


INDIAN SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

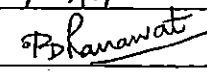
Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

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.• Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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1. Invigilator Signature 
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Name Pooja Ranawat
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Date 31/07/17
Signature 

REMARKS

GS SCORE

GS MAINS TEST SERIES 2017

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Roll No. _____

Q1. The tyranny of distance from the capital not only affects the provision of government and administrative services, but also the infrastructure. Critically analyze in context of the development deficit in NE of India. Also elaborate, how this affects even the media coverage of the regions affected by this phenomenon. (12.5 Marks)

(4)

A1. The North - eastern part of India is often considered as the silent yet unexplored potential of the country.

① The creation of a special ministry for the development of the region reflects the neglect it has suffered for decades. (DONER)

② The tyranny of distance here is the inadequate focus, insufficient funds and ineffective development of North-east due to Union neglect.

③ The North North-eastern region comprises the seven sister states connecting narrowly through the chickens neck corridor to the mainland.

⇒ Reasons for development deficit:

① Proximity to Delhi is not the development factor. Rather it is the ease of access of the region which makes it important. The North-east lacks critical connecting infrastructure - roads, railways etc.

② The culture of the society is predominantly tribalistic and so called primitive.

③ The resource availability and cost of extraction

It shows
 or whether
 in the
 as well
 steps

Looking
 in form
 of the
 answer

Remarks

unacademy

of these is high.

Thus, the North East has significant deficits on the Resource as well as Institutional level.

→ Inadequate media coverage.

① Due to the prevailing mainstream attitudes & stereotypes as also unawareness, the region is looked upon as unimportant.

② Media is known for picking up issues with a sensational and connecting value.

③ Due to the disconnect felt by the mainstream, the coverage is also lacking.

Thus, North-east is not a victim of government apathy and neglect.

In order to
 develop
 the
 region

Remarks

Q2. Discuss the initiatives taken by the government to improve attendance in government offices and analyze their impact? What steps can further be taken to improve the public delivery and work rate in government offices? (12.5 Marks)

A2. work culture is not only an organisation asset but also affects the productivity of a system.

⇒ The government has taken initiatives like :

- ① Introduction of biometric attendance system - to solve the problem of impersonality.
- ② Annual Performance reports - to be linked to prospects of promotion.

⇒ The impact of these measures :

- ① It helps to ensure that transparent mechanism exists for registering in-time.
- ② Any incentive based mechanism helps improve overall productivity of the organisation.

⇒ other measures :

- ① Digitisation and use of paperless concept can drastically reduce the workload and thus reduce time taken.
- ② Creation of a citizen charter with clear list of functions, clear delivery times

Remarks

will improve efficiency.

75

③ Creation of a single window framework for procedures with multiple clearances helps to reduce red tapism and pendency.

④ Clear cut delegation of tasks and responsibilities and creating standard procedures for approvals also helps to reduce opaqueness in decision making and makes it more objective.

Thus, transparency, accountability and use of mechanisms of like information dissemination can create a vibrant culture of service delivery.

Evolution of whether there would be any change in the way of dissemination of service delivery

Remarks

Q3. The VIP culture of India is notorious and tantamount to having various categories of citizen as per their VIP status. However, of-late there seems to be a general disdain among political parties to stay away from such practices. Elaborate on the steps taken by government to reduce or curb the VIP culture in India? Analyze, if these have been successful? (12.5 Marks)

A3.

The above statement is with reference to recent government order to ban all lal-batti vehicles - thus ending the VIP culture.

① This VIP culture manifests as various undue parliamentary privileges, ministerial benefits, special treatment in case of stay, travel, tolls and so on.

② While the culture has been widely prevalent more so in rural areas - lately the debate has transformed to the issue of how ministers and bureaucrats are servants of the country and must be a part of the common public.

③ The Government has also made changes to various other provisions which create a special treatment towards bureaucrats.

Success:

The success of such steps is not a fast tracking phenomenon. It is more about

Remarks

(1/10)

the public attitude, the behaviour and mentality of bureaucrats or ministers and the relative consensus about their role in society.

In conclusion, as the 2nd ARC report suggests, the bureaucrats need to keep in mind that this is a 'service' and not a 'job' like the private sector.

creepiness
and further
overlapping VIP attitude

Remarks

Q4. Though India has low level of labour force participation rates for women, but their participation in MGNREGA is above 50%. What are the reasons for it? What changes MGNREGA has brought to the situation of women? (12.5 Marks)

A4. The absence of women from the labour market has been an issue contributing to lower economic growth than expected.
 - Economic Survey.

① The MGNREGA is a comprehensive scheme which allows 100 days employment to any member of household willing to do unskilled work. Thus it is a guaranteed employment.

② It has been observed that women form more than 50% of this force that takes the benefit of employment.

⇒ Reasons:

- special reservation for women in the Act.
- special facilities for children of these women.
- due to the proximity of the area, women are able to participate.

⇒ Changes to the situation of women:

- It has not only financially empowered

Remarks.

women but also instilled in them a sense of self - confidence.

It has helped them to substitute the household earnings thus empowering the family as a whole.

Thus, MGNREGA with its special benefit for the women has been successful in giving meaningful employment to the completely unemployed.

Civil Rightstram
to improve the implementation

Remarks

Q5. India's old age population will dramatically increase over the next three-four decades. What are the problems that are going to be encountered in this process and what effective measures should be taken to tackle them? (12.5 Marks)

A5. The Indian Government has recently brought the National Policy for senior citizens which focusses on the issues facing this section of population.

→ It is estimated that this demographic dividend is going to contribute to a manifold increase in old age population of the country.

Problems:

1. Lack of financial-pension savings
2. Lack of healthcare - diseases, illnesses - Alzheimers etc.
3. Problems of stay, residence
4. Emotional issues - loneliness, insecurity
5. Not only physical but also mental health

Effective measures:

1. The government has formulated a National policy as well as National council on senior citizens to deal with issues and hurdles of this lot.

data
9

Emotional support

Remarks

2. The recent government scheme of providing free ~~lower~~ assisted living aids like hearing aids, walking sticks, dental aids etc are a ^{positive} step.

3. The government can create special pension plans customised for these ~~pe~~ people so that they are financially secured for future.

Thus, keeping in mind our age old tradition and value of respecting the old steps must be taken to ensure their well-being in the sunset years of their life.

4/2
create
more steps

Remarks

Q6. Idea of Universal Basic Income has gained traction in many countries across the world in recent. Can universal basic income address the problem of poverty in India? Critically examine. (12.5 Marks)

AG. The idea of Universal Basic Income, modelled on the lines of Developed countries, has been proposed in the Economic Survey.

It implies that instead of providing subsidy for various services, the government provide a basic minimum income to all the people.

⇒ Arguments for the idea :

① Will provide income to the households to satisfy their daily needs.

② The pinch of unemployment will be compensated for.

③ seen as creating a more equitable society.

⇒ Arguments against

① Proponents argue that it promotes laziness and inertia to do anything.

② It is not necessary the amount provided will be sufficient & used for right reasons.

Remarks

③ The burden on the exchequer.

④

Thus, in a welfarist country like India which is expected to provide a host of developmental functions, the utility of such an idea is still debatable.

more points

6

Remarks

Q7. Why some of the economically advanced states like Panjab, Haryana have low sex ratio as compared to poor states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand? What are the ill effects of adverse sex ratio on society? What lessons can be learnt from recent turnaround in sex ratio in Haryana? (12.5 Marks)

Ans. The issue of ~~women~~ female infanticide and low sex ratio is a major hurdle to realising the sustainable development goal of healthcare.

- ① It is observed that advanced states - have economic prosperity but not necessarily a liberal society. Social orthodoxies about female child as a burden still prevail.
- ② At the same time, the lack of involvement of women folk in society leads to a greater parochial attitude towards women.
- ③ In comparison, the low performing states have a mix of men and women working in agriculture, they migrate more in search of employment - thus they are more prone to a liberal outlook.
- ④ An adverse sex ratio destabilises society - It has an impact on reproductive capacity, the problem of 'missing brides', etc.

Remarks

⑤ An adverse sex ratio not only impacts the society but also prevents the economy from realising its full potential.

⑥ The sex ratio of Haryana - with 918/1000 was one of the lowest in the country. Promotion of schemes like Beti bachao, Beti padhao, Sukanya Samridhi, selfie with daughter campaign have been successful to gradually change the picture.

⑦ It shows that - issues can be plugged along with reward mechanisms, approach and a change in behavioural attitude ...

In conclusion, power of information and 'awareness' helps to address any deficits,

could help in informing the laws.

write with

attention

Remarks

Q8. What has been the impact of globalization on younger generation in India? How this impact on younger generation is affecting the cultural elements of Indian society? (12.5 Marks)

A8. The craze about Pokemon Go, the frenzy about Game of Thrones, the latest update on the Apple conference in California - this sums up the profound impact that Globalisation has brought on the younger generation.

⇒ Impact :

① change in lifestyle and living standards

② Adoption of different food habits

- the rise of ~~KF~~ Starbucks etc

③ Change in religious, philosophical aspects

④ Creeping in of the individualistic culture especially of the western societies

⑤ Greater receptivity and openness in thinking

⇒ Mix with the cultural elements

① The younger generation has had a deep impact of the eroding borders between nations.

impact

Remarks

(2) This openness and adaptability has been seen in their interest to learn newer languages.

(3) The cultural elements of religion, language, ethnicity, tradition are getting increasingly merged with that of other cultures.

(4) While a willingness to learn is important, it may also create divisions or erosion of originality or real essence of culture.

In conclusion, the words of Gandhi are a guiding light.

'I let the wind of all cultures blow by my house; but I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.'

Remarks

Q9. 'Hidden urbanization' has been one of the characteristics of urbanization in India. While elaborating the phenomenon, also examine the reasons behind its existence and how it impacts the urban planning process? (12.5 Marks)

Ans 9. Urbanisation is the phenomenon of the ^{sec} development of an area with significant non-farm operations, provision of modern systems of transport and basic living. definition

① Hidden urbanisation is the process of formation of clusters of development with relative under-development around.

② This hidden urbanisation is not a result of uneven process of development but also increases the regional disparities in an area.

③ Reasons :-

a) or uneven development

b) improper planning

c) inefficient resource utilisation

d) inadequate allocation to all regions

④ Impact on urban planning :-

Such clusters along with widening disparities

elaborate

Remarks

also lead to haphazard development.

5. ~~Since~~ They act as impediments to further development of the area.

6. It leads to a conflict of priority in the allocation of resources.

Thus, the urban planning process suffers and such development is unsustainable in the long run.

Remarks

Q10. Though government has taken several steps to improve the health care in India, but the sector severely faces the crunch of public funding, and lacks a comprehensive approach that would include preventive and promotive health care. In this scenario, critically analyse National Health Policy 2017 as a solution to improve Health care system in India. (12.5 Marks)

A10. The ancient adage 'Health is Wealth' holds true for the efficient development of any country.

⇒ The National Health Policy 2017 tries to address health not only through preventive care but also curative measures.

- Pos
- ① It proposes to increase the expenditure on the health sector which currently stands at 1.2% of GDP.
 - ② It focusses on physical as well as mental health.
 - ③ Provisions exist for genetic ~~diseases~~ disorders like sickle cell anaemia, haemophilia, etc for the first time.
 - ④ There are separate provisions to address the primary, secondary and tertiary health care network.
 - ⑤ Various other facilities like providing a certain number of beds in private hospitals.

Remarks

to have also been proposed.

A recent survey found that 64% of medical expenditure still remains out of pocket expenditure. Thus, steps are taken to approach healthcare with a holistic approach than a purely preventive one.

Incomplete

①

Remarks

Q11. 'Mass molestation' incident in Bengaluru has brought back the focus once again on women's safety as well as public consciousness especially in urban areas. What are the various reasons which failed the women safety? Discuss role of various stakeholders in creating an environment for women safety, her dignity and rights. (12.5 Marks)

Ans. The mass molestation issue in Bangalore was an example of public apathy and indifference to women issues of the time.

→ Reasons:

- ① Various clips surfaced in the aftermath showed that the police as well as the passerby chose to remain indifferent and ignorant. more dimensions
- ② Lack of gender sensitisation of the police machinery.
- ③ Various security arrangements - street cameras etc.

→ Role of stakeholders:

The issue of women safety is not an independent one but is linked to the various elements in society.

- The police, the citizenry need to behave in a more sensitised, mature and liberal rational manner.

Remarks

The role of public opinion and public consensus also is important in ensuring that women get their due share in society.

thus, enlightening the public opinion and a rational outlook towards women's rights will help prevent such subversive incidents

(39)

Judiciary
Legislation
Executive
Parliament
Family
Rights
Women
I need to know

Remarks

Q12. Youth suicide rate in India is among the highest in the world which can be heavy cost to India's demographic dividend. Discuss its various reasons. Suggest solutions to overcome this problem. (12.5 Marks)

A12.

The youth of a country are the biggest asset to the nation.

① India with a blossoming Demographic Dividend has a major task of skilling youth than letting them fall prey to the disturbances of a market economy.

② The youth suicide rate in India - is one of the highest - especially in the field of medicine and engineering; agriculture & due to lack of jobs.

→ Reasons

① Systemic ^{functional} flaws in institutions - & ragging humiliation insult.

② Culture of chasing success, being at the getting top grades.

③ Lack of support systems - changing family and social structure.

④ Culture of not talking out openly.

⑤ Excessive competition.

NCRB data

Academic pressure
Family pressure

Remarks

⇒ Solutions to overcome :

- ① Massive investment in infrastructure to create adequate learning and training institutes.
- ② Creating more jobs - employment opportunities.
- ③ Promoting a culture of chasing excellence than chasing grades.
- ④ Inclusion of stress management topics in the curriculum.
- ⑤ Culture of speaking out, access to suicide helpline nos, etc.

Thus, the problem of youth suicide needs to address the causal defects with the combined role of state, civil society and NGO's.

Remarks

Q13. The way LGBT movements have emerged all over the western world and their broader acceptance in society, especially with the election of first homosexual head of a state in a catholic country, Ireland, leaves a lot to be desired in case of India. Do you think that India needs special laws and not only to protect the dignity of such communities, but also to provide them representation? Analyze, if such provision would also require constitutional amendments? (12.5 Marks)

A13. The LGBT question in India has been discussed in the background of traditional ethos of the country vs modernity

① The Supreme Court of India had in the Koushal judgement upheld the decriminalising of Art Sectⁿ 377 - relating to the LGBT community.

② Subsequent judgements have left it to the wisdom of the Parliament. At such a juncture, it is time to rethink the traditional outlook of Indian society and become more accomodative of the present scenario. - it reflects more about the values of the society.

③ Thus, it is time these communities get a right to protect their dignity and also become an equal citizen under

Thiruv
Ganesh

Remarks

Article 14 of the Indian constitution.

④ Providing them reservation will lead to inclusion and harmony, and instil public faith.

⑤ Such a provision to enable representation would require a change in the Constitutional framework — notably in the Panchayati Raj framework and other avenues for res reservation.

Thus, inclusion of the LGBT community through a controversial issue needs to be addressed keeping in mind the changed humanitarian discourse.

Remarks

Q14. India seems to be following precedents in other countries like New Zealand where a flowing river has been granted a legal status. Do you think recognizing rivers as living entities will bring change to their health and condition? Discuss. (12.5 Marks)

A14.

The Uttarakhand High Court had recently awarded Yamuna the status of a living person. It held the chief secretary of the state to act as a legal guardian.

- ① The major objective of awarding such status is to change the approach of conservation - from a narrow environmental angle to a sacred 'holistic' angle.
- ② This is done with a view to accord more importance to the conservation of a river as also create penal provisions for its violation.
- ③ Recognising rivers as legal persons will not be effective till:
 - a) consequent provisions for prevention of pollution are strictly implemented.
 - b) monitoring mechanisms installed.
 - c) constant check on the flow & level of pollutants.

Remarks

④ Granting a legal status must increase the responsibility of the authorities towards preventing its pollution.

In conclusion, mere grant of legal status does not ensure conservation. It must be accompanied with strict and adequate measures for curbing pollution.

how explain
effectively
↓
suggest
9.9

③

Remarks

Q15. Formal qualification and marketable skills is a major challenge among youth of minority communities. In this reference discuss the schemes initiated by government to provide adequate skills and education to enhance livelihood opportunities. (12.5 Marks)

- Roshni
Nai Manzil

A15. - The Government is committed to promote social inclusion through specific schemes for minorities.

- ① One such scheme is Roshni - for minority children.
- ② The others are Nai Manzil, USTAAD (handicraft & textiles).
- ③ These schemes focus on creating livelihood opportunities for the minorities and ensuring that they are able to earn income from their skills and talents.
- ④ It thus performs the dual role of earning an income along with promotion of talent especially traditionally heritage sectors of that particular community.
- ⑤ The schemes aim to
 - encourage entrepreneurial skill development
 - promote awareness
 - provide employment

Remarks

⑥ Thus, such schemes are helping to bring the minorities within the fold of economic indicators to growth and development

⑦ Such measures prevent alienation of minority youth ~~to~~ and prevent them from being attracted to fundamentalist & radical elements presence of poverty.

Examples & therefore, schemes like Roshni Roshni and others not only help their inclusion in the mainstream market but also empower them with confidence.

Remarks

Q16. What do you understand by social empowerment? What are the factors which inhibit social empowerment in India and how it affects Indian development process? What effective steps must be taken to overcome these problems? (12.5 Marks)

Define social empowerment

A16. Empowerment is granting the power and authority to make independent decisions

⇒ To take it a step forward, social empowerment is to empower the disadvantaged sections of society - dalits, tribals - SC/ST, as also the women, minorities, so-called poor etc.

⇒ Factors which inhibit:

- ① Historical disadvantage towards certain sections - tribals
- ② Lack of awareness / literacy
- ③ Lack of financial or economic capacity
- ④ Poor health (social indicators)

elaborate

⇒ Such factors result into uneven development. Also, they may create social tensions, put pressure on existing resources or lead to resource conflict and competition.

⇒ Steps to overcome:

- ① Government policies with targeted delivery

Remarks

are the best way to address any development deficit.

② Increasing the overall education, literacy ratio will help improve awareness.

③ Improving health indicators — sex ratio, mortality; specific provisions for disabled
 eg:- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan.

④ The steps like PMJDY are steps towards financial inclusion which will invariably contribute to social inclusion.

Thus, such problems can be addressed with a mix of policy and public participation.

Remarks

Q17. Cinema is a medium of expression and can be a useful tool of social awareness and its true depiction; however, at present the working of CBFC is impinging on right of freedom of speech, expression and thought of filmmakers, despite the fact that it is a mere certification board, not censor board. Discuss and examine what reforms are required in CBFC to remain relevant in a dynamic and evolving society? (12.5 Marks)

A17. The above case is in light of recent banning of films and censorship episodes by the CBFC.

① The CBFC is a statutory body established under the Cinematograph Act 1952. It is controlled by members ~~of~~ appointed by the central government and performs the function of certifying films for screening.

② The recent instances of censorship were an attempt to curb the free nature of cinema. A Cinema is known to mirror the society and its times.

③ To limit such expression under the garb of censorship violates the freedom of speech and expression granted under Art 19 of the Indian Constitution.

⇒ Reforms :

① The institutional structure must be reformed

Short

Remarks

⑥ with independent and non-partisan members appointed to the body. The recommendations of the Bhram Benegal committee can be implemented. — reducing undue censorship, forming parameters for an objective decision etc.

Thus, the role and structure of an institution must evolve with the needs and values of the society and its values.

More dimension

Benegal committee

has given a clear recommendation

Write the opinion of Sabarna Bhram

Remarks

Q18. Government is expanding the mandatory usage of Aadhar in availing various schemes and providing various services, despite, the concerns regarding data security and its universal availability. Discuss benefits and challenges associated with using Aadhar as a platform for public schemes and services. What government should do to subside the fear of people regarding privacy issue? (12.5 Marks)

A18. The use of Aadhar along with the JAM trinity is touted to be the single biggest reform with a potential to soar the GDP of the country.

① The Government has recently made Aadhar mandatory for availing a certain set of services.

② While the linkage to this 12 digit biometric identification is desirable, it has its own benefits and faces challenges.

→ Benefits

① The linkage will make it easy for identification of beneficiaries of any service, targeted delivery mechanisms etc.

② A universal Aadhar card when linked to bank accounts can prove a solution to the digital banking solution in India.

→ Challenges:

① With the colossal amount and scope of

Remarks

use of data, Aadhar violates the privacy issue.

② There are concerns of hacking, breach of security of data by criminals, untoward elements etc.

⇒ The government can thus put in place a full proof security framework to plug the concerns of privacy violation. At the same time, it must be willing to solve people's other concerns, build a public trust and only then make rules mandatory.

W

Govt can alleviate fear of common people !
wake how

Remarks

Q19. Mental health care is a critical health concern, especially in India, where social stigma is attached to it. In this reference, discuss the provisions and importance of New Mental Health care bill. Also discuss challenges mental health care system in country.

(12.5 Marks)

A19. The NIMHANS institute in Bangalore has reported a drastic rise in the cases of mental health & disorders over the last decade.

⇒ The New Mental Healthcare Bill tries to approach the issue of mental health with an aim to discard the stigma attached to it.

⇒ It makes provisions for providing sustained care to such persons and medicinal and therapeutic treatments.

⇒ The bill addresses the stigma associated with depression and related disorders.

⇒ It seeks to provide critical support to such patients along with peer, family and societal support.

⇒ Challenges of the system:

① The stigma attached to a mental disorder or illness is the most serious issue.

- Remarks

② People are not ready to come out and speak about such problems -

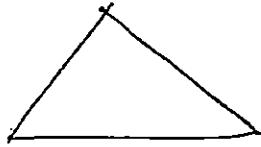
⑤

③ A recent study found that 30% adults in India have suffered depression at one time or another.

How these challenges can be resolved

it faces the challenge of

Awareness



Ignorance

ill-equipped state systems

Remarks

Q20. NITI Aayog along with MHRD launched the School Education Quality Index for better monitoring and raising the education quality by providing insight on various parameters. In this reference, discuss the major features of the School Education Quality Index. Also suggest steps needed to improve the learning outcomes in schools. (12.5 Marks)

A20. Education is the weapon which can destroy the darkness of ignorance.

- ① The recent attempt to develop a School Education Quality Index is a step towards improving the infrastructural and quality aspects of Education in schools.
- ② This index will rank schools on various parameters of learning, retention, literacy and outcome.
- ③ The quantification of such quality parameters will help identify the hurdles to quality education in the curriculum, the course structure etc.
- ④ The ASER report has highlighted that more than 50% of class VI students were not able to read a class II textbook.
- ⑤ It is important to thus focus on the content, delivery and quality of education.

Remarks

⇒ Steps to improve learning outcomes :

- ① The digital format of teaching must be adopted where students get to learn things along with the pace of society.
- ② Use of audio-visual aids, performance handbooks, worksheets etc.
- ③ Visits, tours to cultivate a practical than a theoretical approach.
- ④ The role of the teacher is important. Teacher-student sessions with interactive learning aids can help.

Thus, resource availability and monitoring can help SEI to become a massive success.

Remarks