



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

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### **General Studies-II**

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

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- 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.

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## Polity

### Indian Constitution

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#### 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

#### Functions & Responsibilities of the Union and the States

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#### 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

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- 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule
  - Legislative Functions

- Financial Functions
- Administrative & Quasi-Judicial Functions

## **Issues & Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure**

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### **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**

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- Role of State Government
- Role of State Finance Commission
- 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Schedule

- Reasons for Ineffective Performance
- Panchayat Devolution Index (NITI Aayog)
- Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance

## **Separation of Powers Between Various Organs**

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- Doctrine of Separation of Power
- Separation of Power in Indian Constitution
- Doctrine of Checks & Balances
- Provisions for Checks & Balances in Indian Constitution
- Related Judgments - Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain, Ram Jawaya vs Punjab

## Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions

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- RTI
- PIL

Tribunals, etc.

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

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### 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

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### 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

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- Cabinet Ministries
- Other Ministries

Parliamentary Secretaries

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

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- 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**

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### **Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts**

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#### **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**

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- 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
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## Governance

### Government Policies & Interventions for Development

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#### 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**

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

### **Non-Governmental Organisations**

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

### **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**

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

## **Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability**

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- 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

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## **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

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## **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



## Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections

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### Schemes for the Following Vulnerable Sections

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

### Performance of These Schemes

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

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

- **STs:**

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

- **Minorities:**

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

### Women & Children

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

- Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act

## **Elderly**

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act

## **Issues Relating to Development & Management of Social Sector/Services**

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### **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

### **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

## **Issues Relating to Poverty & Hunger**

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- 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.

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### India and its Neighborhood – Relations

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#### 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

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## 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

- BBIN & BCIM
- BIMSTEC
- IBSA
- ASEAN & RCEP
- India-Africa Forum
- SCO
- Ashgabat Agreement
- FIPIIC
- 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: Wassenaar, MTCR, Australia Group
- Asian Development Bank
- APEC, etc

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

- 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.

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## 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.

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## Important International Institutions

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- UN & its Agencies
  - WTO
  - World Bank

- IMF
- World Economic Forum
- Commonwealth of Nations, etc.