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**
### 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

### Functions & Responsibilities of the Union and the States

<table>
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<th>7th Schedule</th>
<th>Financial Functions</th>
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### Issues & Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

#### Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?
- Inter-State Councils
- Public Acts, Records and Judicial Proceedings
- Inter-State Trade and Commerce
- Zonal Councils

#### 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

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### Separation of Powers Between Various Organs

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<td>Related Judgments - Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain, Ram Jawaya vs Punjab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctrine of Checks &amp; Balances</td>
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</table>

### Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions

| RTI | Tribunals, etc. |
### Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries

#### Parliament & State Legislatures

- 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

#### Executive & Judiciary

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<th>Executive</th>
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<td><strong>Union:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Three-Tier Structure</strong></td>
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<td>- Chief Justice of India</td>
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<td>- Prime Minister</td>
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<td>- Council of Ministers</td>
<td>- Jurisdiction</td>
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<td>- Cabinet Secretariat</td>
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<td><strong>State:</strong></td>
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<td>- Governor</td>
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<td>- Chief Minister</td>
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<td>- Council of Ministers</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Secretariat</td>
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</table>

#### 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

#### Salient Features of Representation of People’s Act

#### Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts

| Appointment, Powers, Functions & Responsibilities of: | |
|------------------------------------------------------| |
| - Election Commission | - National Commission for STs |
| - Union Public Service Commission | - Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities |
| - State Public Service Commission | - Comptroller and Auditor General of India |
| - Finance Commission | - Attorney General of India |
| - National Commission for SCs | - 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
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

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

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)

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-government Initiatives by Government

### Citizens Charters (CC)
- Components of CC

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### 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

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### Aspects of Transparency

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

### Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

#### 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

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### 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

- **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

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**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.

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 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**

- 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

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