



## 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

- 7<sup>th</sup> 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
- 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PIL</li> </ul>	
<b>Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries Parliament &amp; State Legislatures</b>	
<b>Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers &amp; Privileges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Written Constitution</li> <li>▪ Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility</li> <li>▪ Federal System with Unitary Bias</li> <li>▪ Parliamentary Form of Government</li> <li>▪ Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy</li> <li>▪ Integrated and Independent Judiciary</li> <li>▪ Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secular State</li> <li>▪ Universal Adult Franchise</li> <li>▪ Single Citizenship</li> <li>▪ Emergency Provisions</li> <li>▪ Three-tier Government</li> <li>▪ Due Process of Law vs. Procedure Established by Law</li> <li>▪ Impeachment of President, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Structure, Organization &amp; Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary</b>	
<b>Executive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Union:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ President</li> <li>◦ Prime Minister</li> <li>◦ Council of Ministers</li> <li>◦ Cabinet Secretariat</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>State:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Governor</li> <li>◦ Chief Minister</li> <li>◦ Council of Ministers</li> <li>◦ Secretariat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Judiciary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Three-Tier Structure</li> <li>▪ Chief Justice of India</li> <li>▪ SC &amp; HC Judges</li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction</li> </ul>
<b>Ministries and Departments of the Government</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cabinet Ministries</li> <li>▪ Other Ministries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parliamentary Secretaries</li> </ul>
<b>Pressure Groups &amp; Formal/informal Associations &amp; Their Role in Polity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Characteristics of Pressure Groups</li> <li>▪ Pressure Groups &amp; Political Parties</li> <li>▪ Pressure Groups &amp; Interest Groups</li> <li>▪ Types of Pressure Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Functions, Role &amp; Importance of Pressure Groups</li> <li>▪ Techniques/Methods of Pressure Groups</li> <li>▪ Pressure Groups in India</li> <li>▪ Shortcomings of Pressure Groups</li> </ul>
<b>Salient Features of Representation of People's Act</b>	
<b>Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts</b>	
<b>Appointment, Powers, Functions &amp; Responsibilities of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Election Commission</li> <li>▪ Union Public Service Commission</li> <li>▪ State Public Service Commission</li> <li>▪ Finance Commission</li> <li>▪ National Commission for SCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Commission for STs</li> <li>▪ Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities</li> <li>▪ Comptroller and Auditor General of India</li> <li>▪ Attorney General of India</li> <li>▪ Advocate General of the State</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory, Regulatory &amp; Quasi-Judicial Bodies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NITI Aayog</li> <li>▪ RBI</li> <li>▪ National Human Rights Commission</li> <li>▪ State Human Rights Commission</li> <li>▪ Central Information Commission</li> <li>▪ Central Vigilance Commission</li> <li>▪ Central Bureau of Investigation</li> <li>▪ Lokpal and Lokayuktas</li> <li>▪ National Commission for Women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central Pollution Control Board</li> <li>▪ Medical Council of India</li> <li>▪ Inland Waterways Authority of India</li> <li>▪ Central Ground Water Authority</li> <li>▪ Directorate General of Civil Aviation</li> <li>▪ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority</li> <li>▪ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India</li> </ul>

- 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Antimicrobial Resistance</li> <li>▪ Disease Burden in India</li> <li>▪ Measures to Ensure Good Health Outcomes</li> <li>▪ Government Initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need For Skill Development</li> <li>▪ Skill Development Initiatives</li> <li>▪ Challenges in Skilling Landscape in India</li> <li>▪ Shortcomings of Current Skill Development Initiatives</li> <li>▪ Reforms Required</li> <li>▪ Steps that can Be Taken</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Relating to Poverty &amp; Hunger</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relation between Poverty &amp; Hunger</li> <li>▪ Distribution of Poverty &amp; Hunger</li> <li>▪ Magnitude &amp; Trends of Poverty &amp; Hunger</li> <li>▪ Causes of Poverty &amp; Hunger</li> <li>▪ Cost/Impact of Poverty &amp; Malnutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MDGs &amp; SDGs</li> <li>▪ Food and nutrition insecurity - a consequence of structural inequities</li> <li>▪ Constraints in Reducing Poverty &amp; Hunger</li> <li>▪ Measure to Reduce Poverty &amp; Hunger - National Food Security Act, Mid-day Meal Scheme, MGNREGA etc.</li> </ul>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

<b>India and its Neighborhood - Relations</b>	
<b>India's Relations With</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ China</li> <li>▪ Pakistan</li> <li>▪ Myanmar</li> <li>▪ Bhutan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bangladesh</li> <li>▪ Sri Lanka</li> <li>▪ Afghanistan</li> <li>▪ Nepal</li> <li>▪ Maldives</li> </ul>
<b>Bilateral, Regional &amp; Global Groupings &amp; Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests</b>	
<b>India's Major Foreign Policy Doctrines Since 1947</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-aligned Movement (NAM)</li> <li>▪ Nuclear Doctrine</li> <li>▪ Gujral Doctrine</li> <li>▪ Look East to Act East</li> <li>▪ Think West, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BBIN &amp; BCIM</li> <li>▪ BIMSTEC</li> <li>▪ IBSA</li> <li>▪ ASEAN &amp; RCEP</li> <li>▪ India-Africa Forum</li> <li>▪ SCO</li> <li>▪ Ashgabat Agreement</li> <li>▪ FIPIC</li> <li>▪ IOR-ARC</li> <li>▪ Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)</li> <li>▪ Raisina Dialogue</li> <li>▪ Heart of Asia Conference</li> <li>▪ East Asia Summit</li> <li>▪ G-20</li> <li>▪ Asian Development Bank</li> <li>▪ National Security Summit</li> <li>▪ Multilateral Nuclear Export Regulatory Regimes: Wassenaar, MTCR, Australia Group</li> <li>▪ Asian Development Bank</li> <li>▪ APEC, etc</li> </ul>
<b>Bilateral Relations With</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Major Powers Like - USA, Russia, Japan</li> <li>▪ Central Asian Countries</li> <li>▪ West Asian Countries</li> <li>▪ African Countries</li> <li>▪ Australia &amp; New Zealand</li> <li>▪ EU &amp; European Countries</li> <li>▪ Latin American Countries</li> <li>▪ Pacific Countries</li> </ul>	
<b>Regional &amp; Global Groupings</b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAARC</li> <li>▪ BRICS</li> </ul>	
<b>Effect of Policies &amp; Politics of Developed &amp; Developing Countries on India's Interests</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One Belt One Road</li> <li>▪ International North-South Transport Corridor</li> <li>▪ Global Trade War</li> <li>▪ Global Currency War</li> <li>▪ Syrian Crisis</li> <li>▪ UN Reforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WTO Reforms</li> <li>▪ South China Sea Conflict</li> <li>▪ Brexit</li> <li>▪ Deglobalisation &amp; Protectionism - US Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc.</li> <li>▪ OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Diaspora</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spread of Indian Diaspora</li> <li>▪ India's Diaspora Policy &amp; Engagement Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ OCI</li> <li>◦ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas</li> <li>◦ Know India Programme, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the Diaspora</li> <li>▪ Role played by Indian Diaspora</li> <li>▪ Issues Concerning the Diaspora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Dual Nationality</li> <li>◦ Remittances, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Important International Institutions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UN &amp; its Agencies</li> <li>▪ WTO</li> <li>▪ World Bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IMF</li> <li>▪ World Economic Forum</li> <li>▪ Commonwealth of Nations, etc.</li> </ul>

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