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CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM 2024

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

PAPER-I

INTRODUCTION

Q. Good governance adds normative and evaluative attributes to the process of governing. Comment.

Ans: Good governance extends beyond administrative efficiency, integrating normative (value-based) and evaluative (performance-based) dimensions to ensure fairness, equity and accountability in governance. It involves adherence to ethical principles, democratic values and citizen-centric governance, as emphasised by public administration thinkers.

Normative Attributes of Good Governance

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Rooted in John Rawls' Theory of Justice, good governance ensures fairness in decision-making and access to information. For example, the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in India enhances transparency, enabling citizens to hold authorities accountable.
- **Rule of Law:** As per A.V. Dicey's Rule of Law, governance must be impartial, ensuring legal predictability. For example, Supreme Court's intervention in electoral reforms, such as the decriminalisation of politics, strengthens the rule of law.
- **Equity and Inclusiveness:** Inspired by Amartya Sen's Capability Approach, governance should provide equal opportunities for all, ensuring justice and accessibility. For example, Aspirational Districts Programme in India focuses on improving governance in underdeveloped regions, ensuring inclusive growth.

Evaluative Attributes of Good Governance

- **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Taking cues from Frederick Taylor's Scientific Management, good governance optimises resources for maximum productivity. For example, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) reduces leakages in welfare schemes, improving efficiency.

- **Responsiveness:** As per Woodrow Wilson's politics-administration dichotomy, administration must be responsive to citizens' needs while maintaining neutrality. For example, Citizen Charters in public offices ensure timely service delivery, enhancing government responsiveness.

- **Participatory Governance:** Reflecting Dwight Waldo's Humanistic Public Administration, good governance includes citizen engagement in decision-making. For example, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) promotes participatory governance by empowering rural workers.

Good governance blends normative values with evaluative mechanisms to ensure ethical, accountable and efficient governance. Integrating transparency, inclusiveness, efficiency and citizen participation, good governance fosters a democratic and people-centric governance model, strengthening public trust and social justice.

Q. Balancing State intervention and Market freedom is the need of developing countries. Comment.

Ans: Developing countries face the challenge of achieving economic growth while ensuring social welfare. Striking a balance between State intervention and Market freedom is critical to fostering sustainable development.

The Need for State Intervention

- The State plays a crucial role in addressing market failures, where unregulated markets can lead to monopolies, income inequality, and resource exploitation. State intervention ensures equitable access to essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure.
- Additionally, the government promotes welfare and social justice by focusing on poverty alleviation, employment generation, and income redistribution to foster inclusive growth.

CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAM 2024

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

PAPER-II

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN ADMINISTRATION

Q. "Ethics in Public services has been the main concern of Kautilya's Arthashastra." Examine the statement.

Ans: Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (4th century BCE) provides one of the earliest frameworks on governance, emphasising ethical conduct, accountability and public welfare. His ideas remain relevant in modern public administration. Some salient aspects in this context have been outlined here.

- **Corruption Control and Accountability:** Kautilya identified corruption as a major administrative challenge and advocated strict surveillance, audits and harsh punishments for corrupt officials.
- He compared corruption to a fish in water, which inevitably drinks some, underscoring the need for vigilance. At present, the *Prevention of Corruption Act (1988)* and *Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)* aim to curb corruption, reflecting Kautilya's principles.
- **Merit-Based Appointments:** Kautilya insisted on selecting officials based on competence rather than nepotism. He advised rigorous testing of candidates' honesty and capabilities before appointment. In contemporary times, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State Public Service Commissions (SPSCs) ensure meritocratic recruitment of civil servants.
- **Justice and Public Welfare:** He emphasised *Rajadharma* – the duty of rulers and administrators to ensure justice and economic stability through welfare policies. For example, the *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)* promotes employment security, aligning with Kautilya's welfare-oriented governance.
- **Transparency and Public Scrutiny:** Kautilya recommended secret audits and inspections to monitor officials, similar to modern transparency mechanisms. For example, the *Right to Information (RTI) Act (2005)* enhances government accountability.

Kautilya's insights on ethical governance remain relevant today, reinforcing the need for transparency, accountability and public welfare in administration.

Q. "The Mughal Administration was by nature centralised." Analyse.

Ans: The Mughal administration was highly centralised with the emperor as the supreme authority controlling all aspects of governance. While administrative functions were delegated to officials, ultimate power remained concentrated in the emperor's hands.

- **Absolute Authority of the Emperor:** The Mughal emperor was the head of the state, military and judiciary. He had the final say in policymaking, appointments and revenue matters. The bureaucracy functioned at his discretion. For example, Akbar's centralisation was evident in the *Mansabdari system*, where officers were directly appointed and paid by the emperor.
- **Bureaucratic Control and Central Supervision:** The empire was divided into Subahs (provinces), each headed by a *Subedar*, but their authority was subject to imperial oversight. Revenue collection and military recruitment were centrally monitored. For example, the *Diwan* in each province reported directly to the central finance ministry in Delhi, ensuring strong fiscal control.
- **Revenue Centralisation through the Zabti System:** The Mughal land revenue system, particularly Akbar's *Zabti* system, ensured standardised tax collection based on central directives. The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions detailed revenue assessments, showing imperial control over economic affairs.
- **Military and Judicial Centralisation:** The emperor controlled military appointments and law enforcement. The judiciary, including the chief Qazi, functioned under imperial command. For example, Aurangzeb's strict enforcement of laws demonstrated strong judicial centralisation.