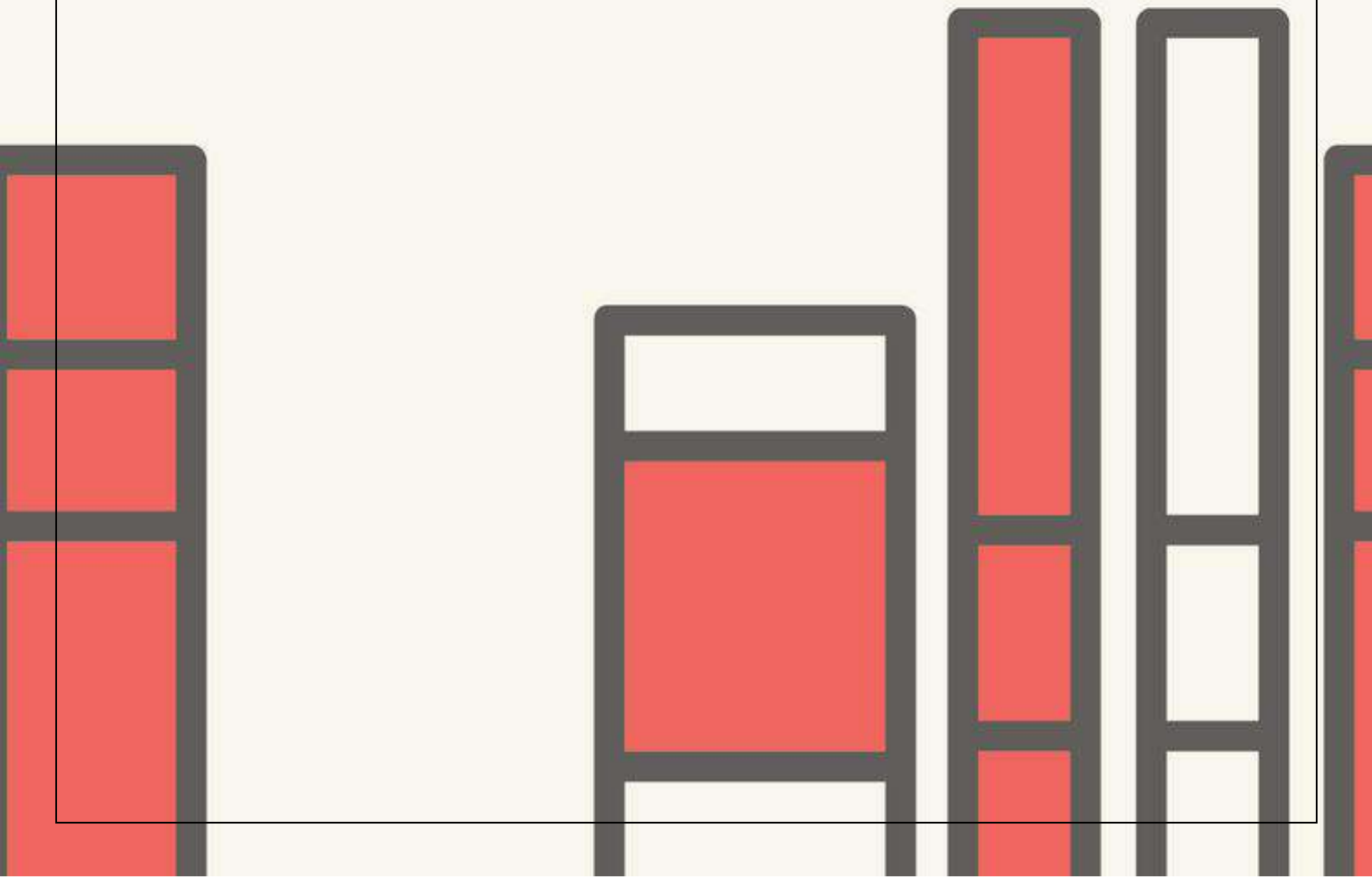




IASBABA'S TLP COMPILATIONS FOR MAINS 2018

GENERAL STUDIES - 2



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1. The Constitution of India has both colonial and nationalistic imprints. Substantiate.**Approach:**

- Give 2-3 lines introduction about constitution of India.
- Body should contain two parts. One for Colonial and another for nationalistic. Write preferably in points and underline keywords.
- Conclusion is must without that answer is incomplete.

Introduction:

The Constitution of India is an inclusive and accommodative document which includes features of Colonial, Nationalistic, liberal and post modernistic imprints to suit present and future generations.

Body:**Colonial Imprints:**

- Nature of democracy: Parliamentary system, which was a colonial legacy, was adopted as the governance system for the independent India.
- Strong Centre: Residuary powers with Centre, emergency provisions, and lack of financial autonomy for states were all borrowed from the colonial era.
- Parliamentary provisions: Annual financial statement, ordinance making powers and certain parliamentary practices were continued from the pre-independence time.
- Non-exclusive domains of legislature, executive and judiciary: Interdependence among the three pillars was a feature of British India.
- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): Adopted from the 'Instrument of Instructions' contained in the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Bureaucracy: Indian Civil Service which the sardar patel called as Steel frame of India.

Nationalistic imprints:

- Fundamental rights: These were based on the Karachi resolution of Congress in 1931.
- Gandhian principles of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): co-operative societies, Ban against slaughter, Women participation in public sphere.
- Economic planning: Socialist principles of congress.
- Fundamental duties: Though added later and not in original constitution.
- Preamble: Fraternity, Unity and integrity, Secularism, Socialism etc.
- Decentralization: Based on village self-governance. 73rd and 74th amendment.
- Education: In mother tongue or vernacular language.

Note: A line or two explanations is required for each point. 7-8 points depending on word limit is enough in exam.

Conclusion:

The above features show that our constitution is blend of both colonial and nationalistic imprint. But at the same time, our founding fathers have made sure that it can be changed as per the requirements of changing times.

Best answer: El-Nino Modaki

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2. The Constitution of India was made in the past but articulated in the Constituent Assembly. Elucidate.

Approach:

- Give a brief introduction about the Constitution in 2 to 3 sentences.
- Mention and elaborate on the factors shaping the ideals of the Constitution.
- Conclude appropriately.

Body:

The Constitution is the supreme law of India. It has evolved gradually during the pre-independence era, beginning majorly from colonial rule and has inspired and shaped the vision of the Constitution.

Some of the shaping factors are:

- British colonial rule and the Freedom struggle: The oppression leading to the enhanced importance of the rights of citizens like civil liberties (freedom of speech), etc., and through the freedom struggle has shaped the vision of the constitution.
- INC session of Karachi's resolution on Fundamental rights and National economic programme and other similar events.
- British governance Acts for India: Starting from the Regulating Act of 1773 till the Indian Independence Act of 1947, especially Government of India Act of 1935
- International events: French revolution (Republic, ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity), Russian revolution (ideals of justice), etc., has led to the increased importance and expansion of rights.

- Indian philosophy and thinkers: Like Gandhi's philosophy leading to the self-government institutions i.e, PRI (article 40 under DPSP), etc.
- Nehru report of 1928, the first attempt in drafting the Constitutional scheme indigenously had most of the present document's ideals like fundamental rights, responsible government at the centre and in states, etc.

Thus, the Constitution is a gradually evolved document over a period of time and was carefully articulated by the constituent assembly.

Best Answer: silent voice

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3. Does in your opinion, the Indian Constitution draws on the philosophy of Enlightenment? Discuss.

Approach:

Give a brief introduction regarding philosophy of Enlightenment. Then write about the various thinkers who have contributed to this philosophy along with its influence on the constitution.

Answer:

Philosophy of enlightenment is referred to a collective of revolutionary intellectual ideas developed in Europe between 16-18th century. It broke the shackles of feudal system and built a new structure based on ideas like reason, rationality, humanism, liberty, equality.

These ideas along with some indigenous ideas have influenced the Indian constitution and paved the way for the nation building. Influence can be summarized as below-

- The democratic nature of the constitution which is built on the idea of sovereignty of people can be traced to the Social contract principle of Rousseau.
- Preamble talks about the idea of Liberty, equality and fraternity which has been influenced by French Revolution.
- The rule of law propounded by Article 14 has been influenced by ideas of philosophers like Hobbes, Locke.
- Separation of powers has been one of the hallmark of Indian constitution and has been derived from the thoughts of Montesquieu.

- The idea of welfare state underpinned by the Directive Principles of State Policy with Article 35 (social justice), Article 43 (living wage) etc have been influenced by the welfare state idea propounded by the western philosophers.
- Secularism has been part of the basic structure of the constitution. Article 25 to 30 highlight the nature of secularism in India. These have been inspired from the ideas of John Locke.
- The philosophy of Enlightenment has been built on rationality and reason. These have been incorporated in Indian constitution. Article 51A (h) has made development of scientific temper as one of the fundamental duties.
- Not just western thinkers but even Indian thinkers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Eshwar Chandra Vidyasagar who were instrumental in Indian Renaissance have also influenced the Indian constitution by conferring ideas like gender equality, educational importance etc.

Thus, it can be said that Indian constitution has given much importance to philosophy of enlightenment and has been instrumental in the overall welfare of Indian society both socially as well as politically.

Best Answer: Kunal Aggarwal

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4. 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:

- It aims to undertake Joint research and Development in production of cost and energy efficient Photo voltaic cells.
- It aims to mobilize investments and funding for the solar energy initiatives across the world.
- 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.
- To enhance Energy security and help nations switch to the path of Sustainable development.
- 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:

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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).

- 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.

Conclusion:

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: Silent voice

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5. Directive Principles of State Policy act as a decisive politico-constitutional tool for bringing about social revolution. Elaborate.

Approach:

- Give 2-3 lines introduction about DPSP importance.
- In the body, mention those articles which help to bring about social and economic equality. Try to mention article and terms used in the constitution as possible to score high marks.
- 2-3 lines Conclusion is must without that answer is incomplete.

Introduction:

Directive principles of state policy was a borrowed from Irish constitution whose primary role is to establish social and economic equality. Even though judicial non-enforceable but still it plays a huge role in bringing social revolution.

Body:

How it plays a role in bringing social revolution to create welfare state:

The content can be segregated into Gandhian, Liberal and Social principles and then respective articles can be mentioned under the headings. Important articles are mentioned below, use them accordingly.

- Article 38: Eliminate inequalities by securing and promoting social order in economic, social, political spheres of life.
- Article 39: gender equality in pay, opportunity and livelihood, elimination in the concentration of wealth etc.
- Article 39A: Access to the judiciary in form of free legal aid for needy.

- Article 40: Village panchayat to empower people and give direct power into their hands.
- Article 42: Women empowerment.
- Article 44: Implementing uniform civil code where all are treating equally irrespective of religion, culture or gender.
- Article 45: Compulsory education to achieve 100% literacy and provide a strong foundation to future of nations.
- Article 46: Provide an opportunity to those people who have been at disadvantage due to historical reasons like SC, ST's and other weaker sections.
- Article 48A: Protection of the environment which has cultural, social and economic importance to humans.

Note: A line or two explanations is required for each point. 7-8 points depending on word limit is enough in the exam.

Conclusion:

Due to various reasons it might have a disadvantageous feature of being non-enforceable but political powers have given due importance to many of them and placed some of them under fundamental rights too. But more needs to be done.

Best answer: Madhavi Yadav

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6. A Constitution reigns supreme provided it is backed by a complementary political will. Do you agree with this view? Elaborate your response.

Approach:

- Write a 2-3 lines introduction to show your understanding of the question and your agreement or disagreement with the statement
- The body should include examples of how with 'political will' spirit of the constitution is upheld at the same time give examples about negative fallout of not having the political will
- Provide an optimistic conclusion

Introduction:

Dr. B R Ambedkar in his last address of the constituent assembly had said that however good a Constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a Constitution may be, if those implementing it are good, it will prove to be good.

(By writing such quotes you can show your agreement of the statement)

Body:

Instances/examples to show robust political will complement constitutional ideals

- Provisions under DPSP, even though explicitly mentioned under article 37 (fundamental in the governance), to implement them requires political will, in order to establish a welfare state.
- Laws enacted for the establishment of equality, liberty and fraternity etc. which are ideals of Preamble: Prevention of Untouchability Act, Prevention of Atrocities Against SCs/STs Act
- Laws/ schemes for the welfare of vulnerable sections: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, Maternity Benefits Act etc
- Amendments/ laws enacted for the implementation of DPSPs: 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments, Environment protection laws
- Land reforms example is an apt example, as only a handful of states like Kerala, West Bengal could progress successfully on this aspect.

Instances to show negative fallout of bad political will

- Many of the Constitutional amendments made during Emergency were against the ideals of constitution
- Use of money and muscle powers hindering the free and fair elections as mandated by constitution
- Misuse of Governor's discretion etc

Instances to show lack of political will

- Delay in the appointment of Lokpal
- The unwillingness of political parties to come under RTI

Conclusion:

Awareness among the citizens is necessary to build up pressure on the political class. Media, pressure groups, judicial pronouncements help in building political will which in turn makes constitution reign supreme not only in letter but in spirit.

Nevertheless, the complementary political will is crucial, as the legal sanction through law is the key to furthering the vision of the constitution, as it is representative of the wider public.

7. Are the Fundamental Rights sacrosanct? Elaborate your response with the help of concrete examples.

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about Fundamental Rights.
- Explain why Fundamental Rights are not considered to be sacrosanct and also give reasons behind restrictions imposed on the rights.
- Do not forget to mention examples, Supreme Court judgements.

Introduction:

Part III of Indian constitution gives a comprehensive list of justiciable rights to the people of India. These rights, though have been influenced by the USA's Bill of Rights, are more elaborate than those found in any other constitution.

Body:

Fundamental rights provide the necessary protection to the citizens of the nation against any largesse of the state. But these Fundamental Rights are not sacrosanct and come with viable restrictions.

Constitutionally speaking, Article 368 itself provides provision for amending the Part III of the constitution given it is done via constitutional amendment bill. The Kesavanand Bharati case has pronounced that unless the basic structure of the constitution is not disturbed the fundamental rights can be amended. Accordingly, the 44th constitutional amendment act struck down the Right to Property which was previously in Part III of the constitution.

When it comes to abridging the fundamental rights, there are few positive interventions i.e., the Fundamental Rights of individuals are restricted for the overall development of the society.

- Article 15 provides for equality among all the citizens of the nation, but there are certain restrictions like Art 15(3) which provide special provisions to women and children. Additionally, Art 15(4) also provides for positive discrimination in the favour of socially and educationally backward classes. For example, Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006

- Article 31C provides for superseding of Article 14 and Article 15 provided the laws are framed under the DPSP provisions of Art 39(b) and 39 (c).
- The reasonable restrictions provided under the Article 19 are framed for overall maintenance of peace, public order, morality. For example- the Inner Line Permit in few North Eastern states have been created to save the sanctity of the region.

Additionally, there have been restrictions on the Fundamental rights to maintain national security and order.

- Under Article 19(3), the section 144 of the CrPC can prohibit assembly of 4 or more people on the ground of public order.
- During the national emergency, Fundamental rights can be suspended on the order of the President. This is done maintain order during times of external or internal crisis.
- Article 33 provides for restricting the fundamental rights of the people involved in armed forces. Navy Act, Army Act have been formulated in this direction.
- Article 34 restricts the rights conferred while martial law is in force in the area.

Conclusion:

The above arguments, as noted, show that though the rights given in Part III of the constitution are fundamental and inalienable, they are not sacrosanct. Restrictions have been imposed on them keeping in mind the overall welfare and security of the nation.

Best Answer: Shubham Milind

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8. Are demands of statehood for Delhi justified? Examine the pros and cons if Delhi becomes a separate state. (Indian Polity)

Introduction:

Since Delhi has been granted the status of a state, the demand for extending the current status to 'full statehood' has been voiced repeatedly by the Congress, BJP, and now the Aam Aadmi Party. The 69th constitutional amendment act of 1991 provided a special status of UT of Delhi and created a legislative assembly and council of minister. The recent conflict between centre and Delhi govt bring into fore the old demand of full statehood to Delhi which is complicated.

Body:

While other states enjoy full authority in all matters of government and administration, the Delhi government has no jurisdiction on:

- Police
- Public law and order
- Land

Other than these crucial functions, there are several other civil arms of government that are under the central control and the Delhi government has little say in crucial matters pertaining to them. Therefore, it is a fair claim that Delhi government does not enjoy the same powers as those of other states and therefore the demand for 'full statehood' seems to be a credible one.

But the status of 'full statehood' has its implications, pros and cons, which need to be well thought over by all stakeholders before deciding whether 'full statehood' is the best option for Delhi. Let's take a fair view of the debate that has been raging between the centre and those calling for 'full statehood'.

Pros of full statehood:

- It will create a more responsible administration in Delhi.
- It will end the power conflict between central and Delhi govt and municipal bodies ensuring efficient administration.
- The Council of Ministers will have 15% minister instead of 10% this will make governance more smooth.
- It is in the line of democratic principle and cooperative federalism.
- Delhi has a population of 20 million any power conflict strongly impacts their interest.
- It will help the elected govt to fulfil its political agenda for which it is voted to power.

Cons of full statehood:

- In countries like US, Australia, Mexico, etc. the seat of central govt is not under the jurisdiction of any state.
- It may politicize the police which is not good for the security of Delhi where the police is required to protect the leader of various parties, diplomats, etc.
- Delhi has always been the centre of national politics, full statehood may lead to strong local demands.
- It may create the problem of two governments in the same city.
- National capital must reflect what a country can offer therefore land use, planning, various regulations must be managed in accordance with national standards.

Conclusion:

The current system is working fine we should strengthen it by demarcating power between the Centre and State thus making the administration more accountable and transparent.

Best answer: Avengers

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9. Apart from devising a constitutional arrangement for demarcation of authority between the two sets of government, federalism seems to have complemented processes towards democratising governance in India. Comment. (Indian Polity)

Approach:

Most of the people score low in GS-2 because of misinterpretation of the question. Here the question asks about how federalism is maintained in India in present times, despite so many obstacles from Center during early post-independence days even though it has been safeguarded by the constitution.

Answer:

Introduction:

Indian constitution provides for a federal structure, but during early independence days, there was a blatant violation of federal principles by the central government. With passing time, federalism has evolved in such a manner that it gives state government freedom from undue excess.

Body:

Federalism as a means for demarcation of authority:

- Separate lists for Union and states that with no interference of one in other's domain to ensure their autonomy.
- Financial autonomy to states through the allocation of tax proceeds by the finance commission.

Role of federalism in aiding the process of democratization

- Bicameral legislature provides for representation of varied interests of various states at the Central level.
- Implementation of 73rd and 74th amendments have directly given the power in the hands of the people.

- Increased importance of regional parties in decision making at the Central level through the formation of alliances.
- States are being treated as equal partners rather than as subordinates, as seen in case of a number of seats for states in the GST council, Inter-state council and NITI Aayog.
- Establishment of autonomous regions in scheduled areas to help in preserving their cultural diversity e.g. North East, West Bengal.
- Special status for those backward regions through special funds, development boards. (Art 371) e.g. Hyd-Karnataka region, Saurashtra region,

Conclusion:

The Indian version of federalism is, however, more tilted towards the unitary governance through features like emergency provisions, All-India services, the power of Centre to change boundaries of states etc. and is thus referred to as unitary in form but federal in essence. But despite these features, federalism serves as the bulwark of democratic governance in India

No Best answer.

10. The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 brought about radical changes in rural governance especially with the guarantee of one-third reservation of seats for women in Panchayati elections. Do you agree? Critically examine.

Approach:

- Brief introduction about 73rd Amendment Act and state if you agree with the statement
- Since question demands critical examination answer must include the positive changes brought out by the act and its shortcomings
- The conclusion may include some solutions

Introduction:

The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 gave constitutional recognition to the Panchayati system, giving practical shape to Directive Principle of State Policy (Article 40). The act transfers the representative democracy into participatory democracy.

Body:

It can be said that the act was able to bring about changes in the rural governance of the country with:

- Democratic decentralisation: it built democracy at the grass root level in villages.
- Political accountability: through the provision of Gram Sabha as the decision-making body. As villagers get a voice in the governance of the village.
- Participatory democracy: due to regular and direct election by the citizens of the village conducted by a separate State Election Commission.
- Social empowerment and inclusive development: representation to different sections of the society like SCs and STs. Making them part of the development story.
- Financial devolution of resources based on the recommendations of State Finance Commission.
- Bottom-up approach planning process
- Efficient implementation of schemes adhering to local problems.

The change has been substantial with respect to women as they have been provided with 1/3rd reservation (in some states 50% reservation) of seats. This has resulted in:

- Women empowerment and betterment of their status in the society. As women themselves take decisions their decisions related to their problems.
- Political representation to the women
- Evidence from many examples suggests that successful Women Surpanchs in various states have brought positive changes in the lives of women of their village and also in rural governance.

At the same time the act has not been able to deliver on certain aspects in rural governance like low literacy levels in rural areas, the prevalence of Open defecation, high Maternity and Infant mortality rates, lack of physical and social infrastructure etc.

This inability is due to:

- Incomplete devolution of financial and administrative powers.
- Lack of political will on the part of state governments
- Irregular conduction of elections at the whims of state governments
- Ignoring the recommendations of State Finance Commissions etc.

Though the women reservation has brought substantial changes in the lives of women, still some problems persist due to Proxy candidature (real power vests with male counterparts), low literacy level, lack of social encouragement etc.

Conclusion:

Thus, it is imperative for the state governments to fully devolve the financial and administrative powers to the Panchayats and strengthen the local government not only in letter but spirit. Acceptance of 2nd ARC recommendations making Panchayats citizen-

centric and complying with the 14th Finance Commission's recommendation on financial devolution would be the steps in right direction.

Best Answer: vipasha parul

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11. 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-The tussle between judiciary and executive. How can they come to a common ground? Reforms to ensure transparency. 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.

Body:

Article 124 of the Indian constitution provides for the 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 the 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 in huge pendency- pendency of 4.5 years per case on an average. This is a serious concern as justice delayed is justice denied.

The 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 the 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 of what the terms of MoP would be.
- The idea of the 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 organs of democracy, the judiciary is declining.

Best answer: Himanshu Gupta

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12. The doctrine of separation of powers is imperative for the smooth functioning of a vibrant democracy. Substantiate.

Synopsis:

The principle of separation of powers states that the executive, legislative, and judiciary powers of government should be divided into different branches and not concentrated in one. These departments should be separate and distinct because of the corrupting nature of power. If the body that made the laws could also enforce them and adjudicate disputes, it would likely do so in a preferential manner, undermining the rule of law and basic fairness. Power, in other words, must be checked, or it will be abused, and it is important to be imperative for the smooth functioning of a vibrant democracy.

Democratic government is characterised by the separation of powers:

- There are 'checks and balances' within our political system that limit the power of each branch in order to prevent the abuse of power.
- This system divides the state into three branches – the legislative, executive and judicial branch – and gives each the power to fulfil different tasks. These branches are also known as the 'organs of government'.
- Tasks are assigned to the different branches and their institutions in such a way that each of them can check the exercise of powers by the others. As a result, no one branch or institution can become so powerful as to control the system completely.

In Indian constitution, the separation of powers is supported through Article 50, Articles 121 and 211 and Article 361. Such steps, along with presence of checks and balances, help in creating a vibrant democracy in the following ways:

- No single branch can act as a hegemon over the others, by influencing their members.
- No single branch can endanger the democratic principles of the country.
- It provides a channel of grievance redressal for the citizens through an independent judiciary.
- The executive remains accountable to the legislature for the implementation of policies and consequent results.
- Helps in creating a feedback channel to the executive where the citizens can put forward their demands in the Assembly, without being afraid of the authorities.

The separation of powers is important because it provides a vital system of 'checks and balances':

- Firstly, it ensures that the different branches control each other. This is intended to make them accountable to each other – these are the 'checks';
- Secondly, the separation of powers divides power between the different branches of government – these are the 'balances'. Balance aims to ensure that no individual or group of people in government is 'all powerful'. Power is shared and not concentrated in one branch.

Conclusion:

The separation of powers doctrine also intends to improve the energy and efficiency of government by allowing each branch to specialize, in effect, in order to fulfil its unique function. That is why we also often refer to the 'separation and balance of powers'. The main purpose of the separation of powers is therefore to prevent the abuse of power.

Best Answer: Sherlock

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13. "Justice delayed is justice denied". Elucidate. In this regard, examine the significance of alternate dispute resolution mechanism in India.

Introduction:

As per National Judicial Data Grid, there are 4.2 million cases pending in the High courts in India. This pendency deprives people of their right to access to speedy justice under Article 21.

Body:

How delay causes denial of justice:

This part can be divided into:

- Social: Grant of bail to the accused, while victim still suffers like in rape cases. Death of victims over the years in case of long pending cases of over 10 years like in Uphaar cinema case.
- Psychological: Causes immense trauma on victims as they suffer silently.
- Economic: Financial suffering for the poor victims due to over-burdening fees of lawyers whereas the wealthy accused having deep pockets remain out of jail.
- Legal: Victims might go/approach for illegal activities to take revenge. E.g: Naxalism, Organized crime etc.
- Others: People's trust on judiciary will get severely affected and they might look for alternatives.

Reason for delayed justice:

- Vacancy and strength of judicial officers.
- Hierarchy and appealing in higher courts take time.
- Shortage of qualified lawyers.
- Vested interests, revenge motives and bogus cases.

- To improve rate of cases resolution, Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism has been suggested, which involves use of arbitration, mediation, conciliation, negotiations etc.

Significance:

- Less technicalities that ensures parties to understand the case and freely discuss it.
- It is based on the principle of natural justice rather than on Civil Procedure code.
- Faster closure of cases which indirectly reduces burden on higher courts.
- Mediation works to ensure satisfaction of both parties, thus no one gets the feeling of losing.
- Less expensive due to fast tracking of cases and minimal or no lawyer fees.

Conclusion:

Despite its numerous benefits, ADR mechanism cannot be used for all cases, like those involving heinous crimes and thus the need of fast track courts, filling of vacancies of judges and legal ethics for lawyers to reduce adjournments is the need of the hour.

Best Answer: Tshrt

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14. Do you think the executive in India has overpowered the legislature? Critically examine. What is the way out? Give suggestions.

Approach:

- Brief introduction about the relation between executive and legislature
- Since question demands critical examination answer must include whether executive has overpowered legislature or not
- Conclusion must show way out with some solutions

Introduction:

The constitution of India has adopted Parliamentary form of democracy. In our system, there exists very thin line between the powers of the executive and the legislature resulting in instances of overstepping in each other's domain.

Body:

It can be seen that Cabinet becoming supreme authority whereas the role of the Parliament and the State Legislature is diminishing. Some instances to show executive overpowering legislature.

- Frequent usage of ordinances under Article 123 and 213 to pass important bills, bypassing legislative scrutiny. Eg: Land acquisition bill.
- Passing of important legislations through Money bill route. Recently Aadhar act was passed like this to bypass scrutiny of Upper House.
- Taking important policy decisions without discussing them in Parliament. The announcement of demonetization was criticized for this.
- Passing of important bills and budget without much discussion through Guillotine method.
- The ratio of passage of Private member's bills is very low.
- The direction of Whip curtails individual member's freedom in having opinion and taking decisions.

Although, the legislature has some checks and balances to scrutinize the powers of the executive.

- Collective responsibility of the executive to the Legislature
- Control over executive powers through scrutiny by committees. Eg: Financial control through Public Account Committee etc.
- Question hour, Zero hour, Censure motion, Adjournment motion, No-confidence motions etc. to keep a check on the powers of the executive.
- Ordinances have to be passed in legislatures within specific time periods.

In order to balance the powers of executive and legislature, we need to adopt few suggestions as a way out:

- Mandatory scrutiny of all bills by the standing committees as in other countries like the UK
- Fixing the number times an ordinance could pass.
- Relaxing the powers of Whip on members so that they can take individual decisions.
- Increasing the productivity of legislatures, avoiding frequent disruptions and wash-outs.
- Constructive criticism on the part of opposition parties must become a norm.

Conclusion:

Thus, it is necessary that both the executive and the legislature work hand in hand respecting each other's powers and functions to ensure our democracy evolves and blossoms.

Best answer: Strider95

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14. 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.

15. 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, Aajeevika 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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16. Should there be a law to deduct the salary and compensation of legislators if the legislature remains dysfunctional due to frequent disruptions and protests? Should there be collective responsibility of the legislature? If yes, how can it be enforced? Suggest.

Approach:

- Introduction- How frequent disruptions is a cause of concerns.
- Merits and demerits of salary deductions.
- Collective responsibility- Should it be and how it should be enforced?
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Parliament is the highest debating forum on matters concerning the nation. C Rajgopalachari once described democracy as “Government by discussion”.

However, in recent past protests and disruptions by opposition on various issues is a cause of concern.

This disruptive tendency leads to:

- Wastage of public money.
- May also lead government to slip to cabinet dictatorship.
- Wastage of session hours leading to poor laws, without due deliberation.
- Loss of the Question Hour, which implies lower accountability of the government to Parliament.

One suggestion to tackle disruptions is to enforce a law to deduct salary of legislatures.

Salary deductions:

Merits:

- Will enforce discipline by making legislators feel ashamed of their act due to the penalty enforced.
- Reducing economic burden- Save public money which is being wasted in dysfunctional legislature.
- The idea behind deducting salary is that the MPs are paid to serve the citizens of the nation and if they are not able to do so then they have no right to take their money.

Demerits:

- Most legislators do not depend on their salary.
- Taking a call on the quantum of penalty may involve judicial procedures.
- Penalising complete legislature for disruptions by a particular party is not right. Given whip system, those MPs who don't want to get into protests are forced to.

Enforcing collective responsibility of the legislature:

The concept of collective responsibility in this regard is worthwhile, as parliament works as a whole.

- Powers to ethic committee- Unethical means used during debate/protest should be dealt with strictly.
- Sensitization of parliamentarians- Educating the MPs members on the issues to be covered in the session on prior basis like session by experts, complete analysis on the policy, importance of healthy debate etc.
- There can be a new rule for discussion if a certain percentage of the strength of the House (say 20%) asks for it, and a voting motion if a certain percentage of MPs (say 30%) gives a written notice.
- Guarantee some time for the Opposition. For instance, the British Parliament allocates 20 days a year when the agenda is decided by the opposition.
- Parliament should meet more frequently. In the 1950s, Parliament met for 120-140 days every year; now it ranges between 60 and 70 days.
- Separate time for opposition: The parliament should have one day per week when the house would work according to the issues raised by the opposition.
- There should be a provision where a special session could be called in when there is a fair proportion of opposition members demanding it.

Conclusion:

Given the decline in productivity of Indian parliament, one of the most important pillar of democracy, the principle of government by the people is at risk. Ensuring that the forum remains a platform for healthy discussions and due deliberations, it is necessary that discipline is maintained. In this light enforcing collective responsibility will surely help.

Best answer: P29

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17. Many bills are passed without debates and deliberations by the Parliament. Is it a good sign for a mature democracy? Examine.

Synopsis:

Parliament is called the temple of democracy and a microcosm of India. Holding of Parliamentary debates in a regular manner is vital for the representative democracy. The Constitution provides for the legislature to make laws, the government to implement laws, and the courts to interpret and enforce these laws. While the judiciary is independent from

the other two branches, the government is formed with the support of a majority of members in the legislature.

Therefore, the government is collectively responsible to Parliament for its actions. This implies that Parliament can hold the government accountable for its decisions, and scrutinise its functioning. This may be done using various methods including, during debates on Bills or issues on the floor of Parliament, by posing questions to ministers during Question Hour, and in parliamentary committees.

Need for debate and deliberations by the parliament:

- Parliament is a place where the voice of common man can be heard by the respective MPs. Parliament plays a very key role in formulation the Acts which are needed for the welfare of the country.
- The bills can be formed into acts only by the process of discussions and debates.
- These debates and discussions provide pros and cons of the bill and it results into a very balanced acts.
- But from last few years the trend of parliament debates had declined mainly by disrupting the business of the houses, by opposition parties.
- According to the PRS study it was parliament use to meet 130 days on an average and it has come down to average of 70 days in recent times, which is a great concern for the vibrant democracy.
- The main agenda of disruptions are to counter the govt regarding their functioning and side-tracking them with other less important issues.

The continuous disruption not only drains the country but also delays the legislative activity. Maintenance of discipline and decorum is the pre requisite of the smooth functioning of the democracy. In the recent times whatever happening in the parliament is unfortunate and parliamentarians needs to understand the demand of the people, and bills need to be discussed and debated for the refinement of the powers and laws, and they need to show the maturity in handling situations and people are watching them.

Conclusion:

To improve government accountability in Parliament, the opposition in some countries such as the UK, Canada, and Australia forms a shadow cabinet. Under such a system, opposition MPs track a certain portfolio, scrutinise its performance and suggest alternate programs. This allows for detailed tracking and scrutiny of ministries, and assists MPs in making constructive suggestions. Some of these countries also provide for days when the opposition parties decide the agenda for Parliament, as a largest democracy of world India needs to show the world its maturity in the political arena as well.

Best Answer: P29

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18. Do you think the American Constitution provides for a more representative democracy than its Indian counterpart? Critically comment.

Introduction:

American constitution is one of the oldest written constitution in the world and also one of oldest democracy. India has borrowed several features from the American constitution. Both have representative democracy but the features are different.

Body:

Representative features of American constitution:

- Equal representation: The upper house also known as Senate has equal representation from all 50 states irrespective of size and population.
- Constitution: Rigid constitution and states have their own constitutions.
- Dual Polity: Strict demarcation of powers and government.
- Dual citizenship: People are citizen to particular state and also the country.
- Judiciary: Clear cut demarcation of powers of judiciary. Central judiciary deals only with central subjects and respective states subject have no appeal in federal courts.
- Amendment to constitution: Even states can initiate amendment to constitution.
- Elected Head of State: The president is elected indirectly by people and he also serves as head of government.
- Indestructible state: Unlike Indian states, in USA the states have their own identity.

Representative features of Indian Constitution:

- Reservation: Even weaker and Vulnerable sections of society are provided with reservations. SC, ST and Women.
- Nomination: We have a unique feature where people who cannot win elections are also provided facility to represent their interests.
- Three-tier government: The government is split up into three tiers and powers are demarcated accordingly.
- Equal representation: Based on population states have share in upper house seats i.e. Rajya Sabha.
- Multi-Party and coalition party system: After 1989, we have coalition system where even regional parties have been given due representation.
- Sharing of power: The ministers are picked in such a way each state and communities are given due representation.

- Directly elected government: The head of government i.e. Prime minister and his council are directly elected by people unless representing from lok sabha.
- Responsibility: The executive is responsible to legislature who are direct representatives of people.

Conclusion:

Depending on the necessities and requirements, the representative features of both democracies were formed. In certain areas US constitution provides more and in some areas Indian constitution provides more representative features. But both have preserved their democratic feature till date.

Best Answer: raymond

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19. The recent Supreme Court judgement 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.

Introduction:

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.

Body:

The judgment was significant for our democracy because:

- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

20. Having multiple ministries and departments at the centre doesn't augur well to the vision of 'minimum government, maximum governance'. Comment.

Approach:

- Introduction- Explain the concept of 'minimum government, maximum governance'.
- Issues in having multiple ministries and departments- Needs to covered comprehensively.
- Steps taken by present government in line with the principle.
- How far it is true that having multiple ministries/departments leads to minimum government, maximum governance.
- Conclusion- A balanced approach needs to be adopted.

Introduction:

'Minimum government, maximum governance' is the dictum the present government has been professing since it came to power. It refers to reducing the role of government where it is in excess (minimum government) and making a citizen friendly and accountable government (maximum governance).

The objective is to make government efficient and inclusive, reduce red-tapism thereby improving ease of doing business etc.

Issues in having multiple ministries and departments:

- Duplication of work
- Wastage of public money
- Inefficiency as the work doesn't get demarcated clearly. This results into lack of accountability.
- Lack of coordination results into delays and red-tapism.
- Hinders the process of service delivery to citizens.

Steps taken in this regard by present government:

- Merger of external affairs ministry and overseas affair ministry.
- Merger of ministry of urban development with ministry of housing and poverty alleviation.
- Abolition of FIPB.
- Multiple ministries versus 'minimum government, maximum governance':

Given the disadvantages mentioned above, multiple ministries/departments do lead to maximum government. However, the two things aren't one and the same.

At times having multiple departments helps in better analysis of policy and its implementation. Also, given the diversity and size of country having multiple departments helps in horizontal division of power, thereby, reducing work burden.

Conclusion:

The overall objective should be to reduce duplicity, streamline the work process, improve synergy, through exchange of information/data, between various departments within a ministry. The bureaucrats too need to work in tandem so that the coordinated efforts result into productive results. Departments and ministries with overlapping jurisdiction should be merged, but it should not be the only agenda.

Best answer 1: vipasaha parul

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Best answer 2: Free_kick123

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21. Are pressure groups good for a vibrant democracy? Don't they promote vested interests of a particular group or community? Critically examine with the help of suitable examples.

Synopsis:

In the pluralist model of democracy, pressure groups play an essential role. Political parties cannot provide adequate representation for the full range of diverse interests and opinions in a modern democracy because their key function is to aggregate interests into a coherent political entity capable of governing the country.

Pressure groups to promote vested interest:

- Pressure groups enable particular interests and causes to be heard and to exert influence in public decision and decision-making.
- Yet it is precisely the representation of specialist interests and of single issues which may give cause for concern, both in terms of the methods used to achieve objectives and of the undue power and influence which particular lobbies can exert.
- Pressure groups do to an extent promote democracy in creating another channel in which people can partake in politics and offering a variety of sources in which people can keep in touch with issues which affect society other than just the main political parties and the media. E.g. ADR, Watchdog, etc.
- Trade Unions – AITUC, INTUC, HMS, CITU, BMS etc. which are working for the interests of the workers for positive atmosphere.
- Agrarian Groups- All India Kisan Sabha, Bharatiya Kisan Union etc. working on the plight of the agrarian problems.
- Student's Organisations- ABVP, AISF, NSUI etc.

However, because there are so many pressure groups out there all battling for the attention of the government, the ways in which they try to exert an influence can become underhand and undermine parliamentary democracy, and if pressure groups are given too much voice, this leads to minority groups having a greater influence than society as a whole.

Other side of pressure groups:

- Pressure groups improve participation, but in an unequal way, benefiting the well organised but disadvantaging the weakly organised. In this sense, they work against not in favour of the public interest. For .e.g. green peace from USA, as per IB report they protested with vested interest and they work against development.
- Pressure groups themselves may not be representative of their members. Their officers are not usually elected.
- Few groups have procedures for consulting their members. As a result, the views expressed by group officials may not be shared by the group's members.
- Although the views of pressure groups may sometimes be considered, they are likely to be ignored if they do not confirm with the ideology or agenda of the decision makers.
- There is also news about the presence of foreign lobbies in parliament e.g. lobbying by US companies in case of FDI.
- Large-scale demonstrations mounted by any group may lead to unpleasant clashes without the police, sometimes involving militants with their own agenda. This level of civil disobedience cannot be justified in today's democratic system.

Conclusion:

Pressure groups are an essential dimension of any democracy, yet they can endanger democracy if sectional groups undermine the public interest or if the methods they use are corrupt or intimidating.

Best answer: Manu

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22. A strong and centralising Prime Minister's Office (PMO) doesn't resonate with the scheme of governance enshrined in the Constitution. Comment.

Introduction:

With emergence of cabinet form of government, the power of PM has increased and PMO has become the center of power in India democracy. During times of Indira Gandhi, it had gone one step further and was called Kitchen cabinet.

Body:

A strong and centralizing PMO doesn't resonate with Indian constitution:

- Cabinet Secretary: It diminishes the role of Cabinet secretary and secretariat.

- Concentration of power: In the hands of few bureaucrats and people outside executive.
- Parallel government: The executive structure as mentioned in constitution might be overlooked.
- Council of Minister: Collective responsibility of COM as required by constitution is bypassed.
- Collective decision making: The culture of debates and discussion are absent.
- Rules: The procedure and rules of transactions are foregone.
- Dictatorship: It might lead to rule of PMO rather than council of ministers.
- Checks and Balances: The scrutiny of decision taken is not present. There will be no checks and balances since it is above all power structure.

But a strong and centralizing PMO also has its own merits:

- Faster decision making: It helps in faster decision making as it involved experienced and powerful decision makers.
- Implementation: The orders coming from PMO is taken very seriously and implemented without delay.
- Stable governance: In era of coalition government certain things needs to be kept above party politics to provide stable government.
- Security: Certain functions like RAW, CBI, ISRO etc. report directly to them and they need to be kept out of politics of the day.
- Complexity: increased complexity of governance needs certain set up which can bypass ordinary procedures and get things done at times of emergencies.
- Specialists: Certain function needs specialists and also needs to be done away from public eyes for greater good. Ex: Pokhran-II, External intelligence etc.

Conclusion:

A centralizing and powerful PMO is a hindrance to collective responsibility and democratic set-up of executive but weak PMO might lead to anarchy and policy paralysis and inefficiency. So it has to walk on tight rope and exercise great restraint for maintaining the constitutional form of government.

23. Should 'right to recall' be added as a feature to India's electoral democracy? What will be its implications? Is it even feasible in Indian conditions? Examine.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Should it be added as a feature? – Why yes and why not, Implications, Feasibility.

- Conclusion

Introduction:

A recall election is a process by which voters seek to remove elected officials through a direct vote before their term is completed. Voters can petition to have their parliamentary representatives removed from office with a by-election ensuing soon after.

Arguments for Right to Recall:

- Logic and justice necessitate that if the people have the power to elect their representatives, they should also have the power to remove these representatives when they engage in misdeeds or fail to fulfil their duties. There exists no recourse for the electorate if they are unhappy with their elected representative.
- Having such a right offers a mechanism to ensure vertical accountability. It would be a significant check on corruption along with ongoing criminalisation of politics.

Right to recall thus can help in reducing criminalization and increasing accountability and also in deepening of democracy.

Arguments against Right to Recall:

- It will lead excess of democracy where the independence of the representatives will go down due to the continuous threat of being recalled.
- To make themselves free from a recall would demand the representatives to always keep their electorates happy, which would eventually force these representatives to succumb to the populist pressure.
- There will be an uncertainty of the time period for those serving the public. This uncertainty would make it hard to make plans/policies which yield substantial results in long-term.
- The criteria provided for recall viz., the dissatisfaction of the electorate with the performance of the candidate, is vague and provides immense scope for misuse.

Feasibility:

- Having a recall system in India would not only create unnecessary chaos due to the recurring recall election but also would unstable the government.
- An additional burden on the Election Commission. It will also place undue pressure on limited resources such as manpower, time, money etc.

Conclusion:

Right to recall is rightly an important electoral reform, however before it is implemented following needs to be ensured-

- The recall process should not be frivolous and should not be a source of harassment to elected representatives.
- The process should have several built-in safeguards such as an initial recall petition to kick-start the process and electronic-based voting to finally decide its outcome.
- It should ensure that a representative cannot be recalled by a small margin of voters and that the recall procedure truly represents the mandate of the people.

Best answer: Parul Jain

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24. Have posts of the President and the Vice-President become less apolitical today? Critically examine.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Have the posts become less apolitical today- points both in favor and against.
- Conclusion- Way ahead

Introduction:

Indian constitution envisages the President as head of state and Vice President as chairman of Rajya Sabha. These posts by virtue of their role is expected to be apolitical in nature.

The posts are still apolitical:

- The Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the President have to resign from the primary membership of the party to which they belong before getting appointed. They are expected to act neutrally.
- They have raised matters of public importance and social issues at various platforms.
- Greater coherence between current President and Prime Minister indicates the apolitical nature of President.
- Various presidents including both from political background (President Pranab Mukherjee) and non-political background (former President APJ Abdul Kalam) have served the post apolitically.

The posts have become less apolitical today:

- Latest election to the post of President showed how the process was politicised. There is also increase in people from political background contesting the elections.
- President belonging to same party as the ruling party may find difficult to stay apolitical. The discretionary powers at times becomes ineffective.
- Pardoning power of the President has been politicised in recent times.
- Political parties always strive hard to have their own member elected for these posts.

Conclusion:

Both President and Vice President have the responsibility of upholding the constitution, to do this well they need to stay apolitical. In this light 2nd ARC's recommendation of keeping a cooling off period for politicians between active politics and posts like President and Vice-President will help.

Best answer: Abhishek Singh

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25. That the Executive has a say in the appointment of constitutional posts like the Chief Election Commissioner and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is antithetical to the ideals of a true democracy. Critically comment.

Body:

A Constitutional body is formed under detailed instructions given in the Constitution. It is compulsory for the government to set up such a body and it cannot dispense off with it easily when it becomes uncomfortable. Such bodies or institutions are written into the Constitution of a nation and cannot be eliminated without amending that part of the Constitution which sometimes also requires consent of the states.

CEC, CAG and other constitutional posts are absolutely critical to enforce accountability into democracy. While CEC deals with control the process for elections conducted at various levels, Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President of India. It can be said that the Election Commission of India ensures smooth and successful operation of the democratic elections and ensures for free and fair elections.

CAG is responsible to bring financial accountability into all institutions using public money. Executive having the greatest role to play in the governance of the country is naturally

occupies the largest proportion of time devoted by these bodies. Hence it is highly imperative that such institutions of eminent importance are kept outside the purview of executive influence right from the appointment to the post retirement stage.

It is considered as that the Executive has a say in the appointment of constitutional posts like the CEC and the CAG is antithetical to the ideals of a true democracy. We can see some of the issues regarding this:

Controversies:

- It is unfortunate that the appointment of CAG is highly opaque and entirely internal to the government.
- Left to the discretion of Principal Secretary to PM, Cabinet Secretary, PM, with no clear criteria's of candidates' selection, hardly merits any applause for transparency.
- Similar doubts have been raised about the appointment of the CEC, at present the Prime Minister with the aid and advice of the council of ministers makes the appointment.
- Although, it is done as per the transaction of business rules, but the candidates haven't been always held of highest institutional integrity.
- Recently, The Supreme Court warned the central government it must write a law on the appointment of election commissioners or face an intervention by the judiciary.

Some of the steps they can take starting from:

The process should have a broad-based committee which ensures that

- All relevant information must be taken into account.
- Impeccable integrity of candidate, need to be consider.
- Recording of all the viewpoints in selection process.

Conclusion:

Isolating executive with its exclusive powers in appointment would be a first step in restoring and upholding public faith in the integrity of these institutions. A broad based selection criteria and an appointment committee having representation from all stakeholders is solicited to step forward in the direction of open, transparent and democratic democracy. Given that, only the executive body has the power to amend the constitution. It should be the moral obligation of executive body to establish an open and transparent selection process for these posts.

Best Answer: Abhishek singh

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26. While a handful of constitutional bodies have evolved as the bulwarks of India's democratic ideals, others have failed to meet the expectations. Illustrate.

Introduction:

Constitutional bodies are those who are set up, protected and derive their powers directly from the constitution. Indian constitution has provided for many such bodies who are the enablers and protectors of constitutional ideals in the country.

Body:

Among several constitutional bodies some have evolved over time and have performed as per their expectations. They are:

- UPSC: One of the most respected recruitment agency in the country which attracts young and bright talents to the government sector.
- Election commission: The body whose sole role is to conduct free and fair election to various important positions from President of India to state Legislatures.
- Finance Commission: Established under article 280, their role to determine the share of tax proceeds between Center and States and inter states.
- CAG: Protector of Public finance, friend, guide and philosopher of public accounts committee whose role is to make sure the finances are handled according to rules by executive.
- Judiciary: One of the most important constitutional bodies, who have protected the principles established under constitution.

Some of the other bodies have failed to meet their expectations:

- National commission for SC: The atrocities and backwardness of majority of people under SC are still continuing even after 70 years of independence.
- National commission for ST: They have failed to secure the forest rights, welfare of ST's which can be seen in their social indicators.
- Higher Judiciary: Huge backlogs and pendency of cases sometimes the petitioner itself dies before case is solved. Also many spend time in Jail even for petty cases.
- Special commissioner for linguistic minorities: The work and functions of this office has not performed as per the expectations.
- Panchayats and Municipalities: They have failed to perform their duties due to varieties of reasons starting from lack of powers to revenue crunch among others.
- State public service commissions: Majority of State service commissions have been embroiled in controversies like corruption, nepotism etc.

Conclusion:

Although these institutions derive their powers under constitution and even small change in them requires amendment to the constitutional itself, they have not been performing as per expectations. It is time they reform and start working towards their goals as mandated by constitution before people lose hopes in them.

**27. 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.

28. The statutory bodies mandated to oversee and ensure social justice and protection of rights of the vulnerable and backward sections of the society have by and large failed to do so. Do you agree? Critically analyse.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Assessment of performance of statutory bodies- as questions demands for critical analysis, both positive and negative aspects should be outlined.
- Conclusion- Way ahead

Introduction:

Statutory bodies are extra constitutional body created by an act of parliament to serve particular purpose. Few examples of statutory bodies mandated to oversee and ensure social justice and protection of the vulnerable and backward sections of the society are-

- NHRC- For protecting human rights of the vulnerable.
- NCW- For women.
- NCPCR- For children.
- NCST, NCSC and NCBW- For scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes respectively.

Body:

Critical analysis:

These bodies have overall failed to serve the purpose they were meant for as-

- The atrocities against vulnerable groups like SCs, STs, women and children are on rise.
- Religious and caste atrocities like that of lynching, honor killing, crimes against dalits are increasing because of failure in tackling these instances strictly.

Reasons behind failure are:

- The punishments handed over by the statutory bodies are rarely enforced and thus does little to deter crimes.
- Political interference especially in case of NHRC making it a 'toothless tiger' (As termed by Supreme court).
- Lack of support on the part of governments at the Centre and State. The Central government has been criticised by NHRC for ignoring its requests to recruit more staff which is leading to long delays and inability to follow up on steps undertaken.
- While statutory bodies were supposed to be headed by an expert in particular field, it has actually become a lucrative profession for retired bureaucrats and judges, no matter their experience in the field.

Despite above mentioned shortcomings the statutory bodies have in various instances helped the vulnerable sections in society. Few examples are:

- National Legal Service Authority has made justice accessible and affordable for the poor.
- The National Commission for Women regularly extends financial support to NGOs and educational institutions to conduct Legal Awareness Programmes to enable women and girls to know their legal rights.
- NCPCR has made various recommendations for checking crimes against children, these recommendations have been added in the criminal law as well.

Way forward:

Statutory bodies need to be empowered truly by making them free of political interference, manning them with adequate and suitable manpower, providing them enough funding for carrying out basic research etc.

- More powers- Specially to impose penalty.
- Making their decisions binding on executive. In cases where executive decides not to implement the decisions, it should provide reasons behind not doing so.
- Constitutional mandate of putting yearly reports by these bodies in parliament should be done in true spirit and parliamentarians should spend decent time to discuss the report.

Above everything political will is required on part of both central and state governments to make these bodies truly effective and thus improve the conditions of the vulnerable in country.

Best answer: vipasha parul

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29. Critically evaluate the performance of tribunals as quasi-judicial bodies.

Approach:

- Introduction- What are quasi-judicial bodies. Article 323A and 323B.
- Merits and demerits of tribunals
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Quasi-judicial bodies are such institutions which have power of enforcement of law but are not courts. These bodies can inquire, investigate, summon & award legal penalties to any administrative agency. Generally, these bodies have limited judiciary power in specialized areas such as NHRC/SHRC in human rights violation, CVC in corruption cases, NGT in environment cases, Income tax tribunals etc.

Article 323A and 323B of Indian constitution empowers Parliament and State legislature to establish tribunals.

Body:

Evaluation of performance:

Merits:

- Tribunals have reduced burden of cases on High courts and Supreme court. They have also provided path breaking judgements like NGT.
- Economic burden on litigants is reduced as cases in tribunals require little money and time as compared to courts and also are more accessible.
- Faster delivery of judgements.
- Provides scope for specialization. Eg- NGT can be chaired by an eminent environmentalist. This helps them judge the case in more refined manner. Since

these bodies deal with specific jurisdiction, experts in the particular field work for dispute resolution. Thus, expertise is a major advantage.

Limitations:

- Lack of power to enforce the decree.
- Lack of infrastructure and man power.
- A person can again appeal in the court against the decision of the Quasi-Judicial body. This fades away the advantage of cost and time provided by the Quasi-Judicial body.
- Most of the appeals from tribunals goes directly to Supreme court bypassing high courts thereby disturbing the hierarchy.
- Lack of expertise.
- Many Quasi-Judicial bodies are suffering with lack of strength. Proper and quick investigation is not being done.

Conclusion:

The S Jaishankar committee in 2016 had proposed reduction of the number of tribunals from 36 to 17 and has sought reduction or restructuring of as many as 685 autonomous bodies or institutions. Legatt Committee in United Kingdom recommended that tribunals should be brought together into a single system, administered by a new Tribunals Service. India can learn from this to at least handle the staffing problem at the tribunals. Also, there is a need to provide adequate infrastructure to tribunals to enable them carry out their statutory mandate.

Best answer: Abhishek Singh

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30. How do regulatory bodies protect consumer interests? Analyse.**Synopsis:****Introduction:**

Globalisation, increase in trade, emergence of new modes of dealings and supplies and e-commerce have created new options and opportunities for consumers. Consumer markets have undergone drastic transformations since the enactment of the 1986 Act. The

emergence of global supply chains, rise in international trade and the rapid development of e-commerce have led to new delivery systems for goods and services.

Body:

The existing framework does not provide for a Regulator with many powers, so there is a need to introduce new law to protect the consumer from the unfair trade practices.

The Consumer Protection Bill 2018 provides for establishment of a Regulator called as the Central Consumer Protection Authority, which will be an executive agency to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the interests of public and consumers and to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

A complaint relating to violation of consumer rights or unfair trade practices or false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the interests of consumers as a class may be forwarded either in writing or in electronic mode, to the CCPA.

Some Important Regulatory Bodies in India:

- RBI – Reserve Bank of India
- SEBI – Securities and Exchange Board of India
- IRDAI – Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- PFRDA – Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority

However, some of the present regulators who are helping to consumers for their rights as well as regulating the companies to follow the respective laws and to protect the consumer rights at large.

- RBI regulated: The new Ombudsman Scheme launched this year, individuals investing in fixed deposit schemes of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) now have a government body to fall back upon in case of deficiency in service including any default in their deposits.
- National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC): It held that not permitting a passenger holding a confirmed ticket to board a flight amounted to deficiency in service on the part of the airline.
- Legal Metrology Act, 2009: which says, Penalty for selling, etc., of non-standard packages – whoever manufactures, packs, imports, sells, distributes, delivers or otherwise transfers, offers, exposes or possesses for sale, or causes to be sold, distributed, delivered or otherwise transferred, offered, exposed for sale any pre-packaged commodity.
- Chhattisgarh Housing Board (CGHB): It has directed to accomplish within a year what it had depicted in its brochure to lure customers ahead of the launching of its housing project.

- TRAI: Regulates mobile network providers and it helps consumer for any wrong doings of the mobile companies.

Conclusion:

The Consumer Protection Bill 2018 has introduced many provisions as stated above to keep up with the emerging market trends and further aims to simplify the consumer dispute adjudication process by including provisions for electronic filing and provisions for hearing or examination through video conferencing. Once passed, the Bill will certainly be a step forward towards protecting the rights and interests of consumers.

Best answer: Abhishek singh

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31. 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.

32. Gender equity and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups remain one of the key challenges of education policy in India. Comment. Also examine the initiatives taken by the government to address this 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-

- Women
- Population of the SC and ST community.
- Rural vs Urban disparity.
- Physically Challenged People
- Trans-genders.

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

1) Access

Women

- Lack of Infrastructure such as Roads, toilets, safe transport, proper school buildings, benches and chairs etc.
- 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.

- 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.

- 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.
- Mental hurdle and insecurities in the minds of the parents of disable students , keeps them away from the access to education.
- 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.

- 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 caste based hierarchies, difference in treatment vis-a-vis the upper castes.
- 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-

- Patriarchal Mindset
- Caste Based Hierarchies
- Regional Disparities.
- 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 a major reason for the same.
- More Quality in Private Schools – but lack of Inclusiveness and Profit based approach and hidden costs make them an 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 requires 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 –

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan – For effective implementation of Article 21 – to provide free and affordable education to all upto the age of 14.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana- Huge campaign launched for Saving and Educating the girl child in Gender Critical districts.
- Ujjawala Yojana – To counter trafficking and ensure rescue and rehabilitation of sexual exploitation victims.
- Jigyasa Initiative – To connect School Students and Scientists.
- SABLA scheme – All round development of adolescent girls and making them self-reliant.

Online Initiatives like

- SWAYAM
- SWAYAM prabha
- Shaala Darpan

Schemes for Minorities

- Seekho aur kamao – For Skill development and employability of Minorities
- USTTAD – To upgrade skills and training for traditional arts.
- Padho Pardesh – To give educational loans to study abroad.

In spite 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 needs to go a long way to achieve the true utilization of its democratic potential.

33. What do you understand by the term 'vulnerability' in the socio-economic context?**Why do different groups become vulnerable? What do they become vulnerable to?****Analyse****Introduction:**

Vulnerability refers to individual or group of people exposed to the risk of facing hardships due to prevailing socio-economic factors in the form of social exclusion, abuse, exploitation and other. Vulnerable groups include women, old-age, disabled, Dalits, children, tribal, religious-linguistic minorities, transgender.

Body:

Different groups become vulnerable due to number of factors:

- Prevailing societal factors where certain section enjoys privileges and dominant status while others are subjugated to various discriminations who to an extent have accepted or internalized present conditions as just. Ex: subordination of women to men and confining them to home. Discrimination against untouchables. Stigmatizing LGBT community.
- Diversity: people are emotionally attached to their language, religion, region, customs. This makes people from other socio-cultural background susceptible in different parts of country. Ex: Attack on north-eastern people in Delhi. Incidents of lynching people in the name of cow-protection. People from UP, Bihar seen with suspicion in southern India.
- Isolation from mainstream society resulting lower awareness about world makes tribal's vulnerable. Decreasing forest cover has made them further susceptible.
- Economic reason: old-age and disabled people being seen as economically burden on family.
- Lack of political representation, lack of political unity and consensus hardly gets their concerns addressed. Ex: pending of women reservation bill, 2010.

These factors result into discrimination, socio-economic exploitation, abuse. Vulnerable group are denied their basic rights like Education (21A), Health, livelihood (A-39) preventing them reaching their true potential and live dignified life.

Ex:

- Women: Lack of reproductive rights , undernourishment(MMR- 130) Labour force participation low(24.7), wage-gap, glass ceiling, parliamentary representation around just 11%

- Transgenders: Hardly get employed formally and are involved in informal works with poor working conditions.
- Tribals: lower education levels, loopholes in implementation of FRA, exploitation by middlemen
- Children: Forced labour, trafficking

Conclusion:

Government of India has taken group specific measures to address concerns of vulnerable. Real development is achieved when access and opportunity to resources is broad based especially to vulnerable. DPSPs shall guide us in this direction.

34. Examine the role of structural discrimination prevalent in the society leading to increasing vulnerability of women in India. Also discuss the steps taken by the government to address the same.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Structural discrimination and increasing vulnerability of Indian women
- Steps taken by the government
- Conclusion- Way ahead

Introduction:

Structural discrimination in the context of gender issues occurs when our society's major 'structures' – such as the family, government, labour market, education system, etc – consistently disadvantage a particular group through norms, policies and behaviour. These structural discriminations have existed against women since medieval times.

Body:

Role of structural discrimination:

- Family: Female foeticide is still high resulting into skewed sex ratio. Preference for male child exists not only in rural regions but also in urban regions and in highly educated families too. Women are last to eat, last one to sleep. In case of medical need visits to doctors/hospitals are delayed as much as possible.
- Public and private institutions: For example, banks base their lending decisions on factors such as income, length of time in a job and other expenses and debts. Females are more likely than males to be outside of the labour force, to be paid less as compared to male counterpart, and to take career breaks. Due to these factors, banks are less likely to lend to females than to males.

- Similarly work places are yet to be gender neutral.
- Political institutions: Despite 33% reservation for women in Panchayati raj institutions women in local bodies, in many cases, remain a mere proxy for their male counterpart. Percentage of women in Indian parliament is dismally low.
- Educational institutions: Drop-out rate among girls is much more than that among boys. This is because of lack of infrastructure like toilets within schools, lack of gender sensitisation etc.

Steps taken by the government:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to improve the sex ratio in the country.
- Promotion of women SHGs and platforms like Mahila-Haat. These ensures financial independence of women.
- Uddan scheme for girls to enroll themselves in higher educational institutions.
- Ujjwala Scheme to provide LPG connections in the name of women.

Conclusion:

While the above-mentioned steps are in right direction, given the increasing vulnerability of women much more needs to be done. Strict implementation of laws like Criminal law, sexual harassment at work place, PCPNDT, compensation for acid-attack victims etc will help. Structural discrimination, however, is related more to our culture, how boys and girls and men and women, are valued and how the society is organised. Education should be used as the most important tool for ending structural discrimination by breaking stereotypes and prejudices.

Best answer: tango_ISM

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35. What are adolescents vulnerable to? Examine. How can these vulnerabilities be reduced? Have any initiatives been launched by the government in this direction? Discuss.

Synopsis:

Introduction:

Adolescence, the period of life between childhood and adulthood, is defined by the transition from parental dependence to relative autonomy. During this time, important

changes take place in the structure and workings of the brain, and in the mental abilities which underlie some of the most sophisticated human behaviours.

Body:

Adolescents today face complex and changing environments in which many things can go right and wrong. If we are to serve and protect them, we must have a full appreciation of these environments as well as society's opportunities to shape them.

One of the central events of adolescence is puberty, the transition to reproductive maturity.

We now know that adolescence is also a socio-cultural phenomenon. Across time and place, its duration varies widely, as do its "typical" behaviours.

- Abuse and neglect: Abuse and neglect during development are associated with alterations in brain structure. This may increase the risk of psychiatric illnesses such as depression and borderline personality disorder in adulthood.
- Gender: Brain development shows subtle differences across gender, at puberty, some of these gender differences accentuate, and are attributed to the effects of puberty hormones on neural tissue.
- Cannabis: The short and long term impacts of recreational and addictive substances may differ in adolescence compared to adulthood.
- Puberty and nutrition: There is evidence that the age of puberty onset is dependent on both foetal and childhood nutritional intake.
- Population-wide changes in nutritional status may therefore impact brain development via mechanisms related to pubertal timing.
- Cyber-crime: People all over the world are vulnerable to cyber-crime but adolescents are more vulnerable as the outside world is exciting to them and they often fell prey to lucrative things and emotions
- Culture and ethnicity: Intriguingly, there is evidence that aspects of brain structure may vary across culture. Such differences could potentially reflect the impact of differing linguistic and social environments on the developing brain, although the direction of causality is difficult to determine.

Optimising adolescent development and experience:

- Dietary supplementation: Diet can have a profound impact on the brain and mental health, and represents one means for policy makers to effect positive change.
- Maternal dietary supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids during pregnancy can improve cognitive indicators of infant brain development shortly after birth.
- Cultural inclusion: The presentation and recovery rates of many mental health problems vary widely across cultures.

- There are a number of mechanisms that might underlie this disparity, including culturally insensitive diagnostic criteria, variations in social expectations for “normal” behaviour, difficulties in access to mental health facilities, and societal stigma.
- Positive impact of adolescent peer relationships: The impact of peer influence on adolescent risk perception and risky behaviour has been highlighted.
- However, peers also have an important and positive role to play for adolescents.

Government initiatives:

- Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK): It identifies six strategic priorities for adolescents such as nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, substance misuse, injuries and violence including gender-based violence and mental health.
- The Adolescence Education Programme (AEP): It is an important initiative that aims to empower young people with accurate, age appropriate and culturally relevant information, promote healthy attitudes and develop skills to enable them to respond to real life situations in positive and responsible ways.
- Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY): It seeks to empower adolescent girls, so as to enable them to take charge of their lives. It is viewed as a holistic initiative for the development of adolescent girls.
- Atal Innovation Mission for: Adolescents of 6 to class 12 so that they develop a scientific temper which is also a Directive Principle of State Policy.
- Mission XI Million: So that child gets healthy by playing football and he can learn the essence of team spirit.

Best answer: Ankita munshi

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36. 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 disbursement 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 paise 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.

37. 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: At Birth and neonatal

- Age Related Vulnerabilities: Huge number of Maternal and Infant mortality due to various factors, Female Foeticide
- Systemic Solutions: Institutional Delivery, Awareness about Importance of Girl child, Providing care proper nutrition.
- Examples in India: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janani Shishu suraksha Karyakram, PM surakshit matritva abhiyaan, Laqshya initiative, Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) programme.

Age group: Adolescence

- Age related vulnerabilities: Child labor, Sexual exploitation, Addiction, Peer Pressure, Parental Pressure, Undernourishment, Malnutrition
- Systemic solution: Awareness among youth, various programmes for education & employment, Strict Laws against exploitation and Child Labor.
- Examples in India: 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.

Age group: Mid Age

- Age related vulnerabilities: Financial Instability, Poverty, Health related instabilities. Education and Skill related inabilities, Unemployment, Stress and Depression.
- Systemic solution: Poverty Alleviation program, Health Insurance, Employment generation, Bridging gap in Skills and Education, Awareness and Engagement programmes,
- Examples in India: Aayushman Bharat, Ujjawala Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Age group: Old Age

- Age related vulnerabilities: Financial distress, Loneliness, Health issues.
- Systemic solution: Emotional and Financial Care, Health insurance, proper pensions, Accessible and Affordable Health care.
- Examples in India: 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 –

- Constitutional Measures: By providing certain essential rights as Fundamental rights and ensuring that they are enjoyed by each and every individual.
- By frequent, additions and subtractions of laws according to the needs of the time.
Eg – Making IT specific laws in today’s world.
- Judicial activism: Ensuring that Judiciary is active and not just a passive spectator, Suo Motu – PIL – by the Judiciary to keep an effective watch
- NGOs and Media: A vigilant Media- as at the Vanguard of Democracy, Media and NGOs – bridging the gap between People and the Government.

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-

- Accepting the certainty of problems- by Embracing and not Avoiding problems.
- Knowing that the only way of Happiness is by “Solving Problems”.
- Learning – “ The Value of Suffering” — how “pains are good”
- Learning that “Failure is the way forward”
- Learning that you are “architects of your own beliefs”
- 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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38. Do you think lateral entry into the civil services would ensure better governance? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Governance involves process of decision making, implementation as well as effective delivery of services to citizens. Civil servants play key role in governance of the country.

Body:

In today's world, administration has increasingly become complex. There are time and again suggestions from various committees like 2ARC to have lateral entry into civil service to gain from best available talent. Lateral entry is expected to improve governance by

- Efficient and effective delivery of services Ex: Nandan Nilekani – Aadhar today has eliminated ghost beneficiaries and delivered services to the needy.
- Being tech-savvy brings Transparency in the system of administration minimizing corruption, leakages. Ex: MGNREGA –geo-tagging of assets, ICT usage-DBT
- Certain areas like economic affairs, commerce, climate change, new and renewable energy have become significant in today's globalized world where technical expertise from outside talent comes handy. Ex: Former PM of India Manmohan Singh was a lateral entrant who anchored LPG reforms of 1991.
- Will infuse fresh energy, lead to increasing competition among bureaucrats to develop expertise in their area of choice.

However, it is quite difficult to say that lateral entry will ultimately improve governance because

- Performance is vitally influenced by enabling system. With environment of outmoded rules and procedures in governance system even best of managerial capacity may not deliver results.
- It is difficult to expect civil service values like empathy for weaker sections from lateral entrants. They are likely to be isolated from ground realities.
- There is no guarantee that nepotism, corruption, politicization of service will end.

Conclusion:

While bringing outside talent is good, it is equally important to address several issues that bureaucracy faces today like

- minimizing political interference, avoiding frequent transfers so that they can learn expertise in particular domain – career path linked to specialization
- incentivizing upright and outstanding civil servants
- protecting civil servants for their genuine mistakes in decision making so that innovation and risk taking is not hindered.
- Professionalizing service will increase speed, bring down cost and red tapism.

With these issues addressed, even bureaucracy can deliver results.

Best answer: Abhishek Singh

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39. There has been an impetus on 'participative governance' in recent times. What do you understand by this concept? Is governance in India truly participative? Give your views.

Approach:

- Introduction- Explain the concept of participative governance.
- Impetus in recent times- its benefit.
- Participative governance in India
- Conclusion- way ahead

Introduction:

Participative governance is the involvement of citizens in their own governance. It puts emphasis on democratic engagement, in particular through deliberative practices. It aims at self-reliant, sustainable development through active participation of citizens in development activities. It seeks to deepen citizen participation in the governmental process.

Body:

Participatory development attempts to introduce a bottom-up style of development in order to remedy the government-led approach's shortcomings, specifically by focusing on qualitative improvements in local society's participation.

Participatory governance in India:

- Universal adult franchise.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions- Gram sabhas, tribal councils, autonomous districts etc.
- Social audit
- Pressure groups, NGOs, Media

Recent impetus:

- India has recently started a programme called MyGov to facilitate citizen-government dialogues on important governance matters. PRAGATI is another such initiative.
- The digital age has empowered citizens, across all ages, to be more aware and expect more from their governments. This knowledge helps people to participate in governance.
- Right to Information Act has empowered people to understand the government in better fashion, bringing in transparency.

Conclusion:

Participatory governance truly empowers citizens and ensures good governance. In this light, following needs to be done-

- Improving citizen competence through empowerment, and capacity building should be focused on. This will make citizens' involvement truly participative. It will help tackle the issue of proxy representation as seen in case of women members of local bodies.
- The state machinery must have an appetite to warmly accept feedback and undertake improvement mid-way through established programmes.
- Mechanisms like social auditing needs to be institutionalised.

Best answer: Abhishek Singh

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40. The size of government and the frequency and intensity of its intervention in the life of the citizen must drastically reduce with a greater assertion of the civil society and with greater decentralization and devolution. Comment.

Synopsis:

Minimum government means reduction of govt role in many areas making it an enabler rather than a provider, maximum governance means to maximise service delivery for betterment of the people. A citizen friendly and accountable administration should be the focus of the government.

Decentralization is to bring decision-making governance closer to the people or citizens. Foreign companies who invest FDI use this rationale to push governments, mainly in

developing countries, to devolve central power and authority towards strengthening civic engagement in local governance processes.

Minimum Government:

- Replacing Planning Commission which was seen as institution had a lot of authority without being answerable to the public with NITI Aayog.
- Allowing self-certification in much compliance in manufacturing industry and in environmental regulations.
- The diesel and petrol prices are now governed by international prices.

The frequency and intensity of its intervention in the life of the citizen must drastically reduce through different steps taken or need to be taken by the govt as given below:

- A series of steps need to be introduced to achieve this goal.
- These include simplification of procedures, identification and repeal of obsolete or archaic laws or rules, identification and shortening of various forms, leveraging technology to bring in transparency in public interface and a robust public grievance redress system.
- Leveraging the power of information technology brings with it the advantage of transparency and speed for the benefit of the citizens.
- The Government of India has also taken a number of initiatives for improving 'Ease of Doing Business'.
- The emphasis has been on simplification and rationalization of the existing rules and introduction of information technology to make governance more efficient and effective.
- One of the focus areas of Government should be to reduce the decision making layers to the minimum while allowing for faster means of information sharing or dissemination.
- The Government has launched a website mygov@nic.in and india.gov.in for this purpose. Where civil society and the citizens can participate in the decision making and can give their inputs there.

Conclusion:

Therefore, it is critical to define the effect that decentralization has had on the nature of the citizen before drawing conclusions concerning its relationship to political participation, the size of government and the frequency and intensity of its intervention in the life of the citizen must drastically reduce with a greater assertion of the civil society and with greater decentralization and devolution of power of the respective governments at each level.

Best answer: waves

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41. 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:

- Ration card: Already ration 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 proof 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.

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

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.

Body:

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

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

Easwar Panel Recommendations

- 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.
- 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
- Tax Deductions at Source: It recommended that TDS thresholds need 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

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

Steps taken

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

Other Issues with Taxation

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

- Increasing the Digital Infrastructure – Ensuring Data Privacy- by increasing more government contribution in GSTN and reducing the influence of private players on it.
- Federalism – both center and state needs to work together or it would create workspace challenge.

- Need to Celebrate good financial behavior.
- Tax simplification and Stability
- Capacity building of lesser endowed stakeholders.
- Ensuring Openness, Transparency and Accountability in Taxation in India.
- Giving Incentives and Rewards – for firms complying by the set norms and standards.

Conclusion:

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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43. Micro finance has the ability to unleash rural India’s entrepreneurial zeal. Comment. Have micro finance institutions developed to their true potential? Examine.

Introduction:

Microfinance refers to providing financial services to unemployed, low income people to start small ventures and improve their livelihood. Services include micro loans, saving insurance, remittances.

Body:

Creating jobs is essential for India’s socio-economic development. With issues of underemployment and overemployment in agriculture, increasing automation in manufacturing sector Government is banking on entrepreneurship to create jobs for rural masses. There are large number of products and services in rural areas which can be leveraged to set up small and micro enterprises.

Examples:

- 1) Cottage and Handicraft industry – pot making, clay folks, basket making;
- 2) poultry industry – fastest growing industry in India.
- 3) micro food processing units – horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and marine products.

However, most population living in rural area being small and marginal farmers, landless labours, rural artisans have low access to institutional credit. In such a scenario, micro finance institutions providing micro loans to lower income groups without collateral have ability to unleash rural India's entrepreneurial zeal.

Tracing from SEWA in Gujarat, NABARD initiated program of linking SHG's with banks, Setting of Regional Rural Banks, micro finance institutions have come long way in India. Some of the challenges that MFI's faced in India were

- Over-indebtedness: dealing with poor without collateral
- Lack of risk management framework
- Issue of multiple borrowing ex: Andhra Pradesh crisis 2010
- Higher interest rates

Y.H.Malegam committee on MFI's was constituted in 2010 which recommended capping and transparency in interest rates, Classification of NBFC as NBFC-MFI and others.

Recently, microfinance industry has seen growth over the past five years, growing at a 45% CAGR. It has witnessed rapid evolution with regulatory reforms post the Andhra Pradesh crisis in 2010 to regulate product, pricing and protection of customer interest. This included the growth of regulated NBFC MFIs – a special class of RBI regulated entities carrying out microfinance, the formation of the first ever Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) of the RBI.

Conclusion:

Owing to the increase in the economic development and growing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India, there is an increasing demand for financial assistance, especially in microfinance. Various schemes introduced by the present government like Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) bank and Jan Dhan Yojna has aided in the growth of the micro finance institutions.

Best answer: Silent voice

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44. Economically empowered women can contribute better to the developmental process. Do you agree? Comment. In this regard, examine the role played by Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Introduction:

It is said that, "A woman is a complete circle, she has the power to create, nurture and transform the society". Any human civilization cannot move towards enlightenment by keeping half of its population in darkness. IMF chief Christine Lagarde had said, "raising women's participation in the workforce to the level of men can boost Indian economy by 27 per cent." It is imperative to mainstream women's participation in the economic development of the country to make the most of the demographic dividend of India.

Body:

The process of economically empowering women be carried out by the following ways –

- Increasing Infrastructural facilities and awareness to stop Female Foeticide.
- Proper Pre Natal and Post Natal care for women.
- Accessible, Affordable, Equitable and Quality Health care and Education facilities throughout their lifetime.
- Awareness about menstrual hygiene.
- Creating Equal job opportunities at par with men- by compulsory reservation with respect to women recruitment.
- Integrating women in the decision making at various levels.
- Strict Laws against Sexual Harassment at work and Molestation – Complying by the Vishaka guidelines.
- Ensuring Safety in public transport.
- Direct Benefit Transfer of Money by the government to the account of the eldest women in the family.
- By Gender Based Budgeting

If the above measures are achieved at the policy level – Women can act as Catalysts for the Economic Development of a country in the following ways –

- Change in the patriarchal mindset of the society and women being seen at par with men at various economic levels.
- More investment in health and education at the family level- leading to overall wellbeing of the family in general and Children in particular.
- Increase in the labour force participation by the women.
- Increase in the overall GDP and economic empowerment of the country.

- Investment of sanitation measures like building of toilets – which can lead to overall improvement in health care parameters.
- Improvement in overall Human Development parameters, reducing the Gender Gap Index.

Various Schemes carried out by the Government in this regard can be mentioned as follows –

- Mahila-e-haat – for Women Entrepreneurship.
- Sukanya Samridhi yojana – to ensure education of the girl child.
- Stand Up India – encouraging women entrepreneurship.
- Ujjawala Scheme – against women trafficking, rescue, rehabilitation etc.
- Swadhar Greh Scheme – To cater primary needs of women in distress.

In addition of the above measures, Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been seen to play a pivotal part in the Economic Integration of women into the mainstream and their economic development as follows – SHGs— Empowering— Women .Impacts of SHGs on Women Economic Empowerment (According to the 2nd ARC)

- Collective generation of additional income and act as an conduit for formal banking.
- Helps in Financial inclusion of families in general and women in particular by providing collateral security to the women, credit to the poor and effective reach.
- Increase in the average value of assets and price of house.
- Developing the habit of saving
- Reduction in Dependency of women on the male member of the family.
- Creating Leaders among Women and raising their confidence levels.
- Imbibing the values of Self Help, Democracy, Equality and Solidarity.

Successful Examples of SHGs empowering Women:

- Lijjat Papad- successfully transformed lives of several women.
- SEWA under Ela Bhatt.
- Kudamshree initiative of Government of Kerala.
- TANWA (Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture) programme of Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Shramik Bharadi in Uttar Pradesh.
- Andhra Pradesh Government programme of poverty alleviation by successful integration of women by SHG formation.

However, various issues faced by the SHGs are as follows –

- Members are not necessarily the most needy sections of the society.
- It is mostly based on the primitive skills.

- Social empowerment is not much qualitative.
- Male dominance at some stage and women turning to be pseudo leaders.
- Inadequate skills, especially in the rural areas.
- The pace of movement being very slow.
- State wise disparities very high in India, very less representation by Bihar, Jharkhand etc.

Thus, to ensure that the Domino effect of women being economically empowered is very substantial and SHG act as a catalyst effective and serious efforts are necessary on government and people's part, specifically by ensuring successful participation by SHGs in nation's development.

Best Answer: Ankita Jeph

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45. Why have NGOs been controversial in India? How should NGOs be regulated? Discuss.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Why have NGOs been controversial in India?
- How should NGOs be regulated.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a non-profit, citizen-based group that functions independently of government. NGOs are organized on local, national and international levels to serve specific social or political purposes.

Body:

In India, NGOs can be registered under a plethora of Acts such as the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, Religious Endowments Act, 1863, Indian Trusts Act, etc.

Why have NGOs been controversial in India?

- Stopping grants to NGOs who fail to file their income-expenditure statements. The court asked if it should pass an order to that effect.

- While there exists plethora of NGOs in India, only a handful of NGOs linked to politicians, bureaucrats or other high-profile individuals get hefty government funds.
- NGOs can receive foreign funds if they are registered with the Home Ministry under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Without this, no NGO can receive cash or anything of value higher than Rs 25,000.
- Many FCRA-registered NGOs have been warned by the government for not filing mandatory contribution reports.
- As per CBI report fewer than 10 per cent of NGOs in 20 states have filed balance sheets with the authorities.
- An IB report in past has alleged that several foreign-funded NGOs were stalling India's economic growth by their obstructionist activism. The report accused Greenpeace of attempting to destabilize India's energy mix in collusion with a US-based anti-coal lobbying group.

Challenge:

India has possibly the largest number of active NGOs in the world, but no specific number is available. A study commissioned by the government put the number of NGOs in 2009 at 33 lakh. That was one NGO for fewer than 400 Indians, and many times the number of primary schools and primary health centres.

Several NGOs have been complaining of undue or targeted harassment by the government under the IT Act and FCRA.

Regulation of NGOs: A high-power committee, headed by S. Vijay Kumar, has recommended several steps to ensure the "light regulation" of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) so as to reduce their harassment.

- The committee recommended that the registration procedures be modernised so as to facilitate the seamless operation of the applicable provisions of the IT (Income Tax) Act and FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) with respect to NGOs, without the need for cumbersome and intrusive processes.
- Less physical interface Steps must be taken to "reduce the need for a physical interface between NGOs and public officials acting under the IT Act and the FCRA, along with reduction in mutual distrust and scope for misuse.
- A nodal body to oversee the various interfaces between NGOs and the government, and the NITI Aayog be vested with the power.
- A separate law for voluntary agencies engaged in activities of a charitable or "public good" nature to enable more effective and efficient regulation of the sector.
- An overarching legislation with best practices that would replace various State-level and existing Central laws. Details of NGOs should be available as searchable database information.

Conclusion:

Regulation of NGOs is very much required but it should be 'light' and consistent with the fundamental rights, so as to give effect to the objects for which voluntarism is being promoted. The new framework should enable a "national uniformity" of approach following the principle of "cooperative federalism".

Best answer: Ankita Jeph

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46. 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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**47. 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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48. Examine the factors behind poor learning outcomes in India. How can this be addressed? Discuss.

Introduction:

The goals of learning according to UNESCO are learning to know, learning to do, learning to live in harmony & learning to be. It is said that "Malnourished minds cannot make proper choices", hence it is necessary to focus on the outcomes of education to derive the ultimate advantage of the demographic dividend of India. In terms of outcomes in India it has been witnessed – in the ASER report published by NGO Pratham that only 50% students of class 5 can study the class 2 books and only 26% of students from class 2 can do basic Arithmetic.

Body:

Need to improve the Learning outcomes-

- To take advantage of India's Demographic Dividend.
- To boost India's GDP and for Economic Empowerment.
- To invest in Human resource and improve Quality of Life.
- For overall socio economic development.

The challenges of the present day education system are

- Pressure of expectation from parents and society. It recognizes children only as exam cracking achievers. Human life is guided by narrow vision of success which in turn is defined by the narrow vision of marks.
- Too much exam focus – today all other forms of learning not tested by exams are neglected and are irrelevant. Abandoning exams is suggested by the multiple committees from the Zakir Hussain report on national basic education.
- Continuous comprehensive evaluation stated under right to education is not properly implemented. The CCE does not suit the authoritarian school organisations, administration and syllabus organisation. So, many states are drifting to old pass and fail system.
- Adolescent psychology is not given due importance in learning of children.
- Employability has become the objective of learning. Choice of subjects after Matriculation is guided by this.
- Learning is equated with grades and percentages in exams.
- Low Student teacher ratio.
- High levels of school dropouts.
- Paucity of Trained professionals.
- Focus on Rote Learning.

However, the issues related to Learning outcomes can be tackled by following ways –

TSR Subramanian committee on education policy recommended for

- Indian education services
- Autonomy to the better rated institutions
- Streamlining and professionalising the rating of educational institutions.
- No detention policy only till class V
- Remedial classes to improve the learning abilities
- Inculcation of values.

With respect to Higher Education TSR Subramanian committee on higher education recommended

- UGC act shall be allowed to lapse and UGC as an institution failed to ensure the quality of higher education. It shall be revamped and at best it could be made as a nodal point for the proposed National higher education fellowship program.
- It also highlighted lack of adequate number of personnel of requisite quality to be an effective regulatory force in higher education.
- Yashpal Committee – recommended for the creation of an authority All India council for higher education subsuming all regulatory authorities like UGC and AICTE
- Internationalization of Education – by Improving the Global Exposure.
- Increasing Autonomy to Higher education institutions.

Some Initiatives by the Government: –

- Jigyasa Initiative – To connect School Students and Scientists.
- SABLA scheme – All round development of adolescent girls and making them self-reliant.
- Online Initiatives like SWAYAM , SWAYAM prabha, Shaala Darpan
- Schemes for Minorities- Seekho aur kamao – For Skill development and employability of Minorities, USTTAD – To upgrade skills and training for traditional arts. Padho Pardesh – To give educational loans to study abroad.

Conclusion:

In spite 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.

BEST ANSWER : Aspirant 123

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49. Despite rapid economic growth, hunger and malnutrition remain a challenge in many districts of India. Why? Analyse.

Introduction:

Post economic reforms of 1991, India achieved higher economic growth reaching close to double digits and even today, is fastest growing economy. However, economic growth has not resulted in elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

Body:

Today, Hunger and Malnutrition remains as a challenge in India which is reflected by

- India's poor ranking in Global Hunger Index 100/119.
- Malnutrition rate of 38.4% among children below 5 years (NFHS-4).
- In India 44% children underweight, 52% women are anaemic.

There are many reasons such as

- Growth did not eliminate poverty. Still 23% of population are poor according to WB report who face difficulty in meeting their food requirements.
- Lower status of women in society: As a child, as a pregnant woman her nutritional requirements are ignored.
- Skewed pattern of food consumption mainly tilted towards cereals.
- Modern lifestyles-urbanisation: lack of physical activities leading to problems like obesity.
- Poor governance: inefficiency in the implementation of schemes like PDS, ICDS. While their number of schemes implemented by Ministry of women and child development, ministry of health and family welfare, lack of synchronised efforts is resulting into poor results.

Measures needed to address the issue:

- Integration of nutrition related intervention across sectors like women and child development, health, food and public distribution, sanitation, drinking water, rural development.
- Focus on most vulnerable communities in districts with higher levels of malnutrition. Ex: Districts in Uttar Pradesh like Bahraich, Shravasti have highest rates of stunting.
- Need for more research in improving efficiency of PDS system. Ex: food fortification.
- Gender sensitization and gender approach to food and nutritional security. Priority should be on meeting needs of adolescents, pregnant women. Creating better awareness about better nutrition and its effects on child.
- Focus on sanitation through government initiatives like swachh bharat mission.

Conclusion:

Though hunger and malnutrition levels have come down recently, they are still very high. India has to continue its fight to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2) to realize its true economic potential and development by having healthy citizens.

Best answer: silent voice

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50.How does financial inclusion help in addressing poverty? Illustrate.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Role of financial inclusion in reducing poverty.
- Challenges, steps taken by government and way ahead- small reference is required. Even though not asked explicitly in question, dealing with these aspects makes the answer comprehensive.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Financial inclusion refers to the access to financial services like savings, insurance, credit etc. In line with SDG 1, to end global poverty, financial inclusion will be key. The 2030 Agenda seeks to guarantee human beings, especially those in vulnerable situations, the right to financial services, including microfinancing.

Role of financial inclusion in reducing poverty:

- When the poor are able to save, it is most often in the form of cash which can be all too easy to spend under stress. This leaves the poor vulnerable, as an unplanned health emergency, theft or loss can push people into total poverty.
- Access to social benefits availed by government like DBT, insurance policies.
- Reduced dependence on informal sources like moneylenders in times of need. Rates charged are high making the poor enter into vicious cycle of indebtedness.
- Empowering women who, with a credit line, could undertake labor activities unthinkable without economic aid; increase consumption and investment, and thus grow revenues; and increase spending on other social aspects, such as preventive health.
- Promotes habit of savings which eventually helps in capital investment.
- Financial inclusion boosts confidence of poor as it brings them the feeling of being part of mainstream. The risk-taking ability also increases. This overall promotes entrepreneurship.

Challenges:

- Low financial literacy and lack of awareness.
- Poor infrastructure- Lack of banks and ATMs in remote areas.

Way ahead: The CRISIL Inclusix index's readings for fiscal 2016 show financial inclusion has improved significantly in India, with the all-India score rising to 58.0 in fiscal 2016, compared with 50.1 in fiscal 2013.

The government has come up with schemes such as Jeevan Jyoti Beema, Sukanya Samriddhi, Kisan Credit Card, MUDRA etc to promote financial inclusion.

However, more needs to be done.

- Promoting digital and financial literacy.
- Strengthening the banking correspondent model.
- Infrastructure building- Banks, ATMs in remote and rural areas.
- Developing products catering to specific needs of the poor like micro-pension.
- Sensitization of bank employees while dealing with the poor.

Conclusion:

A combination of effective public policy, public-private partnerships and the thoughtful application of the latest technology can help deliver financial services to all including the poor.

Best answer: only ias

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

Synopsis:

Introduction:

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.

Body:

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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52. 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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53. Don't you think by constraining a civil servant from expressing political opinions, the code of conduct betray the fundamental human tendency to think and reason? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Code of conduct provides a framework for public officials for carrying on their duties. It serves as a tool for public officials in making right decisions, prevent certain types of behaviours and help protect the reputation of the organization.

Body:

Civil servants in India are governed by All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Among many other guidelines, it requires civil servants to maintain political neutrality by avoiding political opinions. This is ensured in following ways.

- The government servants are not free to indicate the manner in which they propose to vote or have voted.
- They are forbidden to canvass or use their influence in an election to any legislature or local authority.
- They cannot stand for election to the parliament or to state legislature. They are required to resign in order to contest elections.

It is criticized that,

- Such measures go against freedom of speech and expression, which is a fundamental human right: The right to speak freely on important issues in society, access information and hold the powers to account, plays a vital role in the healthy developmental process of any society. But the enlightened citizens of the country are denied this right.
- Under various rulings, Supreme Court has held democracy is based on fair criticism and a blanket prohibition on criticism of the policies of the government is not valid, and it makes no difference if the person criticising happens to be a government servant.

However, such measures are justified because

- The parliamentary form of government demands from civil service not only neutrality but also integrity and impartiality to conduct.
- These restrictions maintain the political neutrality of the civil services (avoiding politicization of bureaucracy) and keep them away from public controversies and enable them to serve the government of the day with all the loyalty.
- Prevents embarrassing relations between the international governmental agencies and the governments of foreign states.

And moreover, they too enjoy right to express in other matters and come out with works which are purely literary, scientific or artistic in nature and thus pursue their individual interests.

Conclusion:

Political neutrality of civil servants has been regarded as one of the essential conditions for the success of a democratic form of Government. And code of conduct rules tries to achieve this objective.

Best answer: Prince

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54. What positive transformations has the Right to Information (RTI) brought since its inception? Illustrate by taking suitable examples.

Approach:

- Introduction- Features of the Act.
- Positive transformations brought in by the RTI Act
- Way forward and Conclusion

Introduction:

The free flow of information from the State to the citizenry and vice versa, is vital for the health of a modern-day democratic system. The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 was passed in our country after years of struggle by people yearning for a more transparent, accountable and participatory system of governance. The passing of this law by the Parliament was a notable milestone in the evolution of our democracy.

Features of the RTI Act:

- This Act makes every public authority responsible for the dissemination of information that it holds with itself.
- It also casts a statutory obligation upon the Competent Authority to maintain and update all its records in a manner that is consistent with the operational requirements of the Act.
- The salient feature of the Indian legislation is that it took into account the experience of various other countries in enforcing and implementing laws aimed at ensuring freedom of information.

Positive transformations:

- **RTI and Service Delivery:** Individuals often use RTI applications to resolve other sorts of service delivery problems like delay in provision of services, obstruction or failure to apply the rules, etc.
- Prestigious institutions like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have been forced to make public, their scaling and admission criteria respectively, as a result of RTI applications. This has made the entire process of selection more transparent.
- **Combating Corruption and Malfeasance:** Allowing people to seek and receive public documents, serves as a critical tool for fighting corruption. This enables citizens to participate more effectively in public life and makes governments more efficient, which, in turn, helps people to exercise their fundamental human rights in a more effective manner.
- There are many examples of citizens and civil society groups using RTI to expose corruption, often at the local level. A grassroots level organization called Mazdoor Kisaan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) which grew out of a local struggle for minimum wages in Rajasthan.

- The Act has produced a better impact on the quality of the life of the poor and the marginalized. During the last ten years, the Act has brought about positive changes in the levels of corruption and accountability.
- The disclosure of vital information has resulted in an effective check on corrupt practices in delivery of services and ensuring that entitlements actually reach the intended beneficiaries. Concrete steps need to be taken to make the filing of RTI applications more convenient.
- Citizens' Participation in Self-Governance: In its very first report titled "Right to Information: Master Key to Good Governance", the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has acknowledged that access to information can empower the poor and weaker sections of society to demand information from the Government about public policies and actions, thereby leading to welfare of all.
- Good governance and right to information are complimentary to each other.
- The enactment of RTI Act introduces an open and transparent government and gives to every citizen, the right to seek and receive information which in turn, helps to make the administration more responsible and transparent, which ultimately leads to good governance. Thus, the World Bank has rightly remarked that "Right to information is an integral part of good governance".

Conclusion:

Information is indispensable for the functioning of a true democracy. In this age of information technology, RTI is a critical factor in ensuring the country's socio-cultural, economic and political development.

- The first step towards making RTI realistic would be to have a comprehensive legislative and institutional framework at both the Union and the State level.
- Laws by themselves are not adequate. What is needed is that such progressive laws must be backed by peoples' movements. Simply making the legislation will not do justice to the information seekers unless it is implemented with strong conviction.
- There is always a great deal of resistance to change and the Indian bureaucracy is no exception to this phenomenon. It has, for generations, been brought up on a culture of secrecy. Efforts to thwart the working of RTI must be dealt with sternly so as to send across the right message to Government functionaries at all levels.

Best answer: gargantuan

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**55. Citizen Charter is an ineffective and blunt instruments without legal enforceability.
Comment.**

Approach:

- Define citizens charter
- Write about legal status and issues involved
- Utility of Citizens charter and suggested reforms
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Citizen's Charter is a document which represents a systematic effort to focus on the commitment of the Organisation towards its Citizens in respects of Standard of Services, Information, Choice and Consultation, Non-discrimination and Accessibility, Grievance Redress, Courtesy and Value for Money.

This also includes expectations of the Organisation from the Citizen for fulfilling the commitment of the Organisation. Citizen's Charter initiative not only covers the Central Government Ministries/ Departments/ Organisations but also the Departments/ Agencies of State Governments and UT Administrations.

Body:

Citizen charter and its effectiveness:

- The Citizen's Charter is not legally enforceable and, therefore, is non-justiciable. However, it is a tool for facilitating the delivery of services to citizens with specified standards, quality and time frame etc. with commitments from the Organisation and its clients.
- Citizen charter in itself cannot ensure a responsive and effective administration. Employees need to be trained, sensitized and deviant behaviour punished.
- Business process re-structured with provision of mechanism for complaint redressal provided
- They are nothing but pious statements of intention which do not contain any objective goals. Further they are drafted unilaterally by the organisation without involvement of stakeholders which is defeating the purpose of citizen charters.
- It remains unreached to public due to the lack of awareness, budgetary support to departments is poor and updating citizen's charter often takes a back seat.

However, its importance in public administration can be highlighted through the following points,

- It ushers in a regime of transparency and openness.
- It promotes good governance.
- It incentivizes accountability in administration.
- It is citizen-centric in nature, keeping in mind the needs of citizens.
- Most importantly, it ensures better service quality, and grievance redressal.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has been supporting in improving the citizen's charter of various government departments. Many states, for instance Odisha – (Odisha Right to Public Service Act- 2002) is in tandem with citizen's charter which involves penal provisions as well. RTI Act adds a big strength to the basic intention behind citizen's charter.

Way forward:

The ARC recommends the following in respect of the citizen's charter for making it more effective:

- Involving the citizens in the making of the charter.
- Reward schemes to incentivise citizens' initiative.
- Be made more effective by stipulating the service level and also the legal remedy in case the service is not provided.

Conclusion:

Effective implementation would require a consultative process between those entrusted with framing and implementing the charter, along with that legal back up and education drive to create awareness would go a long way in making Citizen Charter a tool for better governance.

56. Examine the tools that ensure accountability in public administration. Also discuss the status of grievance redressal mechanism in India.

Introduction:

Accountability refers to acknowledgement and owning up the responsibility for actions taken, decision made, policies formulated along with result obtained due to these.

Body:

- Tools to ensure accountability in public administration in India:
- RTI.
- Social auditing.
- Central Monitoring systems.

- Parliamentary review committee.
- Citizens Charter.
- Suspension and Forced retirement.

Example: With the introduction of mandatory social audits, corruption and leakages in MGNREGA have reduced considerably. Continuous monitoring of the PDS system by civil society in Chhattisgarh have improved its performance manifolds.

Accountability measures and institutions in government also impede decision making and lead to inaction and delay.

Grievance is a part of every administration machinery. India has a centralized public grievance redress and monitoring system (CPGRMS).

There are primarily two designated agencies handling grievances:

- Department of Administrative reform and public grievance: Under ministry of Personnel, it receives grievances and forwards to concerned departments and follows it up till final disposal.
- Directorate of Public grievances: It is an appellate body investigating grievances selectively where complainant has failed to get redress.

Note: In first part, many have written about accountability in general. The question specifically asks about Public administration. Take a minute to understand demands of question before writing. Examples are very important.

Conclusion:

It is true that accountability measures are sometime used as harassment by public or for taking revenge on public officials especially after RTI came into force. But that should not be the reason to restrict them instead innovative methods should be formulated to address them.

57. Discuss the role and mandate of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in addressing corruption. Has it been effective? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Corruption is considered to be one of the gravest problems of Independent India, the issue is at the core of most of the problems of India. In this respect, Central Vigilance Commission was established in 1964 under the recommendations of Santhanam Committee, it gained statutory authority in 2003 CVC Act.

Body:

The mandate and the powers of CVC have kept evolving over the years, The CVC is headed by Central Vigilance Commissioner which is appointed by President, the role of CVC in current context can be analyzed as follows-

Mandate of the CVC

- It is considered to be the coordinating authority to check Corruption for All India services, Central services, PSUs and other departments.
- It heads the Delhi Special Police in cases of Corruption.
- It reviews the grants of prosecution clearance by the government.
- Recommending disciplinary actions against higher officials of Group A,B, All India services etc
- It is basically considered to be the nodal agency to tackle corruption at the national level.

In sync with its mandate CVC has proved to be an effective organization in tackling corruption, it has proved its mettle in the past by the following actions-

- It has led to smooth appointment of important officers at various posts in the past.
- It has taken noteworthy action in the past against senior officials, senior personnel and even many politicians.
- It organizes vigilance week every year to create awareness against the menace of Corruption.
- It acts as a civil court and can act “Suo Moto”
- The independence of CVC is maintained as it is recruited by an Independent committee consisting of PM, Home Minister, Leader of Opposition etc.

However, the expectation that CVC will be an institute which can prove to be “One Stop Solution” to tackle Corruption in the country has been proved to be a hoax, due to the following ineffectiveness-

- The Decisions of the CVC are not binding on the organizations or ministries.
- It is seen that like most other organizations even CVC has been proved to be a “toothless tiger”
- Very low conviction rate has reduced the impact of CVC and its effectiveness.
- There is huge delay in the cases that CVC handles, hence it does not act as an effective deterrent.
- The demand for effective Lokpal is still in pipeline.
- In most cases, the domains and the jurisdiction of the organizations is not clear.
- Multiplicity of organization leads to work duplication and reduces the effectiveness.
- The post of Central Vigilance Commissioner has remained vacant for a long period of time.

Conclusion:

Corruption is one issue that needs effective institutions to tackle the same, the demand of new institutions like Lokpal is on the rise due to the failure of the existing organization like the CVC. The powers of the CVC with respect to its mandate, the financial independence, increase in the implementation of otherwise the just advisory role of the CVC needs to be tackled. At the same time it should be ensured that administration does not get stuck in the fear of the three C's – CVC, CBI and CAG and move towards a constructive solution.

BEST ANSWER: Ankita Munshi

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58. How does Sri Lanka feature in India's strategic roadmap for the future? What concerns does India have with respect to China's increasing influence in Sri Lanka? Examine.

Introduction:

India and Sri Lanka enjoy the legacy of strong cultural, economical and strategic ties since ages. India's role in Sri Lanka has changed over the period from a mediator, a key actor to being perceived as a villain trying to interfere in domestic politics. However, with changing global power structure and geo-strategic conditions there is a need to re look at the entire scenario from an entirely new perspective.

Body:

India and Sri Lanka have shared a love hate relationship over the ages, historically the relationship was shaped up more by the domestic factors than the strategic factors. The relation has seen vacillations related to Ethnic crisis, Operation Vadamarachi, Operation Poomalai, Rajiv Gandhi-Jayawardene accord and so on. However, the relation has survived the test of time and is still going strong due to the following reasons-

- India has started to act as the Net Security Provider in the Indian ocean region, with many small countries looking up to India for assistance.
- India has historic geo cultural ties with Sri Lanka like Indo-Srilanka accord of 1987.
- Geographical proximity and special ties with Indian and Sri Lankan Tamils has given a unique dimension to the relation.

- India and Sri Lanka are key partners in various FTAs. They are also important partners in groups like SAARC, BIMSTEC etc.
- It is a vital littoral partner in developing of Blue economy.
- The strategic location of Sri Lanka can be used to choke entry to India.
- Sri Lanka is one of the most vital stakeholders with respect to maritime security of India.
- Sri Lanka's role become even more pivotal with increasing instability in Maldives and growing insecurities and political appeasement & patronage offered by China.

In order to strengthen the strategic ties with Sri Lanka, India and Sri Lanka have carried out the following measures-

- Carrying out of military exercises like SLINEX and Mitra Shakti.
- Considering Sri Lanka as a major stakeholder for IORARC.
- Sri Lanka's cooperation is also instrumental in MILAN naval exercise.

However, in recent times the fisherman issue, the issue related to bottom trawling and the increasing Chinese presence in Sri Lanka is seen to shape up the power dynamics and India's relation with Sri Lanka due to the following issues-

- Chinese inroads in Sri Lanka is seen to be threatening to India's security and safety.
- Sri Lanka is considered to be important to Chinese "String of pearls" theory which is considered to be threatening India's security by presumably encircling India.
- Increasing Chinese role in Sri Lanka and Indian ocean is seen to undermine India's role as the net security provider.
- China has got lease of Hambantota port which could be used for military purpose in times to come.
- Increasing influence of China, will decrease Sri Lanka's dependence of India reducing India's bargaining power.

Conclusion:

It is said that, "You can change your friends and enemies; but not your neighbors"- Sri Lanka is one of the most important neighbor to India from economic, cultural and strategic point of view. India's policies should thus be dynamic according to changing times and we should not always look at Chinese's relations with Sri Lanka from a "Zero Sum game" perspective even though we should be always cautious enough to protect our interests.

BEST ANSWER: GOG

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59. What are India's interests in the Maldives? Examine the emerging challenges that the small island country is facing and their implications for India.

Introduction:

Maldives is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean. Relation with Maldives is important for India given its strategic location and geographical proximity.

Body:

Maldives being in India's backyard, India has following interests.

Security interests:

- Strategic location helps surveillance operations in the Indian Ocean region,
- Protect India's trade interests.
- Keep watch on global terror as country is closely linked to radical Islam.
- Check Chinese presence in IOR countering string of pearls.

Economic interests:

- Export destination for Indian goods and protect Indians investment in Maldives.

Recent emerging challenges with respect to Maldives:

- Complex political situation, weak government institutions: Political crisis in Maldives. Refusal of the government to abide by the ruling of the Supreme Court. Imposition of emergency. The arrest of the Supreme Court Chief Justice and political figures.
- Radical Islam: On a per capita basis, the Maldives has sent the highest number of foreign fighters to support terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq.
- Economy: High fiscal deficit and public debt. Risk of external debt distress high with economy being narrowly based on tourism and fisheries.
- Increasing China's presence: The Maldives is also a member in China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative — a development strategy which has met with a certain resistance by India. Maldives passed the Free Trade Agreement with China. The archipelago nation is the only SAARC country, other than Pakistan, to have a free trade pact with China. China has also sent warships to visit the Maldives. If China, which has stepped up military pressure on India along their Himalayan frontier, turned one of the Maldivian islands into a naval base, it would effectively open a maritime front against India.

Implications for India

- Bilateral relations: Increasing Chinese presence is likely to come in conflict with Indian interests and strain bilateral relations. Ex: Maldives cancelling GMR airport project.
- Geographic proximity: A weakened Maldives could prove a fertile ground for extremism and religious fundamentalism, piracy, smuggling and drug trafficking – all major security worries for New Delhi.
- The Indian Ocean stability: More than 97% of India's international trade by volume and 75% by value passes through the Indian Ocean. Secure sea lanes are crucial for India.

Conclusion:

The 'China factor', coupled with India's inability to build on 'Neighbourhood First' policy, especially in the case of Maldives, is an added and a more immediate factor in present state of strained relations. There is a need to reassess strategy and tread carefully with Maldives.

Best answer: Kamal

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60. Do you think the ongoing exercise of NRC can affect Indo-Bangladesh relations? What are the alternatives available to address the emerging tensions? Suggest.

Approach:

- Briefly mention what is NRC and its background
- In the body try to mention NRC's implication on Indo-Bangladesh relations
- Give suggestions how it can be addressed

Synopsis:

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) contains names of Indian. The NRC was prepared in 1951, after the Census of 1951 it was prepared by recording particulars of all the persons enumerated during that Census. The NRC will include names of person or their descendants whose name appear in NRC 1951 or any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971. Recent result of leaving out 40 lakh applicants from the final draft of the NRC in Assam has raised a furore.

Assam has long resented the influx of Bangladeshi Muslims, citing pressure on its limited land and resources. To weed out migrants, the Assam Accord was signed in 1985, which says anyone who entered the state after 1971 would be considered an illegal resident.

(Just for information)

(Assam Agitation (1979-1985): It was a reactionary movement, led by All Assam Student Union (AASU), who was instigated by various cultural, political & economic threats like loss of jobs in favour of the immigrants.

After six years, a memorandum of settlement called Assam Accord was signed between Union Government and AASU.

Issues arising out of migration:

- Illegal migration threatens Assamese citizens to become minorities in their own homelands.
- Population explosion happens which puts a strain on resources.
- Wages of labour become low.
- There are cases of civilian violence and terrorism arising due to illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.)

Effects on Indo-Bangladesh relationship of on-going exercise of NRC:

- India does not have deportation treaty with Bangladesh and Nepal so there are complexities in deportation of illegal migrants.
- Bangladesh officials consider this process as an internal matter of India and it doesn't want to interfere in it, so official implications might not go against India.
- In the absence of Bangladesh's cooperation and a well-defined extradition policy deportation may create a humanitarian crisis since the migrants living in Assam for a long time have settled and expanded families. This may even fiddle with the contentious Indo-Bangla Relations; especially in the present scenario where India cannot afford to drive a trusted ally into China's welcoming arms.
- Bangladeshi PM had been highlighting cordial ties and bilateral co-operation in a wide range of areas between India and Bangladesh as a major diplomatic success of her Awami League government, this may get jeopardise.
- The course of the NRC in Assam and how it plays out in the rest of India are issues that have begun to bother policy planners in Dhaka as there is already anti-India sentiments are growing exponentially in Bangladesh as per the news reports.
- The anxiety could even heighten in coming months, as Bangladesh moves closer to the year-end parliamentary elections.

Suggestions:

- India officially has assured Bangladesh that it is list prepared under orders of Supreme Court and the process of identification of citizens of Assam is still underway and it is not anything finalised yet and they want to keep in touch with Bangladesh government till the end of the process.
- NRC process is being monitored by the Supreme Court, and the court has to be extremely vigilant in this regard and be seen delivering justice to all.
- We need to involve the Bangladesh officials in the process, so that it will be easy to convince them regarding the transparency in the process.
- In case of deporting the people, there is a need to get a clarity of policy about those people who have identified as illegal immigrants and also India need to assure them any financial assistance to lessen their burden as Bangladesh is already burdened with the recent rohingya's refugee crisis.
- Many illegal migrants who were earlier declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals have either absconded to other states to evade arrest or are dead.
- Since the deportation of illegal migrants is not feasible, the only option before the government is to let them reside in the country on humanitarian grounds but after stripping them of all citizenship rights.
- Bangladesh is already upset at India's failure to deliver on a promised settlement for sharing the waters of Teesta. India needs to fulfil all other commitments like teesta water agreements, to give some confidence to the Bangladeshis.

Conclusion:

India has accorded Bangladesh a special place in its scheme of things, signifying close neighbourly cooperation. If the NRC issue is allowed to get out of hand to pander to popular sentiment in Bangladesh, it could seriously jeopardize India-Bangladesh relations. More importantly, it could also have a negative impact on present Bangladesh government chances in the impending general elections and add to the list of grievances voters have against the Awami League government. That is the last thing the Indian leadership would want to happen in one of its closest allies in the neighbourhood.

61. Do you think India's 'neighbours first' policy has been undermined by an aggressive China? Critically examine.

Approach:

- Introduction- About India's neighbors first policy.
- India's policy versus aggressive China- both for and against aspects.
- Way ahead
- Conclusion

Introduction:

The “neighborhood first” policy is the striking feature of the present government’s diplomatic approach. As per the policy, India’s relations with neighboring countries must receive topmost priority.

India’s neighborhood first policy has been undermined by China:

- Belt and Road Initiative of China undermines India’s sovereignty.
- While India has always stood by the principles of democracy and sovereignty, China’s aggressive behavior in countries like Myanmar have forced India to rethink its stance.
- Economic dependence of neighboring countries over China has increased so much so over time that the much-required balance of power has been disturbed.
- Huge trade deficit with China

Despite above challenges India’s neighbours first policy has sustained:

- In case of Doklam standoff last year, India and Bhutan together managed to settle down the issue amicably.
- Countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal have supported India in its efforts to strengthen connectivity in the region. Eg- BBIN network.
- Initiatives like BIMSTEC, Chabahar port etc reflects how India’s relations with its neighbors has borne fruit.

Way ahead:

- India should in the first place resolve the differences with its small neighbours. Else it will only pave the way for China to exert growing influence in the region as it was seen in the case of Nepal during the economic blockade by India.
- Revival of SAARC should be stressed upon.
- Improving relations with Pakistan is quintessential. China has often manipulated Pakistan to fail the attempts made by India to strengthen the region.
- Common platforms like SCO, of which both India and China are members, should be leveraged to iron out the differences and resolve issues.
- Infrastructure projects should be fast-tracked.
- India’s overall approach towards its small neighbors should be that of big brother. It should not be assertive given the sensitivities involved.
- Internal balancing- Building up domestic military muscle by raising new forces, improving existing ones, or buying weapons.

Conclusion:

India's neighbours first policy is pragmatic given the need to maintain the balance of power in the region. However, it needs constant nurturing.

Best answer: Chandler Bing

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62. What significance does the recent regime change in Pakistan hold for India? Is it going to change anything? Analyse.

Introduction:

Pakistan for the first time witnessed a peaceful transition of power from one democratically elected government to another. With election of Cricketer-turned Politician Imran Khan, India stands to gain a lot from new government in power.

Body:

Significance:

- Country first: Both India and Pakistan are presently ruled by Rightist parties, who believe in country first policies. So both have more chances to enter into meaningful dialogues, which can turn out to be beneficial to respective countries.
- Army backing: Unlike his predecessor, Imran Khan has backing from army, so it is easier to deal with the government where both army and government is on same side.
- Track-2 diplomacy: Being a former cricketer with fans across political spectrum, he commands goodwill and Friendship among Indian journalists and cricketers which can be put to productive usage.
- Trade: After winning, he has stressed on good ties with India especially in terms of developing good trade relations.
- Soft-corner for India: He has time and again stressed on India-Pakistan relationship saying that both cannot be enemies when there is more that unites both countries than which separates them.
- Dialogues: Throughout his public life, he has endorsed dialogues to solve issues and never been known to endorse an armed solution.

Is it going to change:

- ISI factor: India related policies are formulated by ISI and Army and not by government. So getting both on same side will be different for government.
- Taliban: He has frequently used the terms like Good Taliban Bad Taliban, there by pointing his support for Taliban in Afghanistan.
- Fundamentalist: Imran Khan is criticised by his opponents as a fundamentalist, which is against Indian ethos of Liberalism.
- China Factor: Huge Chinese presence in form of men and money will be a factor in deciding trade related policies with India.
- Anti-Drone stand: His criticism of U.S drones attacks, might weaken fight against terrorist emanating from Pakistan soil.
- Kashmir Issue: Kashmir has always remained a bone of contention between India-Pakistan. Both sides will not be ready to sacrifice.

Conclusion:

Military and government on same side along with their economy in deep crisis, it is a blessing in disguise for India. Also with presence of many Cricketer politics in India, a different channel of communication can be started and it can be the best time in post-independence era where sometime substantial can be achieved.

63. India's decision to stay out of the Chinese BRI initiative is a prudent geostrategic step. Do you agree. Don't you think India should also refrain from joining the US led counter to Chinese BRI initiative? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Recently. Prime Minister Modi focused on India's "Strategic Autonomy" - the statement implicitly upholds India's sovereignty & is free of any inclinations towards any country. Chinese Belt and Road Initiative is regional connectivity project by China to increase its economic, military and political foot print all over the world.

Body:

"One Belt, One Road initiative" or Belt and Road initiative it is a project ensuring economic prosperity to all the stakeholders according to Chinese perspective, but it is also perceived to be a project to increase Chinese economic, military and political footprint all over the world and an attempt to spread Chinese hegemony. While, most countries in India's neighborhood and extended neighborhood have accepted the Chinese concept & are hoping for economic prosperity in the process- India has proved to be an aberration and has

decided to stay out of the Chinese initiative on grounds of geostrategic prudence, upholding sovereignty & environmental concerns.

India's decision to stay out and boycott the project can be analyzed on following factors

- China Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through sensitive areas of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, which is the biggest reason for India's stance as it is against India's stance of Pakistan occupied Kashmir being an integral part of India and thus is against India's sovereignty.
- Maritime Silk route, an integral part of the project is perceived by India to be carried out with a view of "Encircling India", thus it is considered to be threat to maritime security of India.
- There can be a possible attempt to isolate India in the neighborhood and choke some of India's options of trade.
- There is uncertainty about Chinese true intentions, the decisions with respect to BRI is not taken taking all stakeholders into account and are generally unilateral.
- The project is considered to be just an attempt to globally propagate the hegemony of China.
- There is a threat of Chinese aggression in South China Sea to spread to Indian Ocean, leading to instability & panic in the region.
- The project could lead to large amount of carbon emissions augmenting the greenhouse effect, which is principally against India's stand of reduced carbon emissions.

However, there is counter argument to India's stand and India is being criticized to lose a historical opportunity to augment its economic prosperity due to the following reasons-

- The BRI initiative should not be looked from narrow perspective of Chinese aggression; economic prosperity should not be considered to be a "Zero Sum Game".
- By choosing to be an outlier, India is reducing its own economic benefit, when most of the countries in the neighborhood choose to benefit from the process.
- BRI initiative is going to move ahead, with or without India; so India should join it but remain cautious at the same time.
- It may further degrade India's relations with China and some of the neighboring countries.

In context of current geopolitics in order to counter China's "Belt and Road Initiative", it is considered that United states of America has launched a counter to the Chinese initiative by starting QUAD consisting of India, USA, Japan and Australia. Again there is both argument and counter argument on India joining the same-

- As "Power negates power" – it is an effective way establish counter hegemony of India.

- It can restrict Chinese aggression in South China Sea and keep a check on Chinese activities.
- India can benefit on strategic, economic and security dimensions.
- It can benefit the flow of capital to India.
- It can increase India's image and position of being a "Net Security provider" in the region.

However, it is said "Eye for an eye-makes the world blind"- so, the entire concept of BRI and its counter will entire be a "Lose concept" because-

- It will again divide the world into two groupings based on security grouping in guise of trade benefit.
- India can get trapped in "Great power Politics" of the world, which can prove to be a self-harming trap.
- There is a need for India and China to move together with synergy and make 21st "Asian Century" in true sense.
- China-USA have strong economic relations; India would unnecessarily get trapped in a scenario of antipathy in times when there is economic interdependences.
- It may threaten national security and long term stability of the region of Indo Pacific region.
- Enmity with China and Pakistan can make India vulnerable on all fronts.
- India should understand the dynamics of interdependent-multi polar economic world order.

Conclusion:

Thus, it is imperative that India bases its decision strictly on Strategic Autonomy, keeps its own interest at the pivot and take principled & pragmatic decisions by carrying out a SWOT analysis of its decisions and keeping long term benefit & global peace at priority. Thus, India needs to come out of knee jerk reaction and carry out sustained policies.

BEST ANSWER: DIWAKAR

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64. Examine the growing importance of Africa for India and also the need of revitalising relations with the continent.

Introduction:

Africa is now being tipped as the global economic growth engine of the coming decades. Its vast natural wealth and favourable demographic profile are expected to turn the continent as a whole into a growth engine that is expected to run faster than any of the world's current economic powerhouses, including China, Brazil and India.

Body:

Over the years India has increased its outreach to Africa in number of ways:

- India-Africa forum summit, biggest foreign policy event hosted by India in more than three decades.
- Provided human and financial resources. Ex: \$10 billion concessional credit line.
- Contribution to development of social sector through development of Pan Africa e-network.

This outreach indicates growing significance of Africa for India, driven by following interests.

- With faster growth trajectory for India and need for energy and other resources, Africa remains a crucial source of natural resources. Ex: crude oil and gas has emerged as Africa's leading export to India, diversifying sources of supply from middle-east.
- For developing new markets. Most African countries will be "middle income" by 2025 providing huge trade and investments opportunities as well as market for Indian exports.
- Africa remains vital for India's emergence as a global actor in the international institutional arena. Ex: In reforming existing global governance structures like U.N. Security Council (UNSC), and shape the emerging global regimes related to food, energy, climate, water, cyber security, and use of outer space for development purposes.

Need for revitalising relations with continent:

- China factor: increasing Chinese presence (military base at Djibouti) and signs of Chinese neo-colonialism.
- Still do not have embassies in all African countries.
- To achieve sustained economic growth over long term at a time when western economies show signs of saturation and increasing protectionism in global trade.
- Terrorism: International terrorism has been on the rise in Africa in recent years. While India is not directly affected by the localized terrorist organizations in Africa, the troubling links between Somali and other groups with militant groups in the Afghanistan and Pakistan region could significantly threaten India's future security.

- Secure freedom of navigation in sea lines of communication protecting India's international trade moving by sea.

Conclusion:

In this context, Asia-Africa growth corridor is a welcome step combining soft power of India with technological and financial resources of Japan. Sustaining the complex and multifaceted India-Africa relationship requires multiple and more frequent processes of engagement involving not only government-to-government interaction but also the private sector, state governments as well as civil society.

Best answer: Suraj sharma

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65. How can India ensure that its relations with the US and Iran, and particularly its energy interests are not affected? Suggest.

Approach:

- Introduction- Why in news?
- India's energy security versus Iran and US
- Way forward
- Conclusion

Introduction:

In news: Recently US imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran after the former decided to move out of the Iran nuclear deal. This has put at risk India's energy interests at risk.

India's energy security versus Iran and US:

- India imports 85% of oil and 42% of natural gas from Iran. Iran is India's third biggest
- India's ongoing project- Chabahar port in Iran is an important one as it gives route to resources rich Afghanistan and the INSTC corridor along with projects like TAPI and IPI.

Way forward:

- A 2+2 dialogue can be initiated where India can raise its concerns. Mediation is required between India and Iran.
- The OPEC countries and those standing by Iran after US withdrawal should come together to see the sanctions imposed by US is dealt against strictly.
- Diversifying India's import basket- Options of importing shale gas from US and oil from Southeast Asian countries (Vietnam etc) should be explored.
- Building strategic oil reserves to be used in times of emergency.
- The ongoing renewable energy projects- especially national solar mission should be undertaken on serious footnote.

Conclusion:

India needs to strive for a multi-polar world. Leveraging soft as well as hard power to gain support of other countries, diversifying energy sources, building strategic reserves and focusing on other energy sources like renewable energy together will go a long way in securing India's energy interests.

Best answer: John Nash

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66.What significance does Jordan hold for India for its interests in the Middle East? Analyse.

Synopsis:

Middle East is the strategically very important for India and Jordan is the gateway to establish the India's "Act west policy". Jordan and India established diplomatic relations in 1950 after India became a Republic, although the first bilateral agreement on cooperation and friendly relations was entered into soon after Indian independence in 1947. The exchange of bilateral visits at high political and senior official levels declined significantly after King Abdullah's productive visit in 2006. The relationship has failed to realize the huge, untapped potential.

Recent years have, however, witnessed a decisive impetus to the bilateral partnership. The first ever visit by an Indian Head of State to Jordan took place in 2015. This provided a huge impetus to bilateral engagement in a wide range of areas. Prime Minister Modi's visit to

Jordan in early February 2018 occurred 30 years after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Amman in 1988.

Significance of Jordan for its interests in Middle East:

“Jordan is an oasis of peace and prosperity” – Pranab Mukherjee

- Jordan being one of the most inclusive societies, employment generation is the key to turn the tables when it comes to Middle East.
- Jordanian economy towards job creation: the major issue facing the country and its youth. Fertilizer companies already established by India shall be expanded further to other Middle East countries.
- Jordan is more than a transit point. Egypt and Jordan are possible transit points to reach Palestine without visiting Israel.
- India supports the establishment of a Palestinian state as soon as possible with East Jerusalem as its capital. A stable Jordan can fulfill India's aim. India also supports the Arab Peace Plan, which is one of the burning issue in the Middle East.
- Through the march of the Arab Spring eight years ago, he progressively transformed his rule of Jordan to a more effective constitutional monarchy which can be extended to other Middle Eastern countries.
- With the other major threat looming over the Middle East, that of Radical Islam and in the midst of the growing sectarian discord between Iran and Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah held one of the best attended conclaves to address the issue of the hijacking of the moderate Islamic street by the Islamic radical elements.
- India is at a unique juncture of history and one of the only nations which comfortably straddles the political and strategic divide in the Middle East. Partnering the Jordan as a virtual interlocutor it could perhaps be best guided towards that role.
- Both India and Jordan face the common threat of terrorism and extremism. Other concerns include radicalization of youth, lack of employment opportunity; weak governance, conflicts and civil war are depriving the region and its people of their right to live in peace and prosperity. India and Jordan can collaborate effectively to mitigate the adverse impact of these negative developments.

India is the “rising star of Asia” and Jordan's “natural partner” – Queen Rania

Conclusion:

Jordan sought an increased role for India in the Middle East peace process while appreciating New Delhi's support for a two-state solution to end the Palestinian conflict. An unstable Jordan will undermine India's newly found nuanced and balanced approach towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Middle East instability at large and push it back to the insipid, ineffective and routine of yester years.

Best Answer: GOG

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67. What is the Ashgabat agreement? Why is it important for India? Discuss.

Introduction:

Ashgabat Agreement which was instituted in 2011, is a multi-modal transport agreement which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Body:

Significance for India:

- Chabahar port: Joining the agreement, opens up for enlarging operational and practical scope of Chabahar port.
- Gate way to Central Asia: It will serve as a shortest route and vital route to Central Asia.
- Afghanistan: It will help connect India with Afghanistan and also improve trade relations.
- Pakistan: Reduce dependency of Pakistan for Both India and Afghanistan for transit and trade permits.
- Eurasian region: Will facilitate trade and commerce with Eurasian region.
- INSTC: It will further facilitate India's effort to implement INSTC.
- Energy Security: Will help ease India's energy requirement needs. It connects India with mineral rich regions of Central Asia.

Challenges:

- Civil unrest region.
- US sanctions on Iran.
- China's Belt and Road passing through region.
- Terrorism prone area.
- Trade relations are very low at the moment.
- Growing Protectionist tendency across western world.
- Investments.

Note: 1-2 lines explanation are required for all points. Both parts should be balanced

Conclusion:

Resource rich region of Central Asia is also looking forward to increase its trade ties with India. This is a very good opportunity for India also to ease its dependency on Middle East region for its energy security needs.

Best Answer: John Nash.

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68. Should India play a central role in the US led counter to China in the Indo-Pacific? Critically examine.

Introduction:

USA's Pivot to Asia is a policy of controlling the rise of revisionist China and maintaining Status quo in Global political scenario. In their Pivoting policy, India is to play a major role in Indo-Pacific region.

Body:

India should play a major role in US led countering of China:

- Challenger: It will make India a formidable challenger to revisionist china in the region.
- Deterrence: It will act of deterrence to China's aggressive posturing in the region especially in Tibet.
- String of Pearl: China's string of Pearl to isolate India in terms of hitting back will be a failure.
- Balance of Power: It will help create a balance of power in South-Asia with help of Japan and Australia. India alone cannot take of China who is currently world's second largest super power.
- Technology: It will help India get access to advanced technology which until now was limited.
- Aid: India can access International aids in forms of cheap loans and investment for its economic growth which required trillions of dollars in near future.

- Net security provider: Indian ocean is the only ocean named after a country and many countries look up to India in face of revisionist china to be net security provider.

India should not play a role:

- Trump administration: Since the election of new president, the US has been dealt with caution by world countries.
- Interdependence: India depends on China for growth of several sectors like Pharmaceuticals, Industries etc. It might affect the growth trajectory of India.
- Complex Interdependence: China and US have huge interdependence and overnight they might change course of action and become friends which will leave India in distress.
- India-China: We both have the longest boundary issue for a very long time, but also the most peaceful boundary with dispute. With involvement of India, it might change and led to massive confrontation.

Conclusion:

Keeping or controlling a revisionist power is important for our own sovereignty but that should not come at a huge cost. Increased economic dependence will eventually reduce confrontation and create harmony by solving many issues.

Best Answer: GOG.

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69. What implications can the ongoing retreat of multilateralism and global trade war have for India? Examine.

Introduction:

Global dynamics have changed from robust borders, importance given to national boundaries from the times of Treaty of Westphalia to a border less and interconnected world due to globalization & increased inter dependence. This increased interconnectedness lead to increase in economic growth & augmented global peace. However, recently events like Great Britain's exit from EU, USA's exit from TPP, visa restrictions in the US, protecting the borders from refugees has led to increased protectionism.

Body:

The increased race of protectionism and retreat of multilateralism has led to questioning of the entire concept of liberalization. It is indicating increased importance of nation states, reduction of multilateralism and showing that the model of global village was probably not sustainable. However, the question lies in whether it is the failure of the concept or changed political narrative developed for appeasement.

Retreat of multilateralism will affect India's stakes in the following domains-

- Prolong impact on India's relations with USA
- Change of India's dynamics with EU countries- also reduced homogeneity of relations with all countries of the EU.
- Impact on the Jobs of IT workers in the USA.
- Effect on the Indian stakes related to security, sovereignty, economic and geo strategic stakes

The implications of the retreat of multilateralism leading to increased trade war, can have the following effects on India-

- Disturbance in Political relations
- Indian relations with USA, EU are mostly dependent on the bedrock of economic exchanges, reduced economic exchanges will affect the relations related to policy, government to government exchanges, issues related to security issues limitations etc.
- Hindrance to Indian economic growth rate.
- Indian trade has started to flourish on the export side off late, hindrances to the trade exchanges will reduce the global competitiveness in trade for Indian manufacturers.
- It will mean reduced economic gains from remittances, reduced import of raw material etc.
- It will affect the macroeconomic fundamentals as well as economic prosperity.

Geo strategic implications

- Projects like "Belt and Road Initiative" of China are affecting Indian geo strategic interests.
- Increased Chinese projects will change the orientation of countries of Indian neighbourhood from pro India to pro-China.

Effect on Climate Change

- It is going to affect most of the poor countries the most.
- It needs a collective effort from all countries of the world.

- Withdrawal of countries like USA from treaties like the Paris Climate Deal, is going to have a huge negative impact on poor countries and global effort to fight climate change.

Implications on Global Power Structure.

- The balance of power will be adversely affected.
- Once again it can lead to division of the world into different blocs.
- Reduced economic dependence can lead to accumulation of weapons and nuclear arsenal.

However, protectionism and retreat of multilateralism can also have positive implication in the long run like-

- It could prove to be beneficial for India's domestic market in the long run.
- It may lead to reverse brain drain, the skilled labourers and professionals might return to India, due to lack of opportunities and visa restrictions.
- With USA's protectionism, India can fill up the space previously occupied by USA in various sectors like Textile, Pulses etc.
- There is a chance of rise of regional FTA's

Conclusion:

Hence, although retreat of multilateralism can have some positive effects for India in the short term, overall the negatives related to it are quite disastrous and it could mean end of the liberal world order and increased importance to boundaries, which is not sustainable due to increased interdependence and globalization. The need is to combine individual benefit of nations with the larger global peace and peaceful trade leading to prosperity of all.

BEST ANSWER: JOHN NASH

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70. Discuss the plight of Indian workers in the Middle East. What steps have been taken by the Government of India to address the same? Are they adequate? Suggest additional measures.

Introduction:

Middle-East countries have attracted Indian workers since 1970's with the beginning of oil exploration and resulting boom in other sectors like infrastructure development, services-health and tourism.

Body:

Today, around 8 million Indians live and work in the Middle-East. An estimated 70% of them are blue collar workers who face various issues like non-payment/delayed payment of wages, sudden closure of companies, ill treatment, excessive working hours, filing false charges with police authorities, withholding of passports (kafala system), dishonouring terms of the contract, exit visa, etc. These problems are exacerbated and complicated by corruption, involvement of middlemen and fraudsters.

In recent years, with economic downturn downsizing and lay-offs have been reported. Added to this there are problems arising from frequent crisis and turmoil (Civil wars, incidents of terror) in the Middle East countries.

Measures taken:

- Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana which provides requisite skills and certification to youth looking for overseas job opportunities as per global standards. This is being done to prevent their exploitation at the hands of their foreign employer, due to a lack of relevant skills.
- The Indian Community Welfare Fund to meet contingency expenditure for welfare activities for overseas Indian citizens who are in distress.
- Multilingual helplines have been set up in India and in Gulf countries.
- Indian Worker Resource Centre (IWRC) has also been set up in Dubai, UAE that provides toll-free helpline and walk-in counselling facilities.
- Pension and life insurance scheme for overseas Indian workers.
- Legal aid.

Additional measures needed:

- Raising awareness among prospective employees about unfair labour practices that exist in Gulf, their rights as workers, and the available channels of recourse during their term of employment.
- Indian government can blacklist companies that violate contractual obligations and deny emigration clearance to Indian workers seeking employment in these blacklisted companies.
- Government should make permanent arrangements for evacuation at the port cities in cooperation with the host countries.

Conclusion:

The Indian government has to strike a balance between providing an opportunity to its citizens to work in the Gulf (and thereby benefit from their remittances) while ensuring their safety and security in a volatile region with a poor track record in protecting migrant workers' rights.

Best answer: Kamal

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71. Should India have denied the monetary help extended by the UAE to Kerala flood victims? Critically examine.

Approach:

- Introduction
- India's policy with regard to foreign aid.
- Reasons behind
- Conclusion

Introduction:

India turned down the UAE's reported offer of Rs 700 crore as aid for flood relief in Kerala. The money is being offered for rehabilitation of the victims of Kerala floods and reconstruction of public properties damaged due to the monsoon fury. The Indian government has decided to refuse any help to deal with the post-flood reconstruction and rehabilitation process.

India's policy: India had graciously accepted foreign financial assistance in the aftermath of the massive Bihar floods in July-August 2004, West Bengal cyclone of 2002, Gujarat earthquake of 2001, Latur earthquake of 1993 and Uttarkashi earthquake of 1991. It was in 2004 that the Manmohan Singh government took a decision to shed "the poor country" tag attached to India.

In the aftermath of the tsunami in December 2004 in the Indian Ocean, the government refused to accept financial assistance from foreign countries. Before this, India used to accept aid from the international community in the wake of a big natural calamity. The policy of non-acceptance of foreign financial assistance has been practice ever since barring a few exceptions like the Uttarakhand cloudburst of 2013 and Odisha cyclone of 2014.

India should have refused the aid or not?

Shouldn't have refused the aid:

- Huge investment will be required for the rehabilitation and redevelopment.
- Goodwill- Many of the Keralites have UAE as their second home. Accepting assistance would have generated further goodwill.
- Not accepting the help may indirectly affect the relation with the country.

Refusing the aid is right:

- Accepting the aid would hurt self-dependency and sovereignty indirectly.
- India has projected its image of an aid-provider. It has taken pride in being the first responder to a calamity in its neighbourhood. India has extended assistance to Nepal, Myanmar, Philippines, the US and China.
- It would further fuel secessionist tendencies in Kerala.

Conclusion:

India on its own with corporate and NGO's help is self-equipped to handle the disaster and its aftermath. In this light accepting something which is not required would only have increased our dependency on other nation.

Given India's policy, foreign nations should instead of providing monetary aid can assist is better through technological assistance and knowledge sharing.

Best answer: John Nash

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72. Do you think India has played its cards well in Africa? Discuss. Isn't Africa slipping out of India's hands and getting proximate to China? Examine its implications? .

Synopsis:

India's relation with Africa has been a historical one. In recent years, these ties have been sought to be imposed with deeper economic and strategic relationship. For both China and India, bolstering economic ties are of paramount importance though Africa's trading patterns with the Asian giants still remain rather traditional; Africa exports raw materials and imports manufactured goods.

While India-Africa trade grew from \$11.9 billion 2005-2006 to \$62.66 billion 2017-2018, it is still no match to China, which is now Africa's largest trading partner \$166 billion in 2011. The Indian private sector has yet to take full advantage of the investment climate in Africa.

Let us see the difference between India and china's approach; trade and investments are only part of the story, we can see how they have fared in their approach:

- Indian engagement lays emphasis on the long term: enhancing Africa's productive capacities, diversifying skills and knowledge, and investing in small and medium sized enterprises.
- On the other hand, China's approach is more traditional: resource-extraction, infrastructure development and elite-level wealth creation.

How well India could able to play its cards in Africa?

- Some of the countries like Sudan gave India share in oil field which was controlled largely by China because they didn't want China to have 100% share in oil field.
- Nigeria also did the same which wanted that all of their resources should not be controlled by one country.
- President of Zambia ran on a wildly anti-china platform with increased Chinese investment and labourers, giving no jobs to locals.
- The beneficiary is Vedanta which was allowed to take copper industry to the point that Vedanta is slated to be 26% of Zambia's entire GDP.
- India has benefited and the bulk of work done in Africa is running on its own scheme.
- At the core of this is the rise of Indian private sector investment along with large number of state owned enterprises, PSUs investing, especially in oil and gas industry.

India is not solely resource driven in African engagement. A lot of Indian investments growing into Africa is not only about resources any more. It is about financial services, telecom, hospitals and education.

Issues with India Africa relations: (just for information)

- India is not alone in having an Africa-centred strategy. Our competitors on the continent, such the European Union, China, Japan and the U.S. also have IAFS-type processes and often commit even more resources than we do.
- India's political and economic relations with African states have generally been overshadowed by the more prominent "Sino-African relations"
- Economic ties with Africa are mainly left to private operators and middlemen in India
- Security threats and conflicts in North Africa have brought to the fore the high risk nature of investments in the African region
- Growing influence of Islamic state and other terrorist organisations also present risk for Indian investments

- Piracy related concerns and kidnapping of the vessels in the littoral areas are also areas of concern for India
- Alleged racist attacks against African students and nationals in India and similar incidents in African states involving Indians have the potential to deteriorate people-to-people ties

Is Africa slipping out of India's hand to china and its implications?

- India has been said to be little laggard in the way it has dealt with Africa. China is way ahead making inroads into the continent. However, it is a wrong way to look at India's relation with Africa.
- India shouldn't be looking through the prism of China which is galloping in Africa. India has a very old relationship with Africa.
- There is trade taking place, Gujarati traders have known to be coming and settling down in east Africa.
- When it comes to African National Congress, India was deeply embedded in African struggle, INC led by J.N. Nehru had an African policy. So, Africa has been very important. Thus, it is not a recent thing.
- South Africa and India are working and dealing with each other since 1994. But in terms of larger economic engagement, it has risen primarily because India had money to invest post liberalisation and when India began to look better 2006 onwards.
- The credit limits given to African nations has increased with time. Thus, it is a gradual process of building up ties with African nations.
- So the implications should be seen as independent of china and every country has its own strengths and weaknesses, and the way India is engaging with the African countries should be very different and look for long-term relationship perspective.

Conclusion:

It is inevitable that as the centre of gravity of global politics and economics shifts to the Indo-Pacific region, emerging powers like India and China will begin to play a larger role in Africa. There are significant differences in their approaches, and the challenge for them would be to develop partnerships with African nations in a way that makes Africa a part of their growth stories to.

Best Answer: niharika

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73. What are Bretton-Woods institutions? Why do these institutions need to be reformed? Analyse.

Introduction:

In 1944, policy makers gathered at Bretton woods in the USA to consider how to resolve two serious issues. First, how to avoid 1930's Great Depression from occurring again and second ways to ensure stable global monetary system and open world to trade. This gave rise to two institutions named International Monetary fund and The International bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Body:

The reason for establishment of Bretton woods institutions were:

- To ensure a stable exchange rate system.
- A reserve asset or unit of account i.e. Gold standard.
- Control international capital flow.
- Availability of short term and long term loans to countries facing temporary balance of payment crisis.
- Rules to keep economies open to trade.

Why these institutions need reforms:

- Floating exchange rate: The institutions were created to ensure stable exchange rate but since 1971, Bretton woods system was replaced by floating exchange rate.
- Regional groupings: Major powers have started discussing monetary issues among themselves like G-20, G7 etc.
- US Subprime crisis: The institutions could not prevent global recession in 2008 and failed to even predict it.
- Protectionism: Rise in protectionism in form of non-trade barriers have made these institutions redundant.
- New economic order: The institutions have not transformed according to needs of new economic orders.
- Domination of West: The institutions have been dominated by Western countries and new powers like India and China have very less power.
- Crisis: New crisis in Venezuela, African countries and European countries like Greece etc. have proved that the institution has lived far beyond its expiry date.
- New institutions: New institutions like AIIB, New Development Bank have been established by emerging economies like India and China to counter west dominated institutions.

Conclusion:

Since US sub-prime crisis, the power shift became more obvious in the global economy with emerging countries like China and India playing more prominent role in negotiations of trade, finance and development. This power shift has not been recognized and reflected in Bretton woods institutions.

74. Does the composition and rights in the Security Council represent 21st century world dynamics? Critically examine.**Introduction:**

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. The founding aim of UNSC has somehow being diluted and the lust of power has diluted its credentials, losing its vision and making it a powerhouse of few selected elite countries.

Body:

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which was created after the second world war to address the failings of a previous international organization, the League of Nations, in maintaining world peace is however, considered to be one of the most powerful organization even today due to the following rights-

- The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression.
- It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.
- In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.
- The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations.
- And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.
- It approves any changes to the United Nations Security Charter.
- Its powers also include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions and authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions
- The Veto powers related to most important decisions lies exclusively with the Security Council.

The Composition of UNSC

- The Security Council consists of fifteen members- consisting of 5 Permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.
- The Great powers that were the victors of World War 2 – The Soviet Union (Russian Federation), the United Kingdom, the Republic of China and the United States-serve as 5 permanent members.
- The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.
- Security Council resolutions are typically enforced by UN peace keepers, military forces voluntarily provided by member states and funded independently of the main UN budget.

The attitude of the members of the Security Council has been status-quoist, they have been resistant to any change- the importance and the respect of Security Council has reduced for the countries of the developing world as it is not changing according to the changing world dynamics, which can be described as follows-

- The retreating powers of the victors of Second World War and increase in the economical and military significance of countries like India, Brazil, South Africa, Japan, etc.
- The Developing world making a very fast development, showing high GDP growth and stagnancy in the economies of the developed countries.
- The Balance of Power being spread throughout the world, the world moving towards multi literalism and more interdependence.
- Changing Geo politics, wherein the core concern of the world has changed from military to economy.
- Also the UNSC has failed to tackle the scenario in Syria, Ukraine and most other parts of the Middle East.
- Violation of Article 2 of Clause 7, which deals with the non-interference in the internal matters of countries.
- There has been a lack of consensus between the countries of the P5 members.
- There has been very few successful examples but the overall track record of the UNSC in maintenance of world peace has not been significant.

Countries of the G4- consisting of India, Brazil, Japan and South Africa and also many other developing countries of the world have been pushing for changes in the UNSC like the following- (which are opposed by the Coffee Club consisting of Pakistan, Argentina, Turkey etc)

- Membership Reforms: Most countries had suggested wider representation at the UNSC, There is no representation of South America and Africa-which need to be

given some representation, Need neutral countries like India and Brazil as the arbitrator, Reduce the over representation of Europe.

- Veto Reforms: Most countries had opposed unilateral veto, they had suggested using of veto only in times of absolute necessity. It was suggested that UNGA should have the power to override veto powers.
- It was also suggested that changes need to be done on the methods of decision making, there should be a difference in procedural and substantive decision making.
- Larger say of UNGA must be considered at most levels of working of UNSC.

Conclusion:

Therefore, it is necessary to get out of these issues to help UN realize its initial dream of a hassle free and peaceful world. It is necessary to understand that UN is not the solution for all the problems in the world; however, reforms in it are inevitable due to the changing power structure, economical system and geo politics of the world. Hence, all the nations of the world should have the vision to view things over and above their vested interests and take bold decisions for larger world peace.

BEST ANSWER: Invincible

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75. Which global agencies play prominent roles during natural disasters? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Disaster management is a complex process involving international, national and local organisations each with a distinct role to play. To respond to disaster situations a coordinated effort is required.

Body:

UN related agencies involved in disaster management

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is a United Nations (UN) body formed in December 1991. The agency assists in disaster assessments and relief management. It also advises on hazard risk assessment, mitigation planning and implementation.

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) offers technical advice on the reduction of vulnerability and monitors and advises in food production.
- UN- Habitat: advises on settlement planning that will reduce risk and on post-disaster reconstruction.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York, incorporates disaster mitigation in developmental planning and also provides financial aid for technical assistance for disaster management. It offers administrative support to resident coordinator and advises on flood loss prevention, mitigation and management through agencies such as UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
- UNESCO in Paris, funds research in disaster mitigation and strengthening of heritage structures against flood and earthquake damage. It is supportive of flood management programmes and runs a publications programme.
- The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) assists refugees through camps, financial grants and other assistance.
- The WFP or World Food Programme provides targeted food aid, sometimes linked to 'food for work' programme for construction of flood protection structures and coordinates pre and post disaster emergency food aid.
- The WHO or World Health Organisation provides assistance in post-disaster, rapid response. It promotes 'health cities' programmes and is supportive of disaster mitigation measures.
- The WMO or World Meteorological Organisation provides technical guidance, training and coordination to the national weather services to upgrade their forecasting capabilities for the weather and climate related disasters.

Other than UN:

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world's largest humanitarian organization coordinates and directs international assistance to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies.
- Rehabilitation International (RI) is a global network of expert professionals who work to empower people with disabilities. It advocates for inclusion of people with disabilities in climate change and disaster management planning.
- Bill and Melinda Gates foundation supports relief efforts in response to rapid-onset natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, and disease outbreaks like Ebola.

Conclusion:

When a major disaster strikes, it becomes very difficult for the country to manage the rescue and relief work and consequent rehabilitation on its own. In such a situation, the assistance of international agencies is required, particularly in developing countries. With

the increasing recognition of the importance of disaster related matters, more and more agencies are now providing aid in this field.

76. How do ADB, AIIB and NDB differ in their composition, mandate and significance? Analyse.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Difference- Composition, Mandate and Significance.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

AIIB and NDB presents an alternative to the existing American and European dominated World Bank and IMF. NDB began its operation from 2015 whereas AIIB from 2016. ADB started its operation in 1966.

Composition:

- From 31 members at its establishment, ADB has grown to encompass 67 members of which 48 are from within the Asia and Pacific region and 19 outside.
- Only 5 countries hold membership in NDB. The AIIB has now grown to 87 approved members worldwide. All countries have equal voting weightage in NDB whereas in case of AIIB, it is based on capital contribution. The NDB is subregional because all the member countries are borrowers. The AIIB, however, has both borrower and lender countries. As an organization, then, it's structure is comparable to the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and IMF.

Mandate:

ADB:

- To make loans and equity investments for the economic and social advancement of developing member countries;
- To provide technical assistance for the preparation and execution of development projects and programmes and advisory services
- To promote investment of public and private capital for development purposes; and
- To respond to requests for assistance in coordinating development policies and plans of member countries.

AIIB:

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is an international financial institution which is focused on supporting infrastructure construction in the Asia-Pacific region. Their mission is to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond, the objective is to better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.

Main difference between them is AIIB operates in Asia-Pacific region but New Development Bank operations concentrate more in BRICS nations.

- AIIB is mainly focused on bridging the gap between demand and supply of capital for development of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region whereas NDB is more centered on environmentally sustainable development projects.

Significance:

- ADB's main objective is to reduce poverty in the Asia Pacific region. Loans from the Asian Development Fund are made on highly concessional terms and almost exclusively to the poorest borrowing countries.
- The AIIB can benefit from being a "latecomer" to the family of international development institutions, learning from their experiences and adopting innovative ideas. Given that the bank is still in its formative stages, its other members have ample room to shape its development, and can focus on improving the efficiency of its bureaucracy.
- By focusing on reducing red tape, the AIIB can act as a nimble, efficient vehicle for growth and development in Asia.
- The NDB intends to plug the gap between the availability of finance and current investment infrastructure needs. In doing so, the NDB will theoretically give emerging economies a greater proportion of representation in global developmental finance.

Conclusion:

Economic growth and development depend to a great extent upon connectivity, energy security and communication facilities. It is a new time for setting up new relationships, on equal grounds, and choosing whom to deal with, instead of being forced to a certain financial and political clique. The multipolar world order is coming to an end. The AIIB and NDB is an indication of the same.

77. Are we witnessing the decline of WTO in an era of heightened regional cooperation and bilateral alliances? Critically examine.

Synopsis:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the principal forum for setting the rules of international trade. In its two decades, it has helped reduce barriers to trade in both goods and services and created a dispute resolution system that supporters say has reduced the threat of trade wars. However, the institution is under considerable pressure. Negotiations on a comprehensive development agenda have foundered on disagreements over agricultural subsidies and intellectual property rights, while members have increasingly turned to separate bilateral and regional free trade agreements to advance their trade interests.

Present scenario of trade agreements:

Whether they are bilateral trade pacts, large customs unions, or cross-continental trade agreements, all WTO members as of June 2016 have some sort of regional trade agreement in force. These agreements have increased in number as well as complexity since the early 1990s. One of the most frequently asked a question is whether these regional groups help or hinder the WTO's multilateral trading system. WTO members, working in various committees, work to address such concerns.

Are we witnessing the decline of WTO?

- Regional trade agreements (RTAs), in the WTO as reciprocal preferential trade agreements between two or more partners, have allowed countries to negotiate rules and commitments that go beyond what was possible multilaterally.
- In turn, some of these rules have paved the way for agreement in the WTO. Services, intellectual property, environmental standards, investment and competition policies are all issues that were raised in regional negotiations and later developed into agreements or topics of discussion in the WTO.
- New regime of USA is deeply sceptical of multilateralism, preferring to deal with trading partners on a bilateral basis. New regime withdrew from the TPP immediately upon taking office, and the remaining members completed the deal without the United States.
- Even as U.S. allies advanced FTAs without USA, Trump began pursuing unilateral measures to confront China and other countries on trade, raising serious doubts about the future of the WTO.

Criticism on WTO:

Criticism range from farmers and labour groups that accuse the WTO of focusing too narrowly on corporate interests to environmentalists who worry about deregulation to U.S. policymakers who allege that the institution has failed to handle Chinese abuses.

- Intellectual property rights: The WTO's intellectual property agreement, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), draws criticism from experts who have argued that WTO rules on drug patents have limited access to medicines in poorer countries.
- Sovereignty and regulation: Other critics say WTO rules overrule national sovereignty, and in doing so erode environmental and labor protections.
- Import competition: Some economists allege that by promoting imports and encouraging firms to move their operations abroad, WTO-led tariff reductions hurt U.S. jobs and wages.
- Response to China: Trump has been a vociferous critic of Chinese state-led development policy, arguing that while the United States has adhered to global trade rules, other countries primarily China have gained an advantage by ignoring them.

Conclusion:

Most of the developed countries are losing their interest on multilateralism in trade, which makes WTO weak. India should be more actively engaged to arrest the slide and then make the WTO a more equitable organisation. As India and other developing nations will everything to lose and nothing to gain first from hallowing out and then using selective agreements through WTO.

Best Answer: invincible

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