

GOVERNANCE

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

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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Date 27th March 2016Signature *AS*

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

REMARKS

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Q1. Allahabad High court directed that all government servants shall send their children to primary schools run by the State Basic Education Board. This will motivate government officials to improve the basic infrastructure & quality of primary schools. Do you agree that such involuntary action is required to improve the level of primary education in India? Give reasons in support of your answer. Also give suggestions to transform the primary education in India. (12.5 Marks)

The education system in India is under severe stress. The quality of education rendered by the government schools are deteriorating which is evident from the fact that enrollment in private sector schools are increasing manifoldly.

However the recent Allahabad High court order is inappropriate. Rather than forcing the government servants to send their children involuntarily to government primary schools, steps need to be taken to make them send their children voluntarily to such schools.

Steps that can be taken to improve the quality of education in primary schools are:

- 1) Infrastructure need to be improved with smaller classrooms
- 2) Better toilet facilities to be provided

Remarks

- 3) Adequate qualified teachers as per the student teacher ratio.
- 4) Studies to be conducted to analyse the impact of changes regularly.
- 5) Better provisions of clean water, snacks, playground facilities, etc.

By implementing the above steps, the primary education sector can be improved. By forcefully sending the children of government servants to the depleting education system will spoil the future of several children. Instead by improving the quality of education rendered by these schools, children from all sections of society will come to such schools. An example for such a success is a government school in Kozhikode, Kerala where the enrollment rate is more than the private schools in that area.

Remarks

Q2. India is aspiring to transform into a digitalization phase & people centric society from a process centric society, however, such a change require measures merely beyond a technical or interface shift. Critically analyse in the light of the broader changes required in the entire bureaucratic and government recruitment structure. (12.5 Marks)

changes are inevitable in nature. It is the same with the governance. India is trying to transform into a digitalization phase & people centric society from a process centric society. Such a change requires a holistic approach taking into consideration the present situation of the country.

To bring about digitalisation, essential knowledge about the computer and the digital world need to be rendered to the masses. This requires a careful planning to reach all the corners of our country when basic education is still not rendered completely, this is a huge task. Rather than analysis of the processes, people centric society must be developed. For this careful analysis of the situations of the vast majority of the people should be done. The trauma of each and every person will be different and so are the solutions. So a detailed strategy needs to be developed for it.

Remarks

To bring about such changes, the officials in the government should be capable for ~~set~~ such situations. The recruitment should include experts from the information and technology sector and those who are capable of understanding and analysing grievances of the people. Such a holistic training should be given to all the officials in the training period as well. This can help in achieving the desired goals efficiently in a faster manner.

Remarks

Q3. The World's largest employment programme, MGNREGA has recently completed its 10 years. Do you think it has been benefiting the vulnerable section of our society or is it just a waste of public money without creating any sustainable infrastructure? Appraise its performance & suggest changes to make the programme more sustainable in Nature. (12.5 Marks)

The MGNREGA provides 100 days of work in a financial year in rural households to every adult member willing to work public works related labour.

Positives :-

- 1) Improved lives of many poor households.
- 2) Increased rural wages
- 3) Women empowerment - more than 50% women labour
- 4) "Stellar example in Rural Development" as per the World Development Report, 2014.

Negatives :-

- 1) Not much asset creation
- 2) Leakages and corruption
- 3) Delayed payments
- 4) Needy excluded.

changes to be made :

- 1) Merge with other asset creating yojanas like NRLM, DDGKY etc. and render skill.

Remarks

development as well.

2) Utilize SECC to better target beneficiaries

3) Use Aadhar to provide payments to the correct beneficiaries (avoids duplication).

4) Reduce corruption and provide timely payments.

MANREGA is a unique welfare scheme in this whole world. It needs to be strengthened by overcoming the lacunae present for its sustainable existence.

Remarks

Q4. Supreme Court should be accountable to maintain the data on pending judgment & make the information public under RTI as per the direction of Central Information Commission. Critically analyse the accountability issue of Supreme Court under RTI Act. How Supreme Court's recent decision may impact the Role of CIC and Political parties to come under the ambit of RTI? (12.5 Marks)

Right to Information Act 2005 had been a great opportunity for the public to know the information that they were supposed to know. The Supreme Court has been burdened with ever increasing number of pending cases and bringing it under RTI is a positive move.

Public litigation has become so huge in recent times that such a move will enable the court to handle the situation in a more efficient manner. This will keep a check on the pending cases on the SC. This can lead to decrease in the load since the public keeps a watch on them.

The SC's decision can raise the issue of the highest judiciary being accountable to the public then why not the political parties. The political parties are the store houses of black money which is quite obvious to everyone. Bringing the

Remarks

political parties under RTI can be a positive move to reduce the black money menace eating our Indian economy. This can make their actions accountable and can ~~save~~ bring back the huge amount of unaccounted money to our economy. Certain estimates ~~with~~ suggest that the black money accounts for nearly 50% of our GDP. If such money is brought back and used for the welfare of the people, India can march ahead in a better manner.

Remarks

Q5. What major changes are brought about in the NITI Aayog Governing Council vis-a-vis the National Development Council? Discuss in the light of NITI Aayog which has initiated the process of undertaking the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 12th Five Year Plan.

(12.5 Marks)

NITI Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India) has replaced the six decade old Planning Commission.

Both the NDC and the governing council of NITI Aayog have representatives from the states and Union territories. The NDC was approving the five year plans formulated by the Planning Commission before it was tabled in the Parliament. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog also considers specific issues within a particular period of time. However there is no clarity whether they can amend the plan formulated by NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog is not one-size fits approach like the Planning Commission. It has bottom-up approach wherein the concerns of the states are considered. It is a think tank which will have experts in the fields along with government representatives. NITI Aayog doesn't sanction

Remarks

the amount for the central sector schemes and allocation to the states as the previous PC.

NITI Aayog acts as a think-tank with expert opinions that can overcome the negatives of PC in the past. It can now function smoothly along with the Finance Commission fostering better governance.

Remarks

Q6. The Indian healthcare sector is one of the prominent global medical tourism corridors. Do you think that Medical Tourism is boosting commercial surrogacy in India? What are the present lacunae regarding commercial surrogacy in India? Critically Examine. (12.5 Marks)

India is a global destination for medical tourism and is boosting commercial surrogacy in India. Commercial surrogacy means renting of wombs for financial incentives. The less stringent laws concerning surrogacy in India favours this industry.

The present lacunae regarding commercial surrogacy are:

- 1) Not sufficient money is passed to the surrogates.
- 2) The health issues are not properly tackled.
- 3) The adoption of the child if the parents don't turn back is a concern.
- 4) A large number of middlemen is spoiling the industry.
- 5) Better conditions of livelihood and amount must be legally guaranteed.

Remarks

6) The legal issues concerning whether foreigners can donate the embryo is to be sort out.

By overcoming the above issues within the commercial surrogacy industry, this can be a healthy industry benefiting both the childless couple and economically backward surrogates.

Remarks

Q7. Do the classification of eunuchs and other LGBT groups as the third gender ensure that transgender people enjoy the right of equality, as guaranteed by Article 15 of the Constitution of India? Critically examine the provisions of the Draft for the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015. How far it can fulfill its mandate? (12.5 Marks)

Transgenders have been unequally and cruelly treated from time immemorial. They lack access to education, work, decent living like other ~~to~~ citizens enjoy. There are emotionally tortured starting from their own families and the society.

The inclusion of third gender is a positive step in improving the lives of transgenders. However it can only be a starting step while several other changes are required to bring about the desired outcomes.

The Draft for Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015 have provisions to enable them to live a normal, decent living like other citizens. The reservation provided in education and government jobs is a great step in this direction. The punishments for the offences against them need to be given appropriately.

Remarks

The steps taken by government are showing good result with transgender getting driving licences in third gender category, transgender becoming an SI in Tamil Nadu, etc. However to ensure better living conditions, the mindset of the people must change. Though legal protection is provided to enable them to live with their parents by the Bill, the parents must realise that it is not a mental disorder or voluntary change. The biological changes inherent in them must be made aware to the people so that they can be included one among us in this country and providing them a safe and encouraging world to live in.

Remarks

Q8. Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are under financial Stress and maximization of debt. Do you think that programme UDAY will provide for the financial turnaround and revival of DISCOMs? Discuss while throwing light on the major constraints in this regards. (12.5 Marks)

UDAY - Ujjwal DISCOMs Assurance Yojana is a scheme brought forward by the Centre to remove the plight of the DISCOMs and provide them a sustainable future. The provisions of the scheme include:

- 1) The state governments will take over about 75% of their debts.
- 2) The state govts. will issue non-SLR bonds to provide financial assistance
- 3) The scheme ~~is~~ is optional for the states.

Incentives for good performance of state govts. will be provided as grants in DDGIVY, etc.

The UDAY scheme can be of great relief to the debt burdened DISCOMs. However apart from the financial incentives measures should also be taken to reduce such monetary losses.

Remarks

More financial regulation should be brought forward. The losses on transmission should be reduced to improve the efficiency. The thefts in electricity should also be controlled and regulated. Responsible oversight over the functioning of DISCOMs must be ensured. Only then can they be ensured of a sustainable future.

Remarks

Q9. How far do you think the concept of smart city or digital hub seems to have a vision that originated, with giant technology companies hoping to earn profit from big municipal contracts? How can the Programme aid in Governments' efforts towards urban poverty alleviation? (12.5 Marks)

'Smart city' is a term of great significance in the present governance. The world is living in a digital world era and so cities are to be made smart by providing essential services like drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure, transport and all other necessities with the aid of information technology.

The programme envisions a brighter future with cities having all essential services and high standard of living with minimum poverty and health issues. The programme should also include components that can alleviate urban poverty.

Such components can be slum removal, more shelter homes, bringing all the beggars within shelter homes, etc. The poor need to be accommodated in better living conditions. Smart cities can also

Remarks

These proposals under the infrastructure creation sector. This can essentially improve the lives of urban people alleviating poverty and providing essential services for all.

Remarks

Q10. Governance reforms in India are determined by supply side constraints instead of the demand side realities, discuss in the context of Food Security Bill? (12.5 Marks)

Food security Act is an ambitious provision of providing rice, wheat and cereals at the rate of ₹3, ₹2, ₹1 respectively to the 75% of the rural population.

Such reforms are made on account of the supply side constraints enabling more provisions for production of surplus grains and shifting from high producing to low producing states. They are focussing on hoarding, supply PDS, etc in their policy formation.

The much-required demand side is overlooked in such a formulation. In this case the actual demand of such food is not properly found out. There are many poor households which do not possess BPL cards. Such people are not included and so targetting needs to be done. There are states where surplus of grains are being wasted and so don't require such a

Remarks

scheme. such demand side differences need to be considered while policy formulation. Only when a holistic approach can be adopted in governance so that all can be ensured of the benefits of the policies.

Remarks:

Q11. Civil services during colonial era were dubbed as the steel frame of India. However, in post Independent democratic India, it has become a steel fetters on Democracy. Elucidate the above mentioned phenomenon. What should be done to reverse this phenomenon? (12.5 Marks)

Civil services has always been a coveted service irrespective of time. However, the functioning has undergone certain changes. In the colonial era they were the strong constituents in the functioning of India's governance. They were responsible for the success of India.

Post independent democratic India has seen them as curbing the functioning of democracy. The bureaucratic red tapism and corruption have made them disfunctional to the democracy. The basic purpose of civil services has been forgotten and self centred values have dominated over the needs of the people.

To bring back the status of civil services the following steps can be taken:

- (1) Bring in more reviews about the functioning of civil servants.

Remarks

- 2) Regular vigilance enquiries in case of suspicious accumulation of wealth beyond means.
- 3) Promotion primarily based on effective functioning rather than seniority.
- 4) Check on political biasing by civil servants.
- 5) Stricter punishments if malpractices are revealed.

By incorporating the above steps civil services can regain the prior position within the democracy. Only a certain section are responsible for this change and cleansing them can eventually bring about the desired results.

Remarks

Q12. Recent Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC) indicates towards drastic improvement in India in malnutrition status since last decade. Critically comment on the findings of the survey. What are the reasons behind this improvement? What more needs to be done in order to transform India into malnutrition free nation? (12.5 Marks)

Malnutrition is a menace that is still eating India. About one-third of our children are malnourished. Compared to our neighbouring countries we are way below in tackling malnutrition.

To our relief the recent RSOC has found that there is ~~margin~~ improvement in malnutrition status in India. This can be attributed to the government schemes of mid-day meal scheme, Annasna ma Ankyodaya Yojana, Food Security Mission, etc. The ASHA workers have contributed a lot in providing nutrition to the pregnant women and adequate breast feeding to the children.

Still there is a long way to go in the march to remove malnutrition. Even now the tribal children are among the most malnourished. Suitable steps need to be taken to provide adequate

Remarks

nutrition in the tribal areas. Effective targeting of beneficiaries needs to be done. leakages and corruption should be minimised. More funding should be allowed in health and nutrition sector. More linkages of schemes such as RTE and Midday meal scheme should be introduced to overcome multiple social issues.

To reap the demographic dividend the children need to be adequately nourished which was particularly mentioned in the Economic survey 2015-16 as well.

Remarks

Q13. It is said that 'current higher education curriculum in India does not impart the necessary skills that would enable the students for adequate employment opportunity. How will Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) rectify the deficiency? What are the challenges in CBCS to function effectively? (125 Marks).

Choice Based credit system (CBCS) is a new scheme proposed by UAC to implement across all universities in India. It seeks to provide a standard syllabus, all across, semesterisation, centralised recruitment, grading system, etc. This is to encourage uniformity and industry required skill generation.

However, there are several lacunae in this scheme. The universalisation of syllabus across all universities can bring down the standards of several universities to a common average. There is not adequate infrastructure and teaching faculty to bring out such a huge change. The employment generating education is a good term but to implement it uniformly requires huge efforts. The students across all universities are not on the same level to implement centralised syllabus.

Remarks

If such a scheme is implemented without adequate and proper studies, it can prove to be futile just like the Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) in Delhi. ~~Hence~~ only a few are instances where CBCS has brought down the standards of certain universities. Hence only after careful analysis should such a scheme be implemented.

Remarks

Q14. It has been commented that file notings provision on the RTI, Prevent officers from giving honest opinion. Critically comment on the issue. Has RTI act been able to bring transparency and accountability in the Indian administration? Critically analyze in light of the above statement. (12.5 Marks)

RTI Act of 2005 has been a milestone in providing transparency to governance. However file notings prevent officers from giving transparent and honest opinion since they are the details mentioned in the files that can be biased due to corruption within the system. Though the officers know the truth they are prevented from revealing the facts.

To an appreciable level RTI has been able to bring transparency and accountability in the Indian administration. The details of the expenses incurred by various officials, those fruitfully and for personal gains are revealed to the public. This gives an opportunity to the public to select suitable candidates for next election. This empowers the

Remarks

citizens in the functioning of the democracy.

The various glorious achievements mentioned by the minister can be cross checked using this provision. This brings in accountability in the administration. The black money houses, political parties should also be brought in its purview to bring in greater accountability in administration. Bring removing the few lacunae in RTI, it can be envisioned to a better position in the days ahead.

Remarks

Q15. It is said that SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1988 has failed to protect the violence and caste discrimination against the dalits and the tribals. In the light of the above statement, do you think that the recent amendment to SC/ST act could stop violence and discrimination against dalits? Critically discuss. (12.5 Marks)

The SC/ST are among the people who are suffering social stigma from time immemorial. In order to prevent the discrimination and bring them out at par with other citizens several Acts have been passed in our country.

However they have proved futile with the glaring examples of suicides of dalit scholars across Indian universities with the recent example of Rohith Venkula, the honourary killings ^{of dalits} in states like Tamil Nadu, the discrimination of manual scavengers, etc. The tribals are also among the most poor segments in India with deplorable health and economic conditions.

To overcome the flaws of the previous Acts, the recent amendment to SC/ST Act comes with stricter punishments and inclusion of

Remarks

new offences like garlanding, footwear, abusive languages, disallowing from wedding processions etc. It is high time that the SCs and STs should be treated equally like others. With stricter implementation of laws and stricter punishments to the culprits can the situation be improved. Awareness sessions to change the mindset of people is essential to remove honorary killings from our country. With the above amendments, they need to be protected and brought to the forefront among other citizens of India.

Remarks

Q16. The mohalla or community clinics as experimented in Delhi could prove to be a landmark in health services delivery in India. Do you agree? (12.5 Marks)

The mohalla or community clinics, as experimented in Delhi, could be a different structure in the region. It is of great relief to the slum dwellers and old people who find it difficult to reach the dispensaries by government.

The mohalla clinics are mostly two room structures having a doctor transferred from govt. dispensary and a helper. They provide free medicines, basic ~~to~~ health check-ups and tests for the people.

The older citizens of slums and other poorer localities find them extremely useful as they can avoid going to the one to 2 km far government dispensary. These clinics can prove a landmark in health services in India.

Remarks

The health sector in our country is in a deplorable situation and such new initiatives can reach out to the sections of society who are in other ways unattended to. These should be broadened in outreach throughout the country but it requires more staff and infrastructure. The budgeting to health sector should cross 2% of GDP to reap in the benefits of such new ventures. However such initiatives can be a spark which can lighten the lives of many in our country.

Remarks

Q17. A trust-based approach towards local governments adopted and recommended by the 14th Finance Commission is essential for local bodies to functions as institutions of local self-governments. Comment. (12.5 Marks)

The greatest milestone in the governance in India can be attributed to the 73rd and 74th amendments which gave the PRTs and municipalities, their functioning has reaped exceptional results in areas where they were efficiently implemented.

The 14th Finance Commission has rightfully pointed out that trust-based approach is essential for reaping in the best out of local self governments. This can be exemplified from the success of them in southern states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The trust that the people had entrusted onto the local bodies has enabled them to solve the issues and problems of their localities. The local body members are mainly the members of the locality who is well aware of the situational circumstances and not just political representatives. There are

Remarks

sweepers in the municipalities who become members in local bodies. The trust people have in them have resulted in the success of such establishments. The famous 'Kudumbasree' SHG has reaped great dividends because of the support of local bodies.

The whole of India has to imbibe the success of southern states and learn the methods adopted by them. This can eventually decrease the workload of higher executives which can improve the governance of the area.

Remarks

Q18. The wheels of justice grind slowly but grind exceedingly fine. In the Indian context, it would be more true to say that they grind so exceedingly slowly that there can be nothing fine about the outcome. In this context discuss the major lacunas in criminal justice system in India. (12.5 Marks)

'Justice delayed is justice undelivered' is the typical line that explains the present criminal justice system in India. The major lacunae in the criminal justice system in India are:

- 1) Exceptional delay in resolving cases in the judiciary
- 2) Unacceptably large number of under-trials in the prisons.
- 3) Even capital punishments are not rendered properly in adequate cases.
- 4) Mercy petitions are inordinarily delayed
- 5) Large number of cases held up in courts.
- 6) Inadequate number of staffs in the courts.
- 7) Lack of technological upgradation in judiciary.

Remarks

These issues can be solved by :

- 1) Prescribed time limit for resolving cases.
- 2) Technological upgradation.
- 3) Setting up of National Court of Appeals to reduce the work load of SC.
- 4) Bring in more transparency to the actions taken.
- 5) Hiring in adequate staffs.

The recent step of bringing courts under RTI is a good move to bring in more transparency. These lacunae have to be resolved at the earliest to ensure a better functioning democracy with such increasing population.

Remarks

Q19. The Regulatory institutions must need to be constantly adaptive to the changing environment and must constantly evaluating their own effectiveness regarding procedures and decision making. Elaborate. (12.5 Marks)

The Regulatory institutions play an important role in governance. They are the pivotal institutions that maintain the trust that the public give onto the various institutions serving them. Such regulatory institutions include the RBI, SEBI, TRAI, etc.

In order to maintain their statuses of bullwarks, they must be adaptive to the changes and should evaluate themselves periodically. Any deviation can have serious consequences to the whole system.

In this changing world, digitalisation must be adopted by them. Their functioning must be evaluated and made upto the mark.

The recent formation of NITI Aayog replacing Planning Commission, merging Forward Markets Commission

Remarks

with SEBI, the Asset Quality Review by RBI are all examples of such steps taken in this regard. Only then can their success and purpose be sustainable in the long run.

Remarks

Q20. "No democracy can long survive, which does not accept as fundamental to its very existence, the recognition of the rights of minorities". In the above context analyse the constitutional provision safeguarding the rights of minorities and challenges in implementing these rights. (12.5 Marks)

'Minorities' is a term undefined in the constitution. However they are taken as in people who are less in number and those who were historically treated badly.

The constitution provides rights to minorities in Articles 29 and 30 wherein they have the right to conserve their culture and start educational institutions with the aid of government respectively. The formation of statutory bodies like National Commission for SC, and National Commission for ST, ^{and NC for minorities} are to ensure that their rights are provided protected.

However there are still several minorities who are unable to reach the desired level due to lack of opportunities. Sufficient steps need to

Remarks

be taken to those within their traditional localities. The social atrocities committed over them need to be given adequate importance and preventive steps must be incorporated efficiently.

A mood of tolerance should be created throughout the country to safeguard the lives and desires of minorities. Only then can they come out from their shells and enjoy the democracy like the other citizens.

Remarks.