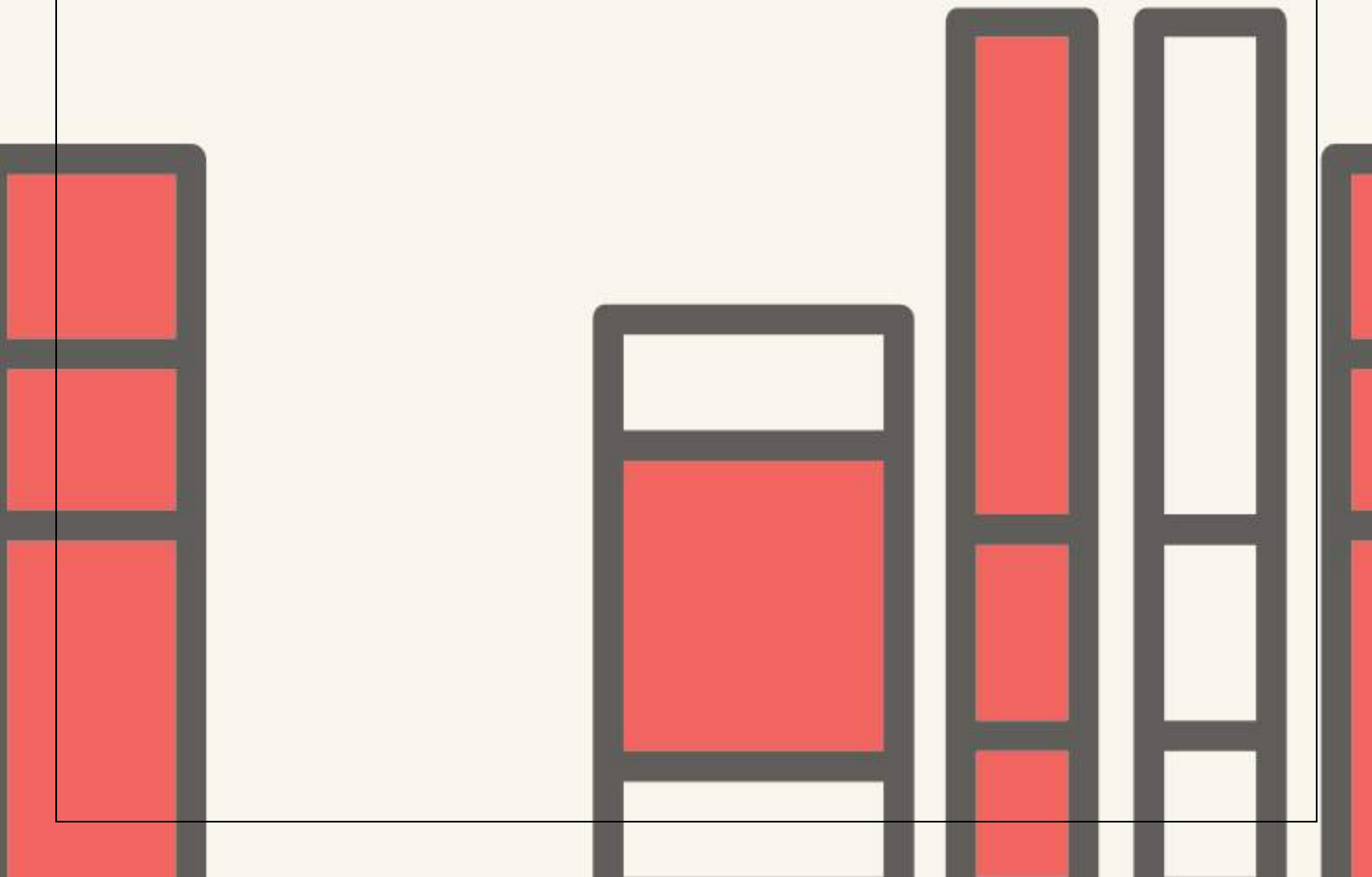# IASBABA'S
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1. The government has recently decided to operationalise the National Financial Regulatory Authority (NFRA). What would be the functions of this organisation and why is it needed? Discuss.

Approach:

- The main body will have two parts- functions of NFRA and its need.
- Introduction and conclusion is any answer is must.
- Relating the answer with recent turn of events (especially PNB scam) is must- to explain why the government has decided to operationalise the NFRA after the delay.

Answer:

Introduction:

The Companies Act, 2013 proposed setting up of an independent audit regulator. However, the Union Cabinet has only recently approved the proposal for establishment of the National Financial Regulatory Authority (NFRA).

Main Body:

Functions of the organisation:

- Powers includes its ability to investigate, impose penalty and banning operations of auditors and audit firms.
- Setting the rules and regulations governing the audit sector.
- The NFRA will have the power to debar erring auditors or audit firm for up to 10 years and impose significant fines on them.

The jurisdiction of NFRA for investigation of Chartered Accountants and their firms would extend to listed companies and large unlisted public companies.

Need:

- The decision appears to have been prompted by the latest bank scam, the Punjab National Bank fraud, that went undetected by auditors.
- Loopholes in exisitng regulatory mechanism. Institue of Chartered Accountant (ICAI) has been inefficient in tackling corruption and/or negligence shown by the auditors.
- Global coherence- Most of the major economies of the world have independent audit regulators and umbrella bodies have come up that have provided an element of cohesion to these regulators.

Impact:

The decision is expected to result in-

- Improved foreign/domestic investments and enhancement of economic growth.

- Supporting the globalisation of business by meeting international practices.
- Assist in further development of audit profession.

Conclusion:
Operationalisation of NFRA is a step in the right direction and will help in reinstating the confidence of stakeholders and regulators. However, for its success it must be ensured that the body remains operationally independent, its decisions are subject to scrutiny and are transparent and its members maintain highest level of independence and prohibit conflicts of interest.

Best answer: Deadpool

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2. The International solar alliance presents multiple opportunities for India. Analyse. Also, discuss its key objectives and challenges in its implementation.

Approach:
In this question you need to introduce about ISA, mention it's objectives, opportunities it presents to India, challenges faced by it and present a way to tackle these challenges.

Body:
International Solar Alliance is a global alliance of countries falling on or between the Tropics. It is the brainchild of India and was launched at Paris climate conference (2015) with Cooperation of France and is headquartered in India.

The overarching objectives of ISA are:

1) It aims to undertake Joint research and Development in production of cost and energy efficient Photo voltaic cells.

2) It aims to mobilize investments and funding for the solar energy initiatives across the world.

3) To form a coalition of solar resource rich countries to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps in their energy requirements (like Storage technology, addressing

Variability of solar energy etc) through a common approach for increasing its deployment.

4) To enhance Energy security and help nations switch to the path of Sustainable development.

5) To address Global concerns like Climate change and help nations to adhere to INDC pledges under paris climate conference.

ISA presents numerous opportunities to India like:

1) Energy security : It reduces our dependence on fossil fuels, especially imports. It also helps provide electricity to remotest parts of the country and thereby helps in improving standard of living of the inhabitants of these areas.

2) Environmental security: It reduces pollution due to burning of fossil fuels and therefore decreases both health and ecological costs.

3) Economic opportunities: India can transform itself as a Global Manufacturing hub of photo voltaic cells. It can bring in Huge investments. Apart from earning valuable FOREX through exports, it can also boost employment and livelihood opportunities in India. Therefore helping us to harness our valuable demographic dividend.

4) Diplomatic opportunities: It helps in solidifying India's position as a global leader in renewable energy production; it furthers global North-South and South-South cooperation (like training SOLAR MAMAS of Nigeria) and portrays India as a climate sensitive nation.

However, there are lot of challenges facing its implementation, viz:

1) Funding : Setting up of Solar energy plants is cost intensive. As, funds from Green Climate fund, WORLD BANK are inadequate, Developing world need huge financial support for its implementation.

2) Cost: Solar energy tariff will be higher in the initial years of production. So, it can be unpopular in Developing and 3rd world countries. So, there is a need to raise awareness about long term advantages of solar energy in the developing world.

3) Technology sharing: Western countries have most advanced solar energy technologies but are reluctant in devolving them to the developing world. Also, Solar dispute between developing country like India and US at WTO, can hamper it's production. Addressing Storage and transmission technology needs emphasis as solar energy production is variable (day and night).

4) Climatic issues: With ever looming challenge of climate change, ISA needs to devise suitable energy mix strategies (hybrid solar-wind mill, Solar tree by CSIR.

ISA presents a great opportunity to not only India but the entire world to tackle the challenges of Climate change holistically. Also, similar alliance in harnessing other

forms of renewable energy can make the world more habitable for the generations to come.

BEST ANSWER:
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3. The issue of militarisation of cyber space has become a prominent security threat in recent times. Discuss how the global community can tackle the challenge.

Approach:
- Introduction-
    -> Explain what constitutes militarization of cyber space.
    -> How it it emerging as a prominent threat including recent instances.
    -> Challenges associated with it.
- Explain how global community can tackle the challenge.
- Conclusion.

Introduction:
Militarisation of cyber space means 'usage of cyber space as theatre for war'. Instances like wannacry malware emails meant to extort money, stuxnet attack on Iranian nuclear facilities etc. shows how the cyber space is increasingly being militarised. The WEF's Global Risks Report 2018 identified cybersecurity threats as one of the top five global risks.

A prominent security threat:
- Increased usage by not only state but non-state actors as well like development of "Cyber Jedi" by China as offensive cyber group.
- Hacking of critical information eg. Sony digitals in USA by North Korean Group.
- Increasing vulnerability of critical infrastructure with formation of smart cities, having over-dependence on cyber space based on internet of things.
- Increasing digital dependency- Biometric information over UIDAI platform, cashless economy etc.
- Involvement of non-state actors- usage of social media by ISIS to lure youths towards its agenda.

Challenges:
- Unidentified source. Further, source of threat can be miles away.
- Non-accountability- as the source is difficult to prove.

- Asymmetry, Decentralized nature of cyber space.
- The present set up for keeping cyber space peaceful has failed, with over reliance on the needs and demands of western nations.

How global community can tackle the challenge:

Given the threat and challenges involved efforts have to be redoubled to ensure that cyberspace continues to be used for peaceful purposes.

- Global conference on cyber security should be held more frequently and talks must be held with due deliberations resulting into concrete plans based on latest developments.
- Global cyber security framework- Regulations and rules agreeable to the global community should be set. Budapest Convention can be modified so as to incorporate concerns of nations like India and Brazil, and hence ratified and adopted globally.
- International cooperation on adopting best practices and experiences available worldwide.
- Strong laws for protection of data eg. Global Data Protection Law by European Union, adoption of block chain technology etc.
- Measuring progress through Global Cyber Security Index. Making it more comprehensive.
- Adoption of 'No-first use policy' as in nuclear space.
- Spreading awareness among netizens on safe usage of cyber space.

Conclusion:

Since cyber space has no boundaries and is face-less, the challenges associated with it is enormous, making it difficult for nations to tackle it. In this light, only concerted efforts involving all the stakeholders is called for.

Best answer: Tenali Raman

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4. In India, 12 million young people enter the labour force each year, and millions transfer out of low productivity agricultural jobs. To ensure that such individuals get gainful employment is a mammoth challenge. Discuss the measures to tackle this challenge.

Introduction:

India's strong growth in recent years has outstripped job creation and poverty remains a key challenge. Unemployment is the greatest economic challenge facing India. Virtually all major economic policy issues derive from this central challenge. The India Labour and Employment Report 2016 of the Institute for Human Development present compelling evidence of how the employment situation has improved during the 21st century. But it also emphasizes the awesome challenge of unemployment that still faces us.

- Not all people in the working age population are in the labour force, i.e., available for work. The labour force participation rate measures the proportion of people in the working-age group who are actually available for work.
- India's sustained average growth rate of 7% over the last decade has not been accompanied by sufficient growth in employment.
- While half of India's population is below the age of 26, the increasing demand for jobs is not being met by the creation of sufficient new economic opportunities. The annual demand for new jobs in India is estimated at 12-15 million, leaving India with a shortage of between 4-7 million jobs each year.
- This is further compounded by the 300 million people of working age outside of the labour force. India's official unemployment rate of 3.5% masks the magnitude of the jobs crunch.
- The immensity of this challenge is compounded by the lack of a formal education among large parts of the population.

Measures to tackle the problem:
To tackle the problem we need to provide formal education, skills and high end technology training. Private sector along with government need to invest money to provide better outcomes to the youth and should fill the gap between the passing out graduates and the job requirement.

- The service sector is providing immense opportunities for job creation in traditional and emerging sub-sectors.
- Currently, this sector accounts for 68% of GDP and 30% of employment. Continued growth in domestic and export services is expected, and will be increasingly important in the face of uncertainty in the manufacturing sector, where employment has stagnated at 22%.
- Changes in manufacturing processes, especially the potential for increased automation, will limit the benefits of labour intensive growth.
- Structural shifts in the economy due to digitalisation are altering the kinds of jobs being created, and the skills required for individuals to remain competitive.

- In order to help workers adapt to changing demand, India must develop an enhanced skills development framework.
- Such a framework should be accessible, driven by demand, linked to employment opportunities and enable individuals to quickly up-skill and re-skill, Atal tinkering labs, research in premier as well as all the university levels.
- The adoption of digital technologies and emergence of digital platforms, such as in e-commerce and digital financial systems, are improving the business viability of microenterprises in India.
- Additionally, India's microfirms create direct employment and should be an essential part of its employment strategy. In order to support inclusive growth among micro and small-sized firms, India must improve financial connectivity and reorient its skills development strategy.
- Further, in order to take full advantage of the employment potential of the digital economy, it is essential to improve and secure digital infrastructure to enable equal access to digital technologies and reduce the digital divide.

Conclusion:

India has the opportunity to drive growth from the informal sector, while simultaneously creating stronger linkages between the state and individuals through new, digitally-enabled social protection mechanisms. This opportunity will be accompanied by a major challenge: to effectively skill, up-skill and re-skill India's workforce. Now the time has come to India to focus on net job providing rather than job seeking, in the recent SALARY SURGE report it is said that by 2030 India will have enough high skilled population.

Best Answer: Priya saini

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5. Describe where most of the world's coral reefs are located. Give examples of islands or island groups that have coral reefs. What dangers does climate change pose for reefs? Discuss.

Approach:

- Introduction- What are coral reefs? - in a line or two. Its importance.
- Location of most of the coral reels across world- world map is must here (rough sketch will do).
- Examples of islands that have coral reefs.
- Effect of climate change on coral reefs.
- Conclusion- Way forward to protect coral reefs.

Introduction:

Coral reefs are diverse underwater ecosystems held together by calcium carbonate structures secreted by corals. Coral reefs are built by colonies of tiny animals found in marine water that contain few nutrients. They are rightly regarded as rainforest of the ocean.

Location of most of the world's coral reefs:

Coral reefs are found in all three of the Earth's oceans that have portions in the tropics - the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian.

The global distribution of coral reefs is largely determined by the **ecological requirements** of the reef-building corals themselves.

- Reef-building corals require warm water. The limits tolerated for long periods are from about 17-34 degrees C. annual temperature regimes mainly restricted to tropical seas.
- The coral animals require sunlight found in clear, shallow ocean waters. Depth of water should not be more than 180 feet.
- The water should be saltish and free from sediments. Corals therefore survive best in moving ocean water well away from the silty coasts or muddy of mouths of streams.

Thus, the coral reefs are mainly concentrated towards the western margins of the tropical oceans.

Islands where coral reefs are found includes Andaman and Nicobar island, Seychelles, Maldives, Papua New Guinea etc.

Effect of climate change on coral reefs:

- Warmer water temperatures brought on by climate change- If water temperatures stay higher than usual for many weeks, the zooxanthellae leave the corals. Without zooxanthellae, corals gets bleached. Bleached corals are weak and less able to combat disease.
- Ocean acidification- The ocean absorbs approximately one-third of the atmosphere's excess carbon dioxide, resulting in a more acidic ocean. In order for a coral reef to grow, it must produce limestone (or calcium carbonate) at a rate that is faster than the reef is being eroded. Ocean acidification slows the rate at which coral reefs generate calcium carbonate, thus slowing the growth of coral skeletons.
- Increased sedimentation and melting of glaciers resulting into sea level rise- causes increases in sedimentation that can lead to the smothering of coral.
- Changes in storm patterns- leads to stronger and more frequent storms that can cause the destruction of coral reefs.
- Changes in precipitation- increased runoff of freshwater, sediment, and land-based pollutants contribute to algal blooms and cause murky water conditions that reduce light.
- Altered ocean currents- leads to changes in connectivity and temperature regimes that contribute to lack of food for corals and hampers dispersal of coral larvae.

Conclusion:

Coral reefs are important as they contain the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. They protect coastlines from the damaging effects of wave action and tropical storms and provide habitats and shelter for many marine organisms. Given climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reef ecosystems, efforts should be taken to tackle GHG emissions, strict implementation of INDCs, check on anthropogenic activities like oil spillage etc.

Best answer: Mayu

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6. Scientists consider the oceans to be Earth's last true frontier and a great resource base for the future. Why? In this light, examine the significance of blue water economy.

Synopsis:
Despite the fact that the ocean plays a role in everything from the air we breathe to daily weather and climate patterns, we know very little about our ocean. And, most of our knowledge of the ocean lies in shallower waters. Deeper waters remain a mystery even though we are relying more and more on these areas for food, energy, and other resources. Enter ocean exploration.

Blue water Economy is linked to potential use of natural available resources to boost the economy. It includes oil exploration, maritime trades, deep sea fishing and maritime tourism such as "ro ro ferry services ".

Ocean's as a great resource base for the future:

- Findings made through ocean exploration are fundamental to reducing unknowns in deep-ocean areas and providing high-value environmental intelligence needed to address both current and emerging science and management needs.

- Exploration helps to ensure that ocean resources are not just managed, but managed well, so those resources are around for future generations to enjoy.

- Through ocean exploration, we can establish the baseline information needed to better understand environmental change, filling gaps in the unknown to deliver reliable and authoritative science that is foundational to providing foresight about future conditions and informing the decisions we confront every day on this dynamic planet.

- This same knowledge is often the only source for basic information needed to respond appropriately in the face of deep-sea disasters.

- Information from ocean exploration is important to everyone. Unlocking the mysteries of deep-sea ecosystems can reveal new sources for medical drugs, food, energy resources, and other products.

- Information from deep-ocean exploration can help predict earthquakes and tsunamis and help us understand how we are affecting and being affected by changes in Earth's environment.

Significance of blue water economy, in case of India:

- India has been part of various ad hoc committees of UN based on law of seas especially related to Indian Ocean to keep its strategic and political interest at the bay .With discovery of various mineral resources such as manganese and cobalt crust on ocean floor bed the potential of maritime mining has led to countries such as India, China and Japan.

- With growing relation between Asia and Africa the Indian Ocean is key to India's strategic dominance. And also Asia-Pacific growing trade links, it is necessary to maintain security in these regions.

- With initiative Such as Ro- Ro ferry services between Ghogha in Saurashtra, and Dahej in South Gujarat will unlock the India's true economic potential in environmental friendly and will reduce the vehicle movement in lands and hence will add to economic interest too.
- India has large coastline and with new technologies in deep fishing the fisheries will provide a large number of employment and will also help in boosting exports and reduce trade deficit problem.

India can profitably integrate its on-going programmes like Make in India, smart cities, skill development and self-reliance in defence and operationalize the blue economy. And the international rules and norms for 'Blue Economy' or 'Blue-Water Economy' are still evolving and are being actively considered in various multilateral forums at regional and global levels. Through proactive diplomatic engagement in these forums countries aim to protect and enhance their economic and strategic interests in the maritime arena.

Best Answer: Ankita

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7. Discuss how India's forest policy has evolved over time. Also, discuss the concerns associated with the new draft Forest Policy 2018.

Approach
- Briefly write about the importance of Forest Policy in introduction.
- Give a timeline regarding the different Forest Policies.
- Introduce the 2018 policy and discuss the concerns related to it.

Introduction
Forests have unique significance as they provide various services. On the one hand they are home for many diverse species – both flora and fauna and on the other hand they are key for climatic equilibrium. Also, they are home for large tribal population. These signify the need of policies that would be designed to conserve forests.

Body-
The British era Forest policies were mainly designed to exploit the forest reserves. Post-independence the importance of the forest management was identified. India introduced Forest Policy for the first time in **1952**. The main objective of the policy was to increase the forest cover to 33%. It set up a Central Board of Forestry. It propounded balanced use of land pattern.

In **1988**, second Forest policy was drafted. The main aim was maintenance of environmental equilibrium by preservation and restoration of ecological balance. It gave importance to large scale afforestation and social forestry. This saved forest land from diversion and promoted wildlife protection.

Despite these policies, the forest cover (22%) is still well below the targeted 33%. Additionally, India has committed to build a carbon sink of 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide as its INDC at Paris summit. Thus, the forest conservation needed breathe of freshness. In this scenario a new draft Policy has been envisaged.

Features-

Concerns associated with the new draft Policy-

- Including private parties in afforestation may lead to privatization of natural resources. There is a threat that forests would be converted into plantations.

- Forest based industry would incentivize those trees that are more water intensive like eucalyptus and in the long run this would hamper the environment.

- The National Community Forest Management can come into conflict with Forest Rights Act and thus leading to implementational issues. More importantly, it may undermine the powers of Gram Sabha, which is already under threat.

- The policy does not address the lacuna of previous forest policies that is it does not draw out a mechanism to make sure the objectives are met.

- Policy is more focused towards conservation rather than regeneration of forests. People's participation has not been given much importance.

Conclusion:

Forests are the lungs through which the earth breathes. With threat of global warming increasing, the survival of the forests needs to be given high priority. Hence, the draft Forest Policy needs to make certain amends so that it is centered around Forest conservation.

Best Answer: Abhishek Singh

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8. The issue of judicial appointments and elevation is a long pending one. The judiciary and the executive need to come to a common ground and also, reforms to ensure transparency must come from within the judiciary. Comment.

Approach:

- Introduction- Issues of judicial appointments and elevation. How the issue is a long pending one.
- Main body-
  -> Tussle between judiciary and executive.
  -> How can they come to a common ground?
- Reforms to ensure transparency-
  -> The issue.
  -> How can judiciary tackle the issue internally
- Conclusion
- Points to keep in mind- Since it's a polity question, related articles like Art 124 in this case should be mentioned.

Introduction:

The recent turf between executive and judiciary over judicial appointments in Uttarakhand High Court has brought the issue of judicial appointments once again into the limelight.

Background:

Article 124 of the Indian constitution provides for appointment of judges by the President in consultation with the judiciary. The word consultation being ambiguous, the judiciary itself, through the Three Judges Cases, has evolved the collegium system. The collegium has made the role of executive in the appointments and elevation just a formal one.

Issues:

- The issue arises as the system is not transparent with no criteria for appointment or elevation set leading to lack of accountability and nepotism.

- The above has resulted into huge pendency- pendency of 4.5 year per case on an average. This is a serious concern as justice delayed is justice denied.

Tussle between judiciary and executive:

While judiciary has been blamed for nepotism and lack of transparency. The executive has been blamed for interfering with the judiciary which is against the principle of separation of powers mentioned in **Article 50**. The need of the hour is to find a common ground.

Way ahead:

- The Supreme Court has asked the government to frame Memorandum of procedure, after it struck down as "unconstitutional" the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act proposed by the central government. The MoP is still in limbo. The executive and the judiciary need to have a mutual understanding on what the terms of MoP would be.
- The idea of constitution of All India Judicial Services under article 312 for judicial appointments can be deliberated upon.
- The collegium has recently decided that it would disclose the reasons for its recommendations. This would go a long way in ensuring transparency. Further the executive should provide a time frame in which it should convey its suggestions to the judiciary on the recommendations made.
- Judiciary can deliberate on the idea of coming under RTI. This will ensure transparency.

Conclusion:

The judiciary and the executive must find a common ground to put at the rest the matter of judicial appointments and elevation. This is required as the public trust in one of the most important organ of democracy, the judiciary, is declining.

Best answer: Himanshu Gupta

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9. The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is a radical departure from the country's previous development strategies in its scale, scope and ownership. Analyse.

Introduction:

Small introduction about ADP, who launched it and ranking criteria in 2-3 line is enough.

Body:

How program is different from previous initiatives:
- It is based on three core principles of convergence, collaboration and competition.
- State government has been taken on board and they are the main drivers in this program.
- Ensures the Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas vision of present government.
- Real time monitoring of program by measuring progress and ranking the districts.
- Wide coverage: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, Financial Inclusion, Skill development and basic infrastructure is the core area of focus.
- Public participation: Real time progress and monitoring of program will be available to public. Also CSR activities can be taken up under the initiative.
- Three tier participation: All three tiers of government from Central to Local level are involved.
- Finance: Spending better is the main focus rather than spending more. There is no special allocation for this program.

Previous programs:
- It would either be in form of fund devolution to state or Top down approach.
- One size fits all approach.
- Over lapping of central and state government schemes.
- Leakage of funds.

Conclusion:
All the above issues have been addressed. This program not only helps in development of social infrastructure of country but also helps in better co-ordination among all three levels and improve efficiency of government. Co-operative federalism is being implemented in its true form through this program.

No Best Answer

10. Despite several initiatives, skill development in India is not taking at a pace as expected. Why? Also suggest various measures that can improve the situation.

Approach:
- Introduction: Initiatives taken

- Main body-
  -Pace of skill development- Not as expected.
  -Reasons behind.
  -Measures to improve the situation
- Conclusion

Introduction:
India is one of the youngest nations in the world with more than 63% of the population in the working age group of 15-59 and above 54% of the total population under the age of 25 years. Every year, millions of job seekers enter the job market with their skill sets, making skill development India's one of the highest priorities. Skill building is a powerful tool to empower individuals and improve their social acceptance.

Some of the initiatives are Skill India Mission, DDU-GKY, Ajeevika skills, PMKVY, SANKALP, STRIVE etc. are some of the initiatives launched in this regard. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with its core focus on converging all skill development initiatives in the country under one National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), was created by the Government of India.

Slow pace of skill development:
Structural issues (Sharda Prasad Committee)
- The skill development programme has faltered in establishing the exact role of the industry, government agencies and other stakeholders.
- The skill development programme is marred with overlaps in roles and responsibilities across some of its departments such as the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) etc.
- Sector skill councils (SSCs) has been termed as 'hotbed of crony capitalism' that have tried to 'extract maximum benefit from public funds.'
- Conflict of interest in the councils' membership base, including those involving three NSDC board members.

Other issues:
- Labor laws are yet to be reformed.
- Lack of awareness regarding various schemes.

Suggested measures:
Recommendations made by Sharda Prasad Committee:

- The committee has suggested a merger of a majority of 40 sector skill councils (SSCs) running skill development centers to half their numbers.
- Developing a credible, sound, aspirational, national system, which is quality assured and internationally compatible.
- The Centre scrap all existing skill councils, many of which have overlapping roles and introduce an oversight mechanism on the NSDC.

Other recommendations:

- Academic curriculum uptill college needs an overhaul so that it comes in sync with global developments like automation.
- Mindset change as in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is required. So that vocational training is respected.
- Sensitisation of industrial owners, employers.

Conclusion:

The government has rightly set skill development as one of its topmost priority. However, given the pace is slow, structural issues must be sorted and implementation should be made more effective.

Best answer: Sanavia Ahmed

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11. Explain the process of extraction of shale gas. Outline the positive and negative impacts of fracking.
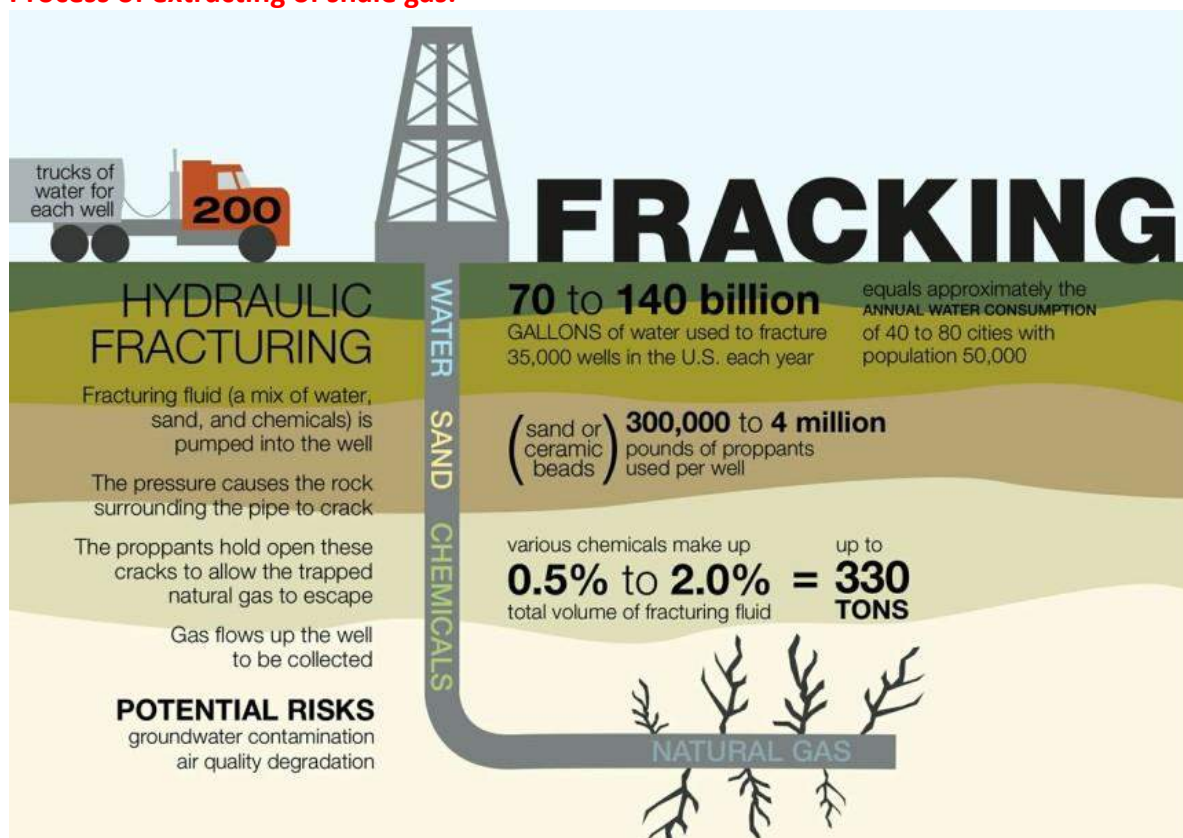
Approach:

- Give a small intro about shale gas.
- In body three parts are required. One is about extraction of Shale gas, second about positives of fracking and last part negatives about fracking.
- 2-3 conclusion is must.

Introduction:

With scarcity of energy resources and ever increasing demand, shale gas is seen as a potential option, which can secure the energy needs of future. Shale gas is trapped in the shale formations of crust and extracted through fracking process.

Body:

Process of extracting of shale gas:

Positive impacts of Fracking:

- Emission: Reduced Nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emission into atmosphere.
- Leakages: Reduces risks of leakages and impacts of climate change.
- Contamination: Reduced risk of contamination of underground water.
- Water usage: Water usage intensity in fracking is comparatively lower than other fossil fuels extraction.
- Productivity: The productivity is higher and finite unlike other fossil fuels.

Negative impacts:
- Air quality: methane is used in process which leads to smog and long term air quality issues.
- Water usage: Gallons of water is used for the process. Already cities are drying out and their usage here has brought criticism from various quarters.
- Seismic activity: Minor earth quakes and tremors are caused due to drilling process.
- Oil spills: Might lead to oil leakages and contaminate underground water and soil resources.
- Disposal: Waste water disposal is also another serious issue which will have long term effects.

Note: For process part, diagram is used for graphical understanding but you need to draw a small layout and also explain in points to make it a complete answer.

Conclusion:

Non-renewable resources are itself harmful to environment in that finding positivity is just for satisfying human needs and greed's. The world has to move towards exploitation of renewable resources at shortest time frame in order to achieve sustainable development.

12. The recent developments in Korean peninsula is a welcome change. Discuss.

Approach:
- Introduction- Conflict in Korean peninsula.
- Recent developments
- How it is a welcome change?
- Way ahead
- Conclusion

Introduction:
Korean peninsula has been a geopolitical hotspot zone since the cold war era. The relationship between North and South Korea has been troublesome since decades. Growing to the heights of rapid nuclearisation of N Korea, deployment of THAAD by USA, covert support to N Korea by China etc.

Recent developments:
- Participation of N Korea in winter Olympics.
- Singapore summit- Conference between USA and North Korea in Singapore led to Inter-Korea declaration. Though the declaration was not VCID (Verifiable, Comprehensive, Irreversible and Denuclearization).
- Panmunjom summit- Between N and S Korea. The Panmunjom declaration seeks to remove both social and economic sanctions on N Korea upon its complete de-nuclearisation.
- Agreement toward de-nuclearisation- Kim Jong has for the first time agreed on de-nuclearisation and has started destroying the nuclear armaments.

A welcome change:
- De-nuclearisation of S Korea will help global community to fight the issue of nuclearisation in more robust way. Thereby making the world more peaceful.
- N Korea can now emulate the success story of S Korea.

- Development of N Korea will help it to tackle China upfront and not seek covert support from it. This in turn will help India to play a better role in the region.

Way ahead:
- Total dependence on China to negotiate with N.Korea should be minimized. All stakeholders' involvement should be sought for.
- The country should be integrated not only strategically but also economically. Easing of sanctions can help in this direction.
- Track-II diplomacy involving intellectuals can be initiated.
- Confidence building measures between the two Korean nations like recent de-militarization of borders should be implemented.
- It needs to be ensured that turn of events does not lead to back out of N Korea from the de-nuclearisation agreement as it happened in the case of Iran.

Conclusion:
Recent turn of events are indeed a welcome change, however, it must be ensured that the momentum is maintained and the terms of agreements/declarations are followed in true spirit.

Best answer: Parul Jain

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13. Schools and colleges have ceased to become the temple of values. Do you agree? What are its implications? Examine.

Approach: The question is direct. Start with describing what values schools and colleges inculcate then proceed how these values have denigrated. Implications on self and society at large are to be mentioned to address the question comprehensively.

Introduction:
"The aim of education is the knowledge, not facts but of values." –William Ralph. Schools and colleges play an eminent role in cultivating these values in the young minds. Discipline, accountability, integrity, team work, compassion, trust and honesty are the most important values which are introduced in the schools.

Body:

Teacher should act as a **role model** to inculcate the above values in the students. However, due to commercialization of education teaching has become a pure profession rather than a passion.

Success of a student is being measured only in terms of ranks and grades which is resulting loss of values such as integrity and discipline. Students are encouraged to adopt any means-moral or immoral to achieve good grades. For example, Bihar board examinations where mass copying was done.

It has also caused increased stress in the minds of students which has resulted in unfortunate events like ending the life of another student just to avoid an exam i.e. Gurugram school incident.

In order to reduce the expenditure, several schools have outsourced transport and house-keeping to third party which lead to unauthenticated staff entering the premises. This has resulted in sexual assaults and rape of innocent children, especially in national capital and other major cities. Trust in the educational institutions is lost.

Moral vacuum created in the schools and colleges have lead to incidents such as drug abuse and intolerance towards fellow classmates. Schools and colleges have been far from successful in preventing such events.

Increased use of social media and internet has distanced the hearts of human beings. Team work and compassion have been lost. Students have become insensitive to the problems of self and society at large thus falling prey to games like Blue-Whale challenge.

Implications on Self: Loss of self-worth and confidence. Bad attributes like greed, jealousy, revenge, violence are cultivated as a result. Though one can be a successful lawyer, engineer or a doctor but one will remain as ethical dwarf without values.

Implications on Society: School is a building with four walls with a brighter tomorrow inside. If schools fail to inculcate values then future generation may be influenced by societal evils. Increase in intolerance, radicalization, gender discrimination and crime may be seen.

Conclusion:

Schools and colleges must ensure that strong value system is in place right from the childhood through timely ethical education. Value education is the first step for a peaceful and happy society.

Best answer: warrior ias

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14. The recent Supreme Court judgment in the Govt. of NCT of Delhi v Union of India upholds a basic democratic principle: The responsibility to exercise power on behalf of the people lies with the elected legislature. Discuss.

DY Chandrachud, J., in recent case of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi v Union of India held that in a democratic form of government the real power must subsist in the elected arm of the State.

The issue arose due to the conflicting interpretation of Article 239AA of the Constitution of India by the Union government and the Govt. of NCT of Delhi on the nature of aid and advice tendered to the Lieutenant Governor by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The Supreme Court by ruling in the favor of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi has reinforced the democratic principle of rule of the people.

The judgment was significant for our democracy because:

1. **Ensures government of the people** – The Assembly of the NCT of Delhi is formed by the direct exercise of voting rights of the people of Delhi to choose their own elected representatives. While on the other hand, the Lieutenant Governor is nominated by the Union Government and appointed by the President. There is no say of the people in it. Thus, giving final authority to the Lieutenant Governor would violate the democratic principle.

2. **Ensures government by the people** - It is through their elected representatives the will of the people are imposed. Thus, overlooking the decision of the elected representatives would equate to overlooking the wishes of the people they represent.

3. **Ensures government for the people** – An elected representative works for the well-being of the people he represents. This is because it was only with their trust he was elected and can continue in the office in future. On the other hand, the Lieutenant Governor is not responsible towards the people of Delhi for his continuance in the office.

4. **Accountable bureaucracy** – Since, the bureaucracy is led by an elected political executive they also become accountable to the people, as is their head. This was evident when recently there were reports of bureaucracy delaying in decision making because of tussle with the Govt. This was only possible because the bureaucracy was accountable not to the people but to the Lieutenant Governor.

Responsible government is the bedrock of a democracy as it is ultimately the people who rules the nation and shapes its future.

Best Answer – No best answer

15. Lynching by mobs has become a recurring phenomenon in India. What can be the possible reasons behind this trend? Examine. Also suggest ways to address it.

Approach: Question is direct. Mention the reasons for this trend and give recent examples. The answer would be incomplete without examples. Conclusion should be solution oriented and optimistic.

Introduction: Lynching is unlawful murder by an angry mob of people. Lynching in India was first reported in Khairlanji massacre of 2006. It has assumed a rising trend in recent times- Dadri lynching case of cow slaughtering, Jharkhand Lynching case for alleged child lifting and Junaid's murder in a train by an angry mob.It indicates barbarous behavior of few individuals in the Indian society.

Reasons:

Diverse nature of the Indian society which gives way to social discrimination based on caste and religion. Lynching is one of the ways used by majority to intimidate the minority sections of the society.

Lynching is not defined in the Indian legal system and there are no punishments with regards to lynching thus giving a free way to hate crime perpetrators.

Indiscriminate use of social media to spread fake news and rumors against a particular section of the society, which resulted in Muzaffarnagar riots in 2013.

Rising cow vigilantism and the groups such as Gaurakshaks which is resorting to extreme steps of mob violence.

Rising level of jobless growth has deviated youth from healthy career goals and limited their sphere to propagate hate crime by local politicians to serve their selfish motives.

Lack of proper infrastructure and officials might have also been the reason to prevent the people to barge in prison cells and kill the rape accused as we observe what had happened in the Dimapur lynching case.

Ways to address:

Introduce a specific law with strict punishment to ensure deterrence. In this light, Maanav Suraksha Kanoon (MAUKSA) has been proposed to highlight the need of speedy justice, rehabilitation measures and witness protection.

A practical and innovative way of educating students about the values of secularism, equality, fraternity and compassion towards the society.

More officials or officers should be recruited and trained in a professional manner to deal with lynching cases with a secured police station equipped with better infrastructure.

Awareness drive or campaigns such as the Not In My Name should be encouraged by the civilians.

Engaging youth in gainful employment and promoting local entrepreneurship through various government initiatives.

Government is already taking measures to prevent spread of hate messages and fake rumours through social media platforms like Whatsapp.

Reiterate in the belief "Unity in Diversity" alone is India's strength.

Conclusion:
It is the duty of the Government to punish a criminal; a layman should not take law into his own hands. Awareness programs should be created so that the people are aware that lynching is a serious offence and not to take part in it.

Best Answer: Maximus

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16. What do you mean by Emission Trading Scheme (ETS)? Does India need one? Discuss.

Synopsis
Emission Trading Scheme is part of Kyoto Protocol's flexibility mechanism which allows companies that have emission units to spare - emissions permitted to them but not "used" - to sell this excess capacity to companies that are over their targets.

How ETS Functions
- A cap on the total emissions allowed within the scheme is set, and allowances adding up to the cap are provided to the companies regulated by the scheme.
- The companies are required to measure and report their carbon emissions and to hand in one allowance for each tonne they release.

- Companies can trade their allowances either privately or over the counter or through spot exchange, providing an incentive for them to reduce their emissions.

Benefits of ETS
- Incentivizes efficiency in industries
- Promotion of best-practices and awards industries adopting them
- Market-based mechanism
- Promotes R&D in eco-friendly technology

The success of EU ETS has raised demands of a similar mechanism in India.

Benefits of ETS for India
- Will help in reduction in carbon footprint of India at the time when India's per-capita emission is projected to rise at a very high pace
- Incentivize Indian industries to adopt global best practices and will assist in setting-off the cost incurred in doing so
- Will promote R&D in eco-friendly technology within the nation, which suffers from economic support
- Will help India in achieving its Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Climate Change Agreement
- Reduction of pollution-related health issues in India
- Will help in achieving several of SDGs, like Goal 3 (good health and well being), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (climate action).
- Will help India emerge as a global leader on climate change issues

Concerns with ETS
- ETS allows industries to instead of adopting eco-friendly technology buy emission certificates from other industries
- It can put burden on MSME Sector which does not have capacity to shift to new technology as easily as large industries.
- A cap on every industry will increase the cost of production for industries and might make them uncompetitive as compared to foreign companies.
- ETS will only address one of the aspects of India's pollution challenge and other issues like crop residue burning and vehicular emissions needs to be addressed

Mention measures by government like
- NMEE
- PAT
- Renewable Energy Certificate

- ZEZD

Best Answer – Abhishek Singh

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17. Implementation of the Forest Rights Act, in letter and spirit, will not only help resolve the increasing land conflicts but also help uplift the economic and social status of forest dwellers. Analyse.

Synopsis

Forest Rights Act, 2006 was enacted by the Union Government to recognize the traditional rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources, denied to them over decades as a result of the continuance of colonial forest laws in India.

Rights under the Act:
- **Ownership Rights:** Ownership to land that is being cultivated by tribal or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares.
- **Traditional Rights:** Rights to minor forest produce, to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- **Relief and development rights** – to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- **Forest management rights** – to protect forests and wildlife.

However, FRA has failed to achieve its objective due to challenges like:
- Delay in the notification of rules and regulation by the state governments
- The forest bureaucracy's non-responsive attitude, due to corruption, apathy and vested interests.
- Complicated procedure of recognition of rights, first by Gram Sabha and then by higher authorities.
- The absence of documentary proof and lack of reliable data (maps, ownership records, residence proofs etc.) further complicates the process of recognition of customary ownership rights.
- While Individual rights have been recognized in many places, but process of granting community ownership rights is very slow.
- Lack of regular elections in panchayats – In many states the panchayat system is not very strong and in some cases, the panchayat elections are not

held regularly. In such areas, the Gram panchayats are not operational up to the desired level necessary for the implementation of the Act.

Steps that can be taken to overcome these challenges are:
- Implementation of the Act in letter and spirit by releasing notification of rules and regulations consistent with the view of the Act
- Use of technology like digitalized mapping, GIS to map area etc. to increase the speed of recognition of the rights under the Act.
- Capacity building of Gram Sabha with necessary technical help should be provided by Central government or Civil Society organizations.
- Reform in Forest Bureaucracy to make them responsive and breaking the contractor forest official nexus is required. Use of ICT in decision making to make process transparent is required.
- Granting of community Ownership should be prioritized by notifying guidelines on same.

Impact of FRA
- **Land Conflicts**
  - Recognition of rights will check conflict over resources
  - Will decrease conflict among tribal and between them and outsiders
  - Simplify land acquisition process as the rights of the individuals could be easily ascertained

- **Social Impact**
  - Identification of land rights would create a sense of empowerment and security
  - Decrease in alienation from land will protect tribal culture also
  - Will strengthen democratic decentralization by empowering Gram Sabha
  - Will check harassment by outsiders, including forest bureaucracy

- **Economic Impact**
  - Land right would ensure tribal can economically utilize the land and would also incentivize investment on the land
  - Right over forest produce will help in increasing their income
  - Proper compensation would be awarded in case of acquisition of land

Therefore, FRA is a tool for socio-economic and political upliftment of tribal. Therefore, implementation of FRA is important for protecting the traditional as well as constitutional rights of the tribal.
Best Answer: Vipasha Parul.

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18. Should politically active candidates be debarred from being appointed as Governors? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Governor of a state holds a constitutional position, who is the head of federal government under whose name the state is governed. He elected by the president of India and holds the office under his pleasure.

Body:

Due to different governments at center and states at times, there arises controversies about should a politically active candidate be debarred from being appoint as governor.

Politically active candidates should be avoided because:
- Conflict with COM: Governors belong to opposition parties usually than the ruling party, so every bill passed or orders passed will take time to get approval.
- Provide able governance: Without approval from governor no scheme or bill can be passed this will delay the chances of quick implementation of promises by ruling/winning party.
- Against Mandate: Sometimes governors might not pass a bill or delay which is against the mandate provided to elected government.
- Discretionary powers: Since governor has discretionary powers, he might use it to curtail the functions of elected government.
- Reserve the bill to president: At times, to delay implementation of certain programs or schemes which might affect the return of his party to power in state.
- Centralist attitude: Since he is appointed and removed by Central government, he will act according to the central government's satisfaction.
- Self-interest: Being a politically active person he might try to score self-goals and enhance his image for future by downgrading elected representative's roles.

Politically active candidates can be appointed:
- Democratic principles: Every office should be open to all without any discrimination. This is a fundamental right provided by constitution.
- Debate and discussion: It will enhance the culture of debate and discussion and make way for better implementation in case there are any drawbacks.

- Long term effects: Elected government might try to see short term goals to win upcoming election by implementing those schemes which might affect in long run.
- Unity and integrity: Safe guard unity and integrity of country by avoiding those programs and schemes which might arouse ultra-regional sentiments.
- Democratic government: In case of dictatorial government or ruling party crushing opposition voice, governor can take steps.

Conclusion:

Governor position has to be absolutely neutral. Human beings are political animals and they have their personal orientation whether active or inactive. So it is better for any person after assuming the role of governor, he/she should act within the powers as provided by the constitution.

19. Comment upon the status of the social security in India. Has it been able to meet the expectations of a developing socio-economy? Critically examine in view of the recent initiatives taken by the government.

Introduction:

Social security refers to assistance provided by state to those people who have inadequate or no income to meet their needs. It may be in form of Cash or in kind of Medical assistance, Aid, Insurance facility etc.

Body:

Status of Social security in India:
- Coverage: Due to huge population and inadequate maintenance of proper data, the percentage of population covered under any form of social security is very low. Ex: Insurance penetration and Density.
- Awareness: Majority of people lack awareness about existence of such kind of facilities by government. Ex: MSP.
- Unorganized sector: Majority of work force is in unorganized sector which is not covered by any such schemes or programs.
- Leakages: There are huge scams and leakages in the social security funds made available from government. Ex: Fodder scam.
- Loopholes: There is lack of proper rules and in case of existing laws, they are filled with loopholes which makes it inefficient. Ex: Minimum number of employees, contract laborers not covered.
- Implementation: Certain states have money transfer facility where BPL families incurring huge medical expenses are reimbursed but implementation is very poor.

Some of the programs have been a huge success:

- Food security: PDS system has ensured food security of population, Green revolution has ensured buffer stock and also made us food surplus country.
- Pension: Monthly pension facility to government employees and formal sector. Also schemes like PF, Gratuity etc.

Recent initiatives taken by government:
- National Pension scheme.
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandhana Yojana.
- Ayushman Bharat.
- Direct benefit transfer.
- National nutritional Mission.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Note: The above schemes need 1-2 lines explanation. Also include how they are performing. That will cover the second part of answer.

Conclusion:

India had joint family set up before, which would take care of social security needs. Now with emergence of Urbanization, Nuclear family, Migration etc. it is needed. Though provisions are provided by constitution under DPSP, we do not have universal social security system like western countries. It is high time we introduce one on such lines.

No Best Answer.

20. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion of disadvantaged groups remain one of the key challenges of the education policy in India. Comment. Also examine the initiatives taken by the Government to address the challenge

Approach
Mention about the importance of "Inclusive Education" for the social economic fabric of Indian Democracy. Make sure your answer is not just women centric but covers - different "Vulnerable Sections" of the society and their relation of being vulnerable due to lack of education and factors for the same. Try to categorize your answer into different sub headings for lack of education, such as 1) Access 2) Afford ability 3) Equity 4) Quality.

Also in the latter part analyze the different Government initiatives, implications of the same and ways to improve the reach of Government initiatives to improve "Gender Equity" and "Social Inclusion"

Answer

It is said that inclusive, good quality education is a foundation stone for dynamic and equitable societies. The Socio economic fabric of the society is determined by the way the society treats the most underprivileged and vulnerable sections. Lack of equitable education to all sections of the society - would make India, not take the full advantage of its Demographic Dividend, lack in developing its human resource and eventually lie behind the ladder of development. India needs to have well educated and literate youth, who would stand as "Pillars of its Development"

Article 21A of Indian Constitution being a fundamental right, ensures free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14. Articles 29 and 30 also gives certain educational and cultural rights to minorities. Moreover, DPSP, according to article 45 makes a provision for Free and Compulsory education up to the Age of 14 to be given by the state. However, in spite of the magnanimous importance of education in the progress of India and various provisions in the Constitution regarding the same - "Accessible, Equitable, Affordable and Quality Education" to all sections of the society remains a matter of concern, increasing the gap between India and Development. The different sections of the society, lagging behind in terms of "inclusiveness into the mainstream" are-

1. Women
2. Population of the SC and ST community.
3. Rural vs Urban disparity.
4. Physically Challenged People
5. Trans-genders.

The Reasons leading to the lack of education to all sections of the society can be categorized as follows-

1)Access

- **Women**
  -
    o **Lack of Infrastructure** such as Roads, toilets, safe transport, proper school buildings, benched and chairs etc.
    o **Mental glitch** due to Patriarchal mindset- not seeing female education as rewarding, also due to stereotyping the hindrances in women education due to gender crimes such as rape, molestation etc. Low awareness and taboo related to menstrual hygiene also remains a important hindrance.
    o **Caste Hierarchy** -women from certain high caste as considered to be receiving the fruits of education to a larger extent, than women of lower caste.
- **Disabled Population.**

- o **Lack of Disable friendly infrastructure** - lack of books in braille script, lack of ramps in public buildings especially schools and colleges is a major concern.
  - o **Mental hurdle** and insecurities in the minds of the parents of disable students , keeps them away from the access to education.
  - o **Mental Health** considered to be aberration - receive step motherly treatment , also the societal sensitivities related to the same seems to be lacking from the social fabric of India.
- **Population of SC and ST community.**
  - o In spite of the affirmative action provided by Indian Constitution, huge population of the SC and ST community is away from the benefits of education - due to c**aste based hierarchies, difference in treatment** vis-a-vis the upper castes.
  - o **Mainly Agricultural community** - is more **focused on 'More hands for Work'** approach and deliberately keep the children out of mainstream education.

2) Afford ability

- Quality and Afford ability are said to be inversely proportional to each other.
- Agricultural Debts, Droughts , etc put education backwards in the priority of spending of rural families
- **Income Inequities** in different sections of the Society and difference in Rural and urban - earning and spending potential - shows its effect on spending with respect to education.
- **Gaps in Reach of Government Schemes and Scholarships to the needed.**

3)Equity

- It is the measure of achievement, fairness and opportunity in Education.
- It states that factors specific to one's personal conditions should not interfere with the Potential of Academic success.
- **However, In India - equity remains compromised due to-**
  -
    - o Patriarchal Mindset
    - o Caste Based Hierarchies
    - o Regional Disparities.
    - o Societal fabric.
- **Faulty Parameters -** Adolescent psychology is not given due importance, Learning is equated with grades and percentages in exams, there is an increased stress and burden of learning, Employability has become the sole objective of learning.
- **Lack of Sensitivity** also remains are major reason for the same.

- **More Quality in Private Schools -** but lack of Inclusiveness and Profit based approach and hidden costs make them a inappropriate means to achieve quality education for all sections of the society.
- **Marketization of education-** It is argued that choices increase in market place and it brings in functional discipline. But, freedom of choice require informed decision making. It is only possible when the system is fair and provides space for it.

The Different Government Programmes started by the Government with respect to the same are -

1. **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan -** For effective implemention of Article 21 - to provide free and affordable education to all upto the age of 14.
2. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana-** Huge campaign launched for Saving and Educating the girl child in Gender Critical districts.
3. **Ujjawala Yojana -** To counter trafficking and ensure rescue and rehabilitation of sexual exploitation victims.
4. **Jigyasa Initiative -** To connect School Students and Scientists.
5. **SABLA scheme -** All round development of adolescent girls and making them self-reliant.
6. **Online Initiatives like**
   1. **SWAYAM**
   2. **SWAYAM prabha**
   3. **Shaala Darpan**
7. **Schemes for Minorities**
   1. **Seekho aur kamao -** For Skill development and employability of MInorities
   2. **USTTAD -** To upgrade skills and training for traditional arts.
   3. **Padho Pardesh -** To give educational loans to study abroad.

Inspite of different initiatives of the Government for Women, Minorities and Disabled - the obstacles of Last Mile Connectivity, cutting edge Corruption, Inclusion and Exclusion errors, Infrastructural bottlenecks makes it a hindrance for the initiatives to reach the masses. Thus, "Affordable, Equitable, Accessible, Inclusive and Quality" education though achieving progress, yet India need to go a long way to achieve the true utilization of its democratic potential.

21. Examine the way in which technology especially IT tools have been employed by the government to reduce the vulnerability of the poor in India. Have they been successful. Critically evaluate.

Introduction:

Advancement of Technology, particularly IT (Information Technology) has become a boon to the government in delivery of services which has helped them overcome many roadblocks, especially towards the poor and vulnerable sections of society.

Body:

How it has been employed:
- Finance: IT has been used to increase accessibility to financial facility and faster clearance of their dues. Ex: DBT for Pahal, MGNREGA etc. Subsidies, MSP, Kisan Credit cards among others.
- Health: In form of Telemedicine, Tele surgery.
- Education: Smart education in backward and rural areas, Common Service centers, Digital literacy etc.
- Insurance: Insurance penetration, damage assessment and limited time period for disbursal of losses occurred.
- Farming: In form of SMS, Telephonic advice and doubt clearance from agricultural experts. E-NAM, E-Mandi facilities, Inter-state sales etc.
- Disaster: Taking preventive measures before any disaster strikes, creating awareness about safety etc.
- Judicial: Tele-Law by NALSA to give free legal advice and Pro Bono services etc.
- Employment: Employment opportunity has been increased through IT enabled services.

They have been successful in several ways:
- Finance: It has made accessibility to formal credit system easier than before. Financial inclusion has been achieved.
- Corruption: It was known that for every one rupee disbursed only 15 paisa would reach the needy. Now that leakage has been plugged.
- Transparency: Wastage of money has been checked and accountability has been ensured.
- Poverty reduction: Recent report suggest that poverty has been reduced and government services are reaching the end beneficiaries.
- Standard of life: Increased opportunities, improved living standards and reduced effects from disasters.
- Social infrastructure: it has helped in strengthening social and physical infrastructure of country. Every village in India has attained electricity connection after 70 years of Independence.

Certain Failures:
- Accessorily: The access to these services has still not reached maximum level. There is long way to go.
- Fraud: Increase of IT related thefts, fraud due to lack of awareness about it in poor sections of society.
- Hindrance to service delivery: In case of Aadhar enabled rations, Agricultural inputs etc.

Conclusion:

Information technology has helped poor and vulnerable section of society in immense ways. It has helped them come to mainstream and enjoy the fruits of development. But there are still certain areas which needs to be addressed at the earliest to achieve its full benefits.

No Best Answer.

22. What are "Life Cycle Vulnerabilities" ? How can those be addressed? Give Suggestions.

Approach.

Understand that this is an open ended question, most important things in not to be binded by any one point of view. As an aspiring bureaucrat even if you are expected to suggest changes on how to tackle uncertainties of people in the country by Systemic solutions, but as a individual - a person should himself be ready for tackling uncertainties. It is expected that you point out different uncertainties in different phases of Life and different people across the spectrum. Also in Solutions, you can deal with it in different ways like Legal , Constitutional measures, Judicial Activism , NGOs and Media, also by an Individual himself - Psychologically, by tacking Preventive steps and by Changing his orientations of life. The Breadth of your coverage matters more than the Depth of your coverage

Answer

Uncertainty can be defined as Striking of an event when one does not expect it, it is the brute luck that can strike anytime to anyone irrespective of his mental preparedness, irrespective of his socio economic situation and his geographical existence. However, Life can itself be defined as Tackling through Uncertainties. It is said that Uncertainties are inevitable and they are not just or unjust - but the way the society in general and the Individual in particular deals with it make it Just or Unjust.

Uncertainties are certain, in anyone's life - though the level and the type of Uncertainties are determined by the Maturity of any Country to deal with it- While heart attack, road accident, tragic loss of a family member can strike to anyone at any time- but certain Third world specific uncertainties- Like Frequent Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan, Flooding of Indian cities every monsoon, Female Feticide, Dowry Deaths, Collapse of old buildings and bridges, Judicial under trials etc.

Life Cycle of Vulnerabilities

It is said that the "Accident of Birth" should not be the biggest determinant in an individual's life. Life should provide every individual with equal opportunities irrespective of his current deplorable situation. It is the responsibility of the Government and the System in a particular country to make sure that the "Starting Point" remains same for all and all Individuals get the "Basic Security" necessary to explore his potential and his hard work become the only "Parameter for Success" in his life, for this it is necessary to reduce the Uncertainties through "Systemic Changes and Policies" at various stages of an Individuals life as Follows-

Age group	Age Related Vulnerabilities	Systemic Solutions	Examples in India
At Birth and Neonatal Care	Huge number of Maternal and Infant mortality due to various factors, Female Foeticide	Institutional Delivery, Awareness about Importance of Girl child, Providing proper nutrition.	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janani Shishu suraksha Karyakram, PM surakshit matritva abhiyaan,Laqshya initiative,Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) programme.
Adolescence	Child labor, Sexual exploitation, Addiction, Peer Pressure, Parental Pressure, Undernourishment, Malnutrition	Awareness among youth, various programmes for education & employment, Strict Laws against exploitation and Child Labor.	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana,Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY),Scheme For Adolescent Girls ,Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for

			Empowerment of Adolescent Boys-SAKSHAM, Gender Champions scheme.
Mid Age	Financial Instability, Poverty, Health related instabilities . Education and Skill related inabilities, Unemployment, Stress and Depression	Poverty Alleviation program, Health Insurance, Employment generation, Bridging gap in Skills and Education, Awareness and Engagement programmes	Aayushman Bharat, Ujjawala Scheme,Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY),Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
Old Age	Financial distress, Loneliness, Health issues.	Emotional and Financial Care, Health insurance, proper pensions, Accessible and Affordable Health care.	Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana.

Uncertainties can be different not only at Temporal stages but also at functional levels. Eg- A farmer may have uncertainties related to weather, a soldier would have the uncertainty related to "insecurity of his Life", Rich face uncertainties due to "abundance of wealth" - of getting robbed or getting killed, Poor face vulnerabilities due to lack of wealth.

Vulnerabilities can be tackled by other measures as well such as -

1. **Constitutional Measures**
   o By providing certain essential rights as Fundamental rights and ensuring that they are enjoyed by each and every individual.
   o By frequent, additions and subtractions of laws according to the needs of the time. Eg - Making IT specific laws in today's world.
2. **Judicial activism**
   o Ensuring that Judiciary is active and not just a passive spectator
   o Suo Motu - PIL - by the Judiciary to keep an effective watch

- o Judiciary being - transparent and clean institution itself and not subject to paradoxicalness.
  3. **NGOs and Media**
     1. A vigilant Media- as at the Vanguard of Democracy
     2. Media and NGOs - bridging the gap between People and the Government.
3. Media resort to ethical practices and not unethical means and uphold "Responsible Journalism"

Though, Various systemic Solutions can help us tackle "Life Cycle Vulnerabilities" but the power to deal with uncertainties' should come by accepting the fact that "Uncertainties are Omnipresent" - Hence, the ultimate level of Deterrence comes at the Psychological level of an individual as follows-

1. Accepting the certainty of problems- by Embracing and not Avoiding problems.
2. Knowing that the only way of Happiness is by "Solving Problems".
3. Learning - " The Value of Suffering"---- how "pains are good"
4. Learning that "Failure is the way forward"
5. Learning that you are "architects of your own beliefs"
6. Learning the way out of Depression, despair, hopelessness to Hope, Enlightenment, Excitement.

Thus, though Life itself means - "navigation through sufferings and uncertainties" ,yet proper - Preparedness, Mitigation strategy, Proper Response and Recovery - be it at the Systemic level in form of Policies or at personal Level - through mental toughness can be the way forward.

BEST ANSWER : ANKITA MUNSHI

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23. Is Aadhar an indispensable tool for better administration and effective distribution of government services? Shouldn't good governance take precedence over privacy concerns? Examine.

Introduction:

Aadhar is a 12-digit unique identity number provided by Unique Identification Authority of India, which has been made mandatory for availing certain services provided by Central and State government.

Body:

Aadhar is indispensable tool for better administration and effective distribution:
- Saving: It has helped exchequer save over 50 thousand crores in form of DBT.
- Mismanagement: It has helped in checking mismanagement of funds, stocks and delivery of products and services.
- Diversion: It has helped in checking diversion of food and fertilizer stocks from reaching Black market.
- Transparency and accountability: It has helped in bringing about transparency and accountability of service providers like PDS shops.
- Targeted delivery: It helps delivery of services to targeted beneficiaries and finding out the deserving ones.
- Fraud: It has helped in weeding out bogus claims and ghost members.

Aadhar is not indispensable:
- Ratio card: Already ratio cards existed, this could have been strengthened using IT than bringing this new project.
- DBT: A fixed minimum amount could have been transferred to the bank accounts of those who are living below poverty line. It could have helped save government from many other functions like procurement, storing, distribution etc.
- Fertilizer: Neem coated urea has become mandatory, reduction of quantity per baggage etc. could have helped check black marketing, savings in subsidy and diversion for unintended usage.
- Failure proof: Also Aadhar is not fail proof system and already any complaints have been raised about safety and security of our Data stored from going into wrong hands.

Good governance cannot be cited as a reason for mandatory Aadhar enrollment. There should be balance between both. Privacy is also equally important to humans. It is what makes us lead a respectable and dignified life unlike animals. Also Supreme court in its latest Justice Puttaswamy Vs Union of India case has passed verdict that Privacy is also one of the Fundamental rights under Art 21 i.e. Right to life.

Also there are other issues with Aadhar:
- Surveillance state: The Data taken might lead to state sponsored surveillance.
- Cyber security: There is fool profile data protection law in country and also specific infrastructure to deal with any cyber-attacks to Aadhar Data.
- Data Leak: Major Data leak has occurred in recent pasts and in case of going into wrong hands can cause massive damage on large scale.

Conclusion:

Achieving "minimum government and maximum governance" is the agenda of government, for that there are many other better alternative tools, Aadhar need not be/cannot be the only solution which can also put our privacy at stake.

No Best Answer.

24. Critically evaluate the status of tax administration in India. What measures would you suggest to make tax administration citizen friendly?

Introduction

It is said that Fiscal Strength is the driving force of any economy. It is necessary to have efficient, equitable and convenient taxation. Tax administration is a process of managing, directing and supervising the government related tax laws. In India, the tax structure transiting from suppressing Zamindari and Ryotwari Systems during the British rule to current measures like GST and Digital empowered taxation has come a long way, but still the tax structure is ever evolving and moving towards the citizen with each reform.

Current Status of Taxation in India (According to Economic Survey 2017-2018)

- Only about 3-4% of the total population of India pay Income tax.
- Economic Survey 2017-2018 has found 50% surge in the indirect taxes in India.
- The tax exemption bracket in India is 2.5 lakhs, which is about 2.5 times of the Per Capital Income (PCI) - in countries like China it is just 1.5 times of PCI ; making India a low tax paying economy.

Positive of Tax Administration in India

- India follows a Progressive Taxation system, which is against the "One Size Fits All' policy and slabs of income tax change with rise in Income.
- Indirect Tax is Quantity based tax i.e. it generally depends on the quantity of purchase.
- GST - a path-breaking reform, to ensure abiding by the Principle of "One Market, One tax" and reduce the cascading effect , will go a long way to improve Tax Administration in India.

The tax structure in India can be broadly divided into-

- Direct - wherein citizens are directly liable to pay taxes - Eg - Income tax
- Indirect - where liability arises indirectly upon use of a service. Eg - GST

Direct Taxation

Issues and Need for Reforms

1. The taxation system is complicated and there is a urgent need for rationalization and simplification.
2. The Income Tax contains certain provisions that have become superfluous, outdated or inconsistent with the objectives of these provisions.
3. There is problem of potential revenue loss due to lower tax base.
4. There is lack of clarity with respect to complex taxation framework.
5. Indian corporate tax rate is several points higher that even the median countries from OECD which acts as a incentive to carry out Transfer Pricing.
6. A clean tax code is necessary for more efficient capital allocation in a growing economy.

Easwar Panel Recommendations

1. Income from Sale of Shares and Securities
   - It has recommended that to counter the uncertainty in Taxation, Capital Gains Tax should be applied on
     - Shares that are held for more than one year by the taxpayer.
     - Shares that are held for amount up to 5 lakhs.
2. Expenditure on Exempt incomes -
   - CBDT should make provisions to simplify the provisions, this lack of clarity at present consists of 15 % of total Income tax litigants
3. Tax Deductions at Source:
   - It recommended that TDS thresholds needs changes.
   - It noted that TDS rates for individuals should be reduced from 10% to 5%

Indirect Taxation

Recently, In India - GST replaced various indirect central government taxes like Sales Tax, Excise Duty, Customs Duty, Surcharges etc. and State Government levies like - VAT, Entry tax etc. It has unified a by and large fragmented Indian Indirect Tax structure into a "One Tax, One country" form.

Issues and Need for Reform

1. To unify India's fragmented Indirect tax regime.
2. To encourage cooperative federalism.
3. To reduce human interface and leading to speedy decisions.
4. To improve revenue buoyancy and widening tax base.
5. To Eliminate the Cascading Effect
6. To increase the Ease of Doing Business by Tax harmonization.
7. To Reduce Tax Evasion by -
   o Elimination of Rate Arbitrage - across different states.
   o Reduction in Compliance costs.

Steps taken

1. Exemptions to small businesses.
2. Communication and Awareness Programs- like Suvidha Kendras in Government offices.
3. Mandatory Registration - if a business has to be started
4. Anti- Profiteering laws - to make it compulsory to pass on the benefits to the consumers

Other Issues with Taxation

1. Tax Terrorism - especially fear among small businesses with no insurance cover, setting of unrealistic revenue collection targets.
2. Rampant Corruption (especially at the lower level)
3. High levels of Exemptions (like in Agricultural income)
4. Lack of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism.
5. Crony capitalism - by nexus between - Tax Officials and Industry bigwigs
6. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.
7. High Levels of Tax Evasions.

However, it is necessary to ensure that irrespective of numerous issues with the Tax administration in India, it should be ever evolving and moving towards the Citizens. It is necessary to uphold the principles of taxation like Equity, Efficiency, Equity and Compliance. This can be done by the following steps -

1. Increasing the Digital Infrastructure -
2. Ensuring Data Privacy- by increasing more government contribution in GSTN and reducing the influence of private players on it.

3. Federalism - both center and state needs to work together or it would create workspace challenge.
4. Need to Celebrate good financial behavior.
5. Tax simplification and Stability
6. Capacity building of lesser endowed stakeholders.
7. Ensuring Openness, Transparency and Accountability in Taxation in India.
8. Giving Incentives and Rewards - for firms complying by the set norms and standards.

Therefore, we need to ensure that prudent fiscal policies and tax administration helps us strengthen the pillar of Indian Economy- however, at the same time fiscal system remains loyal to its principles of ensuring the "Citizen" remains at the core of the entire taxation structure.All the tax administration and fiscal policies move in a direction of providing a better life for a normal common Indian Citizen.

Best Answer : Mona

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25. What role do charities play in the development process? Discuss. Also examine the challenges faced by charities in India.

Synopsis:
In India, the scope of development is not narrow but very wide, as it includes not just the economic development but the growth on social front, quality of life, empowerment, women and child development, education and awareness of its citizens. The task of development is so huge and complicated that just implementing government plans is not sufficient to fix the problem. To achieve this, a holistic vision and collaborative efforts involving various departments, agencies and even charities and NGOs is required.

Charity is the act of extending love and kindness to others unconditionally, which is a conscious act but the decision is made by the heart, without expecting a reward. When Charity is carried out selflessly, it is a one-way act where a person gives but asks for nothing in return.

Role of Charity in developmental process:

The greatest gift to our community would be when we contribute to making lives better; when we touch lives by the dint of donations or charity, spreading light to the most needy and enlighten our souls in the process.

- Charity is essential and therefore meant to be done for public benefit, relief and to provide assistance to people at times of need in any part of the world, especially who are the victims of war, natural disaster, catastrophe, hunger, disease, poverty, orphans by supplying them with food, shelter, medical aid and other fundamental needs.
- Such charitable purposes can gain momentum from advancing the education of young people for the public benefit by making grants and awards to students in full-time education.
- When considering poverty in the developing world, people feel deep sorrow but seem to put no effort whatsoever to reduce or eradicate the problem. Poverty in today's world has turned out to be sinister and we lay passive towards the problem, therefore such attitude has made us powerless to stop it.
- Charities or NGOs have more benefits of working in rural areas as compared to governmental organizations because charities are more flexible, NGOs are specific to a particular locality and moreover these are committed towards serving the public and community as a whole.
- As the task of development is massive, many charities are playing vital role in the rural development of India in collaboration with the government.

Challenges faced by the charities:
- The number of foreign-funded organisations operating in India has reportedly shrunk by nearly half in the past two years amid a crackdown by the government.
- One of the biggest challenges to giving today is the credibility of organizations. A lot of organizations have poor reputations in terms of how they're using their funds.
- Emotional ties play a big part, if parents and grandparents have given to a particular religious trust or temple, somehow the present generation feels obliged to continue that, even when they would rather channel that money somewhere else.
- Some family foundations that were set up many decades ago with very specific purposes. But they've become a bit redundant now because those issues don't arise any more.
- It's very important that instead of keeping those funds locked up as I've seen they are, particularly in my own community, we need to somehow work with the charity commissioner or other such offices to see how we can put those funds to better use.

Conclusion:

But in spite of all the hurdles, charities will keep on working for social and economic development in India. Charities selectively utilized the local talent, train the individuals and use this for urban and rural development. But the complete success of the Indian development actually depends upon the willingness and active participation of the people in the development processes and efforts.

Best answer: vinu

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26. Are NGOs associated with environmental issues a hurdle for economic growth? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Non-governmental Organizations are non-profit organizations of individuals, activist's, voluntaries or social persons who work for social or political causes. They can also be considered as Interest groups. Recently, Intelligence Bureau report has accused foreign funded NGO's for stalling developmental projects in country.

Body:

NGO's Associated with environmental issues are hurdle to economic growth:
- Stalling projects: They create hurdle for starting or running of projects. Ex: Kudankulam, Narmada dam, Sardar sarovar etc.
- Judicial cases: Approach court and obtain stay order even when cleared by concerned ministries.
- Employment: Due to stalling of projects, huge potential for employment generation is prevented.
- Cost overrun: Due to delay in project completion, judicial cases etc. the costs overshoot leading to financial issues.
- NPA: Due to delayed production and cost overrun, the break-even point is not achieved as expected leading to Non-performing assets.
- Strikes and lockouts: They pursue workers to indulge in strikes against management leading to loss of precious man hours and production.
- Anti-development: Certain NGO's are misleading farmers to strike against GMO crops and Hybrid crop varieties leading to increase in import bills. Ex: Edible oils, Vegetables etc.

They cannot be branded as Anti-development and hurdle to economic development:
- Tribal interests: They indulge in protecting interests and livelihood of primitive owners of land.

- Long term objectives: They help in overcoming the short term objectives of government and show case long term effects due to certain projects. Ex: Dam construction in Uttarakhand along Ganges.
- Climate change: They are fighting for reversing climate change and also in implementation of Paris Climate Accord.
- Pollution: They are fighting for clean air to breathe or else every city in India will rank in Worst air quality index list.
- Sustainable development: They highlight about the need for sustainable development.
- Indigenous flora and fauna: They help in preserving indigenous practices and varieties of flora and fauna especially against onslaught of corporates promoted GMO and Hybrid crops.

Conclusion:

The NGO's sponsored by corporates and foreign bodies are working for the interests of their sponsors and negatively impacted GDP growth of 2-3% as per the recent claims by IB report. It might be one side of story but citing it, entire NGO establishments cannot be blamed. They have been the torch bearers of Climate change and Sustainable Developmental goals.

Best Answer: Shweta

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27. What are the fallouts of low levels of sexual health literacy in India? Examine. How can sex education be promoted in India? Suggest.

Synopsis:
Sex education has been one of the highly controversial issues in Indian society. Due to increasing incidences of HIV/AIDS, RTIs/STIs and teenage pregnancies, there is a rising need to impart sex education. However, introducing sex education at school level always received mixed response from various segments of Indian society.

Fallouts of low levels of sexual health literacy:
- Early marriages is one of the main consequence of not having sexual health literacy
- High population of teenage pregnancy.
- Less space between children, which is one of the biggest health issue for both mother and child.

- Continued prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases e.g. HIV/AIDS, and social customs like child marriage
- Unsafe abortions will increase especially in teenagers.
- Psychological stress in the adolescents due to lack of understanding
- Sex becomes a taboo and people inhibit their willingness to talk about any problems which have huge psychological impact including suicide.
- Makes people vulnerable to unauthentic sources of information.
- Perpetuation of several myths.
- Increasing acceptance of Belief that pornography is real life.

Sex education is promoted in India:

The importance of delivery of sex education in a timely fashion to this significant demographic is emphasized by current statistics that show that almost one in every fifth person on the globe is an adolescent. India has the largest adolescent population and we need to take care of that section of people as they are more vulnerable to the effects of lack of sex education.

- We need to change the mind-set and need to change the attitude of the people, need to discuss openly and more frequently so that teenagers will express all the mishaps happening to them, as society itself consider it as a taboo.
- Need to include in the curriculum from the middle school time.
- In addition, the skills, adolescents develop from sexuality education are linked to more general life-skills, such as communication, listening, decision-making, negotiation and learning to ask for, and identify sources of help and advice such as parents, care givers, and professionals through the family, community, and health and welfare services.
- These useful life-skills are not only to applicable to sexual relationships but also in other aspects of life. They are taught to recognize situations in which they are pressurized by others and how to resist and deal with these, along with challenging long-standing prejudices they are faced in day to day life.
- Need to sensitise media and the cinema also need to be more conscious about the society and even they have social responsibility.

Conclusion:

Provision of sex education might result in multiple benefits to the adolescent boys and girls including delayed initiation of sexual activity, a reduction in unplanned and early pregnancies and their associated complications, fewer unwanted children, reduced risks of sexual abuse, greater completion of education and later marriages, reduced recourse to abortion and the consequences of unsafe abortion, and a curb of the spread of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

Best answer: Rashmi

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27. Critically evaluate the performance of employment generation programmes in India.

Introduction:

With more than 60 percent of population under working age category, Employment generation has become one of the most important issue for the government with increasing demographic dividend and demands for jobs.

Body:

Government has introduced various employment generation programs in recent times like:
- MGNREGA.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushal Yojana.
- Mudra Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri employment generation program.
- Make in India.
- Stand-up India and Start Up India.
- National Apprenticeship Training scheme.
- Rojgar Mela.
- Recognition of Prior learning.

Note: Give 1-2 lines explanation about how these programs have performed in recent past. That will cover the achievement part of question.

Certain issues with the program:
- Quality: There is lack of quality assets created under these programs at ground level especially under MGNREGA.
- Transparency, accountability and audit: of work created, work undertaken and completion.
- Corruption: Full benefits of schemes are not passed on to end beneficiaries.
- Lack of awareness: Government is constantly coming up with several programs but people are not aware about them. Ex: Stand up India and Start-Up India.
- Discrimination: Benefits under program are cornered by only limited/Certain sections of society leading to unequal distribution of benefits. Also women participation has not increased as per expectation. Ex: Mudra Loan, Stand-up India and Start-Up India scheme.
- Resources: Many programs face lack of funds which affect in their implementation.

Conclusion:

As per recent study, India is no longer home to largest number of poor in the world. The contribution from above programs cannot be overlooked in this achievement. But still there is a long way to go, government has to focus on certain areas like Basic Education and Skill development to achieve the intended benefits of demographic dividend of country.

Best Answer: Counter_Strike

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28. Do you think regional cinema is under threat from mainstream Hindi film industry and Hollywood? What can be done to make regional cinema a popular medium? Discuss.

Introduction:

Globalization has had it effects not only on Indian Trade and Business but also on Indian Cinema Industry. Indian Regional Cinemas like Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam has reached foreign shores and become hugely popular across globe.

Body:

Bollywood and Hollywood is seen as threat by regional cinema industry because:
- Investment: The Budget and Financial earnings of them are very huge and no way matchable by regional movies.
- Story and Script: The stories are easily relatable towards modern day youths and current lifestyle. They are very realistic than idealistic themes of other regional movies.
- Global coverage: Hollywood movies have global coverage due to its language. And Bollywood also has global coverage due to its artists coming from various parts of world, Hindi Native speakers and popularity even in far of places like Russia, Ukraine etc.
- Technology and Effects: Usage of technology, Visual effects, location etc. are far more impressing than regional cinemas.
- Promotion: The amount of Promotion undertaken by these industries sometimes exceed the actual budget of regional movies.

But the threat is only to certain limit:

- Market: Regional Cinema has its own niche market. Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam speakers are spread across continent which has helped regional cinema increase its foot print.
- Foreign acceptance: Tamil and Telugu movies have huge acceptance in countries like Japan, China, UAE etc. Especially the recent Bahubali gained huge response from China. Rajinikanth movies have wide fan base in Korea and japan.
- Scripts and Story: Regional Cinema has specific themes or regional issues related scripts or based on Mythological stories which has high acceptance from old generation or above 40 years.
- Talent: Regional Cinema sometimes have high talented actors and actress compared to Hollywood and Bollywood like Rajinikanth, Kamal Hassan, Raj Kumar etc.

What can be done to popularize Regional Cinema:
- Realistic scripts.
- Scripts based on modern lifestyle and Youth specific.
- Increased Investment.
- Use of high end Technology.
- Promotions.
- Digital Media presence Like Netflix, Amazon Prime etc.

Conclusion:

In recent times, Regional Movies are also catching up with their Bollywood counterpart with high budget movies and Very good scripts like Bahubali etc. which has been dubbed in several foreign languages. But still there is a long way to go before they can catch up.

29. Why has double digit growth in GDP remained elusive to India? Is it a serious concern? What are its fallouts? Examine.

Approach:
- Introduction
- Reasons behind
- Why it is a serious concern?
- Steps taken in recent times, Challenges
- Way ahead

Introduction:
India surged ahead to become the world's fastest-growing major economy in the last quarter of calendar year 2017. While the nation has the potential to hit double digit growth in GDP, it has remained elusive.

Reasons behind:

- Structural issue- With 68% of working population in agricultural sector, the sector contributes only 13.7% to our GDP.
- The contribution of women to India's GDP is 18 per cent, one of the lowest proportions in the world.
- Issues in manufacturing sector- low ease of doing business, red-tapism, lack of job specific skills.
- Poor investment- Private investment is at its low. Further public sector banks are facing the challenge of NPAs.

Cause of concern:

- It risks converting India's rich demographic dividend into demographic disaster.
- The demographic window won't last long.
- Growth less than potential results into unemployment resulting into issues like inflation, social unrest etc.
- It results into economic inequality.

Steps taken in recent times:

- The "Make in India" campaign.
- Skill India mission
- Introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, unifying sales tax across all Indian states.

Challenges:

- Private investment needs to pick up significantly, but the woes in the banking sector may drag it down.
- The external economic environment has deteriorated- The global economy is increasingly looking dubious and a lot uncertain with an imminent threat of trade wars breaking out. In such a scenario, India is unlikely to achieve 20-25% exports growth, which is needed to achieve double digit growth.
- With fourth industrial revolution ongoing, automation is emerging as another major challenge.

Way ahead:

- Service sector and manufacturing sector should be able to absorb the disguisedly unemployed in the agricultural sector.
- An effective structural reform agenda including in land, labour and financial markets is required.

- Banking sector- Its time enough competition is generated by solving the issue of NPAs in public sector banks and encouraging private banks' participation.
- Rising up in the value chain- Agro-processing industries.
- Gender empowerment- India could add $770 billion to its GDP annually in 2025, or 18% above business-as-usual GDP by pursuing the goal of gender parity.
- To achieve GDP (gross domestic product) growth of 10 percent, India would need the service sector to grow close to 20 percent complemented by four and eight percent growth in agriculture and industrial growth,

Conclusion:
India needs to reap the benefits of its rich demographic dividend. Reforms being taken needs to be implemented in true spirit. Further it must be ensured that the growth is sustainable and environmental concerns are taken into account.

Best answer: Shweta

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30. Isn't fiscal deficit bad for an economy? Don't you think social sector schemes burden the exchequer? Critically analyse.

Synopsis:
Fiscal Deficit: Fiscal Deficit shows that total debt generated by the government to finance the total budget expenditure after exhausting all options for financing its expenditure. Fiscal Deficit is justified as long as the expenditures are being incurred to finance activities leading to creation of national asset.
High Fiscal deficits become a matter of worry, for, if incurred year after year, they cumulatively create a huge debt for the government.

Let's see how it is bad for economy:
Fallouts on economy:
Debt Trap: Government tries to finance the fiscal deficit by borrowings from both internal and external financial organisations, so annually governments need to repay interest on those borrowings or repay the principal amount what they have borrowed earlier.
Inflation: Excess expenditure of government on social sector leads to increase in money supply in an economy. These create pressure on goods and services results in high inflation.

Foreign Dependence: Government borrowings from foreign organisations and institutions make our economy and policies more dependent on their decisions. These made government restricts to take independent decisions on our foreign policies.

Social sector scheme and burden on government:

- In practice, the effect of fiscal deficit on the economy depends on the expenditure pattern of government as well as the Business Cycle. For instance, running a deficit for pandering to populist demands is detrimental, while in periods of slowdown deficits are warranted to revive demand. Further, fiscal deficit when used to finance capital expenditure is beneficial in long run.
- When the government's Fiscal Deficit is large, it implies that government has to borrow heavily. This means that the demand for loans will rise in the market, causing interest rates to go up.
- In effect Debt servicing alone consumes one-third of government's earnings, followed by subsidies, pension, and defence expenditure. Further, the expenditure as a percent of GDP on core sectors such as health and education is well below other developing countries. Also, empirical evidence suggests that investing in such sectors in-fact boost national income.
- Social sector schemes may be short term burden, however in a long run it is an asset for an economy. For Example: A govt is providing scholarship or internship for graduates. After Completion of graduate, He/ She will create new employments, pay tax, remittance and many more. It is not universal truth that social sector schemes will be an asset.
- Another example: Farmer loan waiver is against the interest of genuine farmers and nation interest in long run.
- As the public debts are social sector schemes are inviting criticism for burdening the exchequer. This notion is misplaced.

Conclusion:

Now we can conclude that social sector schemes are not burden if it proper utilised in national interest. However, we need to take the recent experiences of Greece and a few other European countries shows that cumulative high fiscal deficits can lead countries to bankruptcy of the governments.

Best answer: Suraj singh

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31. Was it ethical on part of the US to withdraw from the UN climate deal? Critically examine.

Approach:
- Introduction
- Ethicality on part of the US- Critical examination.
- Conclusion

Introduction:
On June 1, 2017, United States President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would cease all participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation. Trump stated that "The Paris accord will undermine (the U.S.) economy," and "puts (the U.S.) at a permanent disadvantage. The main aim of the Agreement is to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels", predominantly by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Ethicality of the step taken:

It was not ethical as:
- America is second largest emitter of GHGs after China. The economic growth witnessed by the nation was at the cost of environmental deterioration. Thus, by being party to Paris deal, US could pay back.
- The step is against the principle of common responsibility.
- The GHGs emissions done is past puts a moral obligation on US to take strict measures to cut it down in future.
- It would have led to happiness of maximum people and thus would be ethical as per the concept of utilitarianism.
- Ethical dissonance within US- While US is out of Paris deal, many of the US states and companies still consider themselves party to the deal.
- The step take by US may result into domino effect, with other nations too withdrawing from the deal. This would bring to standstill one of the most comprehensive deal for climate change.

It was ethical as:
- Being part of Paris deal would have resulted into cut down on industrial development thereby impacting economic growth. Thus, following the notion of "America first", the step could be considered as ethical at least a micro level.
- As Mr. Trump himself wasn't part of the negotiations for the deal, his arguments against the deal have never been discussed.

Conclusion:

US being a sovereign country, has all the right to withdraw itself from the Paris agreement. However, when it comes to global challenges, the principle of international ethics should be followed.

Best answer: Aishwarya Singh

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32. How did newly found petroleum supplies change the new nations in Southwest Asia? Explain.

Approach:
- Introduction
- Brief note on newly found petroleum supplies
- Impact
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Southwest Asia is the westernmost sub region of Asia. The countries in Southwest Asian region are- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Over half of the world's known oil reserves are found in this part of the world. The Middle Eastern nations with the greatest reserves of natural gas and oil are Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, and Kuwait. Southwest Asia has the world's largest known oil reserves. • Saudi Arabia and Iran have the largest deposits of oil.

Newly found petroleum supplies: It was discovered in Persia (now Iran) in 1908. In the 1930s, more oil was found on the Arabian Peninsula and around the Persian Gulf. The Middle East became extremely important to other countries as they began to take control of oil production.

Impact:

The region has been completely transformed due to the discovery of oil.

- Oil-producing countries have enjoyed tremendous growth in national wealth and an **improved standard of living**. Citizens that live in these countries may have the access to quality houses, food, health care, education, jobs, transportation, communication, and luxury items. The life expectancy in these countries has increased by over 15 years because of advancements in healthcare, hospitals, medicines, education, etc.
- One of the results from cracks in oil rigs, oil spills, and illegal dumping of oil waste is reduction in the amount of freshwater available for drinking apart from environmental deterioration leading to climate change.
- Many Southwest Asian nations became dependent on oil sales.

Global impact-
- It has made some of these countries extremely rich and has led them to have a lot of **control over the global economy**.

Political instability-
- Some countries have grown very rich due to their oil production (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait), while countries without oil are struggling (Afghanistan, Jordan, Israel, etc.). Countries without oil have a much harder time improving living conditions for their population. This difference in wealth in some of the Middle East has led to conflicts among the nations.
- Anarchy/despotism in Iraq and Syria was a result of the leaders in these nations growing rich by exporting oil and not spending the revenue generated on the wellbeing of the common people.
- Interference by western nations further complicated the situation.

Conclusion:
Recent developments like initiation of production of Shale gas and environmental regulation under Paris agreement is surely going to bring in much required sustainability in the region. Further, development of alternative economies like livestock ranching as proposed by Saudi Arabia's prince should be adopted by other countries as well.

Best answer: No answer

33. Is it a wise move to introduce bullet trains and hyper-loop transportation in India? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Bullet train project between Mumbai-Hyderabad is underway with Japan's technical and loan assistance. Andhra Pradesh is planning Hyperloop between Vijayawada and Amaravati.

Body:

Transportation sector is backbone of economic system. Modernising transportation sector will result into overall economic development through efficiency gains. In this background, introducing bullet trains and Hyperloop transportation is considered wise given the benefits like,

- Indian railways with average speed of 50km/hr look medieval and hamper our economy. Bullet trains with high speed connectivity ensure more productivity - time is money.
- Multiplier effect on economy with
  a) Urban expansion.
  b) Development of industrial hubs along the corridor.
  c) Employment generation.
  d) Technology transfer and its spill over effects on transportation sector.
- Alternative travel mode for passengers with gains in terms of reduced accidents, pollution and fuel usage.
- At a time when private investment is low, bullet train project with Japan provides viable way of using low cost surplus capital to build modern infrastructure in India.

Apart from implantation issues, these projects are criticised for following reasons

- Bullet train project is not financially viable and is wastage of taxpayer's money.
  Ex: HSR systems suboptimal performance in Taiwan, France, South Korea.
- Today about 90% of passengers travel in sleeper or lower class. There is a need to ensure better safety and service to this population. With railways facing issues of poor infrastructure, derailments there is need to upgrade existing infrastructure rather than going for HSR system.
- Jobs created and technology transfer is miniscule compared to the level of investment.
- Isolated projects will not lead to efficiency. Integrated development of transportation sector- road, rail, air is needed.

Conclusion:

Keeping in mind about the India of future, building modern transportation sector with bullet train, Hyperloop would be rational investment for the government. At the same time, integrated development of transportation should be given equal

thrust, which government is trying to achieve through Sagarmala, Bharatamala program.

Best Answer: gargantuan

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34. Rural electrification has the potential to become a driver of rural economic growth. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Approach:
- Introduction
- Potential of rural electrification
- Steps taken by government
- Challenges involved
- Conclusion

Introduction:
As per the government's rural electrification website, Grameen Vidyutikaran, only 0.21 percent of India's 600,000 villages are completely electrified. Further, the quality of the available power is even worse. This is heartening given availability of electricity has direct relation with overall well-being.

Rural electrification and rural economic growth:
- Agriculture sector- Machination, Agro-processing industries, Cold storage, Drip and sprinkler irrigation will all be possible.
- Industrialization- More jobs, less migration to urban areas thereby improving rural economy as well as society. It will give boost to small scale industries and SMEs in rural areas and would also help in revival of power looms.
- Financial inclusion- Mobile banking
- E-governance
- Women empowerment bringing more women to mainstream rural economy. With feminization of agriculture mechanization is the need of the hour and for it happen electrification is quintessential. Electrification and thus street light, less grey areas would result into more secure environment helping them to attend schools, colleges, work place etc.

Government measures:

- Saubhagya scheme- To provide electricity to every household by 2019.
- DDU Gram Jyoti Yojana
- UDAY scheme- Restructuring Discoms.

Challenges:

- Power sector reforms are pending. High NPAs.
- Flawed definition of rural electrification- If 10 percent household of a village is having electricity connection the village is considered as electrified. First of all this limit is too low, secondly electricity connection is different than actual electricity delivery.
- Renewable energy sources- Unreliability

Conclusion:

Rural electrification is required for the success of schemes like Rurban mission, Doubling of farmers' income by 2020 and Digital literacy. It will have huge impact on not only rural economy but overall society. Thus, the steps taken by government must be implemented in true spirit.

Best answer: Ankita Jeph

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35. Don't you think various sops and subsidies take away the incentive of work for the poor? Critically examine.

INTRODUCTION

The socialistic feature of Indian Constitution, low standard of living, high levels of disparities in the in income of various sections, along with the populism involved in politics of the day - has lead the government to carry out the redistribution of wealth, and ensure equity among the population through various subsidies and sops

BODY

Some of the incentives given to the poor are as follows-

- National food security Act giving grains at Rs 1/2/3 to the BPL families.

- Subsidized or free education at Government Schools
- Zero or minimal Utility charges- related to electricity, water etc.
- Offering freebies eg- free sewing machines, laptop, cycle etc (mostly out of populism)
- Subsidized housing under Indira Awas Yojana or Housing for All initiative.

The subsidies although the biggest weapon of populism & help the Government of the day to garner votes, it is accused to take away the benefits of work & to ingrain complacency & lethargy in the people of the country, making them abstain hard work. Various sops and subsidies are criticized due to the following reasons-

- It puts huge burden on the resources of the country and increases fiscal deficit.
- Freebies reduce the work culture in a country.
- It takes out the importance related to hard work.
- It kills the need for work and may force individuals to take up wrong path (Gandhiji)
- It reduces competition and fight to produce the best.
- It increased dependency on subsidized products and reduces innovation.eg- heavy dependence on chemical fertilizers in India.
- It reduces the work potential of individuals of the society.
- Inclusion and Exclusion errors prevent the targeting of subsidies.

However, at the same time it must be noted that 21.5% of the Indian population is under poverty, subsidies are need in order to tackle the multidimensionality of poverty and to promote living as individuals by giving them certain basic rights. They are advantageous in the following
ways-

- They provide bare minimum needs and reduce expenditure for the poor.
- It helps in providing the Right to Life for individuals, which would help them focus on other aspects of life.
- It ensures the poor to get certain benefit for their upliftment.
- It creates equal level playing field.
- It provides a way to Affirmative Action.
- It ensures basic health and education of all citizens.
- It helps a country, especially India- to abide by its Constitution. (DPSPs and Fundamental Rights)

CONCLUSION
Thus, subsidies and sops- should not have "Blanket approach", they should be evaluated on case to case basis and its utility and financial burden should be evaluated thoroughly by including all stakeholders before the launch of a particular subsidy.

36. Discuss various sustainable ways to address the menacing urban waste problem.

Introduction:
With the ever increasing population and urbanization, the waste management has emerged as a huge challenge in the country. Not only the waste has increased in quantity, but the characteristics of waste have also changed tremendously over a period, with the introduction of so many new gadgets and equipment.

Body:
According to Down To Earth, towns and cities generate 62 million tons of municipal solid waste per annum. Only 43 million tons (MT) of the waste is collected, 11.9 MT is treated and 31 MT is dumped in landfill sites.
Waste management is very necessary in the present-day context for the reasons like
- To prevent pollution of the environment and its natural resources like air, water and land.
- To prevent complete exhaustion of the resources like minerals, water, etc.
- To produce energy which can be an alternative for the fast depleting fossil fuels and other conventional sources of energy.
- To make optimum use of the waste generated.
- For a better and sustainable future.

A waste management system consists of a front-end (collection and transportation of the waste) and a back-end (treatment, segregation, recycling, and disposal of the waste). In India, real problems lay at the back-end.
Way out:
- In-house segregation needs to be made popular.
- The rag-pickers who manually scavenge through waste to pick out a few 'clean' recyclables they can sell, need to be given better employment opportunities and modern equipment.
- Energy-from-waste is a crucial element of SWM because it reduces the volume of waste from disposal also helps in converting the waste into renewable energy and organic manure. Need to push for setting up compost & vermi-compost plants, bio-methanation plants, Waste to Energy plants in the country.

- Decentralised option for treating degradable urban waste - generated in households, institutions and markets places using technologies such as composting and bio-methanation. This will reduce load to landfills, compost can find immediate local market and even create green jobs.
- Along with involving private sector, integration of waste pickers/ rag pickers and waste dealers/ Kabadiwalas in the formal system should be done by State Governments.
- Need to strengthen functioning of urban local bodies in waste management with adequate resources.

Conclusion:
With country likely to witness rapid urbanisation in coming decades civic bodies have to redraw long term vision in solid waste management keeping in mind 3R's- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and rework their strategies as per changing lifestyles. They should reinvent garbage management in cities so that we can process waste and not landfill it.

Best Answer: John Nash

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37. How has issue of illegal migration flared up communal tension in India? Do you think, NRC can address this problem? Examine.

Introduction:
Illegal immigration is the illegal entry of a person or a group of persons across a country's border, in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country, with the intention to remain in the country.

Body:

Illegal migration mainly takes place in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country from neighbouring Bangladesh. This has resulted in communal Tensions:

- Assam: Frequent communal tensions in parts of Assam have been the result of illegal migrants. It started with Nellie Massacre, one of the worst pograms after world war- II. Unofficial figures of killings go up to 10,000.
- 2012 and 2014 Assam violence: Series of attack took place between Immigrant Muslims and Bodos who are an indigenous community in Assam.
- Shillong: Between Khasi society and Punjabi settlers in Meghalaya's shillong. Khasi society considers them as illegal settlers.

- West Bengal: Influx of Hindu migrants from Bangladesh have led to series of communal violence in west Bengal recent being North 24 parganas.

How illegal migration has affected:
- Increased pressure on land, resulting in depletion of forest wealth.
- Undercutting of wages of unskilled jobs.
- Forcible occupation of Government land by the migrants.
- Terrorism.

An estimated 20 million illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are believed to be living in India although the actual figure could be much higher. In order to prevent illegal migration government has come up with National Citizen Registry in Assam.

It can solve the problem, as It will help in identification between illegal migrants and Indian Citizen/Indigenous people which might make it easier to deport them the illegal migrants.

It is not that easy as it sounds due to various issues:
- Bangladesh not willing to recognize them as their own citizens.
- Humanitarian and Legal issues.
- Local political support due to vote bank.

Note: 1-2 lines explanation is needed for all points.

Conclusion:

These illegal migrants are now spread in several states and distant places such as Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and so on. Thus it is high time to solve the problems of illegal migration to save Assamese people in their own land and to save the nation from the threat of illegal migrants.

Best Answer: No Best Answer.

38. The absence of Uniform Civil Code undermines India's secular credentials. Critically comment.

INTRODUCTION

The Uniform Civil Code is the state's intervention to revive religion according to the Constitution. Article 44 of the Constitution directs the state to implement the Uniform Civil Code to ensure the implementation of the values of Secularism imbibed in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights & DPSPs of the Constitution. The absence of which has been one of the biggest issues of debate in Independent India.

BODY

Uniform Civil Code though mentioned in the Part 4, i.e the DPSPs of the Constitution-they are unenforceable in the courts, the political leadership has been unable to bring this Art 44 of the Constitution in actual practice due to various political compulsions and the issues of independent India. It was seen that Parsi laws and Christians laws were regulated during the British; Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist laws were regulated by Anand Marriage Act. However, it is argued that absence doesn't undermine India's secular credentials as-

- Secularism is mentioned in mentioned in the Preamble of the Constitution of India.
- Secularism is also implicitly mentioned in the Fundamental Rights (Article 25-28)
- It gives different religions a sense of confidence that their practices are not been undermined.
- It calls for an Internally derived solution, where people develop sensitivities for different religions themselves.
- It could be considered to be a way for upholding minority rights.
- It gives importance to the idea that Nation can be formed out of different practices of different religions.
- Bringing UCC cannot mean just forcibly imposing a certain sets of rules; it should be brought by prolonged debate, deliberation and by ensuring consensus of people of India.

However, it is often accused that not enforcing Uniform Civil Code- is due to political appeasement of the day & it has many adverse effects of the Dream of India seen during Independence

- Absence of Uniform Civil Code, leads to different treatment of different people.
- Against Article 14- the concept of equality before law.
- It affects integration of the country, as it is perceived as a measure of appeasement.
- It leads to the suppression and subjugation of women of the country due to discriminatory practices e.g-Triple Talaq.
- It increases the scope of Arbitrary policies- which might be unjust and suppressive in nature - Untouchability, Nikah Halala practice etc.
- There is a lack of uniformity in dealing with various cases and issues related to different religions.
- It can develop a sense of insecurity in minds of people of other religions on differential treatment of people of a specific religion.
- It goes against the Indian form of Secularism, which is of "Principled distance".
- Constant religious tussle has been seen over the period of time due to absence of UCC.
- Number gains an edge-by the fear of mass protests-over and above the Prudential of implementing a particular law.

- It would be better for India consisting of different religions, languages, regions - to take UCC as a guiding lamp than to draw rights of arbitrary orthodox religious laws.

CONCLUSION

While different minorities have been opposing UCC to uphold their individual rights & upholding their right to religion; the majority wants it to maintain homogeneity. The solution lies in debate, deliberation, taking different stakeholders into consideration, it should be completely depoliticized process-keeping the national interest at the core, it should be more of bottom-up than a top-down approach. Thus, Uniform Civil Code can India to realize it dream if implemented effectively.

BEST ANSWER: DECEMBER

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39. Do you think various agricultural extension schemes make a difference for Indian farmers? Substantiate with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Agricultural extension is the application of scientific research and knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. Generally, agricultural extension can be defined as the "delivery of information inputs to farmers."

Body:

Various Agriculture extension schemes of government:
- Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms
- Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension
- Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres by Agriculture Graduates (ACABC)
- Kisan call centers.
- Farmer's portal.
- M-Kisan app.
- DD Kisan Channel.
- Crop Insurance app.
- E-Krishi samvad.

Issues:

- Lack of Awareness: About Insurance app, Kisan call centers etc.
- Lack of timely access.
- Digital illiteracy: Facilities like Internet, Farmers portal, Mobile applications are of no use to majority due to lack of digital knowledge to use them.
- Lack of Infrastructure: For instance, programs on DD-Kisan are based on fixed schedule and rural parts of country get electricity only for limited hours.
- Language issues: The support is given only in major languages.

Note: Give a line or two explanations in schemes part. That will cover the first part of question.

Conclusion:

The issues pointed out should be addressed. Government can look up to certain western countries who have successfully rolled out extension services in agriculture and implement them in India as well.

Best Answer: John Nash

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40. Don't you think the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 is too ambitious a target for the government? Had you been a secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, what suggestions you would have given to meet this target?

INTRODUCTION
India's soul resides in its villages; Agriculture consists of highest amount of employment generation in India. However, huge distress has hit the Agricultural sector due to environmental impacts, policy paralysis, debt trap etc. which has led to large amount of farmer suicides across the country particularly in the Deccan plateau. In this response government has set up Ashok Dalwai Committee- for active balance regional development to get rid of the ongoing farm distress by 2022.

BODY
Though pure in its intentions, the goal of doubling farmer's income by 2022 is seen to be too ambitious due to the following issues-

- Systematic Challenges
  - Poor maintenance of land records

- o Beneficiary identification is a big issue- leading to inclusion and exclusion errors.
  - o Agricultural laborers are left out and remain very vulnerable.
  - o Land leasing leads to wrong targeting of beneficiaries
- Economic Challenges
  - o Ineffectiveness of insurance schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Bima Yojana.
  - o Monopoly of the trader in the Mandi.
  - o Ineffectiveness of the MSP, also MSP only to certain crops leads to lack of diversification of agriculture.
- Socio Economic Challenges
  - o Poor state of education and awareness with respect to agriculture.
  - o Lack of research in new scientific Agricultural techniques.
- Infrastructural bottlenecks
  - o Lack of Banking correspondents-leads to less financial inclusion leading to debt trap.
  - o Lack of effective irrigation facilities.
  - o Lack of all weather roads.
  - o Lack of effective storage & harvest techniques

The problem with respect to Agriculture is deep rooted and hence, it needs systemic solutions with a well thought out strategy and not just a fire fighting strategy.

- Focusing More on Allied sector like Animal Husbandry, Fisheries etc in addition to agriculture.
- Creation of Alternative Source of incomes from Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Bovine programme etc.
- Looping in private players to build cold storage and transportation infrastructure.
- Integrated implementation of MGNREGA in building rural roads along with PM Gram Sadak Yojana.
- Creation of transparent market through eNam, the elimination of middle man, increasing farmer's say in determination of prices
- Focusing on value addition in food processing.
- Agriculture market reform on the lines of Model APMC Act.
- Setting up of Small farmers Agribusiness consortium
- Encouraging Contract farming- as it caters to all the input and output externalities.
- Increasing ICT based extension service e.g- like information on weather.
- Zero Budget based farming-Low cost, environment friendly agriculture; e.g- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh

CONCLUSION

Thus, reform in the Agriculture sector is most instrumental to effectively improve the lives of the farmers, to improve their lives and to bring economic stability by giving them a sense of security and hope. However, as seen above the changes cannot be overnight, they have to effectively planned and implemented at various levels and achieving a desirable and feasible target with multifaceted approach.

BEST ANSWER: GOG
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41. Why do Indian scientists and researchers migrate to developed countries? What can be do to control this brain drain? Suggest.

Synopsis:
Brain Drain: The immigration of highly trained or qualified people from their native place to some other country.
Brain Drain in India is very much of a reality today, especially scientists and researchers who migrate to developed countries. India and China are the two top most countries that suffer from it although very differently but it effects other parts of the world including The United States. This is the 21st century, the era of globalization, where we are all free to go and live in any country we want, that is our legal right.

- Brain Drain involves immigration of trained and highly skilled human labour away from a place that needs it the most, in the quest for financial gain or career advancement.
- According to the research done by IIM Banglore, the total percentage of brain drain in India has increased by 256% fold in a single decade or may be less.
- On Global scale, it can be seen that there is increase in migration outflow during 1990's from Asia to USA, Canada, Australia, and UK due to result in hike of demand of IT professionals and skilled brains in Science & Technology along with immigration policies that favours a bunch of skilled and qualified technocrats.
- In developing countries like India, Brain Drain results in high percentage, because the race for getting a share in the world class institutions has hiked, and the alarming rate cut off goes to almost 100%.

Reasons behind migration at alarming rates are:
- Humans have always moved in search of more suitable opportunities in history & development of nation states could only regulate it to an extent.

- Inadequate institutions which have been marked with global exposure, facilities, faculties and equipment
- Not enough competent environment and unskilled brains
- Political instability
- Lack of opportunities
- High salaries in western countries
- IPR issues in India are one of the main reasons for the researchers as well as others to migrate from here.

Steps need to be taken to control brain drain:
- Cutting edge research & ecosystem in the developed countries is an attraction & offers opportunities for individuals to quench their thirst for knowledge. This coupled with relative lack or shortage of qualified manpower there act as pull factor
- Relative lack of equivalent opportunities & relative excess of qualified manpower act as push factor.
- Encourage private players into the research as well as provide them more funds as well as there is a need for assurance for getting IPR in a shorter period.
- Need to encourage state governments and local governments to fund for research for their local problems that way emotional touch will also be there to do research for their own people.
- Our universities and laboratories need to collaborate and it will create an atmosphere which will help scientists to get in hands with best machinery as well as best brains from the universities.

There have been some measures in the past to arrest brain drain at least in the top knowledge section, if not entire high skilled spectrum. Some examples include:
- The "Scientists' Pool" by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- The Ramanujan Fellowships by Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India
- The INSPIRE Scheme of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India
- VAJRA: Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty scheme by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) which enables NRIs and overseas scientific community to participate and contribute to research and development in India. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Department will implement the Scheme.
- Mentor India Campaign: Mentor India is aimed at maximizing the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs. The idea is to engage leaders who will nurture and guide

students in the Atal Tinkering Labs. These labs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors

Conclusion:

It is no more a brain drain in a highly networked world and a sharing economy. Further the brain drain also gives a lot of soft power to India. We need not be too worried about brain drain and instead should work on providing the best facilities to the people who are staying back.

Best answer: GOG

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42. What role can academia-industry interface in promoting research and development culture in India? Discuss.

Introduction:

In US, it is well established fact that Industries collaborate with academics to bring innovation to their work, whereas in India Industries depend solely on their own research. This scenario is changing in recent times.

Body:

Role Academia-Industry interface can play in Research and Development:

- Innovation and Research facilities: Industries can get help in innovation and facilities like access to laboratories from academics for their products.
- Monetary benefits: Academics can get monetary benefits in return inform of contribution from corporates for sharing their innovation. Ex: Infosys co-founder gives 225 crores to develop centre for Brain development at IISC.
- Technical assistance: Inform of advanced technologies and products for laboratories. Ex: Satellite observation centres, Proto types in Universities.
- Internship: Students can in turn get hand on opportunity to practical world inform of Internships and Industry get cheap labour force.
- Support: In form of scholarships and grants for students interested in research fields.
- Bright minds: Industries can tap young and Bright minds in universities and encourage them to take up research as a field. Students can also be assured of job prospects and devote more time to research.

Issues:
- Brain Drain: India currently faces issue of Brain Drain i.e. majority of students prefer Western nations to start or carry out research.

- Interests: Lack of interests from corporate sectors to enter into any kind of relationship with universities.
- Monetary issues: Indian corporates are facing cash crunch and in such situations investing in universities is big cost which they cannot afford to.
- Foreign varsities: Corporates interested in collaboration prefer to go with foreign universities than Indian due to lack of talent.
- Government: There are no required support from government to enter into collaboration with public universities.
- Policies: Amendment to laws are required in some cases and there is lack of political support.

Policy support:
- Start-Up India.
- Prime Minister's Fellowship scheme for Doctoral Research.
- INSPIRE.
- KIRAN.

Conclusion:
It is clearly time to create a nurturing environment where the industry and the academia can work hand-in-hand. Corporates are beginning to realise the significance and engage in more and more research-based projects.

 Best Answer: No best answer.

43. Examine the factors leading to increasing number of droughts and floods in India. Is there a way to address the erratic weather pattern? Discuss.

Approach:
- Introduction
- Factors leading to increasing number of droughts and floods in India
- Ways to address the erratic weather pattern
- Conclusion

Introduction:
India essentially forms a separate geo-hydrological and climatic unit due to its isolation from the rest of the Eurasian landmass. Thus, the problems of floods and droughts in India form a distinct unit of study while studying global climatic and water regimes. However, in the age of humans, the anthropological factor has come to dominate discussions on disasters.

Factors leading to increasing number of floods in India:
- **Meteorological Factors:** These include prolonged heavy rainfall which is usually common during the monsoon season. Cloudbursts are quite regular in

the Himalayan region during monsoons as well. Tropical cyclones often cause flooding along the eastern coastline.

- **Topological Factors:** Lack of drainage from the area, saturated sub-soil, glacial lake outbursts due to the failure of outward debris dams.
- **Human Factors:**

  Examples-

  Floodplains of several rivers, especially in the northern plains like Kosi, Ghaghra, Gandak, Sarayu etc are flooded every year. Yet, these areas have been settled by people, usually lying in the lower economic-strata- eg. Assam and Bihar plains. The destruction of natural wetlands including marshes and lakes has led to blocking of areas that had earlier served as water sinks. Construction of houses in a haphazard manner. With increasing deforestation especially along coastal areas and river banks, the first line of defence against floods has been removed.

Factors leading to increasing number of droughts in India:

- **Meteorological Drought:** Reduction in rainfall for a specific period below a specific amount.
- **Hydrological Drought:** Drying up of water sources – both surface and ground water (together or individually)
- **Soil Moisture Drought:** Unavailability of adequate moisture to support the standing crop.
- **Ecological Drought:** Productivity of a natural eco-system falls significantly as a consequence of distress induced environmental damage.

Though all reasons mentioned above seem to pertain to natural causes, yet drought is said to be a man-made disaster in the present context. This is due to:

- **Faulty cropping systems** that lead to excessive wastage of water like the flooding of fields during rice sowing.
- **Growing crops that do not suit the agro-climatology** of a particular region. India has been divided into several agro-climatic zones and it is recommended that crops that suit that region must be grown. For example, sugarcane in Maharashtra where the interiors face a shortage of water perennially. Also, rice in southern Karnataka and northern Tamil Nadu are other examples.
- Increasing urbanization has led to indiscriminate use of water by urban centers. This has led to water being pumped from hundreds of kilometers away leaving the sources dry and deficient in water.

- **Lack of water storage structures** that cause water that falls during the monsoons to just wash away. Also, destruction of natural water storage structures due to encroachment.

Addressing the erratic weather pattern:

- Mitigation by checking climate change- India has set ambitious targets under INDC (Paris agreement). The road map should be implemented strictly.

Adaptation:

- Growing crops suitable for the agro-climatic zone.
- Planned settlement.
- Afforestation in flood plains and along coastal areas (Mangroves).
- Efficient use of ground water resources needs to be incentivized.
- Investments in R&D for the development of drought-resistant crops can help reduce some of the negative impacts.
- Improvements in hydro-meteorological systems for weather forecasting and the installation of flood warning systems can help people move out of harm's way before a weather-related disaster strikes.

Conclusion:

Today, the country faces the twin challenges of floods and droughts that recur every year. Solving the challenges requires a policy based top-down approach and also a local government based push. India has committed itself to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, these are aligned with the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction to which India is a signatory. It is thus imperative that India synchronize its efforts so as to meet its targets under both by addressing all disasters – especially floods and droughts.

Best answer: gargantuan

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44. There are evidences that bacterial contamination along Varanasi's Ghats has actually increased in the past few years. What can be the possible reasons behind this? Why hasn't the Namami Gange project taken up? Examine.

Synopsis:

Namami Gange is 100% centrally funded programme. The intention is to "ramp up progress" of the Ganga clean-up mission. Mission has been announced as an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission in the Union Budget of 2014-15 with the aim of Ganga Rejuvenation i.e., restoration of the wholesomeness of the holy river.

According to the government, a major change in implementation from earlier efforts will lie in the focus on involving people living on the river's banks. States and grassroots institutions such as Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions will be involved by implementing agency National Mission for Clean Ganga and its state counterparts, State Programme Management Groups.

Recent developments and situations in Ganga project:

- Along Varanasi's ghats, lab tests have found bacterial contamination is now higher than the levels recorded back in 2014 when the new government launched its most ambitious Namami Gange initiative to clean up the river.
- The Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry has reported a 58 per cent increase in contamination from faecal coliform bacteria in the city's waterway.
- More than 2,500 coliform microorganisms in 100 millilitres are considered unsafe for bathing.
- But Ganga samples collected from Varanasi's Malviya Bridge showed bacterial contamination almost 20 times higher than the official standards.
- Dead aquatic life is another eyesore along the banks of the ancient city. That may be because the Ganga is losing its oxygen there.
- A tangible evidence of this trend emerged in the ministry's reply that admitted that dissolved oxygen at the Assi Ghat has dropped from 8.6 milligram per litre in 2014 to 7.5 milligram in 2017, on the edge of the recommended 5mg/l limit.

Reasons for increase in the bacterial contamination:

Pollution threat to Ganga is due to various reasons stated by different departments like:

- Although governments are claiming that open free defecation on the banks of ganga, but the reality check says otherwise.
- Rapidly increasing population, rising standards of living and exponential growth of industrialization and urbanization have exposed water resources, in general, and rivers, in particular, to various forms of degradation, and the mighty Ganga is no exception.
- As per an official estimate, approximately 12,000 million litres per day (mld) sewage is generated in the Ganga basin; however, the treatment capacity is of only around 4,000 mld and approximately 3000 mld of sewage is discharged into the main stem of the river Ganga from the Class I & II towns located along the banks.

- The industrial pockets in the catchments of Ramganga and Kali rivers and in Kanpur city are significant sources of industrial pollution, mostly tanning and leather industries.
- The major contributors are tanneries in Kanpur, distilleries, paper mills and sugar mills in the Kosi, Ramganga and Kali river catchments.
- Still human carcasses as well as other dead bodies are being disposed and the half burnt bodies are being releasing into the river.

Conclusion:
Namami Gange Programme has eight pillars viz., sewage treatment infrastructure, river-surface cleaning, afforestation, industrial effluent monitoring, river-front development, bio-diversity, public awareness and Ganga Gram. Besides, to deploy best available knowledge and resources across the world for Ganga rejuvenation, India signed Memorandums of Understanding with countries like Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Israel, etc. and also the multilateral agencies as the World Bank Group.

Best Answer: none

45. What challenges are being faced in Kerala after the devastating floods? How can those be addressed? Suggest.

Introduction:
Kerala witnessed one of the worst floods in 100 years after south-west monsoon rains lashed the State for more than two weeks. The Indian government had declared it a Level 3 Calamity, or "calamity of a severe nature".
Body:
Number of challenges faced by Kerala post-floods

- Infrastructure reconstruction: from providing basic facilities like water, power supply to construction of roads, repair works require huge amount of monetary resources, which state lacks. Recovery and reconstruction cost is estimated to be billions of dollars.
- Rehabilitation of people who have lost their homes, means of livelihood is a daunting task.
- Kerala battles mounds of waste piled up on streets. Managing the flood waste is beyond the state's current capacity as it is not equipped to handle even the waste generated in the normal course of events. Thus, there is a threat to public health.
- Environmental: pollution of sources of water like wells, ponds as e-waste coming in direct contact with drinking water sources, soil erosion, ecology destruction.
- Outbreak of infectious diseases: deadly rat fever has claimed lives of people after floods.

- Economic loss resulting from destruction of crops, tourism sector being hit.

Ways to address challenges:
- Provision for adequate central assistance for reconstruction work.
- Need to mobilise civil society organisations, communities given inadequate state resources in terms of man power and finance.
- Medicinal support by providing supply of essential medicines and spreading awareness on healthy practices.

Conclusion:
Recent years, floods have become chronic problem in India (Chennai, Uttarakhand). So far policy measures have been more reactive than proactive. With climate change, extreme weather events will only rise with time. What is needed is to strengthen resilient planning with measures like relocate people away from hazard zones along the rivers, government to be insurer of last resort for citizens, implementing recommendations of Gadgil and kasturirangan panel and capacity building among communities.

Best answer: Gunther

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