

Syllabus: 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Role of State Government ▪ Role of State Finance Commission ▪ 11th & 12th Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reasons for Ineffective Performance ▪ Panchayat Devolution Index (NITI Aayog) ▪ Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance
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Separation of Powers Between Various Organs

<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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTI ▪ PIL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tribunals, etc.
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Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries Parliament & State Legislatures

<p>Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.
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Structure, Organization & Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

<p>Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President ○ Prime Minister ○ Council of Ministers ○ Cabinet Secretariat ▪ State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governor 	<p>Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three-Tier Structure ▪ Chief Justice of India ▪ SC & HC Judges ▪ Jurisdiction
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- Chief Minister
- Council of Ministers
- Secretariat

Ministries and Departments of the Government

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cabinet Ministries ▪ Other Ministries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parliamentary Secretaries |
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Pressure Groups & Formal/informal Associations & Their Role in Polity

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Characteristics of Pressure Groups ▪ Pressure Groups & Political Parties ▪ Pressure Groups & Interest Groups ▪ Types of Pressure Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Functions, Role & Importance of Pressure Groups ▪ Techniques/Methods of Pressure Groups ▪ Pressure Groups in India ▪ Shortcomings of Pressure Groups |
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Salient Features of Representation of People's Act

Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts

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| <p>Appointment, Powers, Functions & Responsibilities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Election Commission ▪ Union Public Service Commission ▪ State Public Service Commission ▪ Finance Commission ▪ National Commission for SCs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Commission for STs ▪ Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities ▪ Comptroller and Auditor General of India ▪ Attorney General of India ▪ Advocate General of the State |
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Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial Bodies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NITI Aayog ▪ RBI ▪ National Human Rights Commission ▪ State Human Rights Commission ▪ Central Information Commission ▪ Central Vigilance Commission ▪ Central Bureau of Investigation ▪ Lokpal and Lokayuktas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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

<p>Government Policies & Interventions in Various Sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health, Gender, Education, Poverty, Economic etc <p>Issues Arising Out of Their Design & Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns/Issues ▪ Suggestions for Improvement ▪ Critical Assessment of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) ▪ Rationalisation of CSS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analysis of Main Schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao ○ Smart City ○ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ○ MGNERGA ○ Digital India ○ Make in India ○ Skill India ○ PM Jan Dhan Yojana ○ Start-up India etc.
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Development Processes & the Development Industry

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Role of Social Capital Organisations ▪ Indian Context ▪ Classification ▪ Provisions for the Third Sector in the Indian Constitution ▪ National Policy on the Voluntary Sector 2007 <p>Non-Governmental Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Role and Impact of Non-governmental Organizations ▪ Issue Areas: Accreditation, Legitimacy & Accountability, Foreign Funding etc. <p>Self Help Groups (SHGs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for SHGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenges ▪ Measures to Make SHGs Effective ▪ Case Studies: Kudumbashree (Kerala), Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (Maharashtra) <p>Societies, Trusts and Cooperatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Societies ▪ Trust ▪ Religious Endowments ▪ Cooperatives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need for Cooperatives ○ Constitutional Provisions ○ National Policy on Co-operatives, 2002
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benefits of SHGs ▪ Weaknesses of SHGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issues and Challenges in the Cooperatives Sector
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Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability

<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dimensions of Governance ▪ Good Governance (GG) ▪ Aspects of GG ▪ Barriers to GG ▪ Necessary Pre-conditions for GG ▪ How to Ensure GG <p>E-Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applications ▪ Models ▪ Successes ▪ Limitations ▪ Potential ▪ Recent e-governance Initiatives by Government <p>Citizens Charters (CC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Components of CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Features of CC ▪ Six Principles of CC ▪ Shortcomings of CC ▪ Measures to Make CC Effective ▪ Sevottam Model <p>Aspects of Transparency</p> <p>Elements & Types of Accountability</p> <p>Means to ensure Transparency & Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTI ▪ Social Audit ▪ Whistleblower Protection Bill ▪ Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act
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Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

<p>Relationship Between Civil Service And Democracy</p> <p>Role Played By Civil Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 <p>Ailments/Issues Afflicting Indian Civil Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of Professionalism & Poor Capacity Building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arbitrary & Whimsical Transfers ▪ Political Interference & Administrative Acquiescence ▪ Gradual Erosion in Values & Ethics ▪ Redtapism ▪ Elitist in Nature ▪ Poor Pay ▪ Tendency to Capture Power <p>Reforming Bureaucracy to Strengthen Democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting Right the Asymmetry of Power ▪ Insulating Civil Servants from Undue Political Interference ▪ Professionalisation with Stability of Tenure & Competition ▪ Citizen-Centric Administration
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- Inefficient Incentive Systems
- Outdated Rules & Procedures
- Systemic Inconsistencies in Promotion
- Lack of Adequate Transparency & Accountability Procedures

- 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

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

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

- 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.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India and its Neighborhood – Relations

India's Relations With

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ China ▪ Pakistan ▪ Myanmar ▪ Bhutan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bangladesh ▪ Sri Lanka ▪ Afghanistan ▪ Nepal ▪ Maldives |
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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

- 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: Wassenaar, MTCR, Australia Group
- Asian Development Bank
- APEC, etc

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One Belt One Road ▪ International North–South Transport Corridor ▪ Global Trade War ▪ Global Currency War ▪ Syrian Crisis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WTO Reforms ▪ South China Sea Conflict ▪ Brexit ▪ Deglobalisation & Protectionism – US Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc. |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN Reforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc.
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Indian Diaspora

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spread of Indian Diaspora ▪ India's Diaspora Policy & Engagement Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OCI ○ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas ○ Know India Programme, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the Diaspora ▪ Role played by Indian Diaspora ▪ Issues Concerning the Diaspora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dual Nationality ○ Remittances, etc.
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Important International Institutions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN & its Agencies ▪ WTO ▪ World Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IMF ▪ World Economic Forum ▪ Commonwealth of Nations, etc.
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