

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 compulsory• The 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. <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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Name Kunal Aggarwal

Roll No. _____

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Kunal

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

REMARKS

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Q1. The Indian government has been increasingly focusing on Digital India, E-biz portal and other online interfaces, but is e-governance only a supply-side aspect, as there is still a significant proportion of population, which doesn't have access to smartphones and internet? Critically analyse. (12.5 Marks)

E-governance includes providing govt. services online, digitising institutions in the country. There has been increasing focus on Digital India, E-biz, MCA21 etc. for promoting e-governance.

Government has adopted various digital services. However their use by people is limited due to following

- ① Large no. of people are uneducated and can not operate online systems on their own.
- ② Infrastructural issues like internet and online banking in villages and remote areas decrease their adoption.
- ③ Mobile penetration has increased but majority are not smartphones in the hands of poor.
- ④ Language barriers are a big concerns. Majority services are offered only in English and thus is not consumed properly.

Remarks

Govt has initiated steps to solve these issues.

- Common Service Centres were started to help people consume online service.
- National Optical fibre Programme will connect all Village Panchayats and help in internet infrastructure.

However much more needs to be done to increase adoption.

- ① Local languages need to be used on digital infrastructure to help people read & understand easily.
- ② NGOs and other Civil society organisations need to be involved in literacy campaigns.
- ③ STGs can be a good tool to promote adoption of these services.

Remarks

Q2. Do you think passage of HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014 would prevent stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. Critically analyse.

(12.5 Marks)

There are large no. of HIV and AIDS infected people in India. They are a taboo in India and people have discriminated against them in public places & jobs.

Recently passed HIV and AIDS Bill, 2014 is a major step in preventing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. It has following provisions which will help:-

- ① Govt will try as much as possible to provide medical facilities and ART drugs to infected people.
- ② Govt should work towards preventing infections.
- ③ A child below 18 yrs. of age has been given residential rights in a shared household.
- ④ Any discrimination in jobs and society would be strictly penalised.

Remarks

⑤ Bill provides for setting up national & state level ombudsman to prevent discrimination.

⑥ Special speedy justice ensuring the privacy of the person has been proposed.

The bill provides major shift. However there are some challenges.

① The bill focusses more on prevention and less on providing medicines to infected.

② There is no provision for funds to ensure ART drugs to everyone.

Remarks

Q3. India's push for e-governance faces a serious challenge from the weak cyber security system and infrastructure in India. Analyse in context of recent high profile hacking episodes. (12.5 Marks)

Indian govt has pushed for e-governance through schemes like Digital India, Aadhar. All govt departments are moving online for administration and providing services to people.

→ It has created huge databases with private information such as thumb prints in Aadhar.

→ This data pose a serious challenge to strengthen cyber security infrastructure and system.

Recent high profile hacking events of NAT website, Twitter accounts brings out the lack of cyber security in government as well as private services.

What needs to be done?

→ CERT-IN should be strengthened to ensure best cyber security infrastructure.

- For ensuring ~~financial~~ cyber security of financial infrastructure, highest standards should be used.
- Govt needs to strengthen CBI to implement Information Technology Act.
- Officers and government servants need to be trained in digital security risks.
- People should also be made aware of cyber threats and cautions to be taken.

Development in IT has helped governance and created new challenges for govt. and people. These challenges should be tackled with apt investment in building capacity and infrastructure.

Remarks

Q4. Triple talaq, which has been banned in more than 20 Islamic countries is still a practice followed in India. What is the reason behind it? How far the judicial pronouncements in India have been successful in opposing this practice? Critically Analyse.

(12.5 Marks)

Triple Talaq is a practice in Shariah law under which divorce is granted in Islam.

Although many Islamic countries has banned it, it is still a practice in India because

① Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and practice of religions. The practice has been hailed as a religious practice under Islam and protected.

② In addition, women had also not raised their voice to reform in the past.

Recently, Supreme court had admitted a PIL from the Muslim women body to ban Triple Talaq.

- SC asked for government view on the same
- In past, judiciary has upheld that religious practices can not be used to detriment of individual dignity.

Remarks

However, the judiciary has not yet banned
the practice ..

The number of Triple Talag in the country
is very low. In addition, ~~it is~~ the ban
is being opposed by All India Muslim
Personal Law Board

It is being publicised as imposition of
majority religion/culture over the minority
practices. This has the potential to break
the ~~secular~~ peace in the country.

Remarks

Q5. India ranks very poorly in the latest global hunger index. Why despite the food security act and increased rural spending year after year, India continues to find itself in an embarrassing group? Suggest measures to eradicate this problem? (12.5 Marks)

~~Food~~ Despite food security act and increased rural spending, a large population of the country can not afford food and minimum nutrition. Global Hunger Index by IFPRI points out how India has been lacking. Following are some reasons:-

- ① Mal administration and huge corruption in the system means people do not get their deserving rights.
 - ② Rural economy has not grown and people are not able to earn enough.
 - ③ PDS system has major flaws in reaching the food to market and cheating people.
- Eradicating poverty and ensuring food security has been one of the major targets since independence. Sustainable development goals also emphasize on ensuring food security and reducing hunger.

Remarks

A well fed population brings immense benefits for the ~~go~~ country in increasing productivity.

Following are some ways it can be tackled

- ① JAM trinity can be used to reduce leakages and corruptions
- ② Programmes like MNREGA need to be reformed to provide employment and generate more.
- ③ Small industries and entrepreneurship avenues for people need to be opened. Stand-up India is a step forward.
- ④ ~~Concept~~ Ensuring nutrition security is important. It can be done through fortification.
- ⑤ Entitlements and identification of beneficiaries needs to be fixed.

Remarks

Q6. What is the role of India in global internet governance? Has India played a greater role in ICANN? Critically comment. (12.5 Marks)

Global Internet Governance has been majorly occupied by Western countries specifically USA till recently.

India's role has been minimal in the past with being only a consumer of services.

Recently, it has started playing a greater role in ICANN by

- Raising its voice against US domination on domain name system.
- Govt has raised issues over cyber security.

The efforts are not yet enough and Western powers still dominate the organisation.

Remarks

- Indian presence in the organisation & participation is low
- India needs to develop local capacity in internet governance to participate at international level.

Remarks

Q7: Studies show that in the last 20 years, three inmates on average have been found dead daily in Indian prisons. Discuss the problem of custodial deaths in India and what are the measures that are to be taken to avert this issue? (12.5 Marks)

Problem of custodial deaths in Indian Prisons is a big challenge for ensuring right to life of people. Custodial deaths have been condemned by highest judiciary and at international forums.

Custodial deaths can be intentional by the police dept or can be due to natural causes. Both needs to be addressed to provide rights of a prisoner.

Following can be done

- SC has specifically said to provide medical facilities to prisoners in case needed.
- The judiciary has condemned fake counters and made it punishable if proved.

Remarks

- Prisons should be made people friendly by providing quality food, opportunities for recreation.
- There should be CCTV cameras in the prisons to ensure no officer mistreats prisoners.
- Independent audits of prisons will help hold the officials accountable.

Custodial deaths ~~can~~ not be accepted and misuse of power by officials need to be stopped through legal and executive framework.

Moral & ethical training of police officials will help build a system of reformation of prisoners.

Q8. Illustrate the meaning of 'minimum government' and 'maximum governance'? How it could be achieved? (12.5 Marks)

~~Minimum~~ It has been a common practice in past to increase number of ministries and build a huge government to provide various services. The trend has changed with 91st constitutional amendment which imposed 15% upper limit on ministers. 'Minimum government' and 'Maximum governance' is a contemporary phenomenon which focuses on facilitating people initiatives.

- The strength of govt. is increased with less no. of people

- It focuses on improving the productivity and efficiency of government servants.

the

Remarks

This can be achieved in following ways

① Government Process Reengineering to develop faster processes and make a lean government.

② Use of ICT can promote efficiency in the system thus reducing the size of govt providing better services. forex Pass port service has improved,

③ Capacity Building at local level so as to promote differential development which connects to people.

~~Minimum government~~ The induced efficiency and productivity will help people get govt services faster and efficiently.

Remarks

Q9. Does more contact hours in classroom mean better quality of teaching? Critically analyze in the light of India's higher education. (12.5 Marks)

~~More contact hours in classroom~~

India's higher education system is facing important challenges of maintaining quality with expanding students. Classroom interaction between teacher and students is very important for learning.

- It helps students understand basic and discuss with teachers their views about the topic.
- Interaction helps in developing a quality attitude towards studies and provides a ground for further depth in the subject.

However, more contact hours in classroom beyond a limit may not always be helpful.

Following are some issues with excessive classroom contact hours:-

Remarks

① Less time and zeal for self-studying
stopping the building of capabilities.

② ~~Students tend to focus on~~ It does not
promote research & enthuse students
with zeal to delve deeper into the
subject.

③ It may also reduce time for
recreational activities like sports for healthy
mind.
There needs to be an optimum no.
of contact hours. However, the system
needs to promote self-learning, research
aptitude in higher education for which
time needs to be left.

Remarks

Q10. Despite adopting gender budgeting there is a widening gender gap in workforce in India. How successful has gender budgeting been in reducing this gap. Critically comment. (12.5 Marks)

Gender gap is a major problem in the country. Recently, Gender gap index has put the reality and shows that gender gap will not be zeroed even by the end of 21st century.

Despite adopting gender budgeting where special funds are allocated to schemes empowering women, gender gap is widening in workforce, there is an increasing no. of women being pushed to unorganised workforce reducing their standard.

There has been some improvement in situation of women

- ① More women are participating in political forums like parliament and Panchayats.
- ② Participation of women in software industry has increased to some extent.

However, progress has been very slow and there are deeply ingrained prejudices.

Remarks

in society. In a highly patriarchal society, bridging the gender gap is difficult.

- Their education levels have been low to provide them equal employment opportunities.

- Their security in industries and companies has not been ensured. They do not feel safe.

- Increasing globalisation & competition has pushed them to unorganised sector which has no job security and poor working conditions.

- Discrimination at workplace demotivate them.

To reduce gender gap, more campaigns like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' needs to be

done. Social awareness is very important to bring them to equal standards of education.

- Developing women friendly infrastructure is important.

- Implementation of Vishakha guidelines by SC will help ensure security.

Remarks

Q11. Across the Globe, a growing disillusionment with democracy is a visible phenomenon. Are democratic institutions weakened by this development? Critically Examine.

(12.5 Marks)

Democratic institutions include not just the three pillars of government (legislature, judiciary and executive) but also civil society organisations, media and people participation.

The growing disillusionment with democracy has weakened democratic institutions in following ways -

- ① People participation has reduced thinking passively about possible changes in democracy.
- ② Civil society Dissent through peaceful ways is important but people get involved in violent protests.
- ③ People do not get into leadership and demean politics.

This disillusionment has come over time due to slow progress in the country and across the globe. The institutions have been weak.

Remarks

This has made people in many areas to demand stronger democracy.

- More people are demanding accountability from govt.
- Increased participation of people has kept govt on its toes.

Democratic institutions can be strengthened only with the participation of people.

Civil society organisations like NGOs, SHGs and Advocacy groups need to get themselves involved.

Q12. Given the diversity in development between states, it is only prudent that land acquisition laws be customised to suit local requirements. Critically comment. (12.5 Marks)

Indian states have huge diversity in their natural resources, demography and culture. Their development has been diverse and varied. Some states are agrarian while some have huge minerals. Some states are good for establishing industries while for services.

In this light, customised land acquisition laws can have following benefits

- ① It can help focus on regional strengths in promoting economic development.
- ② Faster impact assessment and approval at local levels.
- ③ Compensation structure, reformation of people can be efficient by providing localised prices and material needs.
- ④ Promotes competitive federalism

However, land acquisition customisation can bring following challenges as well :-

Remarks

- ① A non-uniform law will be difficult for industries to understand and comply.
- ② It may push back some states to further poor standards.
- ③ Centre may loose control for strategic industries.

While diversity and differentiation needs to be strengthened & embraced, we need to ensure a mix of uniformity with options of flexibility at local level.

Remarks

Q13. Examine 'Atal Mission for rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Scheme' with respect to thrust areas focused in the scheme priority. Do you think such schemes will make cities more livens and inclusive as the Mission statement of this scheme suggest?

(12.5 Marks)

AMRUT scheme was launched recently by the government to transform urban spaces to make them inclusive and people friendly.

The urban development in India has faced challenges like

- urban poverty
- alienation of people from land
- ~~to~~ Inaccessible education & health infrastructure
- Poor sanitary & drainage system.

The mission aims at solving these problems by building public infrastructure conducive to inclusive development.

Houses for the urban poor, their employment opportunities will improve

Remarks

urban spaces and bring inclusive development.

However, much more needs to be done.

- Lack of funds is still a big problem.

- Local governments need to be given more powers and autonomy.

Remarks

Q14. To roll out its ambitious JAM trinity plan to directly transfer subsidies to intended beneficiaries and eliminate intermediaries and leakages government has started to link the Jan Dhan scheme, Account numbers and Mobile numbers of individuals. Discuss in domain of JAM trinity, benefits and challenges ahead. (12.5 Marks)

The government in India has created elaborated structures to provide subsidies for the welfare of poor. The system of PDS and other benefits has not served the purpose due to following reasons

- ① Large scale corruption in the system.
- ② Lack of targetting in subsidies leading to cornering of subsidies by the well-off.
- ③ Misappropriation of funds and subsidies.

Recently JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile) Trinity was started by the govt for direct benefit transfer.

It has following benefits

- ① Jan Dhan connects people to financial infrastructure promoting inclusive developing
- ② Through direct transfer, leakages from the system will be reduced to a great extent.

Remarks

③ Aadhar helps in better targetting of subsidies helping the poorest of the poor.

④ Market distortions would be reduced as people will buy at competitive price. They will have more choices as well.

However, implementing JAM reforms has many challenges as well.

① In remote areas and many villages, ~~internet~~ internet infrastructure is weak.

② illiterate population has a problem in understanding these systems.

③ Bank Penetration is still not 100%. People may have to travel to withdraw their subsidies.

④ Targetting is still with state administration and can be tempered with.

⑤ security and privacy are also big concerns. JAM has huge benefits for governance in the country, however, it should be complemented with investment in internet infrastructure and banking facilities.

Remarks

Q15. A Parliamentary Standing Committee report opined that medical education and profession in the country is at its "lowest ebb" and suffering from "total system failure" due to corruption and delay. Comment on statement in reference with proposed National Medical Commission. (12.5 Marks)

Medical education and profession in the country is regulated by Medical Council of India. There have been major issues with administration of medical education & profession due to which health sector of the country is under huge pressure.

Recently, Parliamentary standing committee report opined that the field is at its "lowest ebb" and there are issues of corruption and mal-administration.

- Medical colleges need approval to increase capacity. We have low no. of medical graduates due to ~~superiority~~ non-approval of seats.
- Nepotism and favouritism has been reported
- Huge organisational structure leading to delays and policy paralysis.

Remarks

There has been a proposal of National Medical Commission by the SC appointed committee. The commission is proposed to be a leaner organisation facilitating efficient administration.

- There will be increased transparency and independence from political interference.

- The commission will have professional doctors who will provide expertise to the organisation.

Health sector is an important parameter for ensuring development. Public as well as Private health infrastructure ~~can~~ can not be developed without quality human resource.

Q16. "Universities and institutions of higher learning are best forum for debates, discussions, free exchange of views". Elaborate your opinion in the light of recent debate on political activism Indian University Campuses. (12.5 Marks)

Recent political activism on Indian universities such as Hyderabad University & JNU has led some people to demand curb on political activities on campus.

However, these universities and institutions of higher learning are forums for debates and discussion. Freedom of speech and thought has been hailed as important for the growth of a person

- More discussion brings crucial issues on the mainstream.
- Debates help develop critical thinking on the areas of national importance.
- Politics is an important part of life and learning the nuances helps.

Recently, New Education Policy has also recommended that political affiliations of students ~~and~~ organizations should be stopped.

Remarks

T.S.R. Subramanian committee even recommended strict restrictions on freedom of speech of Students.

This calls for a relook at how we want students to learn and grow.

Freedom is a ~~const~~ fundamental right and students deserve rights to express their views on national politics.

However, misuse of university politics by political parties need to be curbed.

As stated in NIEP, political affiliation should not be allowed.

Institutions should provide avenues for these discussions without protest ~~an~~ by facilitating debates and classroom discussions.

Differential and diverse views should not be curbed and instead respected and allowed to flourish.

Q17. Does sport administration in India requires a radical overhaul? Discuss this in the context of Cricket in India and bring out what extent implementation of Lodha Committee recommendations would help in reforming Indian Cricket. (12.5 Marks)

Sports in India are seen as hobby and not profession to a great extent. The sports administration is weak because of

- Political interference in the day-to-day functioning
- Zero transparency on use of public funds
- Corruption and misuse of funds
- Nepotism and favouritism in selection of sports persons
- Lack of support to women sports

Recently, SC appointed Lodha committee had recommended a major overhaul of cricket administration i.e. BCCI and state associations

① One seat for each state in BCCI. This will help in getting equal voice to all states and development of sports.

Remarks

- ② It recommended that no ~~politi~~ minister or govt servant should be a member. This will reduce political interference in functioning.
- ③ Bring it under RTI :- Bringing the association under RTI Act will increase transparency and accountability. It will make the selection process transparent.
- ④ Regulation of terms of members and President of BCCI as recommended will ensure new talent in leadership and reduce nepotism.
- BCCI uses public funds and major corruption scandals which ~~came~~ surfaced in past few years demanded ~~an~~ a reengineering of the administration system.

Remarks

Q18. "Reducing corruption, illicit money and market informality are worthy objectives. But as yet, there is no road map for creating the institutional architecture needed for a cashless society". Critically analyze in the recent demonetization initiative, a logical step towards India becoming a cashless society. (12.5 Marks)

Demonetization of high value currency which made up almost 85% of total currency in circulation was done to reducing illicit money and market informality. Moving to a cashless society needs a plan and infrastructural backbone which is still a challenge in Indian economy.

Demonetization has helped in following ways

- People who are having black money are not able to deposit it in bank accounts
- More people are adopting cashless systems like UPI, plastic cards, USSD & e-wallets

However, it needs to be tackled in a strategic manner. Without preparing the economy for cashless has caused major problems for businesses and people especially the poor.

There is a need for following important things: - ~~need~~

Remarks

- ① Penetration of banks & internet facilities has to increase with higher reliability
- ② Institutions to teach and spread awareness about online payment options is missing
- ③ There is a big question of cyber security in the country. There needs to be institutions to secure network & people's money.

While demonetization is a big step, it needs to be augmented with other major initiative like

- Building internet and Banking infrastructure
- Reduce cost of transactions/taxes on e-payments
- Creating the right incentive structure for merchant to adopt e-payment systems.

Remarks

Q19. Citizen Charters are nothing, but a code of conduct on the part of public officials imposed by them to provide services on a better note to citizens. Discuss why citizen charter has not succeeded in India? (12.5 Marks)

Citizen charters are the listing of services, minimum standard of services and a redressal mechanism in case of grievances. These charters are like a statement from each department about what a user can expect.

They are an important way to ensure transparency and accountability of the system to people. Officers dealing with people are made responsible for the quality of service they provide.

However, the charters have not been very successful in India due to following reasons.

① Citizen charters are supposed to be publicized to all users. The awareness among people about such charters is lacking and hence their use.

Remarks

② lack of clarity in grievance redressal ∴ People do not know whom to contact in case of delays or no-service

③ Complex systems of getting services ∴ People are made to run around from windows to another to access services.

— These charters have to be made available to people through all possible medium like digital, newspapers etc.

— People should be educated on their rights to services and how to hold officers accountable.

— Lack of empathy among officers is a big problem. Moral training would help.

— Adoption of e-infrastructure to receive service requests will help ensure delivery on time.

— Regular audit of such systems to train officers should be emphasized.

Remarks

Q20. "It said that everyone in the Indian Railways is responsible for safety without safety being anybody's responsibility in particular". Political incentives and organizational structure contribute to a disregard for safety. In the backdrop of the recent accident, analyze the challenges faced by Indian Railways. (12.5 Marks)

Indian Railways has been major challenge in maintaining service quality and ensuring safety of people. Recent accidents are a case in point.

- There are no designated officers to ensure safety and lack of plan to ensure safety.

- Following are challenges faced by railways

- ① Poor rail infrastructure which is old and not upgraded.
- ② Heavy old designed trains pose big challenges to minimize accidents.
- ③ There is a lack of coordination b/w various departments of the railways.
- ④ ~~No plan~~ lack of plans & funds to upgrade infrastructure due to high operational losses.

Remarks

What can be done?

- ① Re-engineer the processes to ensure accountability of people.
- ② Upgrade of infrastructure through international funding from World Bank & AIB.
- ③ Rationalizing the cost of passenger fares will help.
- ④ Upgrade of trains to light compartments like Spanish Talgo will increase the capacity to handle accidents.
- ⑤ Preparation to provide rescue & medical facilities ~~at~~ efficiently & fast is very important.

Railways organization is huge in size and needs to be made leaner to ensure faster action.

Remarks