

MAINS 2016

GS – Paper 2 Analysis

Polity topics:

Article 370 and 69th Constitutional Amendment Act were quite current affairs based (themes were simple but questions required in-depth knowledge).

'Republic' and 'Indian Party System' were simple questions though having a philosophical connotation.

Coelho case, Government of India Act 1935 and Article 149 were factual questions requiring in-depth knowledge. Make sure that theoretical knowledge should be emphasised in Polity alongside Current Affairs.

Public Administration or Governance related topics:

Quasi judicial bodies and non state actors were basic questions coming directly from the syllabus.

Amartya Sen, people's participation in the governance system, Transparency International, LPG Reforms (25 years of implementation) etc, present direct correlation with current events - as all themes somewhere in the news.

Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture and demographic dividend were quite open ended questions.

National Child Policy was a factual question needing in depth knowledge.

International Relations topics:

SAARC, WTO and India's Look East Policy were very common themes – in International Relations, UPSC of late has asked very simple themes only.

UNESCO question required in-depth knowledge.

Overall Analysis:

Governance questions were given very high coverage whereas International Relations was limited to four questions (similar trends seen last year). Candidates must understand that preparation should be balanced across various sub-topics as candidates are seen giving too much emphasis on International Relations, hence it is required that governance issues should be dealt exhaustively establishing interlinkages between current and historical context.

The level of paper was good. GS paper 2 has been more or less the most difficult paper for the last 3 years.

The best approach is to cover the syllabus topic wise and balance preparation of Current Affairs along side theoretical knowledge.