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ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	KASTURI PANDA
Email Id.	
Mobile No.	
Roll No.	1910058742
Date:	17/11

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

Q.No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
Q.1		
Q.2		
Total Marks:		
Remarks:		

INSTRUCTION

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).

2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has TWO topics printed in English and Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part.

3. One question in each part is compulsory.

4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.

6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.

7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Start Time| 5 PM	End Time| 8PM
Mode Of Examination :	Online ✓ Offline
ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

2nd Floor, IAPL House, #19, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi – 110005

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MARKING SCHEME

Parameter/Criteria	Aspects Considered	Total Marks	Essay 1	Essay 2
Basic Format	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/Facts/Interpretation/Analysis	25		
Organisation	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
Language Skills	Punctuation/Grammar/Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
Examiner's Discretion	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

Parameters	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

Very Good	Good	Average
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

—

SECTION/भाग - A

1. Education is the key to create a truly inclusive society.

   शिक्षा स्वयं में समावेशी समाज के निर्माण की कुंजी है।

2. E-governance: A key to Good Governance in India.

   ई-गायनेंस: भारत में सुशासन की कुंजी के रूप में।

Punjimali Dei is a resident of Nuapara
district in Odisha. She lives with her
daughter who used to work as a house-help
at residence of a local elite but lost
the employment due to COVID19 lockdown
announcement. Fortunately, the government
within its Atmanirbhar Package decided to
help such families via ₹500 Direct Benefit
transfer to women Jan Dhan account holders.
Now, Dei and her daughter are able to
manage her medicines and three meals per day.

The above example shows how
E-governance using the holy JAM (Jan
Dhan Aadhar) Trinity has come as a

saviour to millions of Indians who continue to succumb the ill effects of pandemic.

E-governance, primarily, includes the use of Information and communication Technology (ICT) to facilitate public service delivery. Practically it is a much wider concept which is a medium to implement Good Governance.

The world Bank defines good governance as having eight prominent features while dealing with people, policies and procedures — Transparency, Accountability, Inclusivity, Efficient, Effective, Equitable, Responsive, consensus-oriented and adheres to Rule of Law. But this requires answer to a question

How E-Governance leads to Good Governance?

Governance functions at multiple levels, core of it lie the citizens. The

current most subtle form is in the JAM-DBT. Further, digitelization has facelitated ease of living to citizens. E-records have taken over manual birth, death, income, license etc. Centificates. Post retirement, older people no longer have to get into hussle of pillar to post for pension, thanks to Jeevan Praman which can be authenticated at the luxury of home. Through websites like data.gov.in and mygov.in, Indian democracy has become more participatory than ever. Online grivence mechanisms have smoothened the process of accessibility to justice. Moreover, recently E-courts have been taking place via videoconferencing

Next, one periphery of goovernance is the civil society. India has around 3.2 million registered NGOs. Hassle free registration process on NITI Aayog's DARAN portal on one hand after Shivakumar

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Committee's recommendation and ease of filing returns, balance sheets, incomes and taxes on the other hand, has given more time at disposal towards welfare activities. Recently, government has also introduced faceless procedure for investigation by CBDT and CBIC, which will go a long way to reduce targetting, corruption and nepotism.

Corruption was said to more manifest at the level of local bodies. Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban Local Governments are the nearest source of service to the people. 14th and 15th Finance Commissions have hence recommended greater devolution to them for their digitisation. Tools like Swamitva and PRIASOFt for land records digitalisation and auditing have been introduced. Further, since local bodies have been forerunners in women empowerment by reservation to female candidates, the government

has been now ~~increasing~~ encouraging use of social media like whatsapp group among women sarpanches to share best practices which serve two-fold objective.

In present day, social media has became the sharpest tool towards social change by E-governance. PM modi's campaigns like #SelfieWithDaughter, #vocalforlocal has seen tremendous public participation. Today, political parties interact with supporters more via Twitter than on ground. Subsequently, similar avenues of E-governance has facilitated a base for international good governance. Virtual Climate summits, #Fridays for future can be said to be the real campaign for climate change. It addresses the problem by serving as an example to reducing over consumption of fuel and resources in long travels.

On the other side of the coin, international governance is all about peace, trust and cooperation. E-governance provides for international information exchange (for example Switzerland sharing banking information about Indians to the Indian government), intelligence sharing (like sharing of nuclear sight info with Pakistan) and technology transfers to combat climate change or even terrorism.

Subsequently, the most important periphery of good governance points to the government itself. E-governance caters to five important aspects – cooperative federalism, implementation, austerity, transparency and last but not the least evaluating all the aspects.

In light of complex nature of multi-party politics in India, policies require indispensible consensus of the states. By the PRAGATI model, there is three stage consultation

between Prime Minister's Office, Ministries and state Chief secretaries. It gives the much need <u>coordination</u> of departments and levels of government to minimize <u>ambiguity</u> of citizens, who stand at the receiving end.

Most schemes in India today occur through <u>aadhar</u>, <u>PAN</u> or some <u>identity card</u> like <u>Voter ID</u> all of which are now available online. Benefits are reduction of <u>false beneficiaries</u>, removal of <u>inclusion-exclusion error</u> and even <u>citizen</u> side <u>connivance</u> like <u>gramsamvad</u> for <u>MGNREGA</u>. <u>ePos devices</u>, <u>GPS tagging</u> and <u>geo tracking</u> are good initiatives that can improve the condition of <u>public distribution system</u> in India. Further, the <u>one Nation one Ration card</u> which aims <u>interportability</u> of ration cards will go a long way in reducing difficulties of <u>migrant</u> population in accessing <u>fair price shops</u> at any corner of the country.

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Above e-governance channels as a latent benefit, reduce expenses and can help in achieving fiscal prudence to reduce deficit. Similarly, evaluation and online monitoring like NITI Aayog's dashboards for school education, farmers friendly index and even good governance index act as a self reinforcing cycle in the process of e-governance of India. Thus, a perpetuation mechanism of human development, political-economic-social empowerment of citizens and value addition in public service delivery results out of good governance.

However, this picture is rather one-sided. Punjimati Dei, although now seems happier, has a darker history. Her receiving of the 500 DBT was not easy. The local bank refused to pay without her physical presence. Left with other option Dei's daughter had to carry her 100 years old mother on a cot for over 15 kms, only then they did get the money.

The incident throws light on rather grim picture of loopholes that hinder JAM penetration in India. And the question is

What are these obstacles not letting E-governance to be Good Governance in India?

The first and foremost being lack of Objective criteria to evaluate it. Most guidelines for E-governance are prescriptive in nature without incentives towards adherence and and penalties toward non-adherences. Most departments remain partisan, there is lack of coordination and training modules remain hangover of the colonial rule.

Apathetic attitude at mid-managerial levels, lack of leadership and lack of motivation to modernise with changing technologies remains a challenge. ICT as any new method mostly comes with high capital funds. Lack of funds leads to incomplete infrastructure needed to implement good governance. For example, despite

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private-public partnership with Infosys to upgra... GSTN portal, frequent crashes, low data space and irregular payment of tax credit hinder its efficient implementation.

Similarly, in local bodies like Panchayats which are still driven by ascriptive values like Khap, caste associations, atrocities of Dalit, Sarpanch pati, patriarchy etc. limit their empowerment. As a result, only 20% of panchayats today possess a functional computer.

The above issues are complementary to ignorance, lack of awareness and illiteracy of citizens. While social media is praised to citizens involvement into policy making, it also remains a major cause of rise in personality cult in politics. Ground workers, as a result, are lesser involved with service delivery which leads to centralised nature of governance.

While participatory governance increased,

at the same time there is also an well observed lowering of civic sense in the civil society. Due to lower quality of public service, citizens today consider it to be a big matter of right to disobey rules, non-comply with laws and evade taxes. So,

How to solve the issues?

Capacity building, training, awareness generation remains the urgent need to mend the loopholes. Private sector participation can lead to monetary investment that will increase funds and bring in best-practices from over the world. Attracting talent, facilitating ease of getting credit and faster enforcing of contracts by impeding smooth justice delivery are some of the recommendations of Economic surveys.

2nd ARC recommendations include making processes as simple as possible and

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decreasing the sources of <u>discretion</u> will lead to greater efficiency in G2C, G2B and B2B services. One thing that has to be taken to notice while dealing with <u>e-mechanisms</u> is the increasing channels of <u>breach of data</u> like <u>hacking</u>, trojan horses and <u>cyber attacks</u>.

E.g. <u>wannacry</u>. Especially critical infrastructures like <u>nuclear</u> programmes have to be ensured <u>security</u>. E-Governance must not be a mechanism of <u>threatening sovereignity</u> of India. A similar <u>rhetoric</u> was mentioned by India at <u>G20</u> platform about risks of <u>data free flow with trust</u>.

Trust, as per CEA K. Subramanian, needs to treated as a <u>public good</u> that should increase with <u>greater use</u>. Equitable and <u>justice</u> public service delivery is a key to <u>increasing trust</u> in society. This is where E-Governance plays its role. It is a <u>double edge sword</u>. There is <u>no panacea</u> in online

governance as seen in case of Punjimati Dev. Non does it make it that un-implementable of there is <u>proper will</u> of the government. E-Governance must work on the principle of "<u>Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas</u>". i.e. <u>inclusivity</u> and not a guide only to the educated elite in the government. It holds the key to unlock <u>New India @ 2022</u>., Good governance is not <u>inherent</u> in it, but with the <u>right approach</u>, it can be made a part of it.

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SECTION/भाग - B

1. It's easy to stand with the crowd. It takes courage to stand alone.

"सामूहिक विचारधारा का हिस्सा होना आसान है परन्तु अकेले अपना मत रखना कठिन है।"

2. Man is a complex being: he makes deserts bloom - and lakes die.

"मनुष्य जटिलताओं का मिश्रण है; जो अपनी झीलों को नष्ट कर रहा है और रेगिस्तानों को हरा-भरा।"

Man is a social animal blessed with an unique capacity to think. What differentiates us from other animals is our ability to make choices. While indeed this ability is nurtured in the society we grow, there is also an indispensable side of human existance that must not be ignored. It is our independent judgement in taking stands. In a situation of chaos and difficulty, man has a natural tendency to lean towards generally taken paths. But as said by Robert Frost, "I took the road not taken, and that has made all

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the difference". However, he even addressed that it was not easy and "the-not-taken-road" takes a lot of courage to travel. Nevertheless, there are multiple evidences of human possessing it to stand alone.

In Religion

Hindu texts teach of "Nishkama karma" that guide us to do the right thing despite the circumstances and results. To illustrate when Arjuna was scared of being called by the world as murdering his brothers, it was lord Krishna who homself advised him to go ahead without bothering what the world says because it was necessary to make the world a better place.

Similarly, all major religions like Buddhism, Jainism and Sufi tradition in Islam include asceticism which requires renunciation of the world to achieve right knowledge and

spiritual attainment.

Conversely, the epic Mahabharata also mentioned that albeit it was easy for the men in Hastinapur court to remain silent about Draupadi's dishonor, it ultimately resulted in the great battle.

At Family

Battles at level of family and home conflicts are very normal things. But parents today, increasingly socialise children into the herd mentality of taking up engineering or a medical course for career. This not only ~~redu~~ increases the generation gap, but also makes children deviant, indulging in delinquency, drug abuse and alcoholism.

At the same time, deviance by not bowing to societal pressure have led to new contemporary trends like cohabitation/ love-in relationship, single parents, gay

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couples etc. This, in a way has led to reduction of anomie in society despite the numerous hurdles they go through inorder to secure individual rights.

In Indian society

Democratic rights and universal adult suffrage became the basis of our nation building process since attainment of independence in 1947. This was not a normal trend back then. Even most developed nations like USA and east asian tiger economies like South Korea did not grant voting rights to women, minorities etc. at the beginning. Being criticised as a model that is bound to fail in poverty stricken 40% India, our election commission decided to take the leap. Result — India plans to celebrate as a successful democracy of 75 years in 2022 along with being a scientifically advanced nation who achieved its Mars

Orbiter Mission being the first country to succeed in the first attempt.

On the other side of the coin, democracy is indeed the rule of majority. Succumbing to the vote bank pressures, the government keeps shying away from greater budget in pro-minority policies. Economic survey has mentioned how it has hurt the economy. Pro-crony policies like granting contracts to big funders, appeasement to own caste and community remain hurdles which do not let communalism, secessionism and evils of caste system like untouchability to die. Dowry deaths and honour killings still remain rampant in North India.

At the International arena

Deaths during the two world wars and subsequently during proxy wars in cold war era remain the highest and worst wiping out of population in human history.

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Following the trend of groupism and jingoistic nationalism, countries decided to take sides because that was regarded as the "easiest" way to establish their superiority.

However, countries like India, egypt etc. decided to remain neutral and took an unconventional way out via the Non-Alligned Movement. As a result, India continues to be a good friend of most other nations and known in the international arena as a peace loving harmonious nation built on trust.

While some nations are busy in the blind race of arms and nuclear armament, Iceland decided to not have its own military force, invest instead invested that budget in the health sector. Ofcourse this was not smooth, and sporadic disturbances did occur due to absence of formal armed troops but Iceland is now ranked as the one of the forerunners in Human Development Index.

In workplace

In environment sector

Human development does not occur independent of the milieu of nature. The fourth assessment report of IUCN scientists pointed out how pollution oriented activities like unsustainable agriculture, unscientific development and deforestation for the pursuit of urbanisation has harmed nature. In the era of industrialisation, such practices had became the norm. NITI Aayog reports suggest that India produces around 62 metric tonnes of waste per day.

However, the time is ripe for finding unconventional solutions. Countries joined hands for the Montreal protocol, which became an uphill task owing to the absence of alternate refrigerant technologies that do not deplete the ozone layer. Despite the challenges, efforts brought fruits as now ozone hole has started healing.

Back in India, a women's group in the Uttarakhand hugged the trees forcing the forest officials to live. Thus rose the chipko movement of sacrifices those women and a new concept of ecofeminism came up that taught the world of environmental values. Such instances proved the courage to do an unusual task. But what can we learn at a more subtle individual level?

(learning from the great).

It took a lot of courage to stand for her rights and pursue education in a war torn country that also discourages women education for Malala Yousafzai. She decided to move forward against the crowd and lead as an example to make a difference.

Martin Luther King led the movement against apartheid in South Africa. But his fight was not a general one. Contrary to the mob mentality of hating the sinner, he

was clear of his ideology that his struggle was not against racists but against the racial view which treats Blacks as inferior. When elected to power, he had the conviction to even include the members of previous white regime.

A theory similar to white supremacy that is based on biases and superstitious values was the ~~helioce~~ geocentric theory. But to the anguish of orthodox church, ~~he~~ copernicus took a scientific stand and released his works which provided insights to the heliocentric theory.

Similarly, when India was entering into the phase of colonial rule, it was divided on caste, class and religious lines. Raja Rammohan Roy put the foundation of Indian renaissance by his campaign against sati and evils of Indian society. Further his book, "Precepts of Jesus" and Swami Vivekanada's advocacy to equality of all religions led

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the country towards a basis of underlined unified nationalism.

Modern nationalism was then shaped by Mahatma Gandhi on the lines of truth and non-violence. Defying the infalliability of elitist moderate and extremist struggles, he guided the nations towards mass mobilisation. Despite opposition from the then leaders like Surendranath Banerjee and Annie Besant, he inadvertently vowed for satyagraha. By such efforts he came to known as the father of the nation.

No doubt the great men like Gandhiji took the courage to stand alone despite its uneasiness. But yet there does exist a view of what about taking the path of crowd when its necessary. There is no watertight rule to take the difficult path. Pareto mentions about the foxes among elites who use their cunnigness and ability to manage difficult situations without

pulling themselves into the trouble of difficult. Chandragupta Maurya was forced by Chanakya to take his enemy's daughter as his wife because it was necessary to get the confidence of masses who still believed in the power of Nandas. Power exercised by majority in democracy does lift masses out of their destituting conditions even if it is criticised to opress minority. The western nations have criticised emerging economies of South Asia like India of increasingly depending on power from ~~non~~ fossil sources like coal. But owing lack of capital and technology, it would not be feasible to instantly turn to innovative non fossil sources.

Such examples prove that there is no accepted rule of taking an individualistic or collectivistic stand. More often that not people and societies wisely act acsonding to the prevailing circumstances.

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On a concluding note

Unique as well as mass actions can be harbringers of change and development. Standing with the crowdly mostly seems easier but that does not make it any less desirable. Humans are guided by taking rational decisions to prevailing situations. When the going gets tough, it does become necessary for us to rise against what generally happens in society. This is when great individuals and great ideas gain ground. Yet some may contend that there is no essence to take any stands. Nature is often harsh and we are doomed to despair despite what stand we take. Such an iduology prevailed among the Ajivikas and Ajnanas during 4ᵗʰ-6ᵗʰ century BC India. In contemporary society, we instead cannot put an blind eye and are bound to take

stands. The reality is multi-faceted. Reducing it only one of the possibilities does not do justice to the diverse yet united world.

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(Don't write anything in this Ar

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Parapgraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading