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ForumIAS

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anything in this Area)

GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : 17.....

online

Name

Email ID.

Roll No.

Mobile No.

Date

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
Overall Grade/Score	

This Generic QCA booklet can be used to attempt all GS Advanced Program Tests.

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Forum IAS

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Start Writing Here

Q.1) Has digital illiteracy in rural areas couple with lack of Info & ICT access hindered socio eco dev? Examine.

Ans With 70% Rural Population (census 2011) being poverty hungry - ICT can help build Resilience though challenges remain.

Digital illiteracy remains in rural areas with less than 50%. Internet Penetration, language barrier, low usage of gadgets like Phone, women discrimination.

ICT accessibility in rural areas is low due to high costs, poor IT infra like 4G towers.

Digital Causes

Digital illiteracy

Socio economic hindrance

→ Hinders Direct Benefit Transfers

- (eg) farmers having technical know
know can avail PMKISAN better
- Hinders online education initiatives
(eg) Pravara.
- ② Low Accessibility to ICT.
- Govt. tech enabled solution fail
(eg) Pashan tracker need ICT
- Students suffer as during Covid
lack of smartphones led to drop
out (ASER Report)
- Farmers suffer - cannot realise
better prices at e-NAM.

However, efforts done by govt. to
address → Digital Literacy

- ① Remov Digital Literacy
- (eg) PMUDISHA - aims to spread it.
- ② Remov ICT unaccessibility
- (eg) Bharat Net, phone laptop to schools → UP

Spent from above Data Protection
law ~~on~~ on GDPR,
use of local languages on electronic
media needed.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.2) The amendments to RTI Act will have impact on autonomy & Enchp. of Info Comm. Orgs.

Ans Agitation by MKSS (Rajasthan) led to RTI Act 2005 for Right to Information (191(a)) - further got amended in 2019.

Amendments to RTI

- Centre decides salaries and condition of service of Information Commissioners at centre and state levels.
- Tenure of (ICs) decided by centre.

It will impact autonomy of Information Commissioners as →

① Determination of salaries, tenure will make them "subservient to Centre".

② It will be federal issue too

as state IC power will be encroached.

① Financial autonomy is key to Accountability as office of CAG ~~proves~~

② 'Fear of losing Job' will matter more to ICs.

③ However it may not hurt their autonomy as →

④ CEC is constitutional Body and his salary, tenure cannot be equated with ICs.

⑤ Censorial decision will prevent politicisation by states.

⑥ CIC can't be equated with EC as their orders challenged before HC.

Information key to enjoying article 19 [Roowal case] ∴ Independence of ICs be upheld, Public Information office set up in states [2nd ARC].

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.3) Explain how social audit creates Positive Impact on Governance.

my Mizhalaya being first state to mandate social audit which is examination of scheme by peoples involvement.

Govt + People = Social audit
↓
ground Realities

It creates Positive Impact on Governance as →

① Deters grafts
eg) MGNREGA social Audit
→ verify receipts and expenditures.

② Empowers Citizens
→ promoting multistakeholder approach in Governance

⑧ Identification of beneficiaries
 (eg) gram panchayats in UP for
 mid day meal scheme helps
 identify better than social audits

⑨ Promotes Network governance
 whereby all come together to
 work

Shortcomings

- ① social audit units unconstitutional.
- ② lack of awareness among citizens.
- ③ lack of legal mandate
 they are not enforceable by
 law.

social audits be extended to
 all departments as I-MESA
 of MOSTT emissions for good
 governance.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.4)

Identify the limitations & suggest measures for greater effectiveness of Citizen Charter.

Inspired by Tony Blair UK govt Citizen charter defines the services to be provided to the citizens.



Limitations

- ① Lofty goals
too unrealistic goals are set.
- ② Ill trained officials
they don't know about methods to implement.

- ⑦ No legal force
cannot be legally enforced
- ⑧ Transfer of officials
this disrupts functioning of
offices.
- ⑨ one size fits all approach
different organisations have
different demands.

Measures for effectiveness

- ⑩ as second ARC suggests -
 - i) Training to officials.
 - ii) Right attitude formation
- ⑪ customised approach
- ⑫ citizen awareness for using
it.
- ⑬ Legal Backing for enforceability.
- ⑭ like Delhi Transport Corporation
Citizen charter - others can make
for "Citizen Centricity".

Overall Grading (✓)

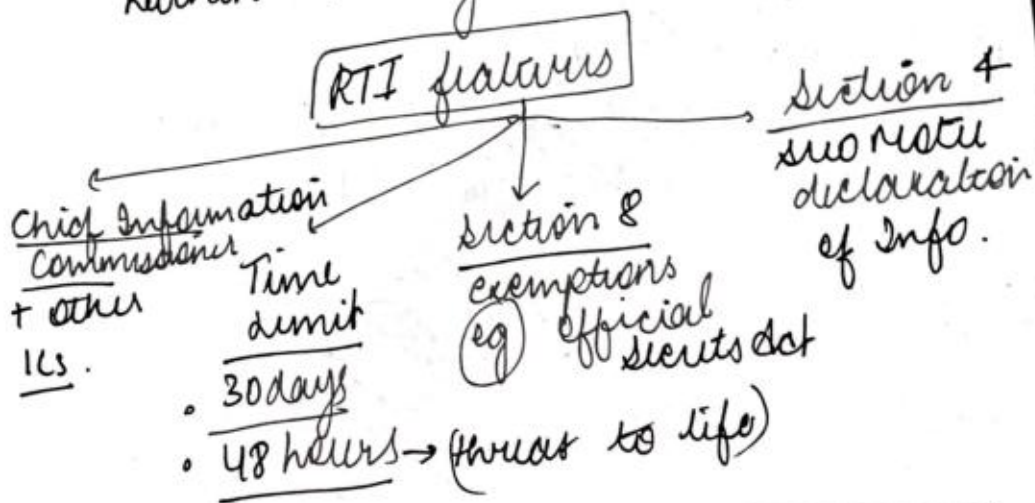
Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.5)

RTI Act is a Requisite for very exercise of democracy which signals march from secrecy to transparency. Comment

Ans.

Campaign by MKSS in Rajasthan led to Right to Information Act 2005 which conferred information from public office to citizens within 30 days.

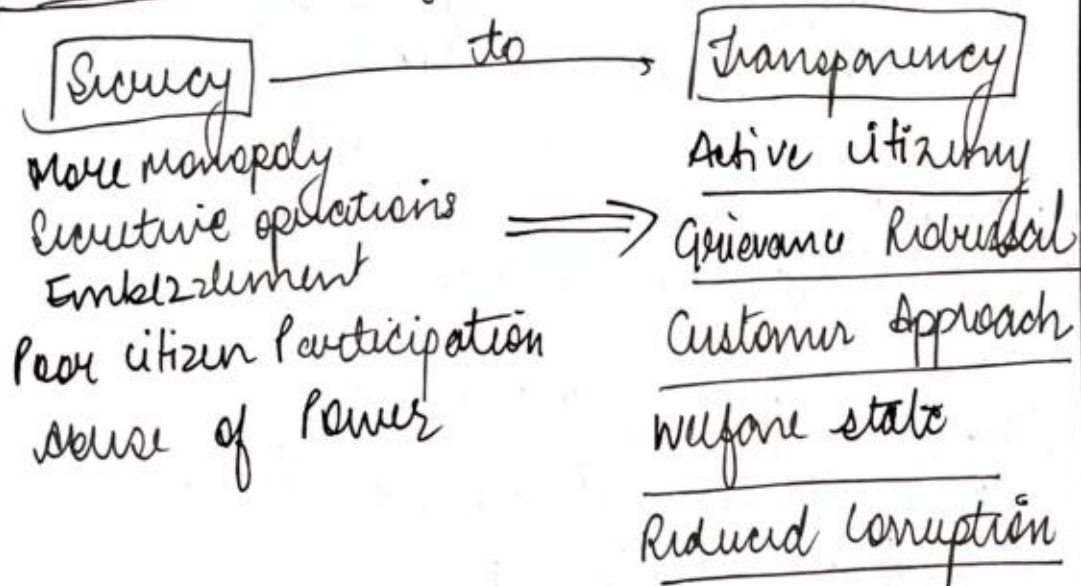


RTI Act is Requisite for very exercise of democracy as →

- ① Ensure good governance
- ② (eg) holds government responsible for its actions.

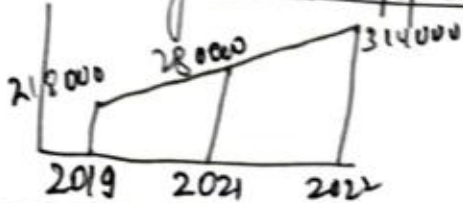
- ① widens scope of Article 19 whereby citizens need information to free express.
- ② Ensure Transparency
(eg) RTI exposed Vyapam scam
- ③ check on maladministration
RTI = accountability - monopoly = $\downarrow$ corruption
Rebut Kizgand.
- ④ Policy Assessment
(eg) RTI Revealed $\rightarrow$ 90% Nishkaya funds untitled in MH.

RTI $\rightarrow$ Paradigm shift



However some flaws in RTI hinders its Role in Democracy as →

① Pending RTI applications



by Satish Mehta
Sangathan

② Huge Delays

eg 388 days to dispose Mas.

③ Lack of Penalising

thereby 'Pistol without Bullet'

④ 2019 Amendment

Centre's dominance in law.

⑤ misuse of Section 8

eg in name of National security.

As Second ARC mentions RTI is
the 'Master key of governance', thereby
pending cases be disposed. Public
Record office set up in every state.

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.6)

Citizens charter is response to quest for solving problems which citizens encounter day in day out. Identify shortcomings and suggest reforms.

Ans

Inspired by UK's Tony Blair govt. Citizens charter is a set of commitments organisation makes to deliver to its clients.

model citizen charter →

VISION & MISSION
<u>SERVICES PROVIDED</u> <u>time limit</u>
<u>GRIEVANCE Redressal</u> • contact no.
FEEDBACK..

Problems faced by citizens	Help by citizen charter
② confusion over services provided.	It clearly outlines services provided.

②	Time was unlimited with no clarity. (eg) Earlier in MC, no clarity for clearance of files.	It clearly mentions when to expect service delivery.
③	Quality of service was compromised	Good services provided.
④	No mention of person to be contacted for grievance	Mentions contact number of officials.
⑤	Citizens cannot give feedback for improvement.	Citizens feedback valued and incorporated (eg) Delhi Transport Corporation Citizen Charter is one of the best.

Shortcomings of Citizen Charter

Second ARC mentions as →

- ① All trained officials who cannot fulfill goals.
- ② Lofty promises made which cannot be fulfilled.

- ① Problem of attitude
officials do not treat as their duty.
- ② One size fits all approach
(eg) same document for MC and hospital
- ③ Un timed transfer of officials
it breaks the continuity of process.

Reforms

- Customised approach
different charter as per need.
- Practical possible promises
rather illogical.
- Statutory backing
to make it enforceable.
- Training to officials
for smooth functioning.

As Law Commission suggested citizen charter be publicised to generate citizen awareness, must empower citizens by right approach.

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Q7) Analyse how Citizens charter, RTI & Social Audit increase acc & probity in governance with examples.

Accountability that is holding answerable for action (Remick & Sobnick), Probity meaning ethical governance can be achieved by various tools like



They can lead to →

① RTI

govt. remains on toes as information is available to public by RTI

Probity
transparency leads to ethics, honesty.

(eg) RTI in Vygam scam led govt. to answer its <u>job allocation policy</u>.	(eg) This RTI in Vygam acted as <u>deterrence</u> against future scams
(2) <u>Social audit</u> Secs It leads to verification between govt. claims & reality. (eg) Social Audit in MGNREGA made govt. answerable for transfers.	The social audit in MGNREGA ensure probity by preventing corruption by <u>"collusion"</u>.
(3) <u>Citizen Charter</u> The organisation is morally bound to deliver services (eg) Delhi Transport Corporation is answerable to citizens for bad ticketing services etc.	It ensured probity by reducing <u>information asymmetry</u> - thereby eliminating corruption by <u>middlemen</u>.

challenges remain to accountability and Proximity →

① RTI: 3,14,000 pending Pleas (Satark Nagrik Sangathan) creates survey and Riddapism, breeds corruption.

② Social audit

The Social audit unit lacks expertise and non functional in many areas like Bihar. Thereby poor citizen participation

③ Citizen charter

So second ARC mentions they are not present in every organisation. This creates hurdle to better services.

For good governance - RTI be pleases be fastened citizen charter made legal Social audit on lines on I-Mt SA by MOSTE whereby all schemes of a dept. has social audit.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9