


SPM IAS ACADEMY
 SHAPING BRILLIANCE

APSC Mains 2023 TS - 12 (GS Paper 2)
Duration – 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

 English ☒

 Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: - There are TWENTY questions and printed in ENGLISH. - All questions are compulsory. - The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. - The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks. - Content is more important than the number of words. - Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
1	10		
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TOTAL:	250		Remarks: Signature of the Student: <i>Bayard Kalyan</i>



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Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1. Do you see pressure groups as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy? Critically comment. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans →

Pressure groups are groups with a common interests which influences government policy making and implementation

Pressure groups ensuring broader and more participative democracy

1) Pressure groups highlights the interests of certain groups which are not catered to in mainstream politics.

2) Pressure groups are formed by various sections of

having distinct and specific demands.

3) Eg - Pressure groups can be of various types -

Religious → RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad

Business → FICCI, ASSOCHAM,
NASSCOM

Professional → Bar Council of India,
Indian Medical Association

Thus, pressure groups ensures participative democracy highlighting interests of various section of society.

Q2. The main objective of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is to enable tribal society to assume control over their livelihoods and traditional rights. Critically examine the implementation of the Act. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans → Panchayats (Extension to Schedule Areas) Act 1986 (PESA) is an act to implement Panchayati Raj institutions under schedule XI in scheduled areas.

Significance of PESA Act 1996

- 1) Promote grassroot level of governance and development in scheduled areas.
- 2) More decision making power and autonomy to

rural areas of backward classes.

3) Political empowerment to women belonging from rural scheduled Areas.

Challenges

- 1) Dominated by Bureaucracy.
- 2) Less devolution of functions.
- 3) Parallel agencies like 'Rural Development agency' in Haryana

PESA Act has wide scope of empowering Tribal communities if implemented more efficiently.

Q3. Examine the challenges of fiscal federalism in India.

(10 marks/150 words)

Ans →

Fiscal federalism refers to the distinct operation of fiscal powers between centre and state governments.

Fiscal federalism in India

1) Finance Commission set up under Article -280 to allocate revenue and grants between centre and states.

2) GST council set up under Article -279 A where both the centre and states can

discuss tax rates, slabs, etc.

3) Obligatory grants from centre to states to perform certain functions.

Challenges of Fiscal Federalism

1) Veto power in hand of central government in GST council.

2) Exporting states don't get their share of taxes under IGST.

Financial decentralization is the key to ensure Fiscal federalism in India.

Q4. What are the challenges and issues regarding the functioning of NGOs in India? Analyse. (10 marks /150 words)

Ans →

NGO's are non-governmental organisation promoting charitable, altruistic and voluntary activities

Significance of NGO's in India

- 1) Bridge the gap between government and vulnerable sections.
- 2) Act as a pressure group to ensure welfare of marginalized.
- 3) Examples → Aashray NGO, SMILE Foundation for children

Challenges faced by NGO's

- 1) Out of 33 Lakh+ registered NGO's in India, only 10% file annual returns.
- 2) Political, disruption ^{and administrative} in NGO's activities and Accreditation
- 3) Stricter FCRA regulations regarding funding of NGO's.

Vijay Kelkar Committee recommendations

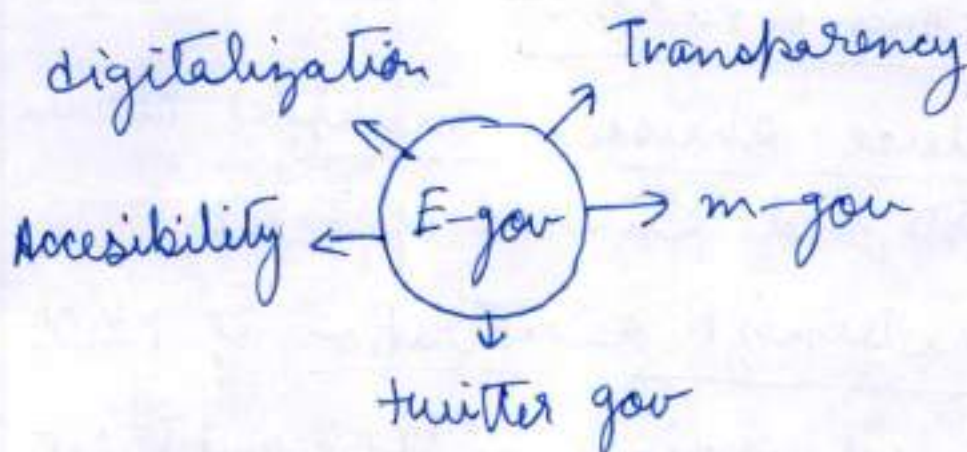
- 1) Reduce physical interface between NGO and public officials
- 2) Modernize registration of NGO's as per provision of FCRA and IT Act

Q5. How can e-governance initiatives help in increasing farmers' income? Illustrate.
(10 marks/150 words)

Ans →

As per World Bank, E-governance is the use by public agencies of Information Technology to transform relationships ^{with} ~~between~~ citizens, businesses and other arms of government.

Elements of E-governance



E-gov increasing farmers income

1) Apps and websites which gives information related to soil quality and modern farm techniques can boost yield for farmers.

2) Awareness about latest government schemes can also supplement a farmers income.

3) Online crop insurance portals can also help farmers ensuring their income.

Q6. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (10 marks 150 words)

Ans →

Parliamentary privileges are those privileges enjoyed by its members from any speech or expression inside the chamber.

Parliamentary Privileges in India

- 1) No police action against member inside the house.
- 2) Immunity of any legal consequences from any speech inside the house.
- 3) Members cannot be forced.

to participate in investigations.

Need for Codification

- 1) To remove ethical cloud on breach of privilege actions.
- 2) To disperse any ambiguity ~~or~~ or uncertainty surrounding them.
- 3) To enforce a set certain legal code of conduct for the lawmakers of our country.
- 4) Prevent Misuse. [Eg] Recent allegations of sexual harassment on a sitting M.P of ruling party

Q7. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system.
 (10 Marks/150 words)

Ans →

The World Trade Organisation is an inter-governmental body which oversees the global trade.

Vulnerabilities in present global trading system

1) Supply chain disruptions due to Pandemics.

2) Misuse of international trade policies by developed countries such as USA, UK, EU by Amber box, Green box subsidies.

3) Overdependence on one
world currency - U.S Dollar.

Reforms to strengthen W.T.O

1) More Transparent and
participation of developing
countries in decision making.

2) Revise subsidies under
Blue, green and Amber box.

3) Relaxations of global trade
norms and provide special
privileges to under-developed
countries.

Q8. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (10 Marks/150 words)

Ans →

Challenges with functioning of Courts and ADR forums

1) Overburdened judiciary

India → 19.6 judges per million people.

Canada → 75 per million

USA → 100+ judges per million

2) Slow disposal of cases.

3) Lack of Judicial impact assessment.

4) Pending Cases - Around 4 Crore

Cases are pending in Indian courts with almost 69,000 cases in Supreme Court.

ICT technology to overcome challenges

- 1) More Transparency in judicial decisions.
- 2) Artificial intelligence can be used for Judges reference to ensure unbiased justice.
- 3) Real time information of cases and their disposal.
- 4) Recent live streaming of Court proceedings encourages masses.

Q9. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans →

Around 34% lawmakers in 16th Lok-Sabha and 42% lawmakers in the current 17th Lok-Sabha has criminal cases filed against them.

Issue of criminalization

- 1) law breakers can't be law makers.
- 2) Sets a bad precedence about the integrity of

The parliament.

Reforms of Representation of People's Act, 1951

- 1) To include strict punishment for law makers indulging in criminal activity.
- 2) Disqualify such candidates having criminal cases against them.
- 3) Special courts to try such cases.

Q10. Bangladesh is critical not just for India's "Neighbourhood First" strategy, but also for the "Act East" policy. Discuss the efforts made by the two countries to develop their relationship in this setting. (10 marks/150 Words)

Ans →

The relationship between India and Bangladesh can be traced back to 1971 where India played a crucial role in formation of Modern Bangladesh.

Significance of Bangladesh

- 1) Ensuring protection of Siliguri Corridor.
- 2) Counter insurgency operations against outfits such as ULFA.

3) Counter growing Chinese influence in South Asia.

Efforts made by two countries

1) Bangladesh is an invited as guest country for G-20 summit in India in 2023.

2) Agartala-Akhaura Bus link to boost connectivity with N.E states

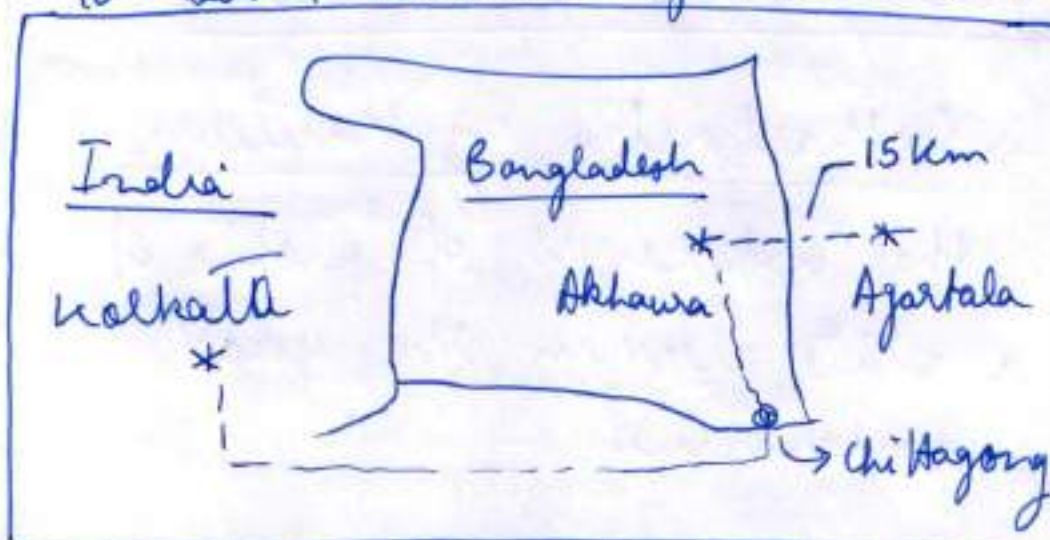


Fig → Agartala-Akhaura Bus link.

3) Other groupings — SAARC, BIMSTEC

Q11. Good governance needs good institutions, but it is the people manning the institution which impart it its true character. In this perspective, discuss the need for civil services reforms and challenges in implementation. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

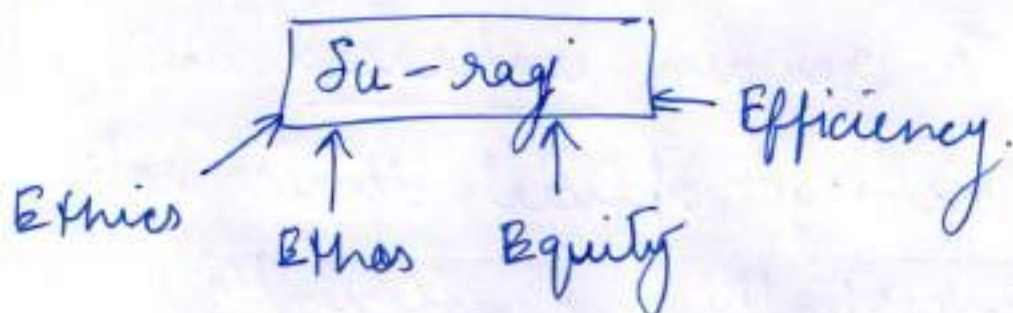
As per UNDP, Governance is the process or institutions through which decisions in a country is made and the authority of a country is exercised.

Good Governance in India

↳ Arthashastra by Kautilya
the happiness of people of a state lies in the good governance.

↳ Gandhiji gave a term as 'Su-raaj' for good

governance.



Thus, to implement good governance an efficient civil service is needed.

Role of civil servants

- 1) To facilitate efficient governance for welfare of the state people.
- 2) To ~~be~~ act as a bridge between executive and the masses.
- 3) To assist the elected representatives.

in formulating policies.

- 4) To remain unbiased and discharge official duties both impartially and efficiently.

Code of Conduct for Civil Service

- 1) Civil Services (Conduct) Rule, 1969
- 2) All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.
- 3) All India Service (Conduct) Amendment Rules 2014.

Issues with Civil Service

- 1) Lack of specialization.
- 2) Political interference.
- 3) Lack of experience working

in other domains. A newly
joined Civil servant seldom has
any real word experience.

Civil Service Reforms

1) By Sarkaria Commission

1) Greater Specialization.

2) Constitution of other All
India Services such as Medical,
Engineering and Education.

As per Sardar Vallabh
Bhai Patel, Civil service are steel
frame of the country and it
needs to be reformed time to
time to ensure good governance.

Q12. How far do you agree that the Indian government system has a structural bias towards the executive while the role of other arms of the state is limited? Discuss.
(15 marks/250 words)

Ans -

Structural Bias Towards executive in the Indian government system can be observed through various provisions -

- 1) The Governor of a state is appointed by the President.
- 2) Under Article 356 and 365, the state legislature can be dissolved and president rule can be implemented.

3) Under Article 248, the centre has power to make laws in residuary matters.

4) The central government enjoys veto power in matters related to taxation in the OrST council.

5) Misuse of government agencies such as NIA and Enforcement directorate (ED) by the ruling government.

The legislature although doesn't enjoy any executive

authority also has significant powers as per provisions -

- 1) No-confidence Motions against ruling government.
- 2) Impeachment of the President under Article-61
- 3) Under Article-75(3), the Council of Ministers is ~~directly respon~~ collectively responsible to the Lok-Sabha.

Thus, it can be agreed upon that although the executive enjoys certain

authority representing the
will of people. The other
arms of state also has
certain instruments to
check the power of executives.

Q13. The preamble is not a mere solemn resolution; but majestic expression of philosophy, principles and purpose of the constitution. Elaborate.

(15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

The preamble of the Indian constitution reflects the essence of Indian state and the principles, purpose and philosophy behind its inception.

Preamble not a mere solemn resolution

The preamble is a thoughtful summarization of the nature of Indian

state and its characteristics.

The provisions mentioned in the preamble is further highlighted and discussed in detail in the Indian constitution.

Preamble a Majestic Expression

Philosophy → Socialist and secular state.

Socialism → It talks about Gandhian and Nehruvian socialism.

Secular → The Indian form of secularism is based.

on the philosophy of "Sarna
Dharma Sarna Bhava"

Principles → Independent, Sovereign,
Republic.

Independence → India will
not bow down under any
~~foris~~ foreign power.

Sovereign → India can make
her own decision without
any external influence

Republic → The head of
Indian state is indirectly
chosen by her people

Purpose

Liberty - Thought, Faith, Belief,
Expression and Worship.

└ Enshrined under under

Article - 19, 25 to 28, 21.

Justice → Economic, Political and
Social

└ Enshrined under Article -
14, 15, 16 and several other
provisions of DPSP.

Thus, the preamble of
India guides and shapes
her destiny in comity of
Nations.

Q14. Examine the significance of Representation of People's Act, 1951 in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics in India. In light of recent events, evaluate the demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA 1951 and Model Code of Conduct. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans

Representation of People's Act, 1951 was introduced by then Law Minister of India Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to ensure transparency and strengthen the electoral process of India.

Significance of Representation of People's Act 1951 (RPA)

- 1) Settle ~~Elas~~ Electoral disputes.
- 2) Resolve Electoral conflicts.
- 3) Administer the conduct

of elections.

- 4) Disqualification of unsuitable candidates.
- 5) Prepare electoral roll of voters.
- 6) Prescribe qualifications of the voters.

Issues with RPA Act 1951

- 1) Criminalization of politics.
- 2) Buying MLA's in favour of political interests (Horse Trading)
- 3) Rise in breach of privileges.

Reforms in RPA, 1951

- 1) As per election commission, the RPA Act needs to be reformed to ~~take~~ tackle contemporary challenges.
- 2) Disqualification of candidates engaged in criminal activities.

RPA Act is crucial in encouraging and ensuring free and fair elections in the country. However, its future success

depends on present reforms.

Q15. The arrangements like 'Bi-laterals', 'pluri-laterals' and 'Mini-laterals' are gaining more traction over 'Multilaterals' in contemporary international relations. Give a reasoned account for such rise citing suitable examples and the challenges that come along with it. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

The terms like 'Bi-laterals', 'pluri-laterals' and 'Multi-laterals' are getting traction in modern world diplomacy due to change in the global dynamics.

The emergence of more economic powerhouses such as China, India and Brazil has propelled the changing

global order into multi-polarity.

Bilateral, plurilateral over Multi-
-lateralism]

- 1) Multi-lateralism is full of ambiguity. Whereas, the other forms of arrangements provides more clarity in policies.
- 2) India also uses bi-lateralism in matters of border disputes such as with Pakistan over Kashmir.
- 3) Pluri-lateralism is often

used in internal matters
such as C.A.A in India. ~~or~~

4) Mini-lateralism is when
smaller countries come
together to fulfill their
common interests.

[Eg] European Union is
a form of Mini-lateralism.

Challenges

1) Larger interests often remain
unfulfilled.

2) Influence of large countries
while making decisions

to preserve strategic autonomy.

3) Micro strategies such as
'Mini-lateralism' and 'Bi-lateral-
ism' can be only used in
limited forms and achieve
limited results

In modern diplomacy,
the best approach is
strategic flexibility and
taking any arrangement
required to fulfill self
interests.

Q16. Do you agree with the assertion that the higher judiciary in India needs to be more transparent and accountable? Share your views. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

Judiciary plays a crucial role in any democracy. It is the sole guarantor of rights and keeps a check on arbitrary executive power.

Issues with Judiciary in India

1) Lack of representation

→ Almost 70% of judges ~~also~~ belongs to upper caste hindus.

- Women representation in India's judiciary is very low.
- ↳ Only 4 ^{women} judges in Indian Supreme court as of 2021.
- ↳ Only 11.5% of judges in high courts are women.

2) Pending Cases

- Out of 4 core cases pending in Indian judiciary, 69000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court.

3) Judicial Interference

- Judiciary under the doctrine of Basic Structure

may struck down any such law made by the parliament.

4) The collegium system where judges appoint judges has failed according to its author Justice J-S Verma.

Need for Accountable and transparent judiciary

- 1) To restore faith in justice
- 2) To prevent use of extra-judicial or constitutional

methods such as encounters or mob lynchings.

3) To remove any ethical cloud related to judgements.

4) Independent judiciary is hallmark of strong democracy.

Thus, I do agree it is important for higher judiciary to be transparent and accountable but without compromising its independence.

Q17. India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenants on which the two political systems are based. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

India is the world's largest democracy. On the other hand, USA is the world's oldest democracy. Thus both these countries have a ~~desri~~ distinct yet similar political system.

USA political system

1) Presidential Form

The president is both the head of state and executive.

2) Clear division of Powers

The states in USA are empowered to make their own laws even contradicting those of executive.

3) Right to Succeed Succeed

The states have the right to become independent and succeed from the Union any time.

4) Fundamental Rights

The Fundamental Rights in USA are absolute and cannot be curtailed under

any circumstances.

Indian Political System

1) Parliamentary System

The executive power lies in the hands of Prime Minister.

2) Strong Centre

The central government enjoys more powers and can give certain directives to the states which needs to be followed.

3) Integrated Judiciary

The apex court is the

Supreme Courts under which
High Courts functions.

4) Collective Responsibility

Under Article - 75(3), the
~~to~~ Council of Ministers
are responsible to the
parliament.

Q18. It is argued that having a large number of ministries good impedes governance. But it can also be argued that it brings in efficiency by decentralising decisions and accountability? What do you think? Share your views and arguments. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

Benefits of having large number of ministries

- 1) Decentralisation of decisions.
- 2) More focus on each subjects of governance.
- 3) More specialization.
- 4) More accountable and responsible.
- 5) More efficiency.

Drawbacks of having large number of ministries

- 1) Conflicts in decision making
- 2) Difficult to oversee the performance of each ministry.
- 3) Can lead to wastage of resources.

~~4)~~

Q19. The position of legislative councils in state legislatures is much weaker than the Rajya Sabha in Parliament. Analyse. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

Legislative councils weaker
than Rajya Sabha

- 1) They can be dissolved by simple majority.
- 2) Have no special power with respect to All India Service under Article 312.
- 3) Have no role to play in the election of President or removal of

Vice President.

4) They have no power over rejection or amendment of state bills.

5) Legislative councils are not present in every state. Thus, they are viewed as redundant.

Rajya Sabha is important to guide the lower house and to counter any ill conceived bills.

Q20. The Union list prevails the other lists in terms of distribution of legislative powers in the Indian Constitution. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans →

Prevalence of Union List

- 1) Over the Armed forces and its deployment.
- 2) The Union government can make any laws in any state to realize international treaties.
- 3) Under Article-3, the Union government is empowered to altercate boundaries of any state.

Thus, the union list prevails over other lists in terms of distribution of legislative powers.



QUESTIONS

- Q1. Do you see pressure groups as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy? Critically comment. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q2. The main objective of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is to enable tribal society to assume control over their livelihoods and traditional rights. Critically examine the implementation of the Act. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q3. Examine the challenges of fiscal federalism in India. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q4. What are the challenges and issues regarding the functioning of NGOs in India? Analyse. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q5. How can e-governance initiatives help in increasing farmers' income? Illustrate. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q6. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (10 marks/150 words)
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Q19. The position of legislative councils in state legislatures is much weaker than the Rajya Sabha in Parliament Analyse. (15 marks/250 words)

Q20. The Union list prevails the other lists in terms of distribution of legislative powers in the Indian Constitution. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1863. It is a very important document, as it is the first time that the President has addressed the Congress since the beginning of the Civil War.

2. The second part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War Department, dated January 1, 1863. It is a very important document, as it is the first time that the Secretary has reported to the Congress since the beginning of the Civil War.

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