



Drishti IAS Coaching in Delhi, Online IAS Test Series & Study Material

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General Studies-II

(Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations)

- Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.
- Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.
- Separation of Powers between various organs Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with that of Other Countries.
- Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.
- Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/Informal Associations and their Role in the Polity.
- Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.
- Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.
Development Processes and the Development Industry — the Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

- Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the population by the Centre and States and the Performance of these Schemes; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the Protection and Betterment of these Vulnerable Sections.
- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.
- Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency and Accountability, E-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; Citizens Charters, Transparency & Accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of Civil Services in a Democracy.
- India and its Neighborhood- Relations.
- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.
- Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

Polity

Indian Constitution

Historical Underpinning & Evolution

- Regulating Act (1773) to Independence Act (1947)
- Constituent Assembly
- Objective Resolution
- Enactment & Enforcement of Constitution

Features

- Written
- Flexible & Rigid
- Federal & Unitary
- Parliamentary Form of Government (Presidential vs. Parliamentary Type of Government)

Amendments

- List of Significant Amendments & Their Provisions
- Procedure for Amending Constitution

Significant Provisions

- Fundamental Rights
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Judicial Review
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Separation of Powers

Basic Structure

- The Doctrine
- Judgments & Cases

Functions & Responsibilities of the Union and the States

- 7th Schedule
- Legislative Functions
- Financial Functions
- Administrative & Quasi-Judicial Functions

Issues & Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?

Cooperative & Competitive Federalism

Centre-State Relations

- Legislative Relations
- Administrative Relations
- Financial Relations
- Trends in Centre-State Relations

Inter-State Relations

Inter-state Water Disputes

- Inter-State Councils
- Public Acts, Records and Judicial Proceedings
- Inter-State Trade and Commerce
- Zonal Councils

Emergency Provisions

Role of Governor

Reports of Various Commissions

2nd ARC, Punchhi, Sarkaria, etc.

Devolution of Powers & Finances to Local Levels & Challenges Therein

- Role of State Government
- Role of State Finance Commission
- 11th & 12th Schedule
- Reasons for Ineffective Performance
- Panchayat Devolution Index (NITI Aayog)
- Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance

Separation of Powers Between Various Organs

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrine of Separation of Power • Separation of Power in Indian Constitution • Doctrine of Checks & Balances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions for Checks & Balances in Indian Constitution • Related Judgments - Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain, Ram Jawaya vs Punjab |
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Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions

- RTI
- PIL

Tribunals, etc.

Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries Parliament & State Legislatures

Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges

- Written Constitution
- Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility
- Federal System with Unitary Bias
- Parliamentary Form of Government
- Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy
- Integrated and Independent Judiciary
- Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties

- Secular State
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Emergency Provisions
- Three-tier Government
- Due Process of Law vs. Procedure Established by Law
- Impeachment of President, etc.

Structure, Organization & Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

Executive

- **Union:**
 - President
 - Prime Minister
 - Council of Ministers
 - Cabinet Secretariat
- **State:**
 - Governor
 - Chief Minister
 - Council of Ministers
 - Secretariat

Judiciary

- Three-Tier Structure
- Chief Justice of India
- SC & HC Judges
- Jurisdiction

Ministries and Departments of the Government

- Cabinet Ministries
- Other Ministries

Parliamentary Secretaries

Pressure Groups & Formal/informal Associations & Their Role in Polity

- Characteristics of Pressure Groups
- Pressure Groups & Political Parties
- Pressure Groups & Interest Groups
- Types of Pressure Groups

- Functions, Role & Importance of Pressure Groups
- Techniques/Methods of Pressure Groups
- Pressure Groups in India
- Shortcomings of Pressure Groups

Salient Features of Representation of People's Act

Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts

Appointment, Powers, Functions & Responsibilities of:

- Election Commission
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commission
- Finance Commission
- National Commission for SCs
- National Commission for STs
- Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Attorney General of India
- Advocate General of the State

Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial Bodies

- NITI Aayog
- RBI
- National Human Rights Commission
- State Human Rights Commission
- Central Information Commission
- Central Vigilance Commission
- Central Bureau of Investigation
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas
- National Commission for Women
- National Commission for Backward Classes
- National Commission for Minorities
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Competition Commission of India
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
- Central Pollution Control Board
- Medical Council of India
- Inland Waterways Authority of India
- Central Ground Water Authority
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- Bar Council of India
- University Grants Commission
- Financial Stability and Development Council
- All India Council for Technical Education
- National Green Tribunal
- Competition Appellate Tribunal
- Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal
- Cyber Appellate Tribunal
- Intellectual Property Appellate Board

Governance

Government Policies & Interventions for Development

Government Policies & Interventions in Various Sectors

Health, Gender, Education, Poverty, Economic etc

Issues Arising Out of Their Design & Implementation

- Concerns/Issues
- Suggestions for Improvement
- Critical Assessment of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)
- Rationalisation of CSS

Analysis of Main Schemes:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Smart City
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- MGNREGA
- Digital India
- Make in India
- Skill India
- PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- Start-up India etc.

Development Processes & the Development Industry

- Role of Social Capital Organisations
- Indian Context
- Classification
- Provisions for the Third Sector in the Indian Constitution
- National Policy on the Voluntary Sector 2007

- Challenges
- Measures to Make SHGs Effective
- Case Studies: Kudumbashree (Kerala), Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (Maharashtra)

Societies, Trusts and Cooperatives

- Societies
- Trust
- Religious Endowments
- Cooperatives –
 - Need for Cooperatives
 - Constitutional Provisions
 - National Policy on Co-operatives, 2002
 - Issues and Challenges in the Cooperatives Sector

Non-Governmental Organisations

- Role and Impact of Non-governmental Organizations
- Issue Areas: Accreditation, Legitimacy & Accountability, Foreign Funding etc.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

- Need for SHGs
- Benefits of SHGs
- Weaknesses of SHGs

Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability

Governance

- Dimensions of Governance
- Good Governance (GG)
- Aspects of GG
- Barriers to GG
- Necessary Pre-conditions for GG
- How to Ensure GG

E-Governance

- Applications
- Models
- Successes
- Limitations
- Potential
- Recent e-governance Initiatives by Government

Citizens Charters (CC)

Components of CC

- Features of CC
- Six Principles of CC
- Shortcomings of CC
- Measures to Make CC Effective
- Sevottam Model

Aspects of Transparency

Elements & Types of Accountability

Means to ensure Transparency & Accountability

- RTI
- Social Audit
- Whistleblower Protection Bill
- Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act

Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

Relationship Between Civil Service And Democracy

Role Played By Civil Services

- Advisory Role in Policy Making
- Institutionalise Socio-economic change
- Discharge Delegated Functions
- Administer Law of the Land
- Watchdogs
- Continuity in times of Political Instability
- Record-Keeping
- Channel of Communication

Ailments/Issues Afflicting Indian Civil Services

- Lack of Professionalism & Poor Capacity Building
- Inefficient Incentive Systems
- Outdated Rules & Procedures
- Systemic Inconsistencies in Promotion
- Lack of Adequate Transparency & Accountability Procedures

- Arbitrary & Whimsical Transfers
- Political Interference & Administrative Acquiescence
- Gradual Erosion in Values & Ethics
- Redtapism
- Elitist in Nature
- Poor Pay
- Tendency to Capture Power

Reforming Bureaucracy to Strengthen Democracy

- Setting Right the Asymmetry of Power
- Insulating Civil Servants from Undue Political Interference
- Professionalisation with Stability of Tenure & Competition
- Citizen-Centric Administration
- Accountability
- Outcome Orientation
- Promoting Public Service Values & Ethics

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections

Schemes for the Following Vulnerable Sections

- SCs & STs
- Minorities
- Children
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Women
- Transgender

- **STs:**
 - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 - Tribal Sub Plan
 - TRIFED
 - Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act

Performance of These Schemes

Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies Constituted for Protection & Betterment of These Vulnerable Sections

- **SCs:**
 - The Protection of Civil Rights Act
 - The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
 - National Commission for Scheduled Castes
 - Scheduled Castes Sub Plan
- **Disabled:**
 - The Rehabilitation Council of India Act
 - The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act
 - Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act
 - The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act
 - Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act

- **Minorities:**

- National Commission for Minorities
- National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Women & Children

- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act
- The Dowry Prohibition Act
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal)
- Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act
- Gender Budgeting
- National Policy for Women
- Domestic Violence Act
- Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act

Elderly

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act

Issues Relating to Development & Management of Social Sector/Services

Health

- India's Performance on Various Health Indicators
- Weaknesses of Indian Healthcare System
- Health Infrastructure in India
- Universal Health Coverage
- 12th FYP Strategy
- Universal Health Coverage
- Health Insurance
- National Family Health Survey
- National Health Policy
- National Health Mission
- Maternal & Adolescent Health
- Child Health
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Disease Burden in India
- Measures to Ensure Good Health Outcomes
- Government Initiatives

Issues Relating to Poverty & Hunger

- Relation between Poverty & Hunger
- Distribution of Poverty & Hunger
- Magnitude & Trends of Poverty & Hunger
- Causes of Poverty & Hunger
- Cost/Impact of Poverty & Malnutrition
- MDGs & SDGs
- Food and nutrition insecurity - a consequence of structural inequities
- Constraints in Reducing Poverty & Hunger
- Measure to Reduce Poverty & Hunger – National Food Security Act, Mid-day Meal Scheme, MGNREGA etc.

Education

- Status of Literacy in India
- Education Structure in India
- Challenges Faced by Education Sector in India
- Reforms Required
- Government Initiatives
- ASER Report
- Financing Education
- Subramanian Panel Report

Human Resource

- Need For Skill Development
- Skill Development Initiatives
- Challenges in Skilling Landscape in India
- Shortcomings of Current Skill Development Initiatives
- Reforms Required
- Steps that can Be Taken

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India and its Neighborhood – Relations

India's Relations With

- China
- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Bhutan
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Maldives

Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests

India's Major Foreign Policy Doctrines Since 1947

- Non-aligned Movement (NAM)
- Nuclear Doctrine
- Gujral Doctrine
- Look East to Act East
- Think West, etc.

Bilateral Relations With

- Major Powers Like – USA, Russia, Japan
- Central Asian Countries
- West Asian Countries
- African Countries
- Australia & New Zealand
- EU & European Countries
- Latin American Countries
- Pacific Countries

Regional & Global Groupings

- SAARC
- BRICS

Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests

- BBIN & BCIM
- BIMSTEC
- IBSA
- ASEAN & RCEP
- India-Africa Forum
- SCO
- Ashgabat Agreement
- FIPIC
- IOR-ARC
- Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)
- Raisina Dialogue
- Heart of Asia Conference
- East Asia Summit
- G-20
- Asian Development Bank
- National Security Summit
- Multilateral Nuclear Export Regulatory Regimes: Wassenar, MTCR, Australia Group
- Asian Development Bank
- APEC, etc

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- One Belt One Road
 - International North–South Transport Corridor
 - Global Trade War
 - Global Currency War
 - Syrian Crisis
 - UN Reforms
 - WTO Reforms
 - South China Sea Conflict
 - Brexit
 - Deglobalisation & Protectionism – US Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc.
 - OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc.

Indian Diaspora

- Spread of Indian Diaspora
- India's Diaspora Policy & Engagement Initiatives
 - OCI
 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
 - Know India Programme, etc.
- LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the Diaspora
- Role played by Indian Diaspora
- Issues Concerning the Diaspora:
 - Dual Nationality
 - Remittances, etc.

Important International Institutions

- UN & its Agencies
- WTO
- World Bank
- IMF
- World Economic Forum
- Commonwealth of Nations, etc.