



GS-2 GOVERNANCE 2013-2024 ANALYSIS

Schemes:

Q1: The concept of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success. (2013)

Q2: The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment. (2013)

Q3: Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. (2014)

Q4: The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators. (2014)

Q5: An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. (2014)

Q6: Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. (2016)

Q7: The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (2022)

As you can see, UPSC does not focus much on asking schemes as direct questions. However, and of course, you need to prepare 5-6 schemes that were too much in news across 2024-25.

Scheme Design & Implementation:

Q1: The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. (2013)

Q2: Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. (2013)

Q3: Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies? (2014)

Q4: Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Adhar card and NPR, one of voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve development benefits and equitable growth. (2014)





Q5: 'To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes' Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme. (2017)

Q6: "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation to the environment.' Comment with relevant illustrations. (2018)

Q7: The multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. (2018)

Q8: Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based projects/programs usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation. (2019)

Q9: 'In the context of the neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages' - Discuss (2019)

Q10: The performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to the absence of awareness and active involvement at all stages of the policy process. Discuss. (2019)

Q11: Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification. (2021)

Q12: "Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu? (2021)

Q13: Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has limitations too. Comment. (2022)

Q14: Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss. (2022)

Q15: "Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (2023)

Under scheme design & implementation section, focus is majorly on effects of XYZ policy on the vulnerable sections of society. Keep in mind, women, children, senior citizens, transgenders, differentially abled, tribals etc while answering impact of any policy on vulnerable sections!!

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Pressure Groups:

Q1: Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (2013)

Q2: How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years? (2017)

Q3: What are the methods used by the farmer's organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods? (2019)

Q4: "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policymaking in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (2021)

I cannot unsee the ODD YEAR PATTERN of questions on Pressure Groups. Tune in at [Telegram](#) – [Decodencivilsgroup](#) for prediction of Pressure Group that can be asked in Mains 2025!

RPA:

Q1: On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also, mention the remedies available to such a person against his disqualification. (2019)

Q2: "There is a need for simplification of Procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment (2020)

Q3: Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or a State Legislature under the Representation of People Act 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws. (2022)

General Elections took place last year and quite a few sections of RPA are in news ([Current Affairs Notes for the same have been provided](#))

Development:

Q1: Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (2019)

Q2: The need for cooperation among various service sectors has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of 'collaboration' and 'team spirit'. In the light of statements above examine India's development process. (2019)

Q3: Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer. (2022)

Q4: Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment. (2024)

NGOs/CSOs:

Q1: Examine critically the recent changes in the rule governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976. (2015)

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Q2: How can be the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to protection of the Environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints. (2015)

Q3: Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. (2021)

Q4: Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. (2023)

ODD YEAR PATTERN of Questions on NGOs!! Prepare FCRA Registration Norms that were changed recently.

[Refer Page-263 of 12-Months' Current Affairs Compilation](#)

SHGs:

Q1: The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss. (2013)

Q2: The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. (2014)

Q3: The Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program (SBLP), which is India's own innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programme. Elucidate. (2015)

Q4: 'The emergence of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities'. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. (2017)

Q5: "Microfinance as an anti-poverty vaccine is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of Self Help Groups in achieving twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. (2020)

Q6: Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through the microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (2021)

One of the favourite topics of UPSC has not been asked since 2021. Prepare 5 points each on: What is SHG, Why SHG, How SHG works, +ves, -ves/limitations, Government initiatives, Challenges that remain despite government initiatives and way forward! Tune in at [Telegram – Decodecivilsgroup](#) for Notes of various subjects.

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Governance:

Q1: Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss. (2013)

Q2: "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement. (2016)

Q3: Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change? (2016)

Q4: E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology but also much about the critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. (2018)

Q5: "The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of the government". Discuss. (2020)

Q6: E-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features? (2023)

Q7: e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. (2024)

Last 4 questions on governance have been on e-governance!

Hunger & Poverty:

Q1: Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty over time. Do you agree. Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators. (2015)

Q2: Hunger and Poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement. (2017)

Q3: 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere show pieces until and unless they are backed by political will'. Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India. (2017)

Q4: How far do you agree with the view that the focus on the lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? (2018)

Q5: There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on non-food essential items squeezing their food budget – Elucidate. (2019)

Q6: "Incidence and intensity of poverty are most important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyze the latest United Nations Multi Poverty Index report. (2020)

Q7: Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle? (2024)

Health:

Q1: Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same. (2013)

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Q2: Public health system has limitation in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that private sector can help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives do you suggest? (2015)

Q3: Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance? (2016)

Q4: Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain. (2018)

Q5: In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss. (2020)

Q6: "Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development." Analyze. (2021)

Q7: In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level. (2024)

Education:

Q1: Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges. (2014)

Q2: The quality of higher education in India requires major improvement to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of technical and higher education in the country. Discuss. (2015)

Q3: National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals-4 (2030). It intended to restructure and re-orient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (2020)

Q4: "Earn while you learn" scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment. (2021)

Question has not been asked since 2021. Tune in at [Telegram – Decodecivilsgroup](#) for prediction of topic(s) that can be asked in Mains 2025!

Human Resources:

Q1: "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? (2016)

Q2: The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy. (2023)

Q3: Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill, and employment. (2023)

Various **successful candidates of UPSC CSE-24** were part of Ethics/Essay Modules & Other Initiatives. **Some of them, with their clickable feedback, are AIR-2, 28, [32](#), [35](#), 53, [54](#), [55](#), 57, [61](#), 72, [91](#), [119](#), [217](#), 219, 247, 256, [261](#), 287, [299](#), 328, 351, 450, 525, 579, 590, 728, 813, 871, 905 etc.**





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Citizen's Charter:

Q1: Though Citizen's charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse. (2013)

Q2: The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (2018)

Q3: The Citizens' charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. (2024)

Transparency & Accountability:

Q1: In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in the corporate governance to ensure transparency and accountability. (2015)

Q2: If amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Protection Act 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there maybe no one left to protect. Critically Evaluate. (2015)

Q3: In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India. (2016)

Been a long while since question was asked on this topic. RTI has completed 20 years! Last year there was question on Lokpal as it completed 10 years.....

Civil Services:

Q1: Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow in India? Critically examine. (2014)

Q2: "Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment. (2016)

Q3: Initially, Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment (2017)

Q4: "The Central Administrative Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain. (2019)

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Q5: "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for Strengthening Democracy. (2020)

Q6: The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. (2024)

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