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PAPER I–IV

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SYLLABUS

As mentioned on the UPSC website

General Studies: Paper-I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

- ❖ Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- ❖ Modern Indian History from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- ❖ The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- ❖ Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- ❖ History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.
- ❖ Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- ❖ Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- ❖ Effects of globalization on Indian society
- ❖ Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- ❖ Salient features of world's physical geography.
- ❖ Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)
- ❖ Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location - changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies: Paper-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.

General Studies: Paper-III

Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- ❖ Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
- ❖ Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- ❖ Government Budgeting.
- ❖ Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- ❖ Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- ❖ Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- ❖ Land reforms in India.
- ❖ Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- ❖ Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.
- ❖ Investment models.
- ❖ Science and Technology - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- ❖ Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- ❖ Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

- ❖ Disaster and disaster management.
- ❖ Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- ❖ Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- ❖ Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
- ❖ Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- ❖ Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

General Studies: Paper-IV

Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude

- ❖ Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- ❖ Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- ❖ Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- ❖ Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- ❖ Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
- ❖ Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- ❖ Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
- ❖ Case Studies on above issues.



General Studies: Paper-I

CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM 2021

Indian Heritage and Culture

Q. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture.
(CSE 2021)

Ans: 'Bhakti' is a Sanskrit word that means 'devotion.' Bhakti movement focused on a devotee's strong emotional attachment and love for a supreme deity. This movement began in South India between the 7th and 10th centuries CE, primarily via the poetry of Alvars and Nayanars. Bhakti literature is the result of this socio-religious reform movement that lasted from the 7th to 17th centuries CE. It was distinguished by the usage of regional languages and a socially inclusive mindset.

Nature of Bhakti Literature

- ❖ **Religious:** Shankaradeva's Kirtana Ghosha (Vaishnava devotional songs); Thirumurais (Tamil songs in Shiva's worship), and so on.
- ❖ **A straightforward Approach to Religion:** The intricate philosophy of the Vedas and Upanishads literature was difficult to comprehend for common people. People sought a straightforward form of worship, religious activities, and social values. Bhakti literature was an alternative—a fundamental form of devotion that offered relief from the material world.
- ❖ **Interfaith Harmony:** Baba Farid's Sufi poetry was absorbed into Sikh religious canons. Ramacharitsmanas and Hanuman Chalisa, both composed in Awadh, have earned popularity across the country.
- ❖ **Egalitarian Approach:** It went across caste and gender to spread their message of love and personal commitment to God throughout India.
- ❖ **Against Elitism:** Non-elite characteristics such as regional dialects, inclusion of castes and out-

castes, anti-ritual, and a stress on love for God over respect for Him distinguish Bhakti literature.

- ❖ **Emphasis on Local and Regional Languages:** Bhakti saints used vernacular languages to write and preach. Alvars and Nayanars, for example, spoke Tamil instead of Sanskrit. Brijhasha was Surdas' favourite. They were easily accepted by the public as a result of this factor.

Contribution of Bhakti Literature to Indian Culture

- ❖ **Religion:** Bhakti Literature looked upon religion not as a cold worship but as a loving bond based upon love between the worshipped and the worshipper.
- ❖ **Linguistic Development:** The Bhakti Literature led to the growth of vernacular languages and literature in different parts of the country. Saints such as Tukaram, Sikh Gurus, Shankaradeva, and others contributed to the development of Marathi, Punjabi, and its script Gurumukhi, Assamese, and other languages.
- ❖ The Sufi saints' efforts resulted in the **Indianization of Islam**. Contributions by Nizamuddin Auliya, Rahim, and others, for example.
- ❖ **Music and Dance:** Bhakti literature is used for devotional singing in kirtana, Qawwali, and devotional dances like Sattariya, among other things.
- ❖ **Philosophical Development:** In his Dvaitadvaita, Madhvacharya looked into post-Vedanta notions, as did Ramanujacharya in his Vishishtadvaita, and others. Many saints and religious ideals were assimilated, which contributed in the spread of religion. The rise of sects like Sikhism and the Kabirpanth
- ❖ **Poetry:** Bhakti poetry even today is most popular with the Indian masses. It still fulfills the cultural aspirations and needs of the people to a certain extent. For example, Mira Bai's Bhajans are still considered to be devotional works of a high literary value.

II ■ GENERAL STUDIES-I Q & A

- ❖ **Society and Social Practices:** Society was full of many social evils like rigidity of Caste system, irrelevant rituals and religious practices, blind faiths and social dogmas. Bhakti Literature freed common man from these social evils and gave them liberal form of religion with simple rituals and practices.

Although Bhakti literature did not deviate from the orthodoxy and did not result in a political awakening, it did appeal to a wider audience. Bhakti literature contributed in the popularization of the Bhakti cult. It was a significant shift from prior religious texts, which were mostly written in Sanskrit and focused on ceremonies and rituals. It also aided the development of regional languages.

History of India and World

Q. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment (CSE 2021)

Ans: From 1885 through 1905, there was a period of sluggish growth. It had an important role in the promotion of moderate nationalism in India, which eventually gave rise to radical nationalism. They used a variety of public concerns and demands to lay the groundwork for the national movement's next phase.

Methods of Moderates

- ❖ 3Ps: Prayer, Petition, Propaganda.
- ❖ Like their agitation, their demands were constitutional.
- ❖ They used "Passive Resistance."
- ❖ Method of operation was based on "Boycott."

Role of Moderates to create Base for Wider Freedom Movement

- ❖ **Critique of British Economic System in India:** It showed the true nature of British economic policies to future generations.
 - ◆ The moderate leaders revealed harmful effects of British colonialism on Indian economy.
 - ◆ Dadabhai Naoroji proposed the "drain theory" to explain India's economic exploitation.
- ❖ **Demand for Wider Economic Reforms:** It made future generations aware about the economic exploitations.
 - ◆ Reduce land revenue and protect peasants from illicit revenue collection from Zamindars.
 - ◆ Cut down on military spending and increase allocation on health and education.
 - ◆ To enhance plantation labourers' working conditions.

- ◆ With the support of agricultural banks, give lower-cost credit to peasants.
- ◆ Indian industry should be developed and protected by increasing tariffs on imports.
- ❖ **Demands for Constitutional Reforms:** It made future generations aware about the constitutional and democratic ethos.
 - ◆ Increase the number of Indians in the councils.
 - ◆ They requested more control over financial problems such as the budget.
 - ◆ The long-term goal was to achieve self-government.
- ❖ **Demand for Administrative Reforms:**
 - ◆ They pushed to increase the number of Indians in government. Increment in the number of Indians would lessen the government's financial burden.
 - ◆ Indianization of government services would lessen the wealth drain.
 - ◆ No discrimination against Indians from key administration positions.
 - ◆ Indian civil service examinations be held simultaneously in India as well.
 - ◆ Separation of the Executive and Judiciary to prevent arbitrary police and bureaucratic operations.
 - ◆ Several unjust laws such as the Arms Act and the License Act be repealed.

Although, the moderates failed to appeal the wider population and to convince the government, they laid a crucial foundation base on which the future of the freedom struggle was based under extremist nationalism. Extremist leaders, Gandhi Ji and other freedom fighters used this base to finally achieve the independence on 15th August 1947.

Q. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Gandhiji started the constructive programme through INC in 1920. The Gandhian vision of a nonviolent society was the constructive programme. These programmes were not a random thought, but rather a well-thought-out and well-executed mental strategy. His fervent belief was that self-sufficient villages provide a solid foundation for a just, equitable, and nonviolent social order.

- ❖ In this programme, Gandhiji did not follow any particular structure; instead, he arranged the subjects according to their importance. He

General Studies: Paper-II

CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM 2021

Polity & Governance

Q. 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. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Civil society groups are non-governmental, non-profit, and non-commercial organisations. These include a diverse range of organisations, including community groups, labour unions, indigenous groups, philanthropic organisations, faith-based organisations, professional associations, and foundations, among others.

On the other side, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are private organisations that work to alleviate suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or engage in community development.

Civil Societies and NGOs as an Alternative of Public Service Delivery

- ❖ Civil Society has widely been recognised as an essential third sector. Its strength can have a positive influence on the state and the market.
- ❖ Skill enhancement and livelihood support schemes like National Rural Livelihood Mission can be made more effective through involvement of Civil society organizations.
- ❖ They can play the role of effectively communicating the needs of people to the government. For example, PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan was launched in response to Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan's petitioning for distribute food grains to everyone.
- ❖ They can address gaps in last-mile delivery of public services. For example, many NGOs and voluntary groups distributed food, ration and

vegetables for the homeless and the migrants during Covid-19 lockdowns.

- ❖ Civil society is therefore seen as an increasingly important agent for promoting good governance by enhancing transparency, effectiveness, openness, responsiveness and by policy analysis and advocacy.
- ❖ They also promote good governance by the regulation and monitoring of state performance and the action and behaviour of public officials; By building social capital and enabling citizens to identify and articulate their values, beliefs, civic norms and democratic practices etc.

Challenges in this Pursuit

- ❖ Lack of continuity and ad-hocism that NGOs face in dealing with the government undermines long-term engagement.
- ❖ The issue of mis-appropriation of funds by NGOs reduces the trust of people and the authorities in the government. It has compelled the government to have tighter control on the NGOs through FEMA and FERA.
- ❖ Engagement of NGOs with banned organizations and Naxal connections demands crackdown by the government authorities.
- ❖ The reports of undue lobbying parliamentarians and using the media by some NGOs to manipulate issues in their own favour.

Civil Society and NGOs acts through 'social capital' which is the capacity of people to act together willingly in their long-term common interests. Social capital is strong in a homogeneous, egalitarian society.

By addressing the challenges associated and streamlining the governing processes, Civi Society and Non-Governmental Organizations surely present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen.

XVI ■ GENERAL STUDIES-II Q & A

Q. The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular State is being questioned by various States. However, the power of the States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (CSE 2021)

Ans: CBI was established in 1963 by a decree of Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendation of Santhanam Committee on Corruption Prevention. Later on, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances. It derives its power from The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946.

Recently, a Supreme Court bench forwarded a case to the CJI for his consideration in which the CBI was denied the “general consent” by many States.

Types of Consent

1. **Consent in General:** According to Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946, under which the CBI operates, when a state grants the CBI general consent to investigate a case, it is not needed to obtain permission each time it enters the state in connection with an investigation or for each case.
2. **Special Consent:** When a general consent is revoked, the CBI must seek case-by-case Consent for an inquiry from the respective state government.

Impact of withdrawal of General Consent

- ❖ According to the Kazi Lendhup Dorji vs. CBI, 1994, the withdrawal of general consent has no bearing on pending investigations or cases pending in another State where the investigation leads into the territory of the State that has withdrawn general consent, nor does it limit the jurisdictional High Court’s ability to order a CBI investigation.
- ❖ The biggest problem of withdrawing assent is that CBI cannot hold independent raid, investigation and search in the states’ premises which cripple the investigation and delay in justice.

Main Issue

- ❖ As many as eight states denied CBI the “General Consent” and have refused to allow the CBI to conduct investigations within their states. West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Mizoram are the states that withheld the consent to it.

Stand of CBI

- ❖ CBI has maintained that states’ widespread withdrawal of assent renders it ineffective in investigating claims of corruption against federal

personnel. It is in violation of the DSPE Act of 1946’s mandate.

- ❖ CBI has said that while the States’ responses were primarily an act of politico-legal and ring-fencing against the politics of the Central Government employing its agencies against the states, this withdrawal of general consent by many States has left the CBI handicapped which cannot work with its full swing in those states where the general consent has been revoked.

States’ Response on this Stand of CBI

- ❖ States are concerned about their autonomy - which gets hampered by the deployment of CBI which acts on the orders of Centre and does not come under states. States’ replies were essentially an act of politico-legal ring-fencing against the states’ interests.
- ❖ According to Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946, under which the CBI functions, the State’s consent is required to extend CBI investigation beyond Union Territories.
- ❖ The legal foundation of the CBI has been construed to be based on Entry 80 of the Union List which provides for the extension of powers of the police force belonging to one State to any area in another State but not without its permission.

Way Forward

The main roadblock is the law which does not properly define the CBI as a federal police body. The situation of a number of States withdrawing consent may lead to a legislative move to create a federal agency with manifest powers and autonomy. If such legislation is enacted, Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act may be replaced by a clearer legal provision that ensures impartial inquiry and prosecution.

Even the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which India is a signatory, mandates that all levels of government take decisive, impartial action to eliminate corruption. Central government should amend the DPSE Act to give more powers to the CBI while addressing the main demand of the states. By taking each and every stakeholder, the CBI could be made a tiger with real teeth.

Q. Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analysing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (CSE 2021)

General Studies: Paper-III

CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM 2021

Economic Development

Q. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V- shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.
(CSE 2021)

Ans: A V-shaped recovery means there's a sharp upturn after a quick decline, and a V-shaped recovery is the best as the economy bounces back immediately after a slump.

Yes! Indian economy has recently experienced V-Shaped recovery after slump caused by Covid-19 pandemic. If one looks at year-on-year growth, the recovery is V-shaped after the first quarter because of 20% economic expansion. It was led by small and mid-cap firms as per Bloomberg. Even the finance ministry says the recovery is V-shaped in Indian economy.

Reasons why it is V- shaped Recovery

- ❖ In anticipation of strong growth, the Economic Survey predicts a 'V-shaped' rebound for the Indian economy in 2021-22, with 11 percent real GDP growth.
- ❖ According to official figures from the finance ministry, the country's GDP increased by 20% in Q1 of FY 2021-22 compared to Q1 of FY 2020-21.
- ❖ During the Covid-19 pandemic, India is the only country that has seen two consecutive quarters of growth as measured by GDP.
- ❖ According to the Economic Survey, "India began a flurry of multi-sectorial supply-side structural adjustments to increase flexibility and resilience to supply chains as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission and National Investment Pipeline." While there was a 23.9 percent decrease in GDP in Q1, the recovery has been a V-shaped one, as seen by the 7.5 percent decline in Q2 and the recovery across all important economic indicators, according to an Economic study. Despite an annual decline, India's actions allowed the country greatly lessen

the impact of Covid-19 on economic growth and accomplish the V-shaped rebound, according to the study, which forecasts 7.55 percent growth.

Despite of this some experts has flagged it was not a V-shaped recovery. According to them the government has used Year-on-Year comparison method to support its claim of V-shaped recovery while critics used Quarter-on-Quarter method to speak against it. Contrary to the critics' tall claims, India has witnessed V-shaped recovery and it is largely on the right track of huge growth after facing negative side due to Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Different government schemes and collaboration of public and private sector has helped India to achieve its economic goal.

Q. "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth." Discuss in the light of India's experience.
(CSE 2021)

Ans: According to Economic Survey, investment in infrastructure is "quintessential" to boost growth. Infrastructure enables trade, powers businesses, connects workers to their jobs, creates opportunities for struggling communities and protects the nation from an increasingly unpredictable natural environment.

Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth because of following reasons:

- ❖ **Employment addition**– Infrastructure development in real estate, road and railway construction, etc. is labour intensive sector, leading to increase in employment opportunities in formal and informal sectors.
- ❖ **Rural development** – Proper connectivity and transportation would play critical role in ensuring more rural income.
- ❖ Focus on increased irrigation infrastructure and storage, processing and marketing infrastructure would lead to increased farmers income which constitute a large population in the country.

XXX ■ GENERAL STUDIES-III Q & A

- ❖ Enhancement of standard of living of all people due to good health and educational infrastructure.
- ❖ Reduction in logistics cost by building world class roads, railways, ports, inland water ways, which will cut down logistic costs and improve competitiveness and promote exports. This would bring more revenues to government and may promote socio – economic development and as a result, inclusive growth will alleviate poverty and reduce income disparity in the country.
- ❖ Due to access to quality and dependable infrastructure, MSMEs get developed which directly improves unorganized sector of the country.
- ❖ Infrastructure expansion, such as rural electrification, highways, and road transport, would encourage agricultural growth and the establishment of agro-processing enterprises and would make country self-sufficient and exporter of food materials.
- ❖ Infrastructure investment can also help accelerate women's economic empowerment by getting modern energy sources, safe transportation which further provides better opportunities for them and hence economic growth.
- ❖ Infrastructure improves the quality of early learning environments like pre-school and child care, and expands access to those programs. Thus, promote prevention and early identification of health problems that can impact learning later on.

Government Initiatives

- ❖ The number of projects included in the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) has been expanded to 7,400 by the government. The government had invested US\$ 1.4 trillion in infrastructure development through the NIP as of July 2021.
- ❖ As part of the Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the government plans to create a geospatial digital platform to aid in the planning and monitoring of projects ranging from telecom networks to gas pipelines to highways and trains.
- ❖ The Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) will increase dam safety by defining dam safety guidelines, using global expertise, and implementing new technologies.
- ❖ The Bharatmala and Sagarmala Missions of the Indian government are ambitious road and maritime connectivity programmes. This will improve India's logistics capabilities.

It is vital to allow the assimilation of data and information from all stakeholders in the infrastructure sector in order to promote accountability and transparency. India's capacity to realise its competitive potential is dependent on smart infrastructure decisions

in many ways. If individuals, regions, and businesses are to flourish and prosper, they must adjust to economic, demographic, fiscal, and environmental changes.

Q. What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India? (CSE 2021)

Ans: The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was introduced by the Government of India in 2013. It is responsible for the provision of subsidized food grains to the population and is in line with the goal of the United Nations with the objective of ending hunger by 2030. The enactment of the NFSA marks a watershed in the approach to food security from welfare to a rights-based approach.

Salient Features of the NFSA

- ❖ Public Distribution System is now governed by provisions of the NFSA 2013.
- ❖ Coverage under PDS is de-linked from the erstwhile 'poverty estimates'.
- ❖ The Act provides coverage for nearly 2/3rd of the country's total population based on Census 2011 population estimates.
- ❖ 75% of rural and 50% of urban population is entitled to receive highly subsidised food grains under two categories of beneficiaries – Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH).
- ❖ State/UT-wise coverage is determined by the NITI Aayog on the basis of 2011-12 Household Consumption Expenditure survey of NSSO.
- ❖ The Act entitles 35 kg of food grains per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of food grains per PHH Person per month.
- ❖ Identification of beneficiaries/households under NFSA is done by respective State/UT Government, which is required to frame its own criteria.
- ❖ No reduction in food grains allocation to any State/UT under NFSA. Allocation gaps if any are covered with Tide-Over allocation.
- ❖ Eldest woman of the beneficiary household (18 years or above) is considered as 'Head of Family' for the purpose of issuing ration cards.
- ❖ Grievance redressal mechanism, through State Food Commissions, DGROs, and Vigilance Committees at different levels are provisioned for Women Empowerment.
- ❖ Provisions for disclosure of records relating to PDS operations, placing of beneficiaries' list in public domain/portals, for enhanced transparency.

General Studies: Paper-IV

CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM 2021

Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

Q. Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Ethics tells us how to act rightly. It aims at defining terms like good and bad, right and wrong. An apt and ethical civil servant never compromises on the highest standards of quality in administrative decisions and actions due to complacency or convenience.

Five Ethical Traits on which one can Plot the Performance of a Civil Servant

1. **The Highest Level of Compassion:** Compassion for the impoverished, disabled, and weaker members of society is the highest virtue a government servant can possess.
2. **Highest Level of Integrity:** When carrying out any administrative action, a public servant acts with the highest honesty and never uses his power, position, or discretion to further his own personal interests.
3. **Selflessness:** It helps to combat nepotism and cronyism, as well as conflicts of interest and the misappropriation of public resources and authority.
4. **Principle of Justice:** In every activity, civil employees must adhere to the principles of justice, equality, impartiality, fairness, and objectivity, which aids in making judgments based on merit rather than personal bias.
5. **Accountability and Transparency:** Civil officials should make all of their judgments in a clear and unambiguous way. They must be held accountable for their actions and decisions.

These traits help build the base for a civil servant in his career and ensure that civil servant fulfills his professional obligation in every situation and other traits like responsiveness and resilience, commitment for work, etc. ensure excellence in his/her work.

Q. Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Essential value is a broad phrase to describe the standards by which we characterize a person, profession, or organization.

Ten Essential Values that are needed to be an Effective Public Servant

1. **Transparency:** It involves sharing of information that helps in controlling corruption in public life.
2. **Objectivity:** Adherence to rationality, legality and proven standards.
3. **Compassion:** Desire to help to alleviate the suffering of the other persons.
4. **Integrity:** Ability to remain consistent and committed to the professional values.
5. **Empathy:** Capacity to understand and share another's state of mind and emotions.
6. **Accountability:** Answerable to ones for whom decisions are taken.
7. **Professionalism:** Need to be visionaries; being stewards of public funds and information and understand the importance of the jobs.
8. **Leadership:** Ability to persuade others to seek defined objectives, enthusiastically.
9. **Responsiveness:** Helps connect with people and pare down communication gap.
10. **Courage:** Ability to do what is required even if the odds are against.

Ways and Means to Prevent Non-Ethical Behaviour in the Public Servants

- ❖ Effective laws, rules, and regulations that clearly establish the dos and don'ts, as well as a system for swift response in the event of unethical behaviour.
- ❖ Reducing rent-seeking opportunities by limiting discretionary authority and eliminating direct contact between citizens and service providers.

- ❖ Effective implementation of openness and accountability measures such as RTI, social audits, and e-governance. It is also vital to provide proper protection to whistleblowers.
- ❖ Improved staff management: Selection of individuals with strong ethical competence and a conscious conscience, performance-based promotions, and periodic training.
- ❖ Appropriate incentives and penalties in the form of performance-based bonuses that encourage hard effort while discouraging unethical behaviour.

These values should be inculcated in public servants from the very beginning of their professional career so that their overall efficiency would be increased and they would become more citizen-centric.

Q. Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making is debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Digital technology is ubiquitous in our society. It continues to provide opportunities to alter the decision-making behavior of individuals, groups and organizations. These technologies can positively and negatively impact the rationality and effectiveness of decision-making.

Merits of Digital Technology in Rational Decision Making

- ❖ **Data Collection:** More conveniently data is collected using digital technologies. E.g. different surveys like Census, NRC, etc.
- ❖ **Data Processing Capabilities:** Technology converts an immense amount of data to make decisions more informed, accurate and faster by using advanced tools such as data analytics, data mining, etc. and meaningful information comes out. E.g. Using NFHS data to make policy decisions etc.
- ❖ **Real Time Monitoring:** Helps to monitor projects in real time and using this, any corrective measures can be taken. E.g. Real time monitoring of SBM and NHA construction updates.
- ❖ **Data Integration:** Helps to integrate data and information spread across different departments, ministries and geographies. E.g. E-Nam, GEP portal which integrates data from various departments.
- ❖ **Easily Accessible:** Today the world is interconnected with the help of technology and through this very information reaches to every segment of society in a mean time. E.g. govt. announcement of Covid-19 lockdown.

Demerits of Digital Technology in Rational Decision-Making

- ❖ **Discrimination and unjust Exclusion:** Digital

technologies can lead to exclusion of many people who are technologically handicapped. E.g. leaving of marginalized people in PDS due to non-linkage of their Aadhar cards to ration cards.

- ❖ **Manipulation:** Control and manipulation through digital technology can help in steering preferences; for example, manipulation of citizen sentiments during election campaigns.
 - ❖ **Dehumanization:** Peoples are represented as set of 1s and 0s. Decisions based on such information can lead to mechanical rationality where principles of compassion and fairness are violated.
 - ❖ **Justice:** The application of technology can result in misclassification and stigmatization of any individual and hence decisions can be biased against him/her if solely based on technological evidence.
 - ❖ **Fixed Rationality:** People have their own perception of situation and act accordingly. So even when all information are available people may not act rationally.
 - ❖ **Fake news** and disinformation can covertly modify the behavior of individuals and is a threat to the rational processes of decision.
 - ❖ The **Knowledge Illusion** is the flip side of what economists call the curse of knowledge. When we know about something, we find it hard to imagine that someone else doesn't know it.
- Hence, digital technology can provide information and an informed decision can be taken but rationality of decisions should be also based on human values, attitudes and conscience with cross check of information.

Q. Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Domain knowledge is knowledge of a specific, specialized discipline or field, in contrast to general (or domain-independent) knowledge. People with domain knowledge are often regarded as specialists or experts in their field. Ethical dilemma is a complex decision-making situation in which all the available options are in conflict, making it difficult for the decision maker to follow any one course of action in the given situation.

Why domain knowledge is important in resolving ethical dilemmas?

- ❖ Vastness of a particular field can be achieved through domain expertise as to understand nuances and dynamics of that field. E.g. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Raghuram Rajan, E. Sreedharan.