Aayog)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Separation of Powers Between Various Organs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Doctrine of Separation of Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Separation of Power in Indian Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Doctrine of Checks &amp; Balances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Provisions for Checks &amp; Balances in Indian Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Related Judgments - Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain, Ram Jawaya vs Punjab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- RTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tribunals, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries
Parliament & State Legislatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers &amp; Privileges</th>
<th>Departments &amp; Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Constitution</td>
<td>Secular State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility</td>
<td>Universal Adult Franchise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal System with Unitary Bias</td>
<td>Single Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy</td>
<td>Three-tier Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated and Independent Judiciary</td>
<td>Due Process of Law vs. Procedure Established by Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties</td>
<td>Impeachment of President, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

Salient Features of Representation of People’s Act

Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts
- 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
- 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
### Governance

#### Government Policies & Interventions for Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Policies &amp; Interventions in Various Sectors</th>
<th>Analysis of Main Schemes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Smart City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ MGNERGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Digital India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Make in India</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Skill India</td>
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<tr>
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<td>◦ PM Jan Dhan Yojana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Start-up India etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Issues Arising Out of Their Design & Implementation

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

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

#### Non-Governmental Organisations

- Role and Impact of Non-governmental Organisations
- Issue Areas: Accreditation, Legitimacy & Accountability, Foreign Funding etc.
- Societies
- Trust
- Religious Endowments
- Cooperatives –
  - Need for Cooperatives
  - Constitutional Provisions
  - National Policy on Co-operatives, 2002
  - Issues and Challenges in the Cooperatives Sector

#### Self Help Groups (SHGs)

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

#### Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability

- Features of CC
### 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

### 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

### Aspects of Transparency

#### Elements & Types of Accountability

#### Means to ensure Transparency & Accountability
- RTI
- Social Audit
- Whistleblower Protection Bill
- Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act

### 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
- STs:
Sections
- SCs & STs
- Minorities
- Children
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Women
- Transgender

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

Women & Children
- National Commission for Women
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- National Commission for Minorities
- National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities
- 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
- National Commission for Minorities
- National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities
- 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

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
### Antimicrobial Resistance
- Disease Burden in India
- Measures to Ensure Good Health Outcomes
- Government Initiatives

### 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.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### India and its Neighborhood - Relations

**India’s Relations With**
- China
- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Bhutan

**Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India’s Interests**
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Maldives

**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**
- 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.
| SAARC | BRICS |

Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India’s Interests

| One Belt One Road | WTO Reforms |
| International North–South Transport Corridor | South China Sea Conflict |
| Global Trade War | Brexit |
| Global Currency War | Deglobalisation & Protectionism – US |
| Syrian Crisis | Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris |
| UN Reforms | Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc. |
|                     | OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc. |

Indian Diaspora

| Spread of Indian Diaspora | LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the |
| India’s Diaspora Policy & Engagement | Diaspora |
| Initiatives | Role played by Indian Diaspora |
| ○ OCI | Issues Concerning the Diaspora: |
| ○ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas |   ○ Dual Nationality |
| ○ Know India Programme, etc. |   ○ Remittances, etc. |

Important International Institutions

| UN & its Agencies | IMF |
| WTO | World Economic Forum |
| World Bank | Commonwealth of Nations, etc. |