

GS SCORE

BATCH - II
TEST - 1

INDIAN POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are 20 questions.All questions are compulsoryThe number of marks carried by a question 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 within the space provided.Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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16/8/2017

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

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Q1. "A party that comes second, has no right to form the Government." Comment on the statement keeping in mind, the recently concluded elections in Goa. Analyze, if it was a case of abuse of Governor's discretionary powers?

Indian democracy follows the first past the post principle in elections. The candidate with the largest number of votes wins the constituency. The party with the largest number of elected representatives in the house win the election.

GOA

But in recently concluded elections in Goa, while Congress got the largest number of MLAs in the assembly, the Governor still first invited BJP (the second largest party) to form the government. The BJP was able to do so with the support of outside party MLAs.

This triggered the debate on the discretionary power of the Governor to do so and is under consideration in the SC.

① Parliamentary procedure and Constitution

→ As per our Constitution, the constitutional head of the state, the Governor has the power to invite the leader of the party which has the most likely support of the house to majority party to form the Government.

→ In the case when no party has the majority, the Governor can exercise his discretion to determine which party coalition most likely has the support necessary to form the Govt. → While 2nd ARC expressed

→ After making a selection, the Governor asks the CM to prove his majority in a floor test in the house. of preferences -

Remarks

→ But the convention has been to ~~select~~ ^{allow} the largest party to first stake claim to the Govt.

② Will of the people

→ Elections are when people exercise their democratic right to choose their leaders.
→ The largest elected party clearly has the mandate
∴ it's unfair to allow bypass it and first allow the 2nd largest party to ~~choose~~ form the Govt.

③ Non partisanship of the Governor

→ As the Constitutional head of the state, the Governor should be beyond party politics.
→ Yet this is not always the case hence he/she may exercise their constitutional discretion to favour the party that appointed them.
The situation in Goa is a case in point.

④ Exceptional cases

→ In past Delhi election when AAP despite having the largest no. of MLAs refused to form the Govt, the Governor had no choice but to go the next largest party, BJP (which also couldn't muster up required nos.)
This led to a hung assembly.
→ But proper parliamentary & constitutional convention was followed.

32

Thus while the constitution gives ^{wide} discretionary powers to the Governor in, he/she must exercise it judicially, impartially especially in choosing the largest party to

Remarks ... first stake claim to form the Govt. Otherwise it would be abuse of his/her discretionary power.

- Dis. requires more content -

Q2. Do you think, making National Commission for Backward Classes a constitutional body was necessary? Critically analyze how this move of assigning constitutional status would affect the working of this body? (12.5 Marks)

The OBCs comprise more than 40% of the population. Yet their socio-economic indicators lag behind those of the general Indian population.

Thus the need for the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

Necessity of constitutional status for NCBC - Yes or No?

① Targetting Beneficiaries - Effective functioning of NCBC

→ The NCBC helps determine which castes would come under the OBC - i.e. the process of exclusion & inclusion.

→ This function is critical as the more targetted the OBCs list of OBCs is, the more subsidies each deserving person will get to improve their standard of living.

→ Thus constitutional status can ensure highly proper, honest execution of this function.

② ~~Effective function~~ Enforcing accountability

→ As ~~the~~ a constitutional body, the scrutiny of NCBC will increase - by the public, by the parliament. Thus ensuring its accountability more than as a statutory body.

③ Ensuring autonomy

→ As a constitutional body it will have defined independence

④ transparent procedure of selection of members

Remarks

Specific points?
↓
increased function?
Rights?
Article?
Refer link

③ security of tenure

④ Given procedure for removal

⑤ Financial autonomy

Eg: As a statutory body, NCBC advised against Jats being included in the OBC. Yet the incumbent govt. included the Jats in the OBC despite this. Thus NCBC's order was easily violated. Constitutional status will correct this.

④ Heavier weight in Recommendations

→ The incumbent govt. will be answerable in violating NCBC recommendations as a constitutional body.

→ Instead of pleasing vote banks, OBC lists will be determined by facts & research work done by NCBC.

Critical analysis

① State autonomy will be adversely affected

→ Currently states are allowed to add/remove or edit OBC lists applicable in their territory.

→ As a constitutional, national body, this power will be limited only to the Parliament.

Thus there will be no flexibility.

② One size doesn't fit all

→ India is geographically large and each ^{caste} region ^{is} spread over a ^{trinary} states.

A caste may be poor in one state while rich in another.

→ If the Parliament alone has the power to edit the OBC list, real poor people of an affluent caste may suffer.

③ Pleasing vote banks - Priority may be pleasing vote banks rather than public interest.

Thus while the challenges are many, with proper drafting of

Remarks the constitutional amendment, sensitising the elected representatives to place public good over pleasing vote banks, a way for a constitutional NCBC may be found.

(21/22)

Q3. The Religion, Caste, and Language has been the major theme of Social Segregation and division. In this reference, analyze whether the recent decision of the Supreme Court to put a blanket ban on political parties and candidates to appeal people on basis on religion, caste etc. would amount to strengthening of democracy in country? (12.5 Marks)

India is a highly diverse country. It has the largest Hindu and second largest Muslim population in the world ~~co-existing~~ co-existing. It has thousands of language dialects and caste & jati divisions. Despite these differences, India has a unified nation has prevailed.

Analysing the recent decision of the Supreme court -

I. PROs

① Stop VOTE BANK POLITICS

→ Politicians ^{many times} appeal to these segregations for selfish gains to gain emotional sympathy of voters and get their votes to come to power.

→ Hence they perpetrate these divisions to ensure votes. A blanket ban on such divisive appeals may go a long way in tackling this challenge.

② Prevent Religion/Caste/Language identity → (National identity)

→ By repeated ^{FALSE} assumption that religion/caste/language of a group alone unified them determining their social & economic conditions.

→ This makes people value identify more to their religion/caste/language than the nation as a whole. It hampers brotherhood & fraternity.

③ Prevent violent tensions between communities

→ Political speeches on such issues may at times get highly violent. Eg: Babri masjid Demolition.

Why this can be

Not an adequate intro instead write about verdict of court

Remarks

CONS -

① Blanket ban won't remove these divisions from society.

→ Just because political appeal on religion / caste / language is banned, these divisions won't disappear.

→ In fact healthy debate on this issue will be curbed.

- Refu hint
for more
adequate
point

② Highlighting plight of people belonging to minority religion, lower caste, marginalised language.

→ Politicians are responsible in recognising, discussing & addressing grievances of people of all types.

→ Blanket ban will prevent affirmative action to uplift weaker/vulnerable people from minority communities.

③ How to enforce the ban?

→ Such a ban on political speech will be very difficult to implement.

→ Thus many will flout such a ban or find means to circle around yet.

Thus while the intentions of the SC were noble, the Indian society embraces all identities of an individual - religious, caste, language. It accommodates diversity & emphasises unity - such a blanket ban goes against that.

Precautionary steps like criminalisation of hate speech, enforcing Model code of Conduct of MPs during elections, disqualification of candidates who appeal violence & hatred etc will go a long way in balancing free speech with (Art. 19).

4/5

Remarks

Q4. In the light of growing pendency of cases with traditional judicature, the need for alternative dispute mechanism has been felt. What are the merits and demerits of alternative dispute redressal mechanism? Also suggest measures to improve the performance of the traditional judiciary (12.5 Marks)

There is huge pendency of cases in the country with nearly 3 crore cases pending in courts all over India. Hence the requirement of Alternate dispute mechanism.

MERITS

eg. → Arbitration, Mediation, Lok Adalat

① These alternative dispute redressal mechanisms reduce BURDEN OF THE COURTS in clearing cases.

Traditionally there are only 17 judges per million population in India. These alternate mechanism judges can add to that.

② These alternate mechanisms can incorporate HIGHER TECHNICAL EXPERTISE in certain fields.

Eg: NGT in Environmental laws.

③ They can ensure CHEAP, COST EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT justice to millions as justice delayed is justice denied.

DEMERITS ① Focus is on AMICABLE SOLUTION rather than punishment. Eg: Lok Adalats resolving petty family disputes.

DEMERITS

① Further layers of time delay in judgements if alternate dispute mechanisms are not given enough power.

Eg: For judgements by NGT there is appeal to HC first then SC - another layer added leads to delay.

Remarks

② In sufficient experts in such institutes may lead to wrongful application of law.

Eg: Lack of knowledgeable judges in institutes like Family courts may lead to wrong interpretation of laws.

while specific points are non-binding etc. +
Refer to

③ Non transparent functioning may lead to corruption. This will further harm chances of justice for the poor man.

MEASURES to improve traditional judiciary

① Transparent procedure of appointment can ensure impartial & merit based judges rising in the courts.

② Filling up of vacancies on time is of utmost necessity to remove pendency of cases.
eg: 50% of seats in HC today are vacant.

1 1/2 + 2

③ Use of ICT [Information & Communication Technology]
Use of systems like e-courts, e-filing of cases, online tracking of cases etc can ensure smooth & quick clearing of cases.

④ Sensitising judges & lawyers to the plight of undertrial (~ 2/3rd of those in prison) can make them work more efficiently in clearing their backlog.

Thus these steps will go a long way in ensuring the traditional judiciary along with alternate dispute mechanisms together clear the huge pendency of cases in India.

Remarks

Q5. Indian states have not only been denied the 'guarantee of their territorial integrity', but also due rights as federal units. Examine the above statement considering idea of cooperative federalism, especially in context of bifurcation of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh? (25 Marks)

As per the Constitution, India is a Union of states. ^{This should be the focus} ~~one~~ it is a Federal country but with a strong centre.

EXAMINING THE ABOVE STATEMENT

The given statement is not absolutely correct. The challenges and corresponding solutions to cooperative federalism are given below:-

① TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

→ The constitution does not guarantee the territorial integrity of any state. The Parliament can amend the border, name or even destitute a state despite its wishes.

→ The solution is to work as per needs of the regional people. Eg: Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh to form Telangana was to satisfy the demand of the people since they wanted more attention and autonomy for their region.

→ Yet unity of India should not be compromised. Feelings of regionalism should not supersede the national identity.

② LEGISLATIVE POWER

→ Conflict arises as states demand more legislative power.

→ Solution is the clearly follow divisions as per the 7th schedule and update it periodically.

③ EXECUTIVE POWER

* Role of Governor - controversy regarding his/her use

Remarks

discretionary powers like reservation of bill for President's assent

* President's Rule - Centre's imposition without following procedure.

* All India services - appointment & removal only by the Centre & not by the state

④ FINANCIAL AUTONOMY

(i). Resource base

- states complain of lack of resources.

- A step in the right direction was 42% devolution of divisible pool by the Centre to the state as per 14th Finance Commission.

- For Andhra Pradesh, the Centre devised a special package of nearly ₹20000 crore to meet its developmental needs.

(ii). Freedom of expenditure

- Reduce tied funds and allow freedom in deciding how to use resources.

- Centrally sponsored schemes were reduced from 14.7 to 2.7 as a right step.

⑤ Asymmetric Federalism

→ Indian polity meets needs of different states as per their local requirements.

Eg: Special status for Andhra Pradesh according to Constitution Art. 371 to meet its special socio-economic conditions.

Thus these steps ensure a balance between the Federal states and a strong Union in India.

Remarks

- Good to add subsidiary points but don't compromise on demand of que.

32

Q6. Justice delayed is justice denied. Judiciary on one erstwhile hand is facing the crunch of manpower on other hand quality of talent is another big issue. In this reference examine the need of an All India Judicial Service? (12.5 Marks)

Que. Demands an Intro
JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED

- Nearly 3 crore cases are pending in courts all over India
- Nearly 2/3 rds of all prisoners in jail in undertrials

The reasons for this are mainly two -

① CRUNCH OF MANPOWER

* Insufficient number of judges designated in all courts.

- In India there are only 17 judges per million population, while the required number is 50 as per Law Commission of India

* There are huge number of vacancies in all courts.

(Approx) 50% of seats in HC are vacant
 25% of seats in District courts are vacant

* Rising number of people going to courts

- This may be due to many reasons like ambiguous law, poor alternate dispute resolution mechanism etc.

② QUALITY OF TALENT

* Non transparent means of selection of judges due to opaque collegium system ∴ meritorious criteria may be bypassed.

Remarks

* Poor updation of skills by judges leads to them being out of touch of new laws passed, poor technical expertise.

Eg: Tax tribunals need to keep up with changing circumstances like GST.

* Lack of proper supervision leads to corruption & partiality in judiciary - hampering the quality of talent.

NEED FOR ALL INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE

Keeping all the above points in mind, a dedicated All India Judicial service can go a long way in ensuring speedy, cost effective and impartial justice for all.

① It should be empowered with requisite power to dispense justice

② Supervised appropriately

③ Appointment by transparent merit criteria

④ Sufficient autonomy with accountability

Thus this will be a step in the right direction by taking the above precautions.

4 1/2

Remarks

Q7. FRBM Act 2003, was introduced to bring transparency in fiscal management systems in the country and fiscal stability in long term. Critically analyze the success of FRBM Act and suggest the necessary reforms in the law to make it more suitable to India?

(12.5 Marks)

After the economic crisis of 1991, India took many steps to improve its debt management and fiscal equity. One of them was enacting the FRBM Act 2003.

CRITICALLY ANALYSE THE SUCCESS OF FRBM ACT

Pros

① Inter generational fiscal equity is ensured by state stating that fiscal deficit was to be gradually reduced to 3% of GDP by 2012.

② Transparency in fiscal management was ensured by requiring the Executive to present documents like Medium term macro economic policy before the parliament in the Budget session.

→ This will ensure public scrutiny and financial accountability of the government.

③ Long term stability of economy was ensured.

Cons

① By specifying a certain target [3% of GDP], the act gives no flexibility to the government.

→ This may hamper public investment for capital formation that the economy desperately requires. Since the focus is exclusively on reducing fiscal deficit.

Remarks

- ② No description regarding which type of expenditure should the government borrow for.
→ Golden rule of taking debt ~~only~~ MAINLY for public investment for capital formation rather than revenue expenditure should be emphasised.
- ③ No exceptions specified where the limit may be breached.
- ④ No provision of periodic revision of limit imposed to keep up with changing times.

MEASURES REFORMS REQUIRED IN LAW

- ① A range instead of a target for fiscal deficit should be mentioned.
→ allows room to government in stimulating the economy to spur growth.
- ② It should provide for a select committee which will review this target range periodically.
- ③ Provide for certain exceptions when this limit may be breached and by how much. And who should authorise such a breach.
- ④ Golden rule of taking debt for capital expenditure should be appropriately highlighted.

(4)

Remarks

- Refer list as you can add more diverse points to Ans.

Q8. The Internet is one of the fundamental aspect of infrastructure, which not only affects provision of government services, but also day to day transactions, especially when we are pushing hard towards the digital banking and cashless payments. In such a scenario, lacking the connectivity will not only increase digital divide, but also development deficit. Critically analyze the need for a recognition of right to internet in above context. Also, elaborate on the efforts taken by the government to achieve connectivity in rural areas. (12.5 Marks)

With recent policy initiatives like Demonetisation, DBT [Direct Benefit Transfer], Aadhar-biometric system etc, Internet has become critical for day to day

life of each Indian.

CRITICALLY ANALYSE the need for Right to internet

By right we mean denial of service is justifiable.

Merits

- ① Availing government services - requirement of the internet has become critical in many cases.
 - DBT for subsidies like LPG, scholarships etc require internet infrastructure for the poorest of the poor.
 - initiatives like online passports, filing ITR etc.

② Day to day activities like communication, research, social media etc also highlight the requirement of right to internet.

③ Banking transactions & cashless payments are the norm of the day ~~with~~ after Demonetisation. How the people expected to go digital if they have no access to the internet?

Demerits

- ① Such a right is unrealistic ^{since the infrastructure} ~~wherever~~ ^{despite having} required for its enforcement is very much lacking in almost all states. Hence it is not practical.

Remarks

Comment
Ans to
Q8
Kerala
Govt - Lu

② How will such a right be enforced?

→ Proper debate on who will provide the internet and who will be accountable for its quality if poor. has yet to take place.

→ Private-public cooperation in this sphere will be difficult to establish on such a large scale.

Hence such a right though desirable is not feasible in India today.

EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

① Digital India Programme

An umbrella scheme that includes various provisions like -

* Creating requisite infrastructure

- National Optical Fibre cable network plans to lay optical fibres in all rural ~~areas~~ backward areas for broadband connectivity.

* Spreading digital literacy

- initiatives like CSC [Common Service Centres], awareness drives ~~take~~ have been taken up in villages.

* Skil building of officers

- changing and enhancing mindset of officers to use e-governance for governance

② RBI has taken initiatives like Small Banks, Payment banks, discounts on online payments etc to encourage cashless payments.

Thus these steps will help tap potential of internet services in the rural areas.

Remarks

4

Q9. Failure to implement the Lokpal Bill by the government is an indication of how the political parties engage in renege with impunity on the government's promise of a corruption-free India. Analyze the statement and elaborate the recourse available with citizen to deal with political parties forgoing their key promises. (125 Marks).

Why need
of
Lokpal
Bill

The Lokpal act is yet to be implemented as the current government has declared the process of selection committee for Lokpal needs to be improved. Thus the act is still under work.

ANALYSE THE STATEMENT

While failure to implement the Lokpal Bill is an obstacle in the path of a corruption free India, it is not always true that political parties renege on their promises.

and

We analyse both cases

① When political parties uphold their promise of a reducing corruption.

- * Passing of Prohibition of Undisclosed Foreign Assets (sources of foreign income) act to stake down on black money stashed abroad is a case in point.
- * Demonsitisation drive attempted to make stashes of ~~etc~~ black money useless.
- * Disallowing cash payments beyond ₹ 3 lakh in Budget 2017 prevents channels of money laundering.
- * Strengthening provisions of Benami transactions act etc

② When political parties renege on their promise.

- * The SC for had to force the government to institute a SIT to investigate on Black money stashed abroad.

Remarks

Till date we are not aware of the amount is available.

* Failure to take action on critical Paroma leaks and punish the units after due investigation.

* Despite promising a corruption free India, many parties continue to ^{power} elect candidates & leaders accused of grave corruption.

Eg: Jayalalitha & Lalu Prasad both despite grave accusations were supremes of their respective parties.

Thus we see that despite promises, political parties many times do not fulfil their mandate of a corruption free India.

RECOURSE AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS

① Filing a PIL in the judiciary can result in drastic victories.

Eg: SC struck down section of RPA that allowed convicted MPs to continue in their seats if they appealed in 3 months.

② Spreading awareness amongst all about requirement of voters to hold their elected parties responsible.

③ Use pressure groups, Civil society organisations to pressure the govt.

④ Ensure the media plays a watchdog role in analysing the political party's performance.

⑤ Punish the dishonest party in the next elections and vote for change.

1/2 + 2

Remarks... content is balanced but have not focused on what is asked (Part 1) - dokpal bill

Q10. The numerous parliamentary committees together are acting as an ad-hoc legislature, especially in times of frequent walk-outs by the opposition parties and parliamentary blockades. Discuss how this practice affects the legitimacy of legislature in Indian political system and also analyze its effects on a ordinary MP, who is merely whipped into submission. (12.5 Marks)

LEGITIMACY OF LEGISLATURE

The legitimacy of the legislature is severely hampered by the following practices -

① Delegation of scrutiny of bills to parliamentary committees has resulted turned them into ad hoc legislatures.

→ Despite having a total of 552 MPs, only a handful look into the bill in detail.

→ This results in inadequate scrutiny, ^{poor} analysis,

limited poor talent pool to choose from, limited use of talent, less than optimal functioning.

→ Thus quality of functioning deteriorates.

② Frequent disruptions of Parliament force delegation of scrutiny to parliamentary committees when the house is not in session.

→ Less ~~number~~ ^{number} of bills are passed.

→ Eg: Productivity of 2016 winter session was a dismal 13%.

→ Legislature loses its chance to enforce executive accountability through healthy public debate, in question hour, zero hour etc

Eg: In 1950, the house sat for 120 days while in recent times it has come down to 70 days.

→ Hence public loses faith in the Legislature.

Remarks

EFFECTS ON ORDINARY M.P

① Even though an individual M.P. may have desire & potential to contribute to debates & policy making in the House, he/she are disallowed to do so by their party head.

- they are expressly opposed against party

② One major reason is the Xth schedule of defection which ~~dis~~ allows the party to disqualifies those who go against the party's direction. → thus whipping them into submission.

(17)

Hence internal party democracy is also critical to enhance legitimacy of the legislature.

- being more consistently inwardly

Remarks

Q11. The Constitution of India is remarkable for many outstanding features, which distinguishes it from other constitutions, even though it has been prepared after "ransacking all the known constitution of the world". Elaborate. Do you think that the bulk of the constitution is due to "patch work?" (12.5 Marks)

B.R Ambedkar, the father of our constitution called it a synthesis of many noble ideologies - we took the best from what the world had to offer and made it our own.

ELABORATE

① U.S.A constitution gave us -

- * Independence of Judiciary
- Thus enforcing executive and legislative accountability
- Judicial review

* Bill of Rights

- Resulted in formulation of Fundamental rights (Art... 14 to 32)

② U.K Constitution

- * Parliamentary form of government
- Ensures stability and accountability
- * Law making procedure
- * Role of speaker
- * First past the post system

③ Irish Constitution

- * Directive principles of state policy

⑤ Canada

- * Quasi-judicial Federal govt.

④ France

- * Idea of liberty, equality & fraternity

Thus while there was a lot of borrowing, there are many unique features -

① Indian form of secularism

- Different from the western concept where state & church are separated.

→ In India the government embraces religious identity by

Remarks

promoting all religions equally.

② Social equity

→ while emphasising individual rights, the Indian polity also ensures social group rights like affirmative action for SC/ST, protection of minorities etc.

③ Universal adult suffrage

→ Right to vote for all adults regardless of caste, gender, religion etc. from 1947 itself.

④ Rights for preventive detention (Art. 22)

→ while many constitutions don't provide for that.

CONSTITUTION A BULK OF PASTOR WORK?

No. This statement is false.

① Borrowed the best provisions from all

→ The noble ideas of equality, rights, liberty are not the property of a particular country.

→ Universal principles.

② Adapted borrowed provisions according to local needs

→ Each provision was modified for the Indian society

→ not slavish imitation.

③ Own unique features

→ explained above. Eg: Art-21A Right to ^{education} ~~life~~ ~~personal~~

elaborate
disparities
+
as most leg
govern

Thus the constitution is a result of wide reading, knowledge, effort, discussion & debate in public interest by the leaders of our nation & not a mere patch work. It has stood the test of time.

4/2

Remarks

Q12. Discuss the contribution of Kesavananda Bharti Case Judgement in retaining India as a cherished republic envisioned by its founding fathers? (12.5 Marks)

In the 1960s & 1970s, the judiciary & the legislature were at loggerheads regarding the right of the Parliament to amend the constitution.

Especially the right to property.

In 1973, Kesavananda Bharti case judgement was pronounced which to a large extent showed a way out -

- ① The Parliament can amend all provisions of the constitution EXCEPT the BASIC STRUCTURE.
- ② The provisions that would comprise the basic structure will be decided by the Judiciary itself.
- ③ Right to property was not a ^{part of} basic structure & could be amended.
(As was done ~~in 1971~~ shifting it to Art. 300A)

complete
+ of the
example

CONTRIBUTION

① It resulted in finding a balance between right of Parliament to amend the constitution & Judicial review by the Judiciary.
Thus a way to solve current and future disputes between the two was found.

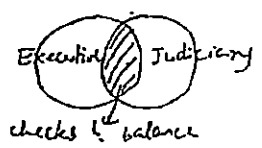
② Stability of our democracy was insured. Constant friction between the two - Parliament & SC was resulting in chaos.

③ Evolution of our constitution - as the judges interpreted the constitution in an innovative way to meet

Remarks

the exigencies of the current time. Hence our constitution has stood the test of time.

④ System of checks & balance



} By checking absolute powers of the Parliament, SC ensured its accountability to the people.

Examples

* SC declared Art. 32 as a basic feature - Right of constitutional remedies ensuring an option for redressal for aggrieved citizens.

* SC struck down NJAC act ∵ it called independence of judiciary a basic feature & appointments of judges by the Parliament would impinge that.

Hence by innovating & adapting, SC created the doctrine of basic structure to ~~ensure~~ strengthen India as a cherished republic.

5

Remarks

Q13. The tyranny of distance from the capital not only affects the provision of government and administrative services, but also the infrastructure. Critically analyze in context of the development deficit in NE of India. Also elaborate, how this affects even the media coverage of the regions affected by this phenomenon. (12.5 Marks)

The seven sister states in the NE are connected to the mainland India by a narrow corridor called Chicken's neck in W-Bengal - sometimes unaccessible due to floods, rains, landslides etc. Thus there is a massive challenge of connectivity between ~~Delhi~~^{to the} and N.E.

CRITICALLY ANALYZE - Development deficit in NE

① There is poor political attention given to the governance concerns in the NE.

* Insufficient government & administrative services like Railways, airports, physical infrastructure required for scheme like PDS etc.

Eg: Mandatory provision for Aahar had to be exempted for Assam & Meghalaya due to poor provision of facilities.

② Disastrously, landslides in Assam-Manipur highway completely isolate Manipur resulting in massive shortages of food, petrol etc.

③ Socially, the Indian citizens from NE are isolated due to poor connectivity - intermingling with other parts of India is hampered - feeling of belonging is not cultivated.

④ Economically, too, private sector does not invest enough in NE due to poor connectivity. This further adds to development deficit as whole cost is borne by the government.

⑤ Other reasons like mountainous terrain, heavy forestation also create barriers for connectivity in the N.E.

Remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE

① Media coverage is severely hampered in such regions
∴ political attention is dismal there.

Eg: Floods in Assam cause large scale destruction yet
are not highlighted enough by the media.

② ∴ larger section of public in mainland is disconnected
from the region, the media feels they won't be
interested in plight of such regions.

Hence it fails to give adequate coverage to them.

Eg: Month long economic blockade in Maipur was
poorly covered.

③ The majority of media networks are located in
the mainland & presence of journalists in NE is
poor.

This further neglects such regions.

The media's role of watchdog and advocacy of public
rights is even more important for regions like NE.
It should look beyond narrow gains, adopt Responsible
& proactive journalism to help such localities.

Recent GW. measures - Pos. conclusion

6

Remarks

Q14. Discuss the initiatives taken by the government to improve attendance in government offices and analyze their impact? What steps can further be taken to improve the public delivery and work-rate in government offices? (12.5 Marks)

INITIATIVES TAKEN

- ① Biometric attendance in govt. offices has been introduced.
 - This will ensure officers come on larger no. of days.
 - Also improve no. of work hours as the machine gives in & out time as well.
- ② Stricter supervision by the concerned superior. can to ensure use of biometric machine and constant checking.
- ③ Punishment for slack officers like regulatory action, no ~~para~~ guaranteed promotion for higher posts.
- ④ Surprise inspections in field offices to enforce attendance rules.
- ⑤ Continuation and promotion in services is now linked to officer's performance. Eg: Use of Fundamental Rules to force compulsory retirement if officer is inefficient.

ANALYSE THEIR IMPACT

- ① Higher efficiency in govt. offices as no. of working days & no. of working hours of officers will be enhanced.
- ② Addressal of public grievances quickly as ^{more} officers will now be physically present in offices - less delay.
- ③ With more officers present, stricter supervision of implementation & less leakages by subordinates by through corruption.

Remarks

STEPS to improve public delivery & work rates

- ① Incentivising officers by rewarding efficient officers & punishing lazy ones.
- ② Use of technology for e-governance will vastly increase work rates.
Eg: Online filing up of forms, automatically generated list of inspections etc.
This also ensures transparency & convenience.
- ③ Reducing red tapism and simplifying procedures.
- ④ Keep upgrading skills of officers.
- ⑤ Share best practices within & between states to learn and improve.
- ⑥ Role of NGOs, media as watchdogs will help.

With these and many other steps, we can enhance the working of govt. offices to meet public demand.

- citizen del
- service Model

5

Remarks

Q15. The VIP culture of India is notorious and tantamount to having various categories of citizen as per their VIP status. However, of-late there seems to be a general disdain among political parties to stay away from such practices. Elaborate on the steps taken by government to reduce or curb the VIP culture in India? Analyze, if these have been successful?

(12.5 Marks)

VIP culture in India has been rampant for many years as a heritage of colonialism. It must be ended.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVT.

① Banning of Red / Blue light vehicles for VIPs.

→ This is a huge step in the right direction as 'lal bethi' cars were a symbol of VIP of culture.
 → Exceptions were made for the President, Vice President & C.I. & emergency services.
 → Central rules were enforced ∴ all states are bound by them.

② Amendments to corruption laws

→ Prevention of Corruption act now prohibits taking non-pecuniary gifts in course of official duty.

Eg: Expensive Diwali gifts etc.

③ Punishing those who feel entitled to such VIP status.

→ Eg: Politicians found abusing power are quickly punished. ~~removed from political posts in light of media outcry~~ like the banning of air travel for a certain MP who became violent with the staff.

ANALYSING if these have been successful

① While many officers & politicians have been sensitised to curb VIP culture, abuses still exist.

Eg: Minister in Wazirpur MLA in UP beat up IAS officer after he asked for normal IAS fee.

Remarks

② The public has become alert to these abuses and are quick to report the guilty.

This removal of VIP factor from the minds of the common people is significant.

Eg: Public outcry when son of a minister was given bail easily for the crime of stalking a woman.

③ Role of media as a watchdog has amplified. Such media sharing ensures politicians don't indulge in VIP culture.

④ Yet due to continued abuses, many more stringent steps are required to punish wrong doers & ensure higher vigilance.

Eg: No fly list for those who feel entitled to abuse our staff.

- Refer link for more content/speel

4/2

Q16. Idea of Universal Basic Income has gained traction in many countries across the world in recent. Can universal basic income address the problem of poverty in India? Critically examine.

(12.5 Marks)

Universal Basic Income basically means transfer of lump sum of all subsidies as a single cash transfer from the government to the needy beneficiary.

Each will get the amount as per their economic & social status.

India currently has numerous subsidy transfers instead of a comprehensive universal basic income.

CRITICALLY EXAMINE

Advantages

- ① It will ease administrative procedures as 100s. of subsidies will be replaced by one income transfer.
- ② More precise estimation of how much supplement each individual requires as per to level of par with national standard average.
- ③ Freedom of expenditure as recipient can now freely decide on use of money instead of tied funds.
Trust on intelligence of public to make own decisions.
- ④ Plugging leakages, corruption due to easier monitoring
- ⑤ Challenge of overlap between schemes is eliminated.

Disadvantages

- ① Lack of necessary data will lead to poor targeting of beneficiaries.
- * How many need LPG subsidy?
* How many need Food subsidy?
- } comprehensive data for each household will have to be collected & analysed.

Remarks

Socio Economic & Caste Census 2011 is a step in the right direction.

② Fear of inefficient use of money transfer as Indian society is plagued by many social ills like alcoholic men wasting income on drinks; illiteracy etc.

→ yet on average Indian citizen with sufficient awareness drives can be made capable to take apt decisions on use of income transfer.

③ Periodic updation of list of beneficiaries as they rise above the poverty line. Only then will limited funds be used effectively for the poorest of the poor.

Hence Universal Basic Income is an idea that is ideal for the coming future. But necessary steps in the present are required to make it successful.

Don't miss
key issues
budget on
state
inflation
inflation
tax

4

Q17. Though government has taken several steps to improve the health care in India, but the sector severely faces the crunch of public funding and lacks a comprehensive approach that would include preventive and promotive health care. In this scenario, critically analyse National Health Policy 2017 as a solution to improve Health care system in India.

(12.5 Marks)

Health care in India today faces many challenges

- 40% of children from 0-6 yrs are malnourished
- 50% of women in reproductive age are anaemic.
- 3 million suffer from Tuberculosis
- 21 Lakh from ~~the~~ AIDs

The new National Health Policy 2017 has provided many solutions but challenges remain.

CRITICALLY ANALYSE

① Dismal Public Funding in health care as only 1.4% of GDP

→ The policy recommends increasing this to at least 2.5% in the coming years.

→ High funding from govt. per capita is of utmost importance for universal health care as done in Thailand & Bangladesh.

② Preventive health

→ Govt. hospitals are main service providers here
Eg: Vaccines (Mission Indradhanush) drives etc.

→ But further steps to prevent epidemics like dengue drives by local bodies, hygiene awareness, medical check up camps are recommended.

→ Latest diagnostic technology is of utmost necessity.
Eg: TB test kits.

③ Promotive health

→ Ensuring angle of health in all public policies

→ Spreading awareness amongst public regarding need for promotive health care.

Remarks

- Schemes like Agawadi workers, ICDS, ASHA workers etc need to be digitalised, revamped & ~~updated~~ continuously monitored for community health.
- ④ Sufficient infrastructure for hospitals, number doctors (especially in rural areas), high quality service & medical equipments are other challenges addressed.
- ⑤ Alternate systems of health like AYUSH need to be promoted by awareness, research and regulation to decrease pressure on allopathic health care.
- ⑥ Mental health infrastructure and promotion is also highlighted as it is a rising challenge in India.
- ⑦ Universal health care to insure health for each & ~~there~~ every individual - institutionally (though not as a right).

Right to health can be implemented only when states ~~expend~~ expend basic per capita ~~expend~~ health expenditure of ₹ 3700, not before.

- ⑧ Use of private sector in health care
 ~ 80% of outpatient & 60% of inpatient care is already provided by the priv sector.
 → Proper regulation of price (for insurance for the poor) & quality should be ensured.

Critical analysis demands few reg.
 points to - Refer link

Remarks

Q18. India seems to be following precedents in other countries like New Zealand where a flowing river has been granted a legal status. Do you think recognizing rivers as living entities will bring change to their health and condition? Discuss. (12.5 Marks)

A High court recently declared Ganga & Yamuna will be granted legal status, i.e. -

- ① Punishment to those who harm it ∴ it will now have same rights as a living person.
- ② Accountability of its care takers - the Secretary of the state & head of National Clean Ganga Mission.

Will recognizing rivers as living entities bring a change?

Yes, I do think so. Yet many challenges will still remain. Points to support this argument are given below -

- ① With the rivers now
- ② As a living entity, the courts will now have increased power to punish
 - * Private companies/bodies who flout environmental norms and pollute rivers.
 - * Public citizens who hamper health of concerned rivers.

- ③ Courts can now exhort govt. institutions - local bodies, river boards, state & central ministries to now take specific steps to ensure health of rivers is enhanced.

→ Though this was already done before, as a living entity, rights of the river to good health are enforced.

- ④ Specific accountability is fixed from the government's side as now the care takers will be answerable to the courts.

Remarks

④ Challenge of truly ensuring living rights to rivers will continue as enforcement of judgement practically is the issue.

→ But steps like compelling govt. to meet deadlines for restoring rivers, punishment for ~~violation~~ failure to do may help.

- while other measures should be taken -
Rivers are critical to human settlements and the status of living entities to them can go a long way in ensuring their protection - Gov. efforts

Recent dev. - demin of S.C.

Remarks

Q19. Government is expanding the mandatory usage of Aadhar in availing various schemes and providing various services, despite, the concerns regarding data security and its universal availability. Discuss benefits and challenges associated with using Aadhar as a platform for public schemes and services. What government should do to subside the fear of people regarding privacy issue? (12.5 Marks)

Enhancing the use of technology in governance, the government has made biometric based Aadhar the centre point for many of its services.

BENEFITS

- ① Better targeting of beneficiaries - demographic & biometric details of citizens are recorded & used as pool to ensure proper inclusion & exclusion for schemes.
- ② Removal of duplications - especially in PDS cards etc. more directed subsidies.
- ③ Removal of ghosts - names of citizens in lists who don't even exist.
- ④ Leakages are plugged and corruption is black marketing is controlled. Eg: Ghost beneficiary availing PDS subsidy & selling same for higher price in black market.
- ⑤ Transparency, reduced corruption due to use of technology. ⇒ subsidies more effective.

CHALLENGES

- ① Universal availability of Aadhar cards - since infrastructure to record biometrics, print cards is not available everywhere.
 Eg: Meghalaya & Assam. exempted from compulsory availing of Aadhar. They currently lack infrastructure to do so.
- ② Data security
 ⇒ private firms are used to make Aadhar cards - risk in data security.

Remarks

Eg: Aadhaar details of M.S. Dhoni were leaked
→ Case of hacking of central database - Uf
→ Lack of proper cyber security infrastructure, skilled personnel, law & regulatory body.

Thus cyber data security is a massive challenge.

② Right to privacy issue as many citizens fear giving biometric details to the govt. as it can increase invasive surveillance.

steps govt. should take

- ① Proper cyber security infrastructure
 - Technical tools to prevent hacking
 - Skilled personnel to deal with cyber theft of data.
 - Appropriate law & strict enforcement
 - Punish firms which fail to safeguard public data by blacklisting them.

② While the Aadhaar act has a provision penalising those who violate privacy of citizens, govt. should further elaborate on...safeguards taken & procedure of punishment to those who misuse data.

③ Ensure ^{to} the public that Aadhaar data will ONLY be used for tax beneficiary identification & subsidy dispersal & not for interfering surveillance on its citizens.

65

Q20. NITI Aayog along with MHRD launched the School Education Quality Index for better monitoring and raising the education quality by providing insight on various parameters. In this reference discuss the major features of the School Education Quality Index. Also suggest steps needed to improve the learning outcomes in schools. (12.5 Marks)

According to a survey by ASER, in 2015 nearly 50% of class III students were unable to read basic class I text book.

This shows the shockingly poor learning outcomes in India.

MAJOR FEATURES of Index

① School infrastructure

- Basic number of classrooms depending on strength of school
- Facilities like proper black board, tables, furnished labs, activity tools etc.
- Separate toilets for girls & boys.
- Sports facilities.

② Non Appropriate teacher - pupil ratio to ensure quality teaching.

③ Qualification of teachers employed.

④ Attendance of students & teachers

⑤ Result of periodic exams conducted - focus on learning outcomes.

⑥ Performance in extra curricular activities & sports

STEPS to improve learning outcomes

① Higher monitoring & tracking of each student.

→ their attendance, result, parent interaction etc will ensure increased focus on learning outcomes.

② Holding the teachers & principal accountable - the

outcome based
Refer list
for specific
point

14.2 + 2.2

concerned regulatory body like CBSE should do surprise inspections to ensure curriculum is followed.

③ Checking of teachers & regular updation of their skills.

Eg. Madan Mohan Malviya teacher training program by the Govt. ✓

④ Flexibility in teaching to focus on need of child - focus on analytical ability than rote learning.

⑤ Remedial classes for weak students.

⑥ No detention policy can be re-evaluated to ensure higher learning outcomes. ✓

→ No point in child progressing to higher classes without properly completing previous class.

→ Though this policy has decreased drop out rates, learning outcomes have deteriorated drastically.

⑦ Thus these steps can ensure rightful incorporation of education by children & improve learning outcomes to be better citizens of India. ✓
aware

