



GS Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 6

Time Allowed: 1.5 Hour

Max Marks: 125

Name: A A K R I T I

Test Submission Date: 2/12/22

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Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. Question 1-5 10 marks each & Word Limit 150.
3. Question 6-10 15 marks each & Word Limit 250.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.

Q. No.	Marks	Q. No.	Marks
Q1		Q6	
Q2		Q7	
Q3		Q8	
Q4		Q9	
Q5		Q10	
Total Marks:		Evaluator Code:	



Que.1

While examining the utility of Citizen's Charter, identify various issues in its implementation. Suggest various measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters.

A Citizen Charter (CC) refers to a document of commitments made by a company regarding standard of service, which it provides. In case of government, its a commitment made to the citizens.

Utility

- ① Transparency: It provides citizens information about the services that are to be expected
- ② Accountability: It forms the basis of demanding answers in case of service deficiency.
- ③ Citizen centricity: It highlights a citizen-centric approach to administration.

Issues

- ① Lack of enforceability
- ② Lack of participation of employees in making commitments
- ③ It is often deliberately made less visible
- ④ The grievance redressal is often dysfunctional
- ⑤ It is not available in regional language

Suggestions

- ① Participatory approach should be adopted to solicit active adherence by employees.
- ② CC should be popularized and written in various languages
- ③ Sevottam model of service excellence should be adopted.
- ④ It must be regularly updated to reflect dynamism
CC is an important tool for good governance that must be used properly.

Que.2

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 which was enacted to ensure the transparency and accountability in Indian governance, has failed to do so. Discuss.

In the context of "anti-corruption" campaign, the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act 2013 was passed. The provisions of the act indicate intent for accountability & transparency in Indian governance.

Ensuring accountability & transparency

- ① It provides for an independent ombudsperson to investigate cases of corruption under Prevention of Corruption Act & otherwise
- ② It has jurisdiction over all public servants including Prime Minister but except armed forces officials & ~~and~~
- ③ The selection of Lokpal is through a bipartisan selection committee



- ④ It has powers of a civil court during investigation inquiry.
- ⑤ It has superintendence & control over officials of investigating agencies including CBI on cases referred to them.

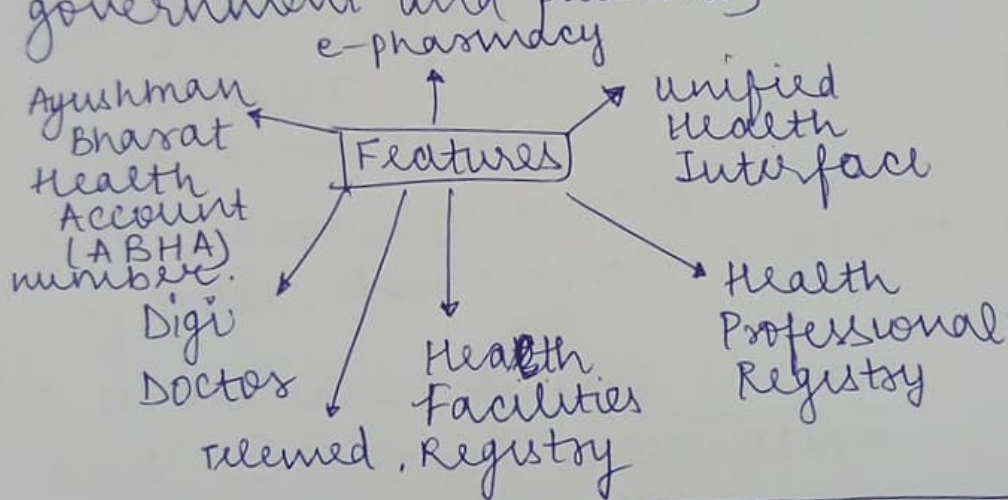
Failure

- ① Lack of political will
 - NO inquiry & prosecution wing set up
 - NO rules related to disclosure of assets by public officials notified
 - Till 2019, Lokpal & members not appointed
 - ② State-wise variation and trends towards dilution of powers with respect of to Lokayukta eg Kerala case 2022
 - ③ NO protection to whistleblowers
 - ④ Time - limit of 7 years to register case of corruption
- Thus, the act while well-intended has failed to meet its objectives warranting reforms.

Que.3

Examine how Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) would ensure Universal Health Coverage in India. Bring out the related concerns to the mission.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to create an integrated health ecosystem while minimizing gap between the stakeholders (doctors, hospitals, government and patients).



Universal Health Coverage via ABDM

- ① Bridge information asymmetry by providing especially the poor information on doctors & facilities
- ② It will increase the cases

- affordability of health services
- ③ It will ensure access to health-care even in remote areas.
 - ④ It will increase innovation and private sector involvement
 - ⑤ It will generate data for evidence based health policy-making

Issues

- ① High level of privacy concern in context of no private data protection law
- ② It is a voluntary programme → if states don't join → VHC not possible
- ③ It assumes digital literacy and universal digitization
- ④ Rising cyberattacks eg recently AIIMS Delhi lost health data (2022)
- ⑤ The consent aspect is less of a choice if VHC has to be achieved. Thus, while ABDM can support vision of VHC, the concerns must be addressed first.



Que. 4

How far do you agree that the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 can transform India into a global hub of knowledge and skill? Discuss various challenges in implementation of NEP, 2020.

National Education Policy 2020 was introduced to revolutionize the education sector and modernize it to suit India's reality, aims and ambitions

NEP 2020 can make India a global hub of knowledge & skills

① Academic Bank of Credit → multiple entry & exit to support employment and education both

② Introduction of vocational courses from 6th grade e.g. toy making → Toy Story of India

③ Holistic assessment of learning outcomes via PARAKH with emphasis on 360° development and concept clarity; focus on foundation literacy & numeracy

- ④ Facilitate use of regional language in education ~~via~~ learning in mother tongue atleast till class 5. → reduce language barrier
- ⑤ Gender parity aim to increase skills in women
- ⑥ Removing rigid distinction between technical & non-technical fields to promote creation of ethical technocrats

Challenges

- ① Funding: 6% GDP on education will be difficult in context of economic slowdown
- ② Presence of nearly 3.22 crore out of school children.
- ③ The teacher's pool in India is not fully capable to implement it
- ④ Covid 19 and future such challenges will serve as disruption causing delays

NEP 2020 does have potential to make India a knowledge based economy but challenges should be overcome.



Que.5

Pressure groups are known to strengthen the democratic fabric of a nation, though there are chances it can hinder the nation's democratic functioning. Elaborate.

Pressure groups refer to those groups that put pressure on the government to fulfil their interests. They play an essential role in a democratic nation

Strengthening democratic fabric

① upholding accountability :
pressure groups hold governments accountable for its decisions eg
Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan → RTI Act 2005

② Important legislations :
eg. The Lokpal & Lokayukta act 2013
was due to anti-corruption movement

③ Welfare of the marginalized :
eg. SEWA forced government to bring in women-friendly laws;
BII Pressing for criminalising marital rape.

④ Public participation : pressure groups actively participate in

decision-making process → good governance

- ⑤ Awareness generation: pressure groups organize campaigns, protests, etc raising awareness like on domestic violence, environmental protection etc.

Hindering democratic functioning

- ① security challenges eg. ULFA, JKLF etc can stir internal security challenges.
- ② Power without responsibility. pressure groups have power to influence but are not accountable to those who are not represented eg. rich people pressure groups.
- ③ Narrow interests: eg. green peace represents environmental concern without taking account for development of a region's people.
- ④ Civil disobedience eg. JNU union, ABVP clash with the police. Pressure groups, while being important for democracy, can even hinder it.



Que. 6

Considering new emerging challenges, evaluate the need for civil services reforms in India. Suggest required civil service reforms, while highlighting various constraints to civil service reforms in India.

civil services forms the backbone of Indian administration. Given the immense importance and rising new challenges there is a need to reform

Need to reform civil services

- ① Emphasis on Public-Private Partnerships requires civil servants to possess relevant skills for various types of partnerships
- ② Industrial Revolution 4.0 will change the means of governance so the civil servants must be equipped to carry out this new means.
- ③ With rising use of social media for accountability, civil servants must be equipped to use such platforms responsibly

Suggested Reforms as per NITI Aayog India@75 document:

- ① Replace Annual Confidential Report with Multistakeholder Feedback
- ② Shift from "rule to role" via a Framework of Activities, Roles & competencies linked to a post
- ③ Strengthen avenues of online training and evaluation; and mid-career testing.
- ④ Train for sustainable management of urban areas, which is rapidly expanding
- ⑤ Create a central pool of talent matching job description & competencies
- ⑥ SPARROW Template for a smart appraisal and records keeping
- ⑦ Train for citizen centricity via use of ICT; build capacity of training institutes



- ⑤ continuous evaluation of accountability tools for civil servants

Challenges

- ① Resistance to any new changes.
- ② opposition to lateral entry
- ③ Many elderly civil servants are not comfortable with technology
- ④ Mismatch between the position demand and skill set.
- ⑤ Bureaucratic blockage over any action to increase accountability

keeping the need of reforms in mind, Mission Karmayogi has been introduced. It envisions a "FIT FOR FUTURE" Bureaucracy via capacity building.

Quest 7

Enlist the barriers to e-governance in India. Discuss the various reasons for the success of m-governance as a tool of good governance in recent years. (15m).

e-Governance refers to the use of technology in the governance of people and institutions. In the recent years, much emphasis is being given to increase the coverage and areas in for which e-governance is used. But, there are some barriers

Barriers

① Technology

- Lack of adequate infrastructure for internet connectivity
- Lack of ~~at~~ digital literacy
- complexity of technology use.

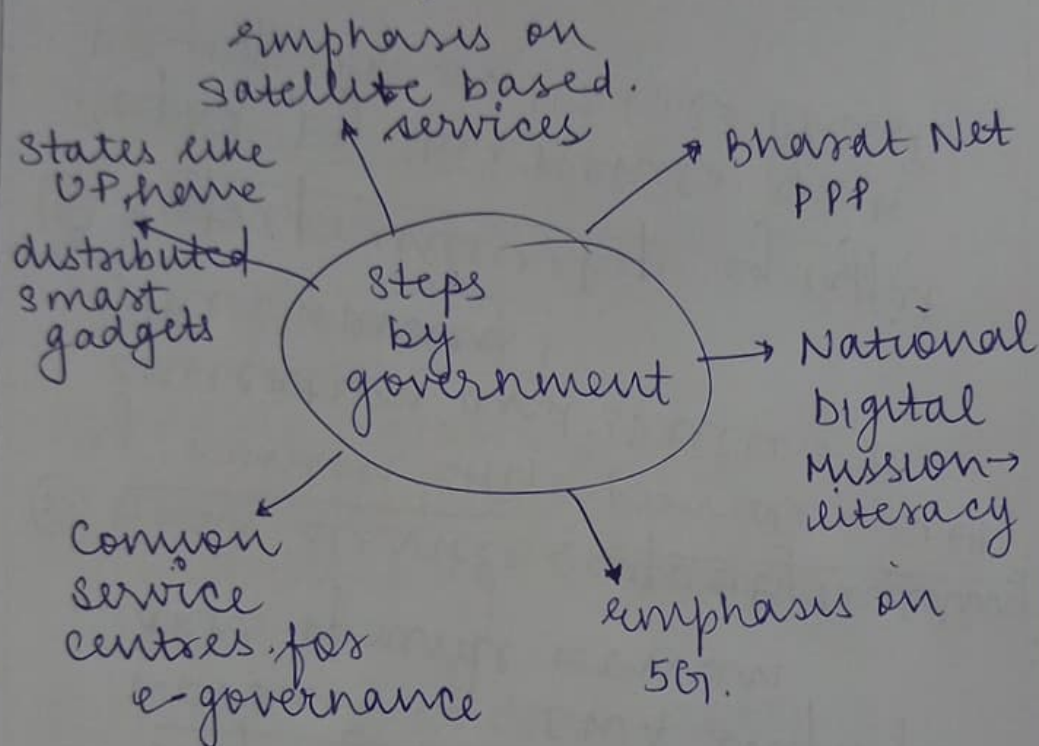
② Economic

- e-governance requires purchase of smart phones,

which are expensive for a vast population.

③ social

→ Most of e-governance services are in English



m-governance → governance via mobile phones.

Reasons for success

- ① Approximate universal use of mobile phones.
- ② No dependence on internet

- ③ No need for specific skills
- ④ SMS given in many languages
- ⑤ No need to purchase expensive smart phones.

Way forward

- ① There is a need to ensure last mile connectivity for internet services
 - ② Bridge infrastructure gap
 - ③ Digital literacy drive & help kiosks in villages e.g. Kerala Digital gram initiative
 - ④ Providing smart phones at subsidized rates
 - ⑤ Regional language → basis of services
- e-governance will gradually become a primary means for governance services. To ensure inclusivity and equity, the challenges must be overcome. The success of m-governance should be used to take insights.

Que. 8

Examine the role of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in poverty alleviation and women empowerment? Discuss various challenges faced by SHGs in their functioning.

Self help groups (SHGs) are small groups of people that have a similar socio-economic background who come together to pool resources to achieve a common goal.

Role in poverty alleviation

- ① employment & income security
eg. Kudatresha employs 4.4 million
- ② Nutritional & food security
eg. grain & Roti banks give food to the poor
- ③ Asset creation in rural areas
eg. Farmer SHGs get loan for post harvest infrastructure
- ④ Basic services eg. Bank Sakshis,



MAVIM- Maharashtra give banking & financial services

Role in women empowerment

① Economic empowerment

→ getting microfinance under SHG-bank linkage.

→ employment for rural women eg SEWA employs lakhs of rural women

② Basic services & capacity building eg women SHGs provide health, education and skilling to other women

③ Entrepreneurship: eg rajat rapad by Shri Mahila Yojna Udyog; Annon Mahila Chesi

Challenges

① Illiteracy: 30% women in rural India are illiterate



- ② Lack of funding - resistance to invest from pocket & suboptimal government funding
- ③ Social → Patriarchy restricts women's growth under SHGs
- ④ Lack of stability
- ⑤ Poor training for professional marketing & planning

Way forward

- ① Private sector via corporate social responsibility can give mentorship eg. BAJAJ's grampran-
-sur
 - ② Provide funds & creating platform to raise funds eg SHG exchange can be created
 - ③ Spreading awareness related to benefits of SHG & government support
- SHGs can help India achieve the SDGs #1, #2, #5 etc., eventually promoting an inclusive growth.



Que.9

India and Russia must ensure their time-tested relationship is not strained by changed geo political reality in the present times.

Discuss (215m)

India & Russia relations have a long history of supporting each other. The India-Russia treaty of friendship, peace & cooperation forms the bedrock of this relation.

changing geopolitical scenario → challenges to the relation

- ① Russia-Ukraine conflict & simultaneous pressure from the west.
- ② growing Russia-China bonhomie in context of Chinese aggression on the border.
- ③ India's tilt towards the west under the Indo-Pacific

construct

- ④ Russia's opposition to the Indo-Pacific construct.

Why India should ensure

- ① 49% defence imports from Russia
- ② Russia is an important player in Arctic & Russia Far East, which are economically & strategically important.
- ③ US has given F-16 to Pakistan indicating US stance with respect to South Asia
- ④ Russia is important to ensure multipolarity in Indo-Pacific
- ⑤ Russia needed to pressurize China

Why Russia should ensure

- ① India is an important player in the Indo-Pacific, which is strategically & economically important.



③ The Ruble-Rupee mechanism has shown India's independence of foreign policy. Same in case of \$-400.

④ India can serve as a potential means to bridge gap with the west

Expanding cooperation

- ① space
- ② Digital technology
- ③ Joint resource exploration
- ④ Investment in ASEAN

Therefore, India-Russia partnership is time tested & must remain so in future for the benefit of both sides.

Q.10

'With the new opportunities, India should also prepare for the risks the new Quad (West Asia) will offer'. In light of this statement discuss the significance and challenges of New Quadrilateral Economic forum for India.

The I2V2 (India, Israel, USA & UAE) renamed from New Quadrilateral economic framework is being called the new QVAD of West Asia. This grouping while opening opportunities has also created challenges, and India must be careful.

Significance of new QVAD

- ① It has done away with the need to balance Israel & the Arab world world. to some extent.
- ② It will enhance the security cooperation in West Asia → important for India's regional security.



- ③ It will help India acquire Israel defence technology prowess and biotechnology.
- ④ West Asia is important for Indian diaspora eg UAE → 30% population is Indians
- ⑤ Increase India's market access to the west ~~as well as~~

Challenges

- ① The UAE doesn't uniformly speak for the Arab world; Saudi Arabia has shown aversion to this new OOAD.
- ② It might affect India Iran relations, which have already been affected due to China's expanded presence.
- ③ US might dominate India's relation in West Asia and.

pursue primarily its self-interest

The I2V2 grouping seeks to engage in areas of mutual interest i.e. infrastructure, food security, defence, trade etc. It has opened gates for never possibilities but India should be wary of these challenges.

