

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 20 questions.• All questions are compulsory• The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.• Answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length.• Answers must be written in the space provided. <p>Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</p>
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Signature Ash

1. Invigilator Signature _____

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Remarks

Roll No. _____

Q1. Despite the successful implementation of many e-Governance projects across the country, e-Governance as a whole has not been able to make the desired impact and fulfil all its objectives. In this context discuss the implication of Digital India programme on e-Governance in the country. (125 Marks)

Electronic Governance or e-governance refers to use of technology in delivery of public goods and services. It has the potential to streamline administration, provide cost-effective services, ensure accountability, bring transparency etc. However it has not been successful upto its potential because of:

- (1) Lack of connectivity across India
- (2) Digital illiteracy
- (3) Low internet penetration
- (4) Reliable network is not available all across
- (5) Linguistic barriers
- (6) Inability and unwillingness of government organisation
- (7) Only front-end e-governance while back end work is still paper based thus increasing workload etc.

In this context Digital India programme on e-governance

can become a game changer if implemented efficiently. Digital India aims to:

- (1) Provide connectivity to all the Gram panchayat.
- (2) Establish reliable connectivity.
- (3) Promote various government services in digital mode.
- (4) Increase digital literacy.

Hence it can become effective if all aspects are tackled holistically including changing attitude of people in government organisation, improving reliability of IT infrastructure etc.

Digital India must be implemented in conjunction with "Skill India" & "Make in India" to ensure more holistic development.

Q2 Discuss the salient features of the Representation of Peoples Act (RPA-2013) recently amended by the Indian Parliament. (125 Marks)

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Q3. Discuss the major factors which make it difficult for the civil society to organise effectively to curb forms of corruption which disproportionately afflict the poor. (12.5 Marks)

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Q4. Most of the representative democracies have largely remained "ballot box" democracies. Evaluate. (125 Marks)

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Q5. Reforms in bureaucracy may lead to social-economic development.
Illustrate with examples. (125 Marks)

Bureaucracy provides steel framework to the Administration of country. Reform in Bureaucracy is necessary to keep it in tune with the needs & desires of society.

Examples

- (1) Now Bureaucracy has become citizen oriented and is considering demands of citizens. Community Service Centres have been opened in various districts to provide citizen based services at their door steps.
- (2) Bureaucracy has become accommodative & ~~testes~~ encourages participation of various stakeholders. e.g. in "Jan Aushidhi" project in Maharashtra. Administration along with doctors, pharmacist; people have brought generic medicine & made health care affordable.

(3) Innovation based Bureaucracy has brought many socio-economic developments e.g. Tribal Bazaars in MP where Administration has helped in organising Tribal markets on certain days of week to ensure easy access to market to tribal community thus they are able to earn livelihood near their homes.

Q6. Local democracy is sometimes treated as synonymous with 'decentralisation', but the two are in fact quite distinct. Discuss with example. (12.5 Marks)

Centralisation refers to accumulation of powers at one centre, while decentralisation is opposing tendency.

Local democracy is a democratic institution & procedure at local level e.g. Panchayati raj in India.

Both are often treated synonymously, however they are different.

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Q7. 14th Finance Commission has ended the concept of Special Status to states. What will be the impact of it especially on the North Eastern states development scenario? (125 Marks)

Special Category States were based on hilly & difficult terrain, socio-economic problems, border areas etc. Eleven states were given special category status like J&K, Uttarakhand, NE States. More funds were devolved to these states to take care of their problems.

However 14th Finance Commission ~~at~~ ended the concept of special status. Nevertheless 14th FC devolved 42% of tax collection to states thus devolving more funds to states, at the same time it also recommended to reduce number of central sector schemes thus providing more autonomy to states & promoting "Cooperative Federalism"

North Eastern States have their unique developmental challenges because of hilly & difficult terrain, tribal population, low

connectivity etc. Due to loss of special status they will loose fund but more devolution of tax will negate those losses. At the same time pruning of CSS will provide more autonomy to these states in deciding how & where they want to utilise their resources. Thus

- (1) Overall financial devolution will be almost same with few states losing & a few gaining a little
- (2) More autonomy in expenditure
- (3) More focused approach based on local resources & problem

Q8. Civil service can play a key role in development albeit it has to be true to the dictum of "service" and not "servitude". Discuss the issues in Civil Service Accountability in India towards citizen. (125 Marks)

Civil Services is the steel framework of Indian Administration and is important for delivering development. However it has to be ^{fulfil} based on socio-economic needs of people and has to be based on "Service" motive. It needs to empower people, serve them in order to achieve development.

In India civil services is not accountable to citizens directly; civil servants are recruited based on merit; they work on the principle of political neutrality and are permanent in nature. Issues in Civil Services Accountability are:

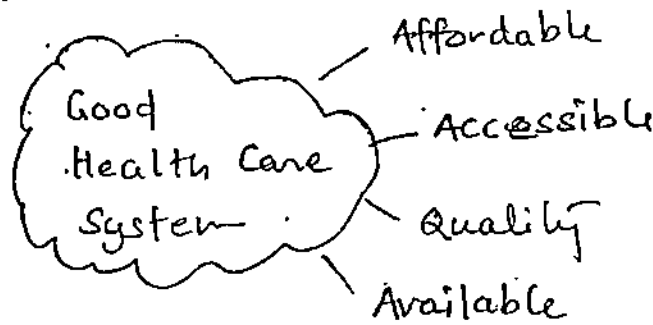
- (1) They are not directly accountable to ~~pe~~ citizen
- (2) Civil Services is based on the principle of Ministerial responsibility. Civil Services work under the authority of Minister while Ministers are answerable

to Parliament. Thus Accountability of Civil Services is indirect and weak.

(3) Civil Services in India has been given protection in constitution under Article 310 & 311. These protections are provided to ensure they work without fear or favour however often ~~it~~ it has been mis-utilised.

However with changing socio-economic condition, rising awareness in citizens about their rights, tools like RTI Act etc is ensuring civil servants work within the framework of law & are answerable for their actions.

Q9. Affordability of health care is a serious problem for the vast majority of the population than the accessibility of that. Has the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna been successful in increasing the affordability of healthcare? Discuss the steps needed for improving it. (12.5 Marks)



With efforts of government like NRHM, PHC's, CHC's, District Hospital India has availability & accessibility to healthcare. ~~Also~~ Private sector has also emerged & is playing important role in ensuring accessibility to healthcare.

However due to large population of poor in India, & lack of social security measures, lack of health insurance etc affordability is still a major challenge.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana provides cashless card based insurance to poor people providing a cover of Rs 20000/- per family in a year. It has helped to

some people as they can fulfil their immediate urgent healthcare needs without slipping into poverty. So some social support is given by RSBY schemes.

Shortcomings

- (1) Implementation: lacuna like not everyone is able to get the card
- (2) Not sufficient coverage. Rs 30000/- for a family of 5 in a year is not sufficient
- (3) Not all private hospitals accept RSBY cards.
- (4) Corruption & nexus between ~~the~~ various healthcare providers.

Suggestions/Steps

- (1) Culture of health insurance
- (2) Health insurance products which are affordable, reliable & fulfil needs of poor
- (3) Generic medicines
- (4) Standardisation of charges for various medical services
- (5) Proper regulation of health sector

Q10. Recent changes in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Whistleblowers Protection Act seem to be contrary to the spirit of bureaucratic neutrality and bureaucratic accountability. Analyze. (12.5Marks)

Q11. 'Indian constitution is a product of evolution rather than of revolution unlike American constitution'. Comment. (12.5 Marks)

Indian Nation state emerged in 1947 but India as a nation evolved over decades. The ethos of Indian nationalism based on equality, fraternity, secularism, democratic principle etc evolved over decades ~~which~~ during the freedom movement which provided the glue & bonded Indians ~~as~~ a Nation.

~~Continuation of~~ Indian Constitution is - culmination of values, principles which evolved over decades during freedom movement. Thus Unlike American Constitution which was written after American revolution Indian Constitution ~~is~~ ^{is} not the result of a revolution rather it is result of evolution of India as a Nation.

Post 1857 revolt elements of Indian nationalism emerged and over period of over 100 years

Indian society despite of its various diversities was united into a nation.

Additionally Indian constitution is still evolving based on the needs & requirement of society.

Q12. Most of failures of government schemes are attributed to the "failure of implementation" while having overtones of "bureaucratic scapegoating"; which can have a demoralizing effect but the policy formulation is equally responsible for it. Comment. (125 Marks)

Success of any government policy depends on variety of factors like:

- (1) Effectiveness of policy
- (2) Effective implementation
- (3) Policy evaluation, feedback, incorporation of feedback to check diversions
- (4) Acceptability of policy among masses etc.
- (5) Participation of people etc.

~~But~~ "Failure of Implementation" is one of the major cause of failure of government schemes and reasons for that are:

- (1) Corruption
- (2) Ineffective implementation strategy & machinery
- (3) Top down approach;
- (4) less description to field officers
- (5) Lack of participation & unawareness among people. etc.

Often, ^{for} failure of implementation, bureaucracy is held responsible. However often

many other factors also cause failure to implementation.

In Addition, Policy formulation is equally responsible in failure of any schemes
e.g. :

- (1) Policies are formulated with top-down approach & is unacceptable to many people
- (2) Often Policies are formulated with "One size fits all" approach and neglects diversity & local problem
- (3) Unacceptable to people - Some policies goes against cultural & social ethos of people and for such issues, people sensitive approach is needed, etc.

Thus it is clear that Along with Implementation failure, Policy formulation failure are also cause of failure of schemes. We need to design "Evidence based Policies" with proper mechanism of implementation ensuring checks & balances with People participation.

Q13. In India separation of power is more hypothetical than real. Comment.
(125 Marks)

Montesquie's "Separation of power" concept was to have separate branches of government independent of each other. The three branches of Executive, Legislature & Judiciary each with their separate sphere of work. It wanted to limit concentration of power at one place.

India has three branches of Executive, Legislature & Judiciary but this separation is not strict as Executive is part of legislature. Thus, India does not completely follow the separation of power. However, India has a system of "Check and Balance" where one branch curbs and checks illegitimate actions of other branch.

Unlike USA which has strict separation of power, India's executive i.e. PM & Council of Ministers are part of legislature. PM is the leader of house and

effectively executive decides the working of legislature i.e. most bills are presented by the executive. However executive is responsible to legislature as Ministers are collectively responsible to Lok Sabha and are answerable to Parliament. At the same time Parliament through tools of Budgets, question hour, zero hour enforces accountability of executive.

This India does not have separation of power in strict theoretical sense. but the concept of checks & Balances ensures all organs work properly without digressing their legitimate boundaries.

Q14. Our forefathers tended to create a grand vision of "unity in diversity" by incorporating numerous principles in the constitution and elsewhere, though it seems today that present day politics has misinterpreted it to be "identity and caste politics". Enumerate the reasons for the same. Can there be a solution to its misgivings?

(125 Marks)

India is a country of numerous diverse factors like language, culture, caste, religion, food etc despite these diversities there is unity. Indian constitution emphasised on unity of India as well as protecting & preserving various diversities. To fulfil this grand objective it provided various provisions in constitution:

- (1) In preamble
- (2) Right to equality
- (3) Right of Religious freedom
- (4) Right of minorities
- (5) Protection of women, children, backward section
- (6) Various directive principles for protection of vulnerable sections etc.

However during the political evolution in India Caste and identity based groups have emerged

So as to increase their say and share in political power. Reasons for this trend are :

- (1) It provides collective voice
- (2) To demand more benefits for their group e.g. various caste organisations & groups demanding reservation in government jobs e.g. Patel community in Gujarat recently.
- (3) These groups have emerged as a vote bank which political parties use to lure political parties use caste calculation to maximise electoral victories.
- (4) Tacit approval of people at large of such caste based politics.

Solutions

- (1) Education, awareness
- (2) Collective voice in democracy is needed but it must not be harmful to others as well as it must not create animosity in society.
- (3) curbing utilisation of caste & identity groups as vote bank. People should cast votes based on merit of candidate & not the caste etc.

Q15. Would it not be feasible for the legislature to create a legislative framework on "President's power of pardon", as it would minimize the errors that may be an outcome of its misuse for "politics of parochialism"? (125 Marks)

Article 72 of Constitution provides for "Pardoning powers of President". President can pardon, commute, reprieve, give respite. But this decision of President is not his/her discretionary power rather it is based on advice of ~~and~~ council of Ministers.

President's power to pardon was given in the constitution to provide executive one last way to check any injustice to a person. However there are cases where this power has not been utilised properly & homogeneously. e.g.

- (1) There are various mercy plea's which are pending for years
- (2) At the same time often some of the plea's are decided instantly.

Thus it is important to provide a framework in exercising this power. A clear, transparent framework will ensure their is not misuse of such power & will also ensure accountability of executive decisions.

However at the same time flexibility must be given to executive to use its power and take decision in order to ensure fairness and justice. Moreover it should not become a political tool & should ~~to~~ fulfil its intended objective i.e. checking any transgression of justice.

Q16. The "principle of subsidiarity" has been replaced by "principles of subsidies" in the context of Indian federalism. Comment.
(12.5 Marks)

"Principle of subsidiarity" refer to principle of devolution, -decentralisation where power, authority is devolved in such a fashion, so that decisions, actions are taken at level where it is best suited.

Indian federalism also has division of power between centre & states. Subjects which needs uniformity across ~~states~~ country are kept under Union list, -subject which have dependence of local factor are kept under state list & subject which can vary with local factor but uniformity across country is desirable are kept under Concurrent list. Thus this division is based on Principle of Subsidiarity. These list undergo changes also based on requirement. However it needs to be assessed how effective

this division has been. At the same time due to resource crunch & financial dependence of state on Union. the major theme has been states asking for more resources.

In this context, Centre provides many subsidies, special packages and a "Principle of Subsidies" has evolved over time

Q17. A key issue in Environmental Governance is public participation.
Comment. (125 Marks)

Sustainable development is the need of hour. To achieve that along with socio-economic development, environmental management has become important.

Environmental governance is difficult task and faces following issues:

- (1) Proper knowledge of environment
- (2) Availability of data to assess environment impact & take corrective policy measures.
- (3) Tools, techniques to understand cause-effect relation in various developmental projects
- (4) Participation of people in the management of environment so that their needs, demands, etc are incorporated

Thus participation of public is crucial to ensure their voice is effective in development however, public participation is also crippled

by various factors like :

- (1) Lack of Awareness about various aspects, impacts of environment
- (2) Lack of credible information in public sphere to ensure public participation & decision is informative
- (3) "Secrecy Attitude" of public bodies
- (4) Spread of Rumours, mis-information by various groups for political & partisan reasons.

Suggestions

- (1) Proper dissemination of Credible information
- (2) Discussion forums, portals to generate awareness in stakeholders
- (3) Involvement of people in all aspects to build trust.
- (4) Education, awareness, empowerment of people
- (5) Effective grievance redressal

Q18. "Reforming Police alone won't bring about a change in the Criminal Justice System." Comment. (125 Marks)

Criminal Justice System involves Police, judiciary, prosecution machinery, etc. To be effective all parts need to work in harmony to ensure fast, effective, speedy justice system. Various problems in Criminal Justice Systems are :

- (1) Tardy Role of Police → in filing charge sheet, collecting evidences
- (2) Corruption, delay in police procedures
- (3) Timetaking judicial process
- (4) Increasing number of cases and inability of judicial system to handle it. e.g. 2/3rd of inmates in india are under-trial
- (5) Culture of appeal after appeal
- (6) Utilising lacunas & loopholes in laws to keep delaying the cases year after year etc.

However Police reform is an important factor & will help in following ways :

- (1). Increase Independence of Police officials to curb interference of politicians, etc.
- (2). Improve technical capabilities to deal with modern era crimes like cyber crimes, genetic evidences
- (3). Streamlining procedures to ensure time based charge sheet filing, taking statement, collecting evidence etc.
- (4). Decreasing corruption
- (5). Electronic tools to improve upon accountability & transparency.

However in addition to Police reform, Judicial reform, review of existing laws, & improving Judicial procedures etc are also needed to reform Criminal Justice system in country.

Q19. Critically evaluate the contribution of PESA in Schedule V areas. Also explain how the functioning of local bodies in these areas differs from the others areas? (125 Marks)

"Local Government" is a state subject. Panchayati Raj act are passed by state government. Union passed Panchayati Extension to Scheduled Areas Act in 1996 as a model act to extend Panchayati Raj to scheduled Areas.

However many states have not fully included PESA provisions in their state laws. Thus PESA provisions are not applied uniformly across india. This has diluted the effectiveness of Panchayati Raj in scheduled Areas. In many states Gram Panchayats have been empowered to take decisions and participate in various developmental projects.

Q20. 'Life can become smoother if rights and duties go hand in hand and become complementary to each other'. In the light of the given statement illustrate the importance of fundamental duties for Indian society. (125 Marks)

Fundamental Duties were added in Article 51A in part IVA. They were not part of constitution originally & were added later on in 1970s by amendment.

Fundamental duties are not enforceable in court of law. In any society Rights and Duties are complementary to ensure balance between individual liberty & societal harmony.

Importance of Fundamental Duties

(1) It is fundamental duty of each parent to send their ward for primary & elementary education. This duty is in harmony with the fundamental right of children to education.

(2) Protection of environment is also a fundamental duty & it complements Right to life & liberty which includes right to clean environment.

(3) Duty to cherish & respect ideals of freedom movement is a broad duty as it incorporates various ideals of equality, fraternity, freedom of speech, secularism, socialism etc. which are the ideals on which our nation stands. has been founded. etc.

However Fundamental duties have been criticised

- for :
- (1) Non-enforceable nature.
 - (2) Vague.
 - (3) Not comprehensive & holistic etc.

There are various laws & acts of parliament which provide for enforcement of Fundamental duties.

~~It states to enjoy~~ etc.

Along with enjoying our rights we also need to fulfil our duties and if each citizen maintains the balance between our rights & duties society will be free of problems of riots, violence, hate speech, communalism, etc.