



General Studies-II

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

- Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.
- 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

Significant Provisions

- 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

- 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

- Inter-State Councils
- Public Acts, Records and Judicial Proceedings
- Inter-State Trade and Commerce
- Zonal Councils

Emergency Provisions

Role of Governor

Reports of Various Commissions

- 2nd ARC, Punchhi, Sarkaria, etc.

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

- 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

- Tribunals, etc.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PIL | |
| Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries Parliament & State Legislatures | |
| Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ President ◦ Prime Minister ◦ Council of Ministers ◦ Cabinet Secretariat ▪ State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Governor ◦ Chief Minister ◦ Council of Ministers ◦ Secretariat | Judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three-Tier Structure ▪ Chief Justice of India ▪ SC & HC Judges ▪ Jurisdiction |
| Ministries and Departments of the Government | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cabinet Ministries ▪ Other Ministries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parliamentary Secretaries |
| Pressure Groups & Formal/informal Associations & Their Role in Polity | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Characteristics of Pressure Groups ▪ Pressure Groups & Political Parties ▪ Pressure Groups & Interest Groups ▪ Types of Pressure Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Election Commission ▪ Union Public Service Commission ▪ State Public Service Commission ▪ Finance Commission ▪ National Commission for SCs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 |

- 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

- 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.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

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

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

Societies, Trusts and Cooperatives

- Societies
- Trust
- Religious Endowments
- Cooperatives -
 - Need for Cooperatives
 - Constitutional Provisions
 - National Policy on Co-operatives, 2002
 - Issues and Challenges in the Cooperatives Sector

Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability

Governance

- 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

- 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

Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

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

- Arbitrary & Whimsical Transfers
- Political Interference & Administrative Acquiescence
- Gradual Erosion in Values & Ethics
- Redtapism
- Elitist in Nature
- Poor Pay
- Tendency to Capture Power

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

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- Tribal Sub Plan
- TRIFED
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) 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

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antimicrobial Resistance ▪ Disease Burden in India ▪ Measures to Ensure Good Health Outcomes ▪ Government Initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relation between Poverty & Hunger ▪ Distribution of Poverty & Hunger ▪ Magnitude & Trends of Poverty & Hunger ▪ Causes of Poverty & Hunger ▪ Cost/Impact of Poverty & Malnutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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

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| India and its Neighborhood - Relations | |
| India's Relations With <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ China ▪ Pakistan ▪ Myanmar ▪ Bhutan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-aligned Movement (NAM) ▪ Nuclear Doctrine ▪ Gujral Doctrine ▪ Look East to Act East ▪ Think West, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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: Wassenaar, MTCR, Australia Group ▪ Asian Development Bank ▪ APEC, etc |
| Bilateral Relations With <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SAARC ▪ BRICS | |
| Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One Belt One Road ▪ International North-South Transport Corridor ▪ Global Trade War ▪ Global Currency War ▪ Syrian Crisis ▪ UN Reforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spread of Indian Diaspora ▪ India's Diaspora Policy & Engagement Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ OCI ◦ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas ◦ Know India Programme, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the Diaspora ▪ Role played by Indian Diaspora ▪ Issues Concerning the Diaspora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dual Nationality ◦ Remittances, etc. |
| Important International Institutions | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN & its Agencies ▪ WTO ▪ World Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IMF ▪ World Economic Forum ▪ Commonwealth of Nations, etc. |