

TLP MAINS 2016 COMPILATION
GENERAL STUDIES 2



Should higher judiciary be brought under the ambit of Right to Information Act? Discuss its pros and cons.

Introduction should contain the importance of RTI and the recent controversies related to judiciary.

You can mention how judiciary is using various Acts and Articles to avoid RTI.

Pros

- Expose misconduct (nepotism & despotism) in judicial administration including appointments in higher judiciary.
- It will help bringing more transparency by providing access on wealth etc.
- It will help in improving the perception about the Indian judiciary not only in India but also on world forum ex: Transparency international.
- Set an example to political parties and other public institutions to bring in more transparency in the system which will in turn increase public trust and credibility in the system.
- It will help in identifying the inefficiencies in the judicial system like disposal of cases etc.
- It will bring more power to the CIC and increase its credibility.

Cons

- May be misused by legislators, executives to flout judgements.
- It cannot defend itself unlike other institutions.
- Overload on overburdened judiciary.
- It can Hamper judicial independence.
- Misuse of Judges personal information (even though it comes under the exempted part of RTI).

Conclusion should contain a prudent approach which creates a balance between Need of RTI in judiciary and maintaining their independence. It should be in sync with the body of the Answer.

Best Answer: MDA

The preamble of RTI act refers to it as a medium to check corruption in the Indian democracy. With a spate of increase in crimes and corruption by judges, example, Justice Shamit Mukherjee (dda case) or sexual harassment case (Justice AK Ganguly) ,misappropriation of funds, etc there is a strong urge to bring higher judiciary under the ambit of RTI.

Pros :

Will check ambiguous judgements of judges fielded by certain parties

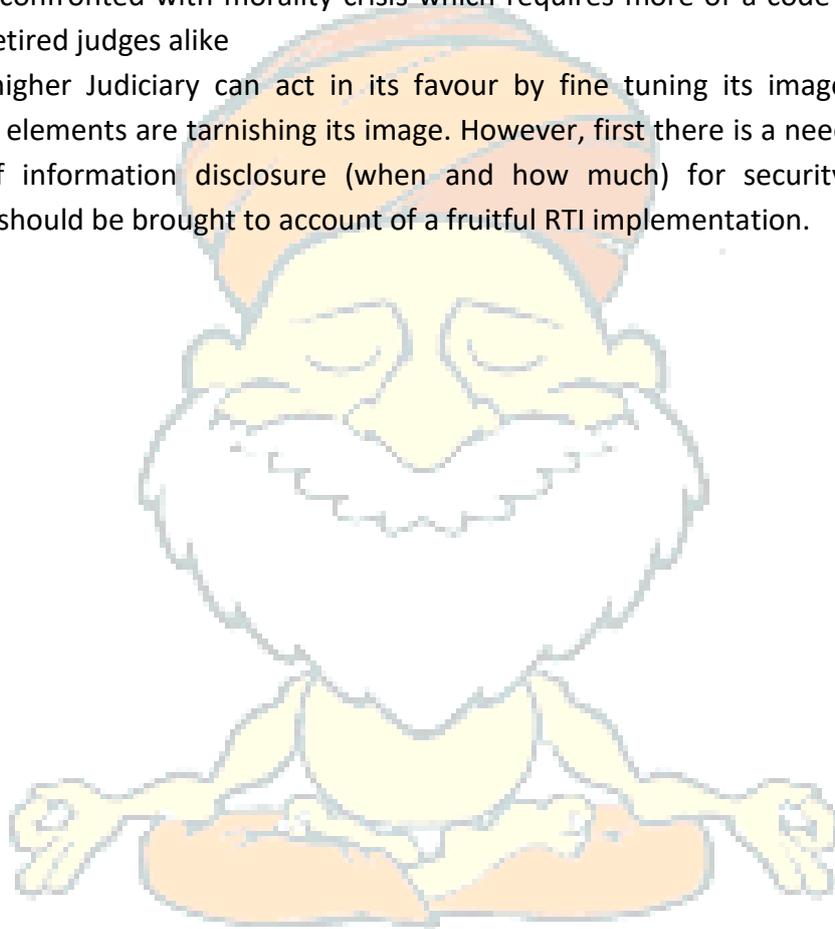
Expose misconduct in judicial administration including appointments in higher judiciary

- # Check gate for the otherwise inaccessible judicial information on wealth, etc
- # Will act as a substitute for the otherwise evading Public authorities like CPIO and NHRC which often report under pressure
- # Transparency international which ranks India 75th (out of 175) in corruption index attributes judicial corruption to delays in judgement delivery, infrastructure and man power shortage. RTI can be an answer to such woes.

Cons:

- # May be misused by legislators, executives to flout judgements
- # It cannot defend itself unlike other institutions
- # Judges are confronted with morality crisis which requires more of a code of conduct for serving and retired judges alike

RTI Act for higher Judiciary can act in its favour by fine tuning its image where some unscrupulous elements are tarnishing its image. However, first there is a need to determine the scope of information disclosure (when and how much) for security purpose. All stakeholders should be brought to account of a fruitful RTI implementation.



India has traditionally been wary of mentioning Baluchistan in it's narrative of Indo-Pak relations. However, the approach appears to have changed, with the Indian Prime Minister talking openly about the alleged human rights violations in the region. How do you perceive this change? Is this the beginning of a new diplomacy? Comment.



Courtesy

(image)-

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6e/Major ethnic groups of Pakistan in 1980.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6e/Major_ethnic_groups_of_Pakistan_in_1980.jpg)

You should know about the Geographical location of that area. That will help in writing better answer.

Your introduction should include a brief intro about the India's past position on Baluchistan and the change which has happened recently.

How do we perceive this change?

(We can think on it in both Pros and Cons format – I have mentioned major comments from leading experts- that should be shorten as per your requirement)

- India has never been drawn into Pakistan's internal troubles or territorial disputes with other countries, with the exception of Bangladesh
- Delhi has in the past not backed claims in Kabul disputing the legitimacy of the Durand Line that separates Afghanistan from Pakistan. India has also avoided embracing the secessionist movements in Balochistan and Sindh.
- It shows India's willingness to increase the cost Pakistan will incur for supporting terrorism in India
- India can do a lot in terms of highlighting human rights violations in Balochistan. India can additionally join the unfolding Great Game in Balochistan — which hosts the Afghan Taliban fighting the Kabul government, is the site of frequent contestation between Tehran and Islamabad, and draws Sunni dissident groups fighting Iran's Islamic Republic.
- Balochistan's Makran coast is where China's economic corridor through Pakistan connects with the Arabian Sea. Islamabad has also offered the Gwadar port as a naval base for China.
- The stakes and risks are high with both India and Pakistan being nuclear powers
- It is not an "attractive option" for India to indulge in a payback in Balochistan. Benefits to India are not well defined and it would be difficult to predict what Pakistan's reaction would be.
- International consequences to this strategic shift as well. For example, Iran fears Baloch nationalism. It even backed Pakistan's 1973 campaign. Iran would take a "dim view" of India supporting Balochistan. Also, with India supporting Balochistan, its case on terror might stand diminished, with the world seeing its actions as reprehensible.

Change in Foreign policy?

- Baluchistan Issue – Not new for India but this time more Aggressively taken.
- Generally, no interference in Internal matter of countries
- India is being more vocal about the Pakistan occupied Kashmir and try to shift the discourse from J&K to PoK.
- Even though it can be a risky affair but now in diplomatic arena India is taking bold steps.

Conclusion should be a balanced one which should say that India should take risks in calculative manner.

Best Answer: Machiavelli

India has traditionally refrained from interfering in internal affairs of any country and same has been followed against Pakistan giving moral high grounds to India in international community. However a change in approach appeared with mention of human rights violation in the region by India.

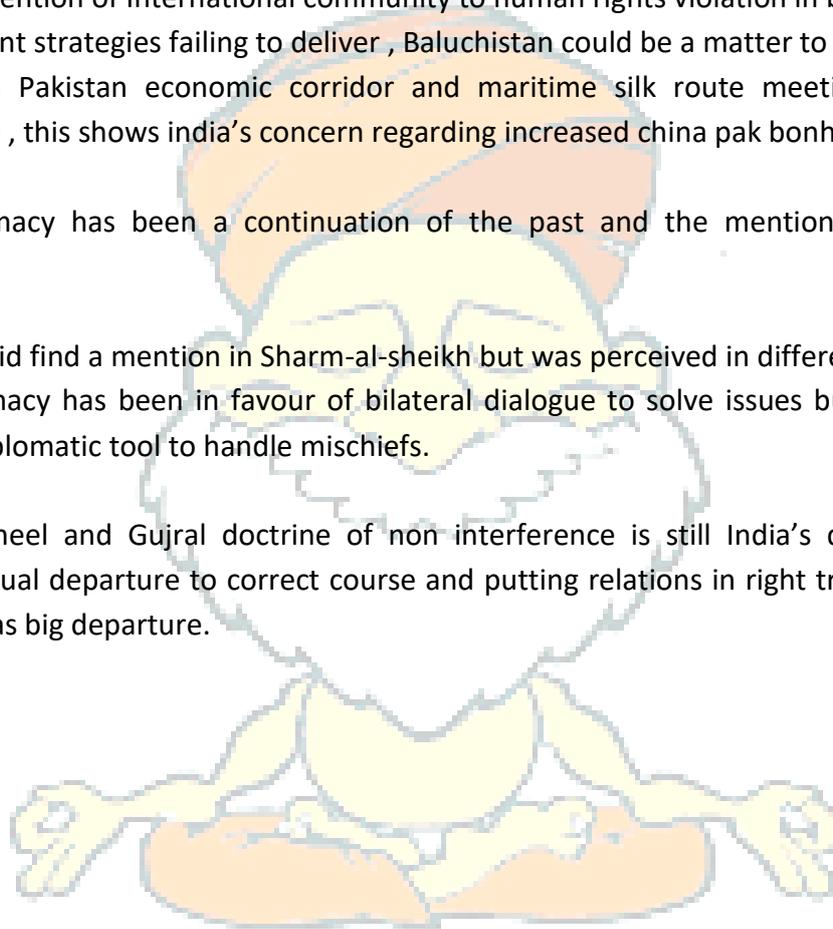
The change though well thought could be perceived in the following lights:

- > Reaction to Pakistan continuous provocation in J&k : continuous mention of J&K and glorification of terrorist needed a reaction .
- > Drawing attention of International community to human rights violation in balochistan .
- > with different strategies failing to deliver , Baluchistan could be a matter to bargain with .
- > with china Pakistan economic corridor and maritime silk route meeting at Gwadar (Baluchistan) , this shows india's concern regarding increased china pak bonhomie .

Indian diplomacy has been a continuation of the past and the mention is not a new beginning.

Baluchistan did find a mention in Sharm-al-sheikh but was perceived in different lights then . Indian diplomacy has been in favour of bilateral dialogue to solve issues but at the same time need diplomatic tool to handle mischiefs.

Thus Panchsheel and Gujral doctrine of non interference is still India's diplomatic tool though eventual departure to correct course and putting relations in right track should not be regarded as big departure.



India's success in the Tokyo Olympics will come only through more investments and developing a sporting culture in the country. Discuss.

- Here, the question is asking for a discussion. So the answer should discuss about the need of Investments and Sporting culture in the Country. Apart from that if anything else is needed than that should also be discussed.
- Answers should contain facts/ examples / comparison with other countries to substantiate your point.

Introduction:

It should include the present condition / tally of recent Olympics etc. will give you an opportunity to present the picture in a better way. You can also add why India as country should /can perform better.

Body:

First discuss the present status of Infrastructure and Culture in India in brief. Than you Discuss the need of improvement in investments and sporting culture etc.

Here you should know what all comes under Sporting culture and what all can be done.

- Investments in the training centers-to ensure better facilities, better coaching, better exposure: Dipa Karmakar example
- Khel Ratna Award, Monetary benefits, Job Security, Pension
- Private Sector investments like ISL, Kabaddi League, Boxing league, Wrestling league
- Encourage investment in sports as part of CSR of the companies
- Sports Universities / National academies should be setup.
- Program like PANCHAYAT YUVA KRIDA and KHEL ABHIYANS etc. should be promoted at village level.
- A program on the lines of Beti Bachao Beti Padho Beti Khilao to encourage female athletes in the sports world
- Sports should be encouraged through the school system.
- Media/Films should promote the sports- Chakde India, Dangal, Sultan etc.

Apart from Investment and Sport culture we should also focus on

- Improving the conditions of Sport councils etc. – Lodha committee type recommendations for other sports.
- Corruption, Nepotism should be checked.
- Strict Anti-Doping, spot fixing agencies should be created.

Conclusion:

- This should be a summary of your answer's body. It should reflect the idea that India has the potential to be the best one. Going by the rise of economic might and demography, if we can just provide the better infrastructure with proper grooming we can do wonder. By following above mentioned recommendation we hope to see the change soon.

Best Answer: Saurabh

(He has crossed the word limit slightly yet presentation and content is very good)

The Olympic medal tally represents the sporting talent in the country, which in actuality speaks volumes about the youth power of that nation. India's performance in the Rio Olympics is far from satisfactory considering India's size and demography.

Sporting infrastructure and mindset play a major role in excelling in global competitions like Olympics. Following steps are a prerequisite:

- 1) Increasing investment by government through setting up of better training facilities, providing commensurate remuneration to coaches etc is absolutely imperative
- 2) Corporate support through setting up facilities, sponsorship of internal tournaments like "Pro Kabaddi", promoting potential sportsmen in their organizations can be of great help
- 3) Sports must be made an essential part of curriculum and not be just an "extracurricular" discipline, so that it is taken up seriously by teachers and parents
- 4) Government must also provide job security and pension to athletes so that they can lead a dignified life after they retire
- 5) School curricula must have stories about sporting icons so that a change in mindset is brought about

However, there are some other factors that play a part too:

- 1) Professionalization of sporting bodies is an absolute must
- 2) Corruption and nepotism in the sport bodies also needs to be weeded out
- 3) Talent hunt and sport training must be institutionalized and made into a long term process, rather than an adhoc one which starts just months before a major tournament

India has the requisite wherewithal to excel at major competitions like the Olympics. We have certainly made some improvements in the near past, but this should be more consistent rather than momentary.

What was the genesis of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)? Has it been successful in achieving the ends it was meant for? Also, is it high time that we revisit the need of this act keeping in mind the recent unrest and discontent it has brought in certain parts of the country? Critically analyse.

Identify 3 demands:

- 1) Why AFSPA was formed?
- 2) Successful or not?
- 3) Is there a need for this act?

Critically analyze (2) and (3)

Part I: Genesis of AFSPA

- The origins of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 can be traced to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1948.
- Enacted in 1958 to bring under control what the government of India considered 'disturbed' areas
- based on a colonial era law enacted to face down the Quit India movement in 1942
- To control the Naga insurgency that had broken out in the mid fifties, the Act was promulgated in September 1958 for operation in Assam and Manipur. It has since been enacted for Tripura in 1970, Manipur in 1980, Punjab in 1983 and J&K in 1990.
- In post-independence era, the Indian state has witnessed many secessionist movements and has long suffered from extremist attacks. In order to curb the secessionist activities of the militants, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was implemented by Indian government in 1958.
- The Act was passed in the context of separatist movements and the violence caused by them.

Note: (Disturbed areas and secessionist/separatist movements should be definitely written, unity and security)

Part II: Has it been successful in achieving the ends it was meant for

Since question asks critically analyze, provide both the views and end it with balanced approach. It is wise to provide some inclination towards partial success.

Provide justification with examples for both the view

Success:

- It was applied in Punjab and Chandigarh in 1983 due to secessionist movements and lasted for 14 years until there 1997. It has countered insurgency and "restored" order and normalcy.

- AFSPA was effective in retrieving the situation from 'public order domain' to the 'law and order domain' without the fear of the situation slipping back into disorder and to enable normal instruments of democratic governance to become effective again.
- It was also successful in combating insurgency in Tripura, so the Tripura government decided to lift the controversial law.
- AFSPA has also been successful in aiding the civil administration once an area has been declared 'disturbed'.
- Constitutional validity has been upheld by the Supreme Court.

(Some additional points could be added)

Failure:

- State is a security provider and it has failed in its job to provide security to its citizens.
- Insurgency in the North-East or J&K is showing no signs of dying.
- In a democracy the army must be employed for a limited period and its deployment cannot be prolonged indefinitely. Unfortunately, it is just the opposite in practice and districts and states continue to be 'disturbed' for years and even for decades.
- Human rights violations committed by security force personnel in the name of national security – creates a situation where people have to live under constant fear and anxiety.
- When AFSPA was imposed, there were only 2 armed insurgent groups and today there are at least 40 insurgent groups.
- This proliferation rather than decrease in armed insurgency shows that AFSPA has failed to be the solution. It has not only failed to control the situation but also seems to have alienated and encouraged people to take up arms.

(So write combination of both success and failure and conclude that it is partially success)

Part III: Is it high time to revisit the need of this act

- Here, one should explain the nature of internal and external threats faced by our country.
- The battle against terrorism cannot be equated with normal law and order problem and therefore AFSPA.
- Increased militarization of the area creates an unhealthy atmosphere which results into people's protest against the State.
- Give examples of recent unrest in AFSPA affected areas, human rights violations etc.
- No country has been able to fight anti-national forces using the normal law of the land. This is not to say that the army should be allowed a free run. But it is not always possible for the army to distinguish between terrorists and innocent civilians in extraordinary situations. Army excesses are exceptions rather than the norm.

Reactions to the revisit the need for AFSPA have been mixed. So again provide both views and conclude.

However, AFSPA is a “necessary evil” and we cant repeal it abruptly. This is because, to curb the separatist tendency of these areas and to maintain India’s integrity we need a strong mechanism like AFSPA. So there is a need to change the provisions and make them more humane and rights centric in nature. Meanwhile this will help bridge the differences between State and people and and then gradually the provisions of AFPSA should be merged with those of CrPC which will have the same effect throughout the country.

Best answer 2: Yogesh Bhatt

British government against Quit India first time brought Armed Forces special power ordinance in 1942. Nehru ji first time used it in North East to check the Naga insurgency in 1958. Recent Supreme Court observation on ASFPA and Sharmila Irom agitation again force to look on the issue-

ASFPA partially successful in its cause as

- 1) It helped to stop insurgency in Noth East states and more or less today condition is under control compare to past.
- 2) In Jammu & Kahsmir also it helped to control the terrorist activity after its peak in 1990s era.

However ASFPA implementation raised so many questions as

- 1) Time period- ASFPA designed as crisis management for shorter period but in North East and J&K it has been used as state policy for more than decade.
- 2) Human right issue- ASFPA provides extra judicial power to army and it has raised many human right violation issues across the states which was finding of SC inquiry also.
- 3) Question mark on democracy- if 25% of total states need army control to stabilize democracy than it is failure of democratic values of India.
- 4) No permanent solution- in Manipur and Tripura where mostly problems are internal and need political solution ASFPA can do little as permanent solution in democracy.
- 5) Demoralize army reputation- as an institute it is harmful for Indian army also.

It is high time for Indian leaders and policy makers to think use of ASFPA state wise. Same time army needs a transparent and robust mechanism to ensure stop atrocity army on local civilians. Everlasting solution lies in political dialogue and local area development which should be government priority.

What in your opinion is an act of sedition? Do you think section 124-A of the IPC should be revised to ensure minimum safeguards against its misuse by the State? Discuss.

Before answering, identify the demand areas of the question:

- 1) It asks “your opinion” – what is an act of sedition?
- 2) Again it asks “your view” whether section 124-A should be revised (to ensure minimum safeguards against its misuse by the State)
- 3) “Discuss”

Always while answering this type of question, it is important to give justification and proof along with your opinion/views. For instance, in this question: provide recent examples of misuse of the act, provide some SC judgments or cases etc.

Introduction:

It is opined that those acts, which might be through words, either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation, or otherwise that attempts to create hatred or contempt or excites disaffection towards, the Government established by law can be termed as “seditious”.

or

Those actions, which may be speech or expression or otherwise, which might provoke unlawful behaviour or violence or public disorder or urge someone to behave unlawfully and attempts to excite disaffection towards the State, can be termed as “seditious”.

Body:

But mere advocating revolution, or advocating even violent overthrow of the State, does not amount to sedition, unless there is incitement to violence and public disorder – as stated in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* case.

- However the law continues to be used to suppress critics and advocates. Successive governments in India have deployed it against journalists, activists and human rights defenders.
- The definition is very exhaustive and ambiguous, it does not leave out of its purview any possible mode of self expression, simply by using the words “or otherwise”.
- It is the ordinary police constable who will in the first person decide whether the speech or expression will cause disaffection, contempt etc. towards the government.
- It provides the government with covert means to create Emergency-like situations, that too with no warning.
- Sedition, was a draconian law of the colonial era, its object was apparently to silence the Indian voice.

However, the same law is misused till today and all above flaws in the act has frequently been posing danger to the life and liberty of Indian citizens who speak out against the government, thus impacting the fundamental rights of citizens.

Conclusion:

Therefore it is alleged by many that there is an urgent need to repeal this law and section 124-A is unconstitutional. However, the Supreme court upheld the constitutional validity of Sec 124A (in the **Kedarnath Singh v. State of Bihar case**) as a necessary law in the interest of the survival of republic and also the law helps to place restriction on the fundamental right of freedom of speech **Article 19 (2)**.

Hence, there is need to review and revise some of the provisions in the section 124-A, especially to ensure minimum safeguards against its misuse by the State and make the law effective, meet its real purpose rather misused.

Best answer 1: vengeancee

Sedition is act of incitement of violence against State harming its unity, integrity & idea of existence. SC in 1962 Kedarnath judgement gave its definition along similar lines with an emphasis on incitement of violence which may happen.

Recent cases in Bangaluru against Amnesty International, Former MP's statement on Pakistan, JNU has brought this act in focus calling for ensuring minimum safeguards & even repeal of such outdated law's utility in 21st century.

124A should be revised because:

- 1) Ambiguity exists in the law, and subordinate judiciary is not clear whether the case applies under sedition. In absence of such clarity, they file complaint under pressure & political considerations.
- 2) Sedition did not find place in Article 19, where it was discussed at length, and decided to be dropped after reservation of members in Constituent Assembly.
- 3) Sedition is 19th century law brought in to curb nationalist activities against British, since then it has been repealed in most of the countries including Britain itself 5 decades back.
- 4) Misused to large extent as no political group want to stay away from tag of being nationalist.

Some safeguards can be provided like:

- FIR to be filed only after the matter is looked by senior authority of at-least an IPS rank.

- Investigation agency should look into the case only after State Government is convinced on recording of proof brought by litigants.

124A is not just misused, but is among the factors questioning India's liberal image in global arena. Government has asked Law Commission to bring a report, which is expected to be tabled soon.

Best answer 2: CSE2016 aspirant (ABG)

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The Rajya Sabha recently passed the Mental Healthcare Bill. What was the need of having a law relating to people having mental illness? Have the provisions of the law tried to address the pressing issues being raised by various stakeholders? Analyse.

(Solution consist of Detailed Explanation just for better understanding. You should cut short it while writing in the exam.)

This Bill seeks to replace the **Mental Health Act, 1987**. In 2007, India ratified the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which requires signatory countries to change their laws to give effect to the rights of persons with mental illness. It was believed that the 1987 Act did not adequately protect these rights, and a need was felt to provide them with better treatment and improve their access to health services.

Apart from this, other reasons for a new bill:

- Ambiguity in defining Mental illness
- Criminalization of Suicide

(More points can be added here)

Facts and Figures:

- 1) According to a report published by **The Lancet and The Lancet Psychiatry**. In 2013, **31 million** years of healthy life were lost to mental illness in India. Estimates now suggest that by 2025, 38.1 million years of healthy life will be lost to mental illness in India (23 per cent increase)
- 2) According to **Census 2011**, over 21 million people in India as suffering from one or the other kind of disability. Among the five types of disabilities on which data has been collected – **Mental disability consists of 10.3% population.**

Major Stakeholders:

- 1) Patients and their family/Guardian
- 2) Doctors/ psychiatrists etc.
- 3) Right Activists
- 4) Government and Implementing agencies
- 5) Society as large
- 6) Insurance companies/ Market etc.

What are key rights being guaranteed under the Bill?

- **Manner of treatment:** The Bill states that **every person would have the right to specify how he would like to be treated for mental illness** in the event of a mental health situation. **An individual will also specify who will be the person responsible for taking decisions with regard to the treatment**, his admission into a hospital, etc.

- **Access to public health care:** The Bill guarantees every person the right to access mental health care and treatment from the government. This right includes *affordable, good quality, easy access to services such as minimum mental health services in every district*. Persons with mental illness also have the right to equality of treatment and protection from inhuman and degrading treatment.
- **Suicide decriminalized:** Currently, attempting suicide is punishable with imprisonment for up to a year and/or a fine. The Bill decriminalizes suicide. It states that **whoever attempts suicide will be presumed to be under severe stress**, and shall not be punished for it.
- **Insurance:** The Bill requires that every insurance company shall provide medical insurance for mentally ill persons on the same basis as is available for physical illnesses.

Issues which are not been addressed yet:

- **Implementation challenges:** The Bill does not estimate the expenditure required to meet the obligations under the Bill nor does it provide details of the sharing of expenses between the central and state governments. Without the allocation of adequate funds, the implementation of the Bill could be affected.
- **Guardianship of mentally ill persons:** The 1987 Act has detailed provisions related to appointment and removal of a guardian, and his powers and duties. The provisions related to guardianship of mentally ill persons are in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Bill, 2014, which is pending in Parliament. If the Bill is passed by Parliament in its current form, there will be a legal vacuum with regard to provisions of guardianship of mentally ill persons
- **Penalties for non-compliance:** The Bill does not prescribe specific penalties for non-compliance with several of its provisions. A general punishment of imprisonment up to 6 months or a penalty of up to Rs 10,000, or both, is provided. The absence of specific penal provisions might create ambiguities with regard to the implementation of the Bill

Conclusion:

It should reflect optimism while accepting the short comings.

Best answer 1: Lincoln

Mental Healthcare Bill passed by Rajya Sabha is an important piece of legislation that addresses various aspects of Mental healthcare

Need for the legislation

- 1) mental healthcare was neglected component of healthcare and this bill has put the spotlight back on and corrects many issues in the set up.

- 2) 6-7% of the population suffers from some form of mental illness, 1-2% being critically ill.
- 3) It helps India adhere to UN convention of Persons with Disabilities to which India is a party.

Issues addressed by the legislation

- 1) It decriminalises Suicide
- 2) Prohibits use of convulsive therapy on children, on adults it can be used only with anesthesia or muscle relaxants.
- 3) Makes it mandatory to provide mental healthcare facilities in every district.
- 4) Every person shall have the right to access mental health care and treatment from services run or funded by the government.
- 5) Insurance companies have to consider mental illness on same basis of physical illness, cannot be denied insurance.
- 6) Advance Directive: A mentally-ill person shall have the right to make an advance directive that states how he wants to be treated for the illness during a mental health situation and who his nominated representative shall be.

Issues unaddressed by the legislation are:

- 1) Bill does not address issues related to guardianship of mentally ill persons.
- 2) It does not make provision to fund mental healthcare facility in every district. The sharing of expenditure b/w Centre and state is also not mentioned.
- 3) India allocates just over 1% of the Centre's health budget to mental health, with States making comparable allocations. This situation should change if the provisions of the bill are to be meaningful.

The bill is a positive step and revolutionary in some regards. The lacunae mentioned above needs to be addressed to make it more robust.

Best answer 2: MDA

India has ratified UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities which also includes mentally ill persons and their rights. In a climate of under-reporting of mental illnesses due to social stigma, a Mental healthcare bill is utmost necessary.

A 2005 estimate shows that 6-7% of population suffers from mental illness and WHO claims that one in 4 persons is likely to have had such disease. With rising stress and new mental disorders, the 1987 healthcare act did not adequately protect rights and access to mental health services has been dismal, thus the need for a law relating to people having mental illness.

Yes, the law has addressed some pressing issues:

- Mental illness covers disorders like schizophrenia, depression, etc and also substance abuse (does not include mental retardation).
- Right to specify manner of treatment (where to be treated and who can take decisions on his behalf)
- Access to public mental health care including affordable, good quality services in every district.
- Persons with mental illness have been guaranteed the right to equality of treatment (protection from inhuman and degrading treatment.)
- Suicide has been decriminalized.
- Medical insurance for mental illness at par with physical illnesses.

However, implementation has been overlooked. Issues of guardianship of mentally ill persons and absence of specific penal provisions might create ambiguities. There is no estimate of government expenditure and no details of sharing of expenses between the central and state governments.

While India has been at the forefront of celebrating International yoga day and is famous for its holistic approach to body and mind, Public health is still an area demanding coordination between both state and central Govt. on account of funds and facilities. Way ahead lies in bringing in qualified doctors, timely audit and community rehabilitation post treatment (like gainful employment)

Best answer 3: DK

Mental health care bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha due to following necessities: Inadequacy of 1987's act to protect the rights of the mentally ill patient. This act also failed to provide better treatment and improved access of health services

Under UN convention on rights of person with disability, which India has ratified, it becomes necessary to set up mental healthcare as per international standards in country.

In society, mentally ill person can't be treated as sick person, instead treated as under the influence of evil power which can only be cured through tantric, but people ends up in the more difficult situation than the initial stage due to unscientific methods of treatment. Hence, institutional treatment is much needed to break social stigma.

Mentally ill person sometimes attempts unsuccessful suicide attempt, which lands him under the case of IPC, which can't be justified at any instance.

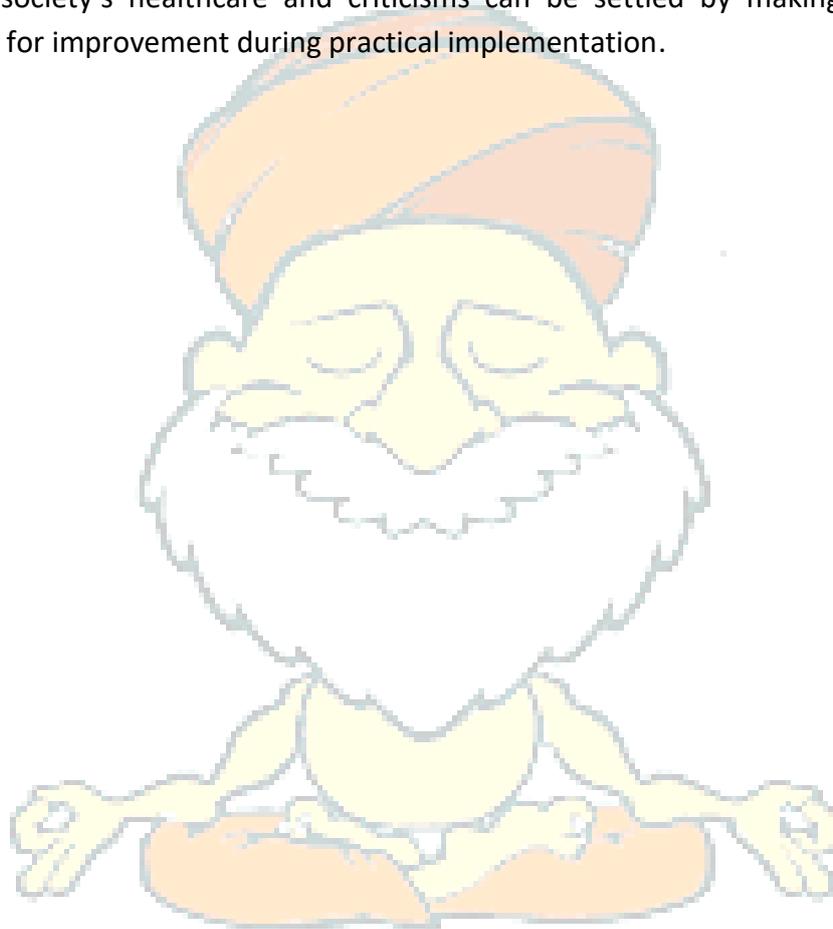
In effect, newly bill decriminalized the suicidal attempt, and made central and state gov. liable to set up reformed infrastructure for treatment in which outpatient care and community based rehabilitation also considered. Bill also provides right to the mentally ill person to choose specify method of treatment and insurance companies also directed to cover mental illness under health policies.

Drawbacks:

No provision of funding and sharing ratio of expenditure between the states and centre.
Absence of a strategy to generate professional resources like doctors and nurses to cater future demands of healthcare.

Bill does not specifically mention the non-compliance exercises under which punishment and fines imposed on offenders.

Overall, bill is welcome step by govt. by acknowledging its changed responsibilities about the modern society's healthcare and criticisms can be settled by making provisions of further scope for improvement during practical implementation.



Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients (APIs) were in news recently. Why? What is the significance of APIs for health security in India? Suggest ways through which the concerns raised by the pharmaceutical industry with respect to APIs can be addressed.

API: A substance used in a finished pharmaceutical product (FPP), intended to furnish pharmacological activity or to otherwise have direct effect in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease, or to have direct effect in restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions in human beings.

(This definition is only for your information. You can use a simple definition in the answer.)

The moment an API is mixed with another API, or with an excipient, it is no more considered an API.

In News: APIs were in news for two reasons:

- Large dependence of India pharma companies, on Chinese imports.
- US's Home Land Security's new law which states that only APIs will be bought only from local manufacturers and will not be imported.

(Most of the candidates have mentioned only one point)

Significance on Health Sector:

- Because of excessive dependence on imports, Indian pharma industries are losing internal market as well as foreign market.
- If suddenly for some reason china decides to stop its export of APIs to India, It will be catastrophic as India will not be able to cope up with the demand in a short time.
- Indian citizen's expenditure in health exceeds in amount than other countries, with increase in medicine prices this portion will increase further.
- India's health security is dependent on its generic medicines which are cost effective. Over dependence on Chinese imports can hamper their production in a long run.
- India is known as the pharmacy of the World. Indian pharma companies thrive on their exports especially to western countries. Ban in US will hamper exports and in turn growth of Pharma companies which will be disastrous for India's health security.

Suggestions:

- Do mention some Recommendations of the Katoch Committee. It will give weight to your suggestions.
- Diversifying import locations apart from China.
- Giving impetus to R and D in Pharma Sector.

- Giving tax rebates to Pharma companies so that they can compete in the internal market with imported APIs.
- Make in India to have special focus on Pharmaceutical sector, thus increasing foreign investment & technology transfer.

Best Answer: Ross Stark

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To address the chasm between India's demographic bulge and employment opportunities, the Government has launched many initiatives to impart skills to the population. Give a brief description of these initiatives/ schemes. How can these be made more effective?

Introduction

Write a short introduction about population and employment mismatch.

Body:

Initiatives:

- 1) national skill development fund was established in 2009 to boost skilling .
National skill development corporation (NSDC) constituted under PM to streamline development. It will have representation from both public and private sectors.
- 2) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana or Skill India is a campaign launched by Prime Minister an aim to train over 40 crore (400 million) people in India in different fields.
- 3) USTAAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) Scheme: This scheme aims to preserve the traditional occupation related to arts/crafts of the minority communities so as to make them attractive for new generation.
- 4) Apprentice Protsahan Yojana:
Scholarship will be provided to apprentices. Industries providing them training will be rewarded.
- 5) Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana :
Training and certification of overseas Indian workers, providing them bridge training in various sectors conforming to the international standards is the main aim of this scheme.
- 6) UDAAN
Focus of this scheme is to provide vocational training and employment to the unemployed youth of J&K.
- 7) NAYI MANZIL
It aims at providing training to women of minority communities in effort to make them employable.

(Students need not mention all the schemes, only a few important ones, or one for each social group will suffice)

Steps to make them more effective:

- 8) Integrating Industries with training and skilling institutes for sector specific training.
- 9) Allowing industries to actively participate in formulating syllabus for skilling and training.

- 10) Outcome based incentives to teachers and institutes, which should include Social audit at appropriate stages.
- 11) Certification must have all India acceptance, to increase mobility of the workforce.
- 12) Feedback oriented programmes for efficient output.
- 13) Training institutions must have strong rural presence, so that youth from lower strata are not discouraged by financial constraints.
- 14) Participation of women need to be promoted by facilitating required infrastructure

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best answer: Bhawana

India is projected to be the youngest country with over 60% of its population in working age group by 2022 but we have only 4.69% of our population formally trained at present. To fulfill gap this gap several initiatives have been undertaken like..

- Separate ministry for skill development and entrepreneurship and separation of entrepreneurial and vocational training.
- Launching of national skill development mission and formation of national skill policy for the first time.
- Pathbreaking schemes like PMKKY, AIM and DDU-GKY in which unemployed, school drop outs and rural poor would be provided outcome based training.
- Skill India mission which has a target of above 40 crore trained youth by 2022 will turn India into “Kaushal Bharat, Kushal Bharat”.
- Standardization through transnational skill standards aligned with that of UK standards.
- Group specific schemes like UDDAN, Nai Manzil and USTAAD for JK youth, for women and for minority respectively.

Making them more effective...

- Center-state cooperation as “vocational training” is a concurrent list subject
- Orienting them towards new avenues of necessity like digitization and technology adaptation.
- Consistent review and reforms to recognize loop holes.
- Incentives in the form of re-skilling, better pay, training at work place and post-retirement benefits etc.
- Convergence of schemes and adequate fund release.

India’s promising demographic dividend can turn into nightmare if not channelized properly as youth is asset only if it is educated and skilled.



What do you understand by net neutrality? Recently, the social media giant- Facebook launched its 'Free Basics' service. Does it violate net neutrality? Examine.

Introduction:

You can directly start with a definition of Net Neutrality and give a basic info about the free basic related controversy.

What is Net Neutrality?

It is the principle that ISP (Internet Service Provider) and governments should treat all the data which is available on the internet equally rather than discriminating or charging differentially by user, site, content, platform, application, mode of communication or type of attached equipment

http://gradestack.com/blogs/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/net_neutrality.png

What is free basic?

According to **Facebook**, it is an open platform that gives Indian developers the opportunity to make their services and websites available free of cost to those who cannot afford internet access. However, this free access is limited to partner websites and applications. It was launched two years ago globally in partnership with Samsung, Ericsson, MediaTek, Opera Software, Nokia and Qualcomm.

Demand of Pro Net Neutrality Section:

- No blocking. If a consumer requests access to a website or service, and the content is legal, your ISP should not be permitted to block it. That way, every player — not just those commercially affiliated with an ISP — gets a fair shot at your business.
- No throttling. Nor should ISPs be able to intentionally slow down some content or speed up others — through a process often called “throttling” — based on the type of service or your ISP’s preferences.
- Increased transparency. The connection between consumers and ISPs — the so-called “last mile” — is not the only place some sites might get special treatment. So, I am also asking the FCC to make full use of the transparency authorities the court recently upheld, and if necessary to apply net neutrality rules to points of interconnection between the ISP and the rest of the Internet.
- No paid prioritization. Simply put: No service should be stuck in a “slow lane” because it does not pay a fee. That kind of gatekeeping would undermine the level playing field essential to the Internet’s growth. So, as I have before, I am asking for

an explicit ban on paid prioritization and any other restriction that has a similar effect.

Voices against Free basics:

- Issue with Zero Rating model: With zero rating, telcos insert themselves into a previously direct relationship between a site and user. Some sites made cheaper versus others. Said it earlier, saying it again. Problem with zero rating is that it gives telcos the right to play kingmaker through pricing. So Net Neutrality battle isn't just about Facebook. It's about telcos lobbying for differential pricing and revenue share from Internet companies.
- Issue with usage of data: Critics has questioned Facebook on what they will do with personal information collected with Free Basics, whether they would allow aGoogle or Twitter to join the platform. He's also asked if the service will be restricted only to those who can't afford Internet data packs.

Voices in favour of Free basics:

- Free Basics opens up full internet for many. Globally-50% move to full net in 30 days. Data should win the argument. On improving Internet access for all, it can't be left to just governments and that one needs to look at "public and private" models "to make faster gains."
- a total ban might not be the ideal solution and one should look at the platforms on a case by case basis.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should be a balanced one which should argue in favour of Net neutrality but also be optimistic for Private players and their participation in digital world.

Best answer: MDA

<http://a.disquscdn.com/uploads/mediaembed/images/4169/8254/original.jpg>

<http://a.disquscdn.com/uploads/mediaembed/images/4169/8253/original.jpg>

In India, Section 377 of the IPC was introduced not as a reflection of existing Indian values and traditions, but rather, it was imposed upon Indian society due to the moral values of the colonisers. Indian society prior to enactment of the IPC had a much greater tolerance of homosexuality. Comment.

Section 377 of IPC ,by lord Macaulay, was introduced to criminalise “Unnatural sex”. Surprisingly, the term is used only in the connotation of homosexuality.

The section was introduced by the British Government to impose their own morality and values over Indians, who had been, till then, very open about the idea of homosexuality.

British Value: UK was an orthodox society with deep Christian value. They had blasphemy laws and Homosexuality was considered a sin, a crime against God, with severe punishment. Indian society in their opinion was uncouth and uncivilized, and they believed it to be a White man’s burden to civilize it and impose modern values. i.e. their values.

Many examples can be cited from Indian history which shows that Indians inherently were not against the idea of homosexuality:

- Many erotic sculptures of ancient and medieval temples, especially Khajuraho, showing people involved in homosexuality.
- Vatsyayan’s Kamasutra, which is considered to be a standard work on sexual behavior, devotes a whole chapter on homosexual sex.
- There are accounts, that many queens, facing being neglected by their Rajas, turned towards same sex partners.
- There are evidences in epics and religious scriptures about transgenders as well, Ardhanarishwar avatar of Shiva, Shikhandi in Mahabharata are some of them.
- In Medieval times, many Nawabs were known to have same sex partners.

Conclusion: (Can be written in your way) However now, UK has changed its law against homosexuality, India is still carrying forward the British legacy.

Best answer: Sahil Garg

<http://a.disquscdn.com/uploads/mediaembed/images/4169/4798/original.jpg>

The 11th Inter State Council (ISC) was convened after a gap of 10 years. Do you think this constitutional forum remains underutilized? Can the idea of cooperative federalism be realized best through the Inter State Council (ISC)? Discuss.

Introduction:

Give a brief Introduction about Inter State Council, its need and mandate.

(Few Details are added only for reading purpose)

What constitution says about interstate council?

Article 263 of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council.

263 Provisions with respect to an inter-State Council—If at any time it appears to the President that the public interest would be served by the establishment of a Council charged with the duty of –

264. a) inquiring into and advising upon disputes which may have arisen between States;

265. b) investigating and discussing subjects in which some or all of the States, or the Union and one or more of the States, have a common interest; or

266. c) making recommendations upon any such subject and in particular, recommendations for the better co-ordination of policy and action with respect to that subject, it shall be lawful for the President by order to establish such a Council, and to define the nature of the duties to be performed by it and its organization and procedure.”

The genesis of the article can be traced directly to Section 135 of the Govt. of India Act, 1935 provided for establishment of Inter-Provincial Council with duties identical with those of the Inter-State Council. At the time of framing of section 135 of the Government of India Act, 1935, it was felt that “if departments or institutions of coordination and research are to be maintained at the Centre in such matters as Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation, Education and Public Health and if such institutions are to be able to rely on appropriations of public funds sufficient to enable them to carry on their work, the joint interest of Provincial Governments in them must be expressed in some regular and recognized machinery of Inter-Governmental consultations.” It was also intended that the said Council should be set up as soon as the Provincial autonomy provisions of Government of India Act, 1935 came into operation.

In the Constituent Assembly debate held on 13 June 1949, the article on Inter-State Council was adopted without any debate.

Composition:

The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India through a Presidential Order dated 28 May 1990, which stated that:

The Council shall consist of: –

- a) Prime Minister – Chairman
- b) Chief Ministers of all States – Member
- c) Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly – Member
- d) Six Union Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister – Member

Body:

Major Focus/Agenda during last 10 meetings:

- 1) First 7 discussed the Recommendations of Sarkaria Commission
- 2) 9th meeting – adopted 139-point Action plan on Good Governance for implementation.
- 3) 10th meeting – Six point of Consensus after detailed review of the status of implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 1989.

Though the council was utilized in its earlier days but it remains dormant for later period. The 11th meeting happened after 10 years.

Reasons for Underutilization

- 1) One party dominance.
- 2) Presence of other bodies like NDC, planning commission, Niti Aayog etc.
- 3) Coalition government – became a kind of inter-governmental forum
- 4) No condition of necessary meeting
- 5) Lack of political will

What has been discussed under the 11th meeting

- 1) Punchhi commission recommendation
- 2) Aadhaar
- 3) Education
- 4) Internal Security

What is cooperative federalism?

Cooperative federalism refers to a concept in which the state governments, local governments, and the federal government share responsibility in the governance of the people. They cooperate in working out details concerning which level of government takes responsibility for particular areas and creating policy in that area. The concept of cooperative federalism put forward the view that the national and state governments are partners in the exercise of governmental authority. It is also referred to as the new federalism.

How cooperative federalism can be realized through interstate council?

- 1) Discussion and consensus making – GST bill etc.
- 2) Part of policy making- Internal Security, Education
- 3) Discuss major recommendations – Punchhi, Sarkaria etc – That will help in solving contentious issues like Governor etc.
- 4) By increasing the frequency of meetings
- 5) Its role should be increased and more contours should be added.

(More points can be added)

Conclusion:

It should reflect the idea that InterState Council is one of the most important tool for cooperative federalism and its maximum utilization should be done by improving its functioning, methods and areas.

Best Answer 1: SherniZaad

Indian Constitution under article 263 empowers the President to establish an ISC for effective coordination between Centre and States and between States.

However, the recent meet up of ISC after 10 years of gap has raised the issue of its full utilization since its inception. The reason for this irregularity lies in the loose provision which says ISC “may” meet atleast thrice in a year.

The forum remained underutilized due to following reasons: –

- 1) Lack of regular meetings- after 10 years- remains the most prominent one.
- 2) one party dominance in Centre and states for a very long period suppressed the need for ISC.
- 3) Presence of other bodies like National Development Council, Planning Commission and the most recent Niti Ayog sidelined the existence of ISC.

However, cooperative federalism is gaining importance in recent times and ISC could prove to be a catalyst in achieving it.

- 1) Centre -state coordination is very important in the field of health and education and ISC can be a platform for this.
- 2) National security – one of the biggest concerns – could be achieved only if all the states come forward , discuss and share their intelligence .
- 3) scheme implementation by Centre alone is a difficult task and cooperation of all the States is a must which can be taken care of in ISC meetings.
- 4) Moreover, regular meetings will create a feeling of healthy competition among the states to give their best.
- 5) problems of fund devolution to local bodies can also be solved here.

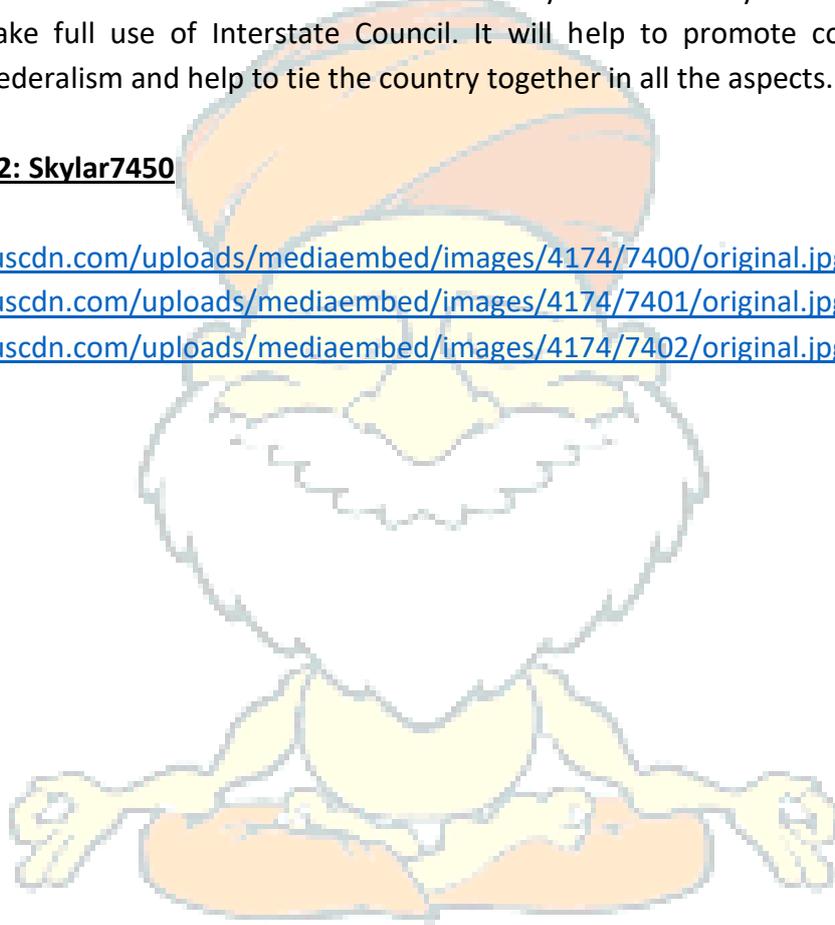
Thus, it would be in the best interests of our country with so many states and a strong Centre to make full use of Interstate Council. It will help to promote competitive and cooperative federalism and help to tie the country together in all the aspects.

Best Answer 2: Skylar7450

<http://a.disquscdn.com/uploads/mediaembed/images/4174/7400/original.jpg>

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What do you understand by the term 'digital divide'? What are its implications for a developing economy like India? Also explain the potential of the Digital India scheme to transform the life of a common Indian.

Introduction: –

What is digital divide?

<http://www.internetetmoi.fr/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/DigitalDivide-EN-HD.png>

Factors:

<https://charmainepu.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/digital-divide-factors.png>

Implications for developing country like India:

There are several consequences to occur with the digital divide, namely three effect it has on

- 1) Knowledge capital – refers to the skills and knowledge of a person working in a specific field as well as their experiences with that field.
- 2) Social capital – refers to the ways in which a society communicates with one another.
- 3) Human capital – refers to both intellectual skills of an individual as well as their experiences they possess.

Apart from that,

- 4) Global divide: According to World development report digital divide stops developing nations from reaping digital dividends of ICT. It creates economic setbacks for developing nations Ex: Amongst top 20 Internet companies in the world, 13 are American.

(you can add more points here)

Promises of Digital India: (Just for knowledge purpose)

<http://wp.production.patheos.com/blogs/drishtikone/files/2015/03/digitalindia.png>

Potential of Digital India Scheme:

Based on the promises and the pillars of Digital India Scheme, Potential in various sectors should be mentioned.

- 1) It will make the common man more empowered.
- 2) It will bridge the gap between digital haves and digital have-nots.

- 3) Under Digital India, all identities along with the Aadhaar card will be attached with proper thumb and digital identity. Therefore, pilferage, ghost withdrawal and misappropriation will end and the real benefit will go to the poor people.
- 4) National optical fiber network (NOFN) for 2,50,000 gram panchayats across the country. Based upon its connectivity, access to Wi-Fi will be given at a particular spot in rural areas like in a school or medical facility. Thereafter, based upon that e-commerce, e-education and e-health benefits will come in a big way.
- 5) India has around 90 crore mobile phone users and 30 crore internet connections. The country is the biggest consumer of smartphones after the US. People of India are keen to play with technology. Mobile banking etc. will help in inclusion of common man in proper financial system.
- 6) E-kranti, E – basta, SWAYAM, Digi locker, e- NAM, Scholarship scheme, DBT, JAM etc. will help them directly.

(you can add more points or elaborate points with the help of these examples)

<http://www.digitalindia.gov.in/writereaddata/files/infrastructure.png>

Best Answer: MDA

Digital divide is a socio-economic inequality based on WHO (person, organization etc.) with WHICH characteristics (demographics), connects HOW (mere access, full connectivity) to WHAT (mobile, computer, tv). For example, in India only 9% of rural population have internet against 53% urban mass; out of this 80% urban populace use it for service related communication against 52% rural masses for entertainment.

Digital divide creates implications as:

- #Global divide: According to World development report digital divide stops developing nations from reaping digital dividends of ICT. It creates economic setbacks for developing nations Ex: Amongst top 20 Internet companies in the world, 13 are American.
- #Social divide: is marked by illiteracy, lack of skills and awareness in usage of ICT for service delivery (education, healthcare,etc) and transparency in transactions,etc
- #Democratic divide: between candidates able to use ICT in their constituency and those who can't

To bridge this digital divide, DIGITAL INDIA scheme promises to be an 'enabling' platform - broadband highways (NOFN), 100% mobile density, electronic manufacturing and eKranti (electronic service delivery) . This means better education(MOOC) for students, agricultural support for farmers (KISAN SUVIDHA app), help for differently abled, financial inclusion (DBT), boost to start ups, better health services(e-hospital), faster justice delivery(e-court) and inclusion in governance (My gov, etc).

India has been at the forefront of digital revolution and its Aadhaar system has become a model for many other countries. Digital divide can be converted into a huge ICT potential provided govt. initiatives work in tandem with awareness, literacy and skill development. Way ahead lies in developing local language content, affordable data connections and utilizing indigenous manpower and manufactures.



Recently, the Parliament passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016. Although a step in a direction to protect and promote child rights, the legislation has attracted criticism from various quarters. Why? What suggestions do you have to address these concerns? Discuss.

(Note: This question was framed from our DNA article. Refer the article below and compare whether your points are in line with the points given.)

A law against children?

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act

Parliament has passed the **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016**. The bill was first passed in Rajya Sabha and later in Lok Sabha during Monsoon session of Parliament.

It seeks to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to widen the scope of the law against child labour and stricter punishments for violations.

But will it?

- Currently, children under the age of 14 are banned only from working in hazardous industries. There was no bar on the employment of children between 14 and 18 years.
- Now, the proposed amendments prohibit all work, hazardous or otherwise, for children under 14, who now also enjoy the constitutional right to free and compulsory education.
- And for adolescents between 14 and 18 years, whose labour was entirely lawful until now, the law prohibits their employment in work scheduled as hazardous.
- It makes child labour a cognizable offence attracting a jail term of up to two years and penalty up to fifty thousand rupees.
- The Bill has a provision of creating Rehabilitation Fund has also been made for the rehabilitation of children.

Until here, the amendments made seem good and meant to strengthen legislative framework that prohibits children from employment.

However, on closer scrutiny, the reality of what is being offered is the reverse of what appears on paper.

Amendments proposed

- 1) Ban on hazardous adolescent work drastically reduced to three
 - a. Initially 83 works or activities were identified as hazardous and were banned for children under the age of 14. But now this number has been reduced from 83 to only 3.

- b. e. apart from mining and explosives, the law only prohibits processes deemed hazardous under the Factories Act 1948.
 - c. In other words, the amended law prohibits only that child work which is considered hazardous for adult workers, without recognising the specific vulnerabilities of children.
- 2) Permits children below 14 years to work in non-hazardous “family enterprises”
- a. The amended law permits even children under 14 years to now work in non-hazardous “family enterprises” after school hours and during vacations.
 - b. The family is defined to include not just the child’s parents and siblings, but also siblings of the child’s parents. And a family enterprise includes any work, profession or business in which any family member works along with other persons.
 - c. In effect, this proviso accomplishes the very opposite of what it claims to do. Instead of ending child labour, it actually makes lawful once again a large part of child work that was earlier unlawful.
 - d. It is estimated that around 80 per cent of child labour is in work with family members. This is in farms, forests, home-based work such as bidi rolling, carpet weaving, making of bangles and handicrafts, home-based assembly tasks, domestic work, eateries, roadside garages, and street vending.
 - e. The amended act legalises the bulk of child labour while claiming to do the opposite.

What the government has missed?

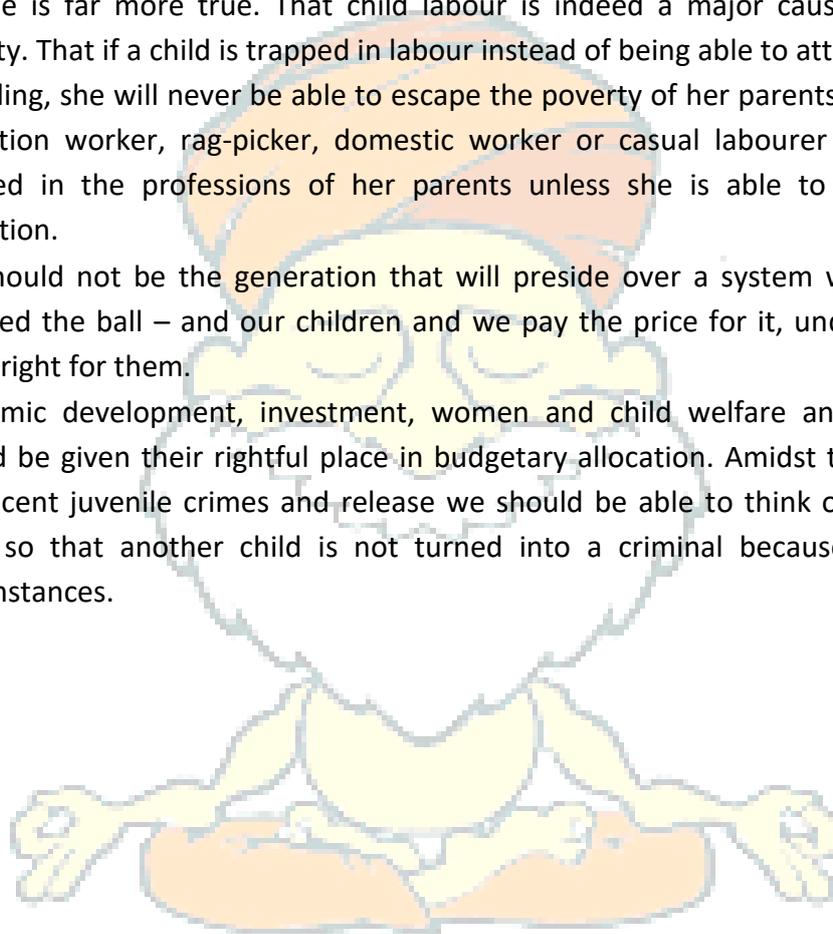
- Under the garb of family-run enterprises, children will also be allowed to work in industries like zari, bangle and carpet making, beedi making, brick kilns, diamond cutting, even scavenging.
- The truth is that a number of these industries rely on the small nimble fingers of children and perpetuate a system that thrives on bonded labour, or at best very poor wages.
- The government argues that these amendments are being made in response to the socio-economic realities of the country and to allow children to learn traditional crafts after school hours.
- A sobering study points out that while combining school and work is a reality for poor children in India, the likelihood of children who work for over 3 hours dropping out of school is estimated to be as high as 70%.
- In the country where the traffickers passes on as a “Mama” (uncle) or a “Mausi” (aunt), where is the question of state actually being able to monitor the number of hours a child actually works, even if he is actually working in the family enterprise?
- Once again it will be the girl child who will be the 1st to be pulled out of school and put into the workforce, as will children from economically weaker section and

marginalized section of society – the very children most at risk and whom the Act is largely designed to protect.

- Not only will these amendments not help eliminate child labour, but will also in all likelihood, deny our children their rights under the RTE Act, possibly creating the perfect preconditions for some of them to take to juvenile crime.

Conclusion:

- The argument that has long held sway is that child labour, however unfortunate, is inevitable as long as households remained poor. Only after parents escape poverty will their children be able to enter school. What these claims ignore is that the reverse is far more true. That child labour is indeed a major cause of persisting poverty. That if a child is trapped in labour instead of being able to attend fully to her schooling, she will never be able to escape the poverty of her parents. The child of a sanitation worker, rag-picker, domestic worker or casual labourer is likely to be trapped in the professions of her parents unless she is able to access quality education.
- We should not be the generation that will preside over a system when the state dropped the ball – and our children and we pay the price for it, under the garb of doing right for them.
- Economic development, investment, women and child welfare and job creation should be given their rightful place in budgetary allocation. Amidst the furore over the recent juvenile crimes and release we should be able to think of such positive steps so that another child is not turned into a criminal because of avoidable circumstances.



India has reached out to the Middle East with renewed vigor and interest. Why? Examine.

(Note: Most of you have answered importance of Middle East countries to India. Please read the question carefully – It is giving a statement describing that ‘India and Middle East countries are moving towards renewed ties and engagement’ and asking you to examine and answer why their relationship has got a new momentum. So explain the changing dynamics and recent engagements between the two)

India looks at the Middle East and Gulf region as part of its ‘extended neighbourhood’ with only the Arabian Sea in between.

India has long continuous strategic relations with the Middle East combined with the economic interdependence. The relationship in the field of energy, and the diaspora are only some of the strategic factors that has lead Indian governments in the past and in the present to engage, cooperate and maintain close relations with this region.

India having had success in ‘Look East Policy’ now emphasizes on ‘Link West Policy’ with renewed vigor and interest.

Reasons for this renewed engagements and interests:

1. **Proactive government engagement** (more and more ties and engagements) from both region – witnessed between India and Iran, India and UAE, now between India and Egypt.
2. **Investment and aggressive market** push of the new government – With Iran sanctions removed, India has raised its interests with Iran.
3. **Renewed Indian foreign policy** – shift from inclusive growth and entitlement policies towards market-based economic policies, emphasis on infrastructure development and creation of an investment-friendly environment.
4. **India-GCC Free Trade Agreement** – which is in under negotiation could usher in a new era of trade.
5. **Growing national energy** demands to fuel economic growth
6. **Growing security concerns** and instability in ME region and impact on diaspora etc.
7. **Growing competition** – To contain China’s OBOR and Silk Road Initiatives

(Some of these points should be in your answer. You can provide some short explanation to each of these points.)

End with good conclusion.

Best answer: El Nino

Although India has ties with Middle East since ancient times, India has shown new interest and vigor in the relation . In reciprocation our Prime Minister has been awarded with highest civilian award of Saudi Arabia. Following are reason this change:

Competition from China

- There is an opportunity cost in not engaging with Middle East. China can reach out to west Asia and Europe conveniently to serve its interest of trade and energy security in which India can lag behind.
- West Asian countries present opportunity for us to balance China's regional dominance through it's the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiatives, geographic advantage enjoyed by Pakistan and strengthen our own "project Mausam".

Strategic importance

- Middle East provides avenue for connectivity with Europe, central Asia and Russia through infrastructure projects like North-South corridor, Ashgabat Agreement and Chabahar port.
- Collaboration with UAE for underground strategic crude oil storage facilities.
- 70 per cent of India's imported energy needs come from West Asia.
- Ties with West Asia would be helpful for India's bids for permanent seat at UNSC.

Economic Importance –

- Huge market for India goods and services.
- The region is home to millions of Indians, sending remittances of \$70 billion.
- Tomorrow West Asia will be moving from instability to stability and India will have developmental opportunities in Syria and Iraq and was case for Afghanistan.

Security concerns –

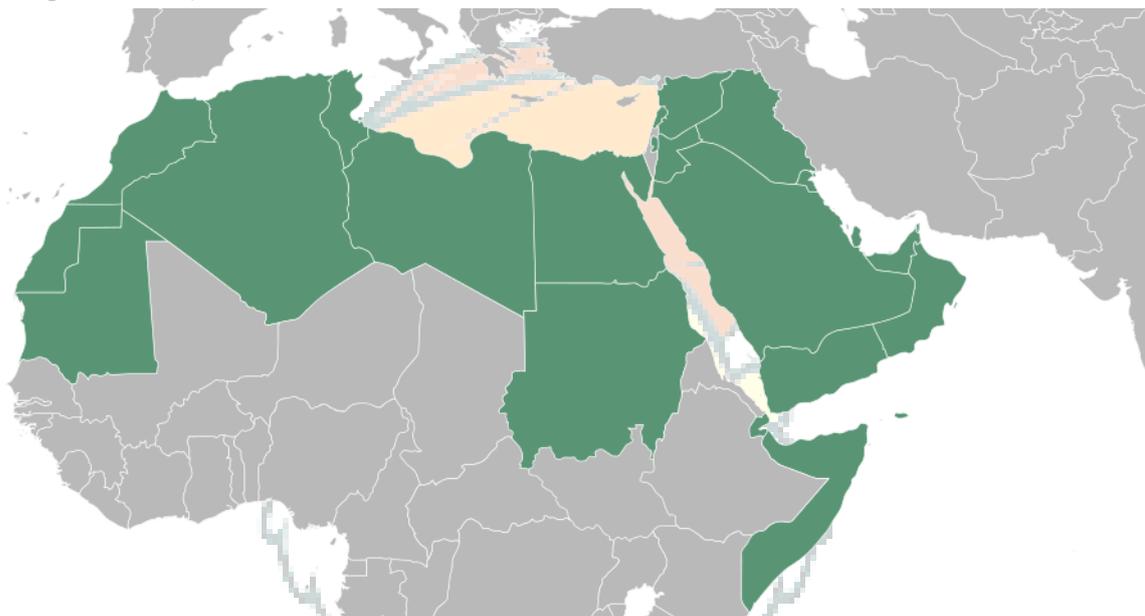
- Government has been working closely with intelligence agencies in UAE, Syria and Turkey to avert potential damage from ISIS. Turkey has deported at least 6 Indians in the past when they were trying to cross over to Syria.

However there is challenge in balancing the relation with Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel. With pragmatism and cooperation we can build better relation with Middle East and bring regional peace and prosperity.

With the new impetus to India's relations with the Arab world, there are numerous diplomatic challenges and security threats that remain unaddressed and seek urgent attention. Do you agree? Substantiate.

(For any International relation question, you should know the Geographical Location of that region that will help you to understand the type of relationship – Strategic, Economic, Cultural etc. with that country.)

Arab world comprises of the 22 countries and territories of the Arab League. (Arabic speaking countries)



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_world#/media/File:Arab_World_Green.svg

Importance of Arab world:

- Major oil and gas exporters – OPEC/ GCC etc.
- Strategic Importance – Suez Canal etc.- Major trade routes
- Economically – Few Countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar etc. are very rich, Dubai etc. are major financial Hubs – used to invest lot in other part of the world.
- Conflict area in present times.
- Major Religious center of Three major religion of the world
- Cultural Significance- Home of various Historical monuments

(Answer is given in point form for indicative purpose. You should add/ elaborate as per your need. We tried to put most of the dimensions so that you can think in those direction and enrich your answer.)

Introduction:

Your introduction should include the recent happenings in Indo- Arab relations.

- Manama Declaration – Arab India cooperation
- Recent visits by President and PM
- PM Modi was conferred with Highest civilian award by Saudi Arabia
- Various pacts related to Security, Terrorism etc.
- Investment in India and major trade partners.

(You can add more points here)

Major diplomatic and Security threats:

Diplomatic Issues:

1. Saudi-Iran divide
2. Sectarian confrontations
3. Syrian crisis
4. Israel – Palestine issue
5. Diaspora related – Yemen, Nitaqat law etc.
6. Human right violation
7. Cases against diplomats
8. Relationship with Pakistan- Kashmir issue
9. Presence of China
10. UNSC seat etc.

Security threats:

1. National Security
2. Rise of extremism – Wahhabism etc.
3. Rise of Terrorism – ISIS, Al Qaeda etc.
4. Nuclear threat
5. Withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan can have direct impact on both Arab and India
6. Maritime Security – Piracy
7. Presence of US, NATO navy
8. Cooperation on Indian Ocean- the new battleground for World powers

Energy Security

1. Global slowdown
2. It will have economic implications too – impact on diaspora, trade, FDI etc.

Economic Relations

(we can add more points here)

Conclusion: Your conclusion should reflect optimism and reflect that even after having so many hurdles we are moving forward. There is a need of Area specific policy from Indian side.

Best answer: Machiavelli

There have been an increased vigor and energy in India- Arab relation and this is visible through various bilateral visits and diplomatic engagements. India – Arab ministerial conference is another such initiative. Arab world has its own regional dynamics and is a complex region to engage. This will require cautious approach on part of India considering various opportunities and challenges that region offers.

Diplomatic challenges:

- Arab – Israel conflict: India's increasing engagement with Israel and its stand on Palestine issue need a very delicate balance and hence there is need to de hyphenating the both.
- Diaspora: India has around 6 million diasporas in the region. falling oil prices and consequent loss of jobs in the region could trigger trouble for immigrant workers.
- Saudi – Iran conflict: Another grey area that needs diplomatic skill to balance India relations with Iran and Saudi – Arabia. Lifting of UN sanctions from Iran has again stretched Iran as the regional power.

Security threats:

- Energy security: India is largely dependent on Arab world for much of its energy needs both oil and gas. long lasting crisis in the region, Syria war, Yemen crisis could affect India's interest severely.
- Diaspora safety: with more than 5 million diasporas in the region, mainly immigrant worker any crisis in region will need their evacuation through diplomatic means. as seen in operation RAHAT and Airlift.
- Internal security: Rise of ISIS and their Salafist ideology has led to polarisation of youth worldwide and India is no exception . there is threat to secular thread of india due to religious fundamentalism .
- economic security : India has almost 180 billion \$ trade with the region and a remittance of around 40 billion \$. The region is a big source of foreign reserve . any instability will affect economy to a great extent.

Thus India must develop a strategy to deal not the region as a whole but on nation to nation basis building greater confidence in the region and in the immigrants. Must try to diversify its needs and increasing share of renewable. The region do offer an opportunity as power

vacuum is there but India must act with regional powers including Russia and china to be a moderator.

Social security has received huge attention from the policy makers in recent years. What do you understand by social security? Why is it important to ensure social security and for whom? Discuss.

According to I.L.O, Social security is the protection which society provides for its members through a series of public measure, against the economic and social distress that otherwise would be caused by the stoppage or substantial prediction of earning resulting from sickness, maternity, employment, injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age and death.

Social security may also refer to the action programs of government intended to promote the welfare of the population through assistance measures guaranteeing access to basic minimum needs such as food, shelter and to promote health and well-being for the population at large and **potentially vulnerable** segments such as **children, the elderly, the sick and the unemployed**. Services providing social security are often called social services.

Why is it important to ensure social security?

- To give individuals and families the confidence that their level of living and quality of life will not erode by social or economic eventuality.
- To provide medical care and income security against the consequences of defined contingencies
- To facilitate the victims physical and vocational rehabilitation
- To prevent or reduce ill health and accidents in the occupations
- To protect against unemployment by maintenance and promotion of job creation
- To provide benefit for the maintenance of any children.
- Mechanism to solve the problem of insecurity.
- Objective of DPSP – Idea to provide social justice. Article 41 lays down, “the state shall with in the limits of its economic capacity and development make effective provision securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, **old age, sickness, and disablement, and other cases of unserved wants**”

(Give a good conclusion)

Best answer: Peeku

Social security includes measures provided by legislation to maintain minimal income in case the sources of income are disrupted. It is a way through which the State ensures minimum material standards for all.

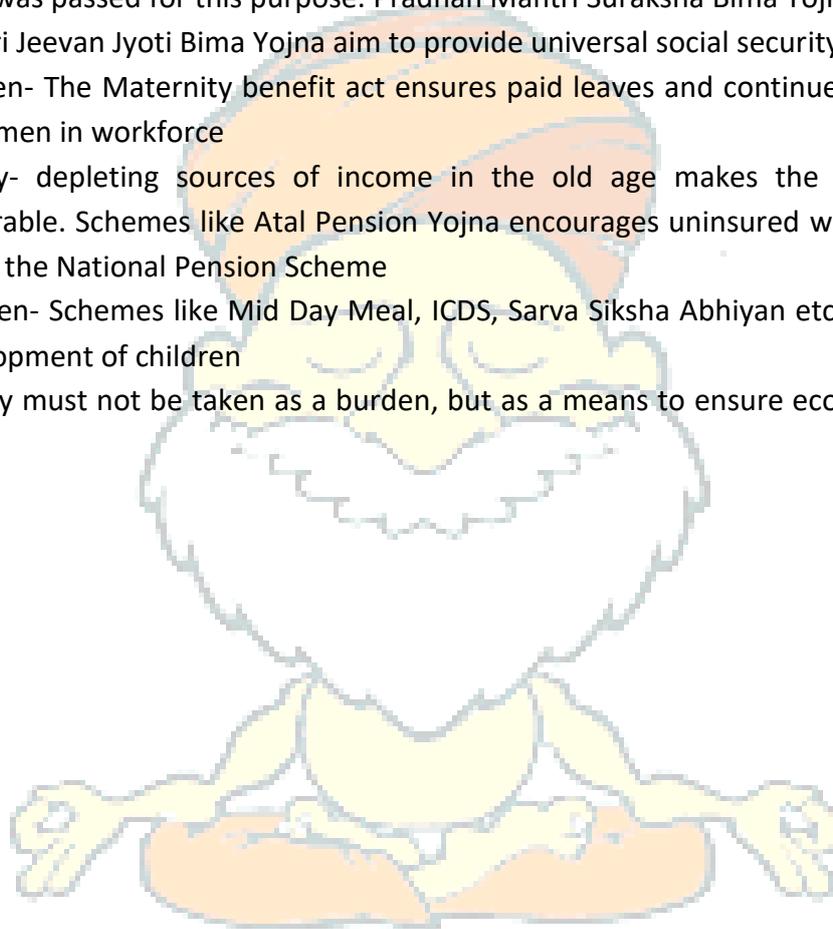
Importance:

1. Ensures security of income and provides a minimum level of material living
2. Helps in restoring normal conditions after a crisis (medical care, sickness benefit etc).
3. Provides a dignified life to senior citizens through old age benefits.
4. Maternity benefits empower women and ensure their inclusion in workforce.
5. It is an important step towards the goal of 'welfare state'

Social security must be ensured for all, but following need more attention:

1. Unorganised sector- It forms the major chunk of workforce but the nature of occupation is seasonal and temporary. Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 was passed for this purpose. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna aim to provide universal social security system.
2. Women- The Maternity benefit act ensures paid leaves and continued participation of women in workforce
3. Elderly- depleting sources of income in the old age makes the elderly people vulnerable. Schemes like Atal Pension Yojna encourages uninsured workers to come under the National Pension Scheme
4. Children- Schemes like Mid Day Meal, ICDS, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan etc ensure overall development of children

Social Security must not be taken as a burden, but as a means to ensure economic security in longer run.



What did 'Kamraj Plan' recommend and what were its objectives? Do you think the plan was unique having no parallels in India's post independence political history?

Introduction:

K Kamraj, was the Chief Minister of Madras state, in the wake of Sino-Indian war 1962 suggested to the Prime Minister of India the following things:

1. senior Congress members should leave the ministerial posts, both at Centre as well as State levels.
2. they should take up organizational work for the Congress party in the country
3. Nehru should remain as PM and lead the country yet other ministers should help the congress. Many leaders including Kamraj, Morarji Desai, Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned from their posts.

The major objectives of this plan were:

1. strengthen the Congress organization after the 1962 war losses
2. remove the lure of power and prestige from the minds of congressmen which they might get by being ministers
3. work for the Congress organization and for the country as a whole.
4. to bring young leaders forward into the government and the Congress.

Significance and uniqueness:

1. It is significant for its far sightedness and catering to the demand of bottom up approach of development.
2. It also tried to achieve the exact opposite of what politics is known for- power and corruption.
3. It was unique in the sense that no party or leader has come up with such idea or followed that idea since 1963.

Conclusion:

Write a short conclusion.

Best answer: Peeku

Kamraj plan was an effort to strengthen the Congress party internally and was made by K Kamraj, the then Chief Minister of Madras. It was made to infuse a new life into the party and restore the balance between the party and the government. The plan recommended that leading Congressmen like cabinet ministers, Chief Ministers etc should voluntarily resign and focus on strengthening organizational aspect of party. Nehru was made authority to decide whose resignation to accept. Response was immense and saw resignation of Babu Jagjivan Ram, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Morarji Desai, S K Patil etc.

The main objective of the plan was to dispel from the minds of the Congressmen the lure for power, and creating in its place a dedicated attachment to the objectives and policies of the organisation. It was about re-connecting with the masses and knowing their concerns. The plan also aimed at building the party at grass root level after disastrous war with China which had demoralized Indians immensely.

Politics revolves around holding position and having power, and this plan was exact opposite. The leaders chose to abandon their positions to win the confidence of the nation which makes it unique and unparalleled in India's post-independence political history. The plan is an example of selflessness, sacrifice and political generosity.



The recently concluded Indo-African Forum Summit was a reaffirmation of India's commitment of partnering in the developmental project of Africa. However, in real terms very little has moved on the ground in terms of resource mobilization, people to people contact and confidence building vis-a-vis China. Do you agree? Critically examine.

(Indicative guidelines have been given as most of the points are already been covered under the best answers mentioned below.)

Introduction: –

Your introduction should tell about the Indo- Africa relationship in brief and also include the recent developments (Indo- Africa Summit, visits by President and PM to various countries, trade deals etc.)

Body:

Brief mention of Africa as a continent i.e. strategic, economic, energy etc.

Your answer should focus on India's present status in Africa w.r.t. China in terms of **resource mobilization, people to people contact and confidence building.**

- You should mention the differences in Indian and Chinese approach – **Neocolonialism, trade**
- Mention the areas where Chinese have upper hand – **Infrastructure, Investment**
- Mention the areas where Indians made significant progress – **telecom, pharmaceuticals**
- India's contribution in African nation's nation building and developmental process – Peacekeeping etc.
- Challenges in front of India w.r.t. china. – Extent of economy, reach, aggressiveness (OBOR) etc.

Conclusion:

You should conclude by stating the different approach of India's diplomacy in terms of Africa and how they are making inroads in African countries slowly but steadily.

Best Answer 1: SherniZaad

India and Africa trace their connection since colonial era. Their friendship deepened during Non-alignment movement and now the recently held Indo- African summit aims to take this friendship to new heights. However, the growing Chinese intervention in Africa is suppressing India's efforts in following manner: –

- 1) Africa's trade balance with India is mere \$70b whereas that with China its \$200b.
- 2) India's bureaucratic hurdles and red tapism have slowed down the progress of Indian projects unlike China's who are swift and quick in this line. ex- naval base at Djibouti.

- 3) Recent racial discriminations of Africans in India have marred India's cultural and friendly ties with Africa.

However, despite the black spots, we can't deny India's philanthropic intentions of developing Africa in the following ways: –

- 1) India's generic drugs help cure life taking diseases like AIDS in Africa.
- 3) recent pulse growing deals in Africa aims to provide employment opportunities as well as tackle food security in Africa which is known for its hunger and malnutrition.
- 4) India also provides line of credit, educational benefits in the form of scholarships etc. to boost inclusive growth in Africa and people to people contact.
2. 4) It's also investing in countries like Mozambique for energy exploration.
3. 5) Private Indian Companies see huge potential in Africa and are investing greatly.
- 5) India sends highest UN peacekeeping forces in Africa.

However, Chinese investment style seems more of fulfilling their own self-interest of accomplishing OBOR, Maritime silk route initiatives rather than upliftment of Africa. Moreover, India Africa summits, regular visits of Indian dignitaries to Africa show India's seriousness and positive interests towards Africa's development.

Best answer 2: MDA

Indo-African relations that largely hinged on the common struggle against colonialism, poverty, disease, illiteracy and hunger have witnessed a major break-through in economic ties (Africa's fourth largest trading partner) and strategy change through IAFS. However, the Delhi Declaration 2015 and the India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation (establishing a monitoring system) also show that Africa is gauging India's commitment on real time resource mobilization, people contact and confidence building.

Areas of concern:

- # 9 billion USD concessional credit(LOCs) was approved for 140 projects in over 40 countries of which only 60 projects are complete
- #Lack of significant progress in the establishment of capacity building institutions in Africa as promised at the previous two summits
- # Since IAFS-II in 2011, only 24,000 scholarships across 300 training programmes in 60 institutions have been utilized
- #Africa's expectation in public health goes beyond the supply of affordable medicine to cover assistance in developing the continent's public health services capacities.

Even though India-Africa trade stands at USD70bn against China's USD200bn, Chinese approach to Africa is that of '**neo-colonialism**' marked by establishment of its Confucius Institutes, media presence. **India is engaged in people to people contact. China-African**

relations revolve around trade and Africa's industrialization. Indo-African relations revolve around 'progress through partnership' which takes a longer gestation period.

India already enjoys Africa's support on key issues like UN security council reforms etc. Way ahead lies in understanding intra- and inter-state politics in Africa, improving maritime security, engaging with African students (against racial attacks), terror-sensitization and addressing Africa's take on climate change issues.



The nationalization of banks in 1969 was an attempt to bring in economic democracy through democratizing capital. Do you agree? Which factors prompted the State to nationalize banks in India? Discuss.

Know the issue:

After independence the Government of India (GOI) adopted planned economic development for the country. Accordingly, five year plans came into existence since 1951. This economic planning basically aimed at social ownership of the means of production. However, commercial banks were in the private sector those days. In 1950-51 there were 430 commercial banks. The Government of India had some social objectives of planning. These commercial banks failed helping the government in attaining these objectives. Thus, the government decided to nationalize 14 major commercial banks on 19th July, 1969.

Objectives behind Nationalisation of Banks in India:

Social Welfare : It was the need of the hour to direct the funds for the needy and required sectors of the Indian economy. Sector such as agriculture, small and village industries were in need of funds for their expansion and further economic development.

Controlling Private Monopolies : Prior to nationalisation many banks were controlled by private business houses and corporate families. It was necessary to check these monopolies in order to ensure a smooth supply of credit to socially desirable sections.

Expansion of Banking : In a large country like India the numbers of banks existing those days were certainly inadequate. It was necessary to spread banking across the country. It could be done through expanding banking network (by opening new bank branches) in the un-banked areas.

Reducing Regional Imbalance : In a country like India where we have a urban-rural divide; it was necessary for banks to go in the rural areas where the banking facilities were not available. In order to reduce this regional imbalance nationalisation was justified:

Priority Sector Lending : In India, the agriculture sector and its allied activities were the largest contributor to the national income. Thus these were labeled as the priority sectors. But unfortunately they were deprived of their due share in the credit. Nationalisation was urgently needed for catering funds to them.

Developing Banking Habits : In India more than 70% population used to stay in rural areas. It was necessary to develop the banking habit among such a large population.

Economic democracy requires an economy that is based on, and rewards, cooperation rather than competition. An economy in which enterprises are cooperative ventures rather than top-down authoritarian institutions.

The nationalization of banks in 1969 was surely an attempt to bring in economic democracy through democratizing capital:

- Bank ownership shifted to government and decision making power was democratized.
- More accountability towards people and government with reduced hegemony of capitalist.
- Conversion of banking from class banking to mass banking.
- More branches spread to rural and suburban regions resulting into more financial inclusion.
- More loans and credit to vulnerable and weaker so more empowerment. Diversification of banking operation to cater the demand of various sectors like agriculture, SME etc.

Best answer: ASHUTOSH

The nationalization of banks in 1969 was the most significant attempt to achieve the directives provided in constitution under DPSP .

It was an attempt to bring in economic democracy through democratizing capital in following ways=====

- 1) Bank ownership shifted to government and decision making power was democratized.
- 2) More accountability towards people and government with reduced hegemony of capitalist.
- 3) More branches spread to rural and suburban regions resulting into more financial inclusion.
- 4) More loans and credit to vulnerable and weaker so more empowerment.
- 5) More loans for agriculture under green revolution resulted into huge success of green revolution and bumper production and prosperity.
- 6) Various neglected sector like education, health , SME and manufacturing industries got necessary capital and credit under PSL.
- 7) more credit to common masses and various welfare programme like insurance, health, housing , sanitation, infrastructure, road ,rail etc.

Various factors responsible for this move are::::

Social === create more facilities for funding of social sector schemes and more welfare of people from weaker and marginal section.

Political === due to pressure from other parties like left ,cpi etc and to attract more vote bank from rural and suburban areas.

Economic==== due to increasing informal credit institutions and people's problem with credit at reliable and reasonable cost and save them from harassment of money lenders particularly in rural and agriculture sector.

Way forward====

Even after 50 years total financial inclusion remains a dream but recent initiative like payment bank, small finance bank , MUDRA, white atm, mobile banking, m-pesa, DBT, UPI, with institutional reforms like BBB, INDRADHANUSH, consolidation measures are in tune with aimed goal



What were the key features of the Shimla Agreement signed by India and Pakistan post 1971 war? Critics say that the agreement was a lost opportunity for India. What do you think? Critically Comment.

Introduction:

The Shimla agreement was the result of the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971 fought between India and Pakistan.

Body:

Following are the major features of this agreement:

- 1) It mandated sending about 93,000 Prisoner of Wars (PoWs) taken in captivity by the Indian forces; back home.
- 2) That in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations they will refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of each other.
- 3) The two countries agreed to solve all differences peacefully at the bilateral levels.
- 4) The two sides also agreed to convert UN ceasefire line in Kashmir into Line of Control and that no side would transgress the line and use force to provoke the other.
- 5) The two sides would take steps to promote people to people contact and also cooperation in science and technology, culture and trade.
- 6) Both governments also agreed to take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other.

It was a lost opportunity because:

- 1) India failed to get a permanent solution for its border problems including the Kashmir issue, even after being in a decisive position with 90,000 Pakistani PoWs
- 2) The agreement did not prevent Pakistan from going back on the terms of the agreement, which it did soon after signing the agreement.

It was not a lost opportunity because:

- 1) Feeding and providing for 90,000 Pows was economically not possible and would have been counterproductive, if India had overplayed this card.
- 2) It helped in strengthening India's image as a peace-loving nation in the world community.
- 3) India could not have imposed harsher conditions, as world powers like USA, China, Russia were leaning more towards Pakistan than India

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best answer: thevagabond85

1971 India-Pakistan war was a major event in India's post independent era. India emerged victorious and consequently Bangladesh(formerly East Pakistan) was created.

The historic Shimla Agreement signed between India-Pakistan had following key features:

- 1) To resolve mutual differences by peaceful means through negotiations.
- 2) To take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other
- 3) Encouragement to people to people contact – for this steps to resume communications, postal, telegraphic, sea, land including border posts, and air links including overflights should be taken.
- 4) To promote exchange in the fields of science and culture, trade and cooperation in economic fields.

These and other features of the Agreement aimed to address the basic causes which led to war.

It is believed India lost historic opportunity for the following reasons:

- 1) India, as a victor of the war and having large Prisoner of Wars(PoWs) of Pakistani army under its siege, was in a better position to negotiate the terms of the Agreement in it's favor.
- 2) Kashmir issue which had long been the issue in bilateral relation could have been bargained in it's favor in exchange of PoW. It has still remained unresolved.
- 3) There was no explicit international pressure on India given USA's opposition was countered by USSR.

However, such criticism is incorrect for following reasons:

- 1) With each day passing by pressure on India was self perpetuating as providing food to such large PoW was becoming challenging .
- 2) Pakistan could have not yielded in India's favour and some believe it would have abandoned all attempt to demand back the PoW.

Thus, although Kasmir issue remained could not have been resolved but India could have definitely done more to resolve other low hanging fruits e.g Rann of Kachch issue.

Why having an LPG connection important for woman empowerment? In this regard, do you think Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana can make a difference? Examine. Also discuss its other advantages.

Introduction: –

Your Introduction should include the relationship between women empowerment and LPG connection. Give examples like SDG, HDI etc. to showcase the inter relation.

Body: –

- Brief Introduction about PM Ujjwala Scheme
- How it caters the problem arise due to unavailability of LPG.
- What are the challenges – identification of bpl, supply-chain issue etc.
- Advantages of the scheme and in general advantage of LPG over traditional sources.

Conclusion: –

Your conclusion should show optimism and say how this step is an important one in the right direction.

Facts: –

As per India Energy security scenarios 2047: –

Currently, in a country with 25 cr. households, 31% urbanisation (**Census 2011**) and a per capita income of Rs 39,143 (CSO 2013) approximately 1104 TWh of energy is used for domestic cooking. **Primary source of fuel used for cooking determines energy and time required for cooking as well the health impacts due to cooking activities.**

- Currently, **87% of rural households and 26% of urban households** depend on **biomass** for cooking. Using biomass is inconvenient as procuring the fuel takes up time, requires effort and its use poses severe ill effects on health. In fact, **400 million people in India** (of which 90% are women) are exposed to the **negative health impacts associated with indoor air pollution from use of biomass, resulting in respiratory, pulmonary and vision problems.**
- In addition to the health impacts, there is **more drudgery** as women spend up to 5-8 hours per day on cooking activities, with **20% of that time devoted to the collection of fuel** (Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves 2013).
- Additionally, energy per unit of biomass is less than half that of modern sources of fuel and its efficiency of use is significantly lower.
- When it comes to modern fuels, **only 29% of households use LPG and 0.1% of households use electricity as a primary source of cooking fuel (Census 2011).** This could

be because of **lack of reliable affordable access** to electricity and **bottlenecks in supply** of LPG, especially in rural areas. Switching to modern fuels such as electricity, PNG and LPG is desirable as they are more efficient, clean and will not affect final energy demand significantly.

Impact of traditional sources of fuel on Health: –

<http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150917/images/nat1.jpg>

Access to clean Energy is a gender issue: –

Empowering women and improving their status are essential to realising the full potential of economic, political and social development. The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 includes a Goal 5: **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Goal 5 includes measures relevant to the energy sector, including to end all discrimination against women and girls, recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of infrastructure, ensure women's effective participation and equal opportunities, and enhance the use of enabling technologies.**

Gender equality matters if energy sector development is to contribute to economic growth and broader development goals. Access to clean cooking energy is a particularly gendered issue, because **women are primarily responsible for cooking in virtually all cultures. In the past, energy access programmes and policies have focused mainly on providing electricity connections and have neglected cooking energy.** While 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity, more than double that number – about three billion people, mainly in South Asia but also in Africa, parts of Latin America and elsewhere – still rely on solid fuels for cooking and heating. **Cooking energy access will be a key contributor to meeting Goal 5 on gender equality and to reducing poverty.**

Historically the main obstacles to wider LPG use in developing countries have been **affordability and availability.**

Why women want LPG?

- Women want LPG for cooking. Even with constraints such as fears of accidents, often higher fuel expenses, and supply issues, women often choose LPG when they have the option. Fuel switching from traditional biomass fuels to modern fuels for cooking such as LPG can **reduce women's work and time burden, improve health and decrease deaths.**
- Secondary benefits can come from **how time saved is used by women to improve their and their families' lives, whether through income generation, education or leisure.** There are likely to be considerable safety benefits due to switching from kerosene to LPG. Modern energy in the form of LPG can also improve the delivery of health services.

What is PM Ujjwala Scheme?

<http://sukanyasamridhiaccount.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/pm-ujjwala-Yojana.jpg>

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LPG_For_BPL_cabinet_10_03.jpg

Other Advantages

- 1) Lower Emissions will help in climate change initiatives like – INDC (Paris summit etc.)
- 2) Reducing health burden
- 3) Participation of women in economic activities – Workforce participation
- 4) Reduce the burden over forests, reducing man- animal conflict etc.

(You can add more points)

Best Answer1: MYK

Giving a greater voice to women by improving their economic, political, physiological and social status can be acknowledged as WOMEN EMPOWERMENT. With over 48% of the Indian population being women, substantial efforts to mainstreaming them, enhance their participation in decision making, **providing them access to assets etc. are attempts at empowering them.**

In this regard, giving LPG connection under UJJWALA, which aims to give 5 cr LPG connections to women is in my opinion important due to following reasons:

- 1) **Physiological** – Improves health as it helps protect women and their family members from noxious gases and smoke strongly linked to lung cancer, cardiovascular and other ailments
- 2) **Economic** – Less health issues indirectly adds to low bills on medical expenses
- 3) **Political** – Low time spent by women on dung cakes, collection of fire wood enabling them to participate keenly in PRIs
- 4) **Environmental** – Clean energy with low carbon footprint. Can aid in achievement of SDG.
- 5) **Social** – Gas connection in name of women enhances their role in family amidst a patriarchal set-up.

However, having said that, the scheme has a flip side too. Subsidies in LPG connection like any sectoral scheme is unsustainable. The after service part – gas filling centres, delivery and procurement need a capital expenditure.

Further, to address needs of 5 crore BPL women is a good start but still bottlenecks related to service delivery and access to main target group is a challenge which can be achieved via linking through AADHAAR card or Jhan Dhan Account.

Best Answer 2: MDA

In the UN declared International decade of sustainable energy (2014-24), 2014-16 have been dedicated to the theme “Energy for women and children’s health and economic empowerment”. This global target necessitates transition to LPG.

Around 4 million premature deaths (UN reports) occur worldwide, affecting mainly women, due to inhaling of carcinogenic smoke emanating from biomass heating. Collecting firewood also puts women at risk of attack and rape and deprivation of a basic right to education, further propagating gender inequality (against MDG). It also hampers maternal health and increases child mortality rate. LPG being a portable, clean and efficient energy source is thus important for women empowerment.

In India, though LPG has reached a considerable population (mainly urban and affluent), the bottom of the pyramid is still grappling with the upfront and refill cost. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana aims to address affordability issue by giving Rs 1600 per LPG connection to BPL women and availability issue by driving investments in the entire gas value chain (through PSUs like IOCL) not as a business but as a social empowerment tool. However, this first mandates proper identification of beneficiaries and a sustainable network system. Though PMUY promises universal coverage of cooking gas in the country, our gas imports are likely to increase. Nevertheless, PMUY will induce reduction in indoor air pollution, health hazards and drudgery leading to additional income generation (GDP boost). It will also provide employment for rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas. Again, supply chains stand at a risk of manipulation and leakages.

Financial inclusion, a key to LPG connections accessibility is well addressed through schemes like PMUY. Its success largely revolves around consumer education and awareness (through schemes like ‘Give it Up’) and research and establishment of new refineries, through PPP, to reduce imports.

Best Answer3: – SherniZaad

Women especially in rural areas are prone to non-communicable diseases like lung cancer, cardiovascular problems, etc. whose main cause is household pollution generated due to cooking on firewood, coal, etc. Hence, LPG connection for each household tries to address the poor health condition of women making a move towards empowering them.

The recently launched UJWALA scheme which provides LPG connection to woman of every BPL household is a step towards addressing women empowerment issue in following ways:

–

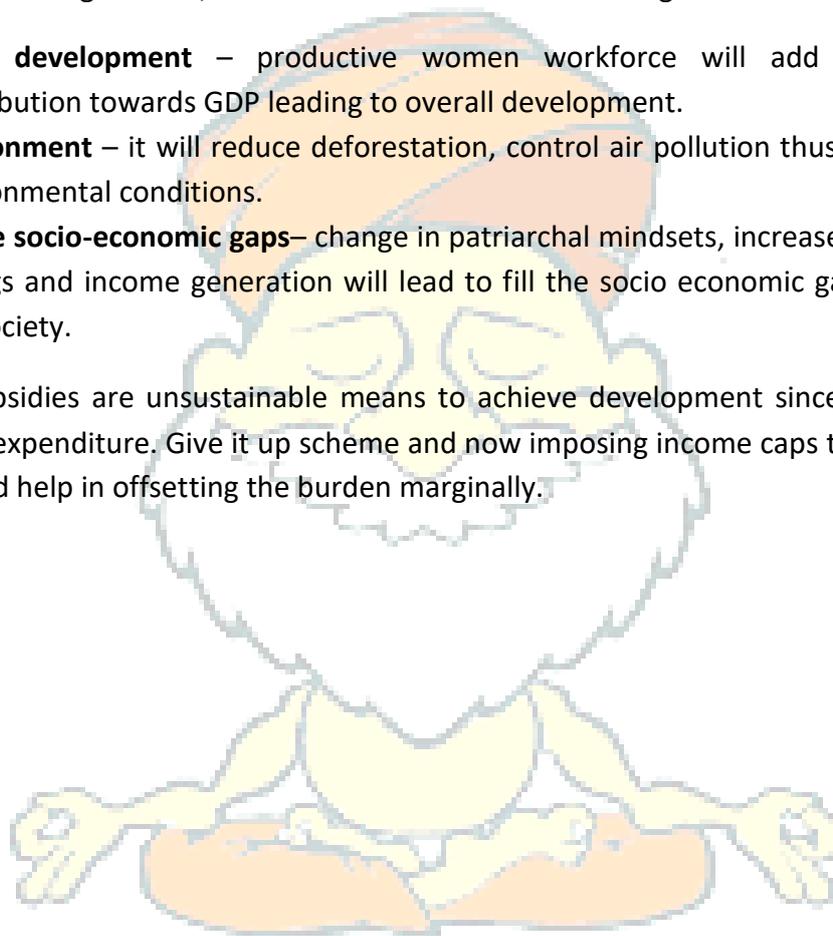
- 1) **Health** – it will bring down the health problems associated with indoor air pollution .

- 2) **Equality** – providing connection in the name of women aims to recognize her importance in her family thus trying to bridge gender gaps.
- 3) **Productivity** – will increase women’s productivity because the time spent on coal and fire wood collection could now be utilised in some other income generating activities.
- 4) **Saving**– Women are known for thrifty savings and those savings could now be saved and increased instead of spending them on medical treatment.
- 5) **Motherhood role**– improvement in health and saving of time will help her to concentrate on taking care of her children’s health and education better.

Besides empowering women, UJJWALA has some other advantages as well:-

- 1) **Rural development** – productive women workforce will add more to the contribution towards GDP leading to overall development.
- 2) **Environment** – it will reduce deforestation, control air pollution thus improving the environmental conditions.
- 3) **Bridge socio-economic gaps**– change in patriarchal mindsets, increased productivity, savings and income generation will lead to fill the socio economic gaps lingering in our society.

However, subsidies are unsustainable means to achieve development since they increase government expenditure. Give it up scheme and now imposing income caps to avail the LPG subsidy would help in offsetting the burden marginally.



The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 can lead to defemenization of workforce. Do you agree? Critically analyse.

Introduction:

Your introduction should focus on importance of female participation in workforce. And also mention why maternity benefits are important.

Body:

Main feature for Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Only for reference)

The Bill amends the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. The Act regulates the employment of women during the period of child birth, and provides maternity benefits. The Act applies to factory, mines, plantations, shops and other establishments. The Bill amends provisions related to the duration and applicability of maternity leave, and other facilities.

Duration of maternity leave: The Act states that every woman will be entitled to maternity benefit of 12 weeks. The Bill increases this to 26 weeks.

Under the Act, this maternity benefit should not be availed before six weeks from the date of expected delivery. The Bill changes this to eight weeks.

In case of a woman who has two or more children, the maternity benefit will continue to be 12 weeks, which cannot be availed before six weeks from the date of the expected delivery.

Maternity leave for adoptive and commissioning mothers: The Bill introduces a provision to grant 12 weeks of maternity leave to:

- 1) a woman who legally adopts a child below three months of age; and
- 2) a commissioning mother. A commissioning mother is defined as a biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo implanted in another woman.

The 12-week period of maternity benefit will be calculated from the date the child is handed over to the adoptive or commissioning mother.

Option to work from home: The Bill introduces a provision that states that an employer may permit a woman to work from home. This would apply if the nature of work assigned to the woman permits her to work from home. This option can be availed of, after the period of maternity leave, for a duration that is mutually decided by the employer and the woman.

Crèche facilities: The Bill introduces a provision which requires every establishment with 50 or more employees to provide crèche facilities within a prescribed distance. The woman will be allowed four visits to the crèche in a day. This will include her interval for rest.

Informing women employees of the right to maternity leave: The Bill introduces a provision which requires every establishment to intimate a woman at the time of her appointment of the maternity benefits available to her. Such communication must be in writing and electronically.

How Maternity Benefit Bill,2016 can lead to defemenization of workforce?

- 1) Economic burden on employer: – crèches (capital cost), benefits in leave period (increased cost to employer), pressure on middle level companies.
- 2) Possibility of sub optimal productivity or demand of work with less workload
- 3) Patriarchy – tendency to discourage female employees, lesser pay.
- 4) No leave provision for father – Reinforcement of female’s role in child upbringing
- 5) Reluctance of a women to join after 26 weeks and change in project scenarios will needs adaptation.

Arguments against it:

- 1) Re- assurance that a woman can give time to her child and can do job also
- 2) Work from Home – will give an option for balancing between child and job
- 3) Positive work culture as natural need of a women is respected.

(You can add more points)

Conclusion: –

Your conclusion should say that we should look at the brighter side and do some improvements to overcome shortcomings. This step will lead to increase in female participation in long term.

Best Answer1: Why so serious?

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Best Answer2: hey you!

According to India Labor and Employment Report 2014, low participation rate in India is due to low female LFPR impacted by various factors with care work distribution being one. Maternity benefit Bill 2016 which efforts to address the issue of maternity leave increasing it from 12 weeks to 26 weeks however faces the likely challenge of unwittingly discouraging female participation in spite of the aura it aims to create.

- a) Various provisions like providing creche facility, multiple visits to it and increase in maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks may find employers finding it burdensome.

- b) Although encouraging in the short run, in the long run would perpetuate and sustain gender gap in employment, as males would be seen less demanding vis-a-vis females when it come to maternity benefits, industry would be biased towards employing more males.
- c) Less options, low pay and mobility in promotion may ultimately discourage women to stay back home and do household chores.
- d) Those who wish to adopt a kid of age more than 3, surrogate mothers(altruistic), and single parents may also drop working to take care of kids although for short period but would make substantial affect.

Yet the bill endeavors to do much as follows:

- a) The 26 week of maternity benefit and provision to work from home is win-win situation for both parties.
- b) Crèche facility and multiple visits would encourage more women joining workforce.

No doubt this Bill is a much needed step for greater women participation but it must address issue of gender parity to prove sustainable in achieving the goal it endeavors to. Doing so it'll surely go a long way in bringing women at par to men in their contribution to economic development.

Best Answer3: SherniZaad

The Maternity Benefits Bill 2016 aims to bring changes in the employment conditions of pregnant women by increasing their maternity leave and making many provisions which have resulted in the fear of defeminization of workforce in the following ways:-

- 1) Employer's reluctance – provisions like increasing maternity leave and establishment of creche might put extra burden on employer's work and resources – making them reluctant to provide jobs to women.
- 2) Work from home- based on mutual agreements might lead to assignment of job of lesser value to women and subsequently decrease in their salary.
- 3) Stereotypes – the Bill indirectly states the fact that women are solely responsible of taking care of children thus perpetuating patriarchal mindset which expects women to sit at home.

However, if we look at the other side of the coin, these provisions are more towards feminization because:-

- 1) Extending maternity leave and creche facilities will motivate women workers to remain in their jobs who otherwise choose to quit.
- 2) Work from home provisions will be a win win situation for both the parties as the work could also be done and babies could also be taken care of.

- 3) provisions expand the definition of mother (biological and commissioning) thus increasing the scope of women's employability.

The Bill is a positive step towards empowerment of the "better half" of the population however few loopholes like no paternity leave and threat of violation of equal pay for equal work due to mutual agreements need to be addressed for seeing effective and better results.



The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 is a step in the right direction and was much due in the Indian social context. Discuss.

Some provisions of the Bill

- **Definition of a transgender person:** The crux of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016, is its recognition of gender identity as a non-binary. For the first time, a proposed legislation acknowledges the fact that the gender assigned at birth may not necessarily match the person's own sense of the gender they belong to.
- **Certificate of identity** for a transgender person: The Bill allows a transgender person to identify himself/ herself as 'man', 'woman' or 'transgender', while doing away with the nomenclature 'Other' that is currently in use.
- **Prohibition against discrimination:** It protects transgenders from discrimination in education, employment, and the right to rent or buy property. Offenders can be jailed for 6 months to 2 years, and fined.
- **Healthcare:** The Bill paves the way for a comprehensive healthcare strategy for transgenders, including mandating that the government should provide for sex reassignment surgery, hormonal therapy, counseling, separate HIV sero-surveillance centres, and insurance schemes.
- **Right of residence:** Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household. It aims to ensure that such children are not separated from their families due to social stigma. In cases of abandonment, the state will provide rehabilitation centres.
- **Employment:** No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, promotion, etc.
- **Welfare measures by the government:** The Bill requires the government to create vocational training and welfare schemes for such persons.

Transgender community in India has been a subject of much ridicule, abuse and discrimination due to various sexual and social reasons. They have been facing the following problems in India:

1. Not even being considered as a separate gender till recently
2. Discrimination in employment, education, health and social alienation
3. Exploitation sexually, economically, socially, mentally and social stigma
4. Forced to resort to begging, prostitution, extortion
5. No welfare schemes and had no rights to live with dignity

Unlike an earlier draft of the Bill, the legislation introduced recently is a step in the right direction and was much due in the Indian social context.

The new provisions of the draft Bill ensures to address the above problems by –

- Promoting tolerance towards non-conventional gender identities

- removing stigma attached with transgenders with increased participation in public life
- ensuring march towards more inclusive society in consonance with SDG 16
- paving way for evolution of comprehensive right to gender expression

Best answer: SherniZaad

Transgenders are one of the most marginalized and abused communities in India since the time immemorial. In a bid to empower them in every aspect, government has come up with the Transgender Persons(protection of rights) Bill 2016 with following key provisions :-

1. **Assignment of gender**– Bill provides for assignment of gender from “others” to “transgender ” thus giving the community a sense of recognition.
2. **Healthcare** – mandates government to provide healthcare facilities including sex reassignment surgery, counselling, etc.
3. **Removes social stigma**– by making it illegal to discriminate against transgenders with respect to residence, public places, etc.
4. **Penalties** – offenders are punishable with jail terms.
5. **Reservation** – certifies non-SC/ST transgenders as OBCs benefiting them in education and employment

The Law was much due in Indian context because:-

1. **Social stigma** – transgenders were subjected to ill treatment and various forms of abuses.
2. **Lost opportunities** -they lacked any sign of development because of lack of recognition as any gender .
3. **Social security** – they were deprived of social security and various other government service facilities.

Although the Bill is put forward in high spirits, yet it lacks few provisions like no National/state level Commission , no special transgender courts, no self choice of gender,etc which if addressed could give it more teeth to bring about a change in the society. Moreover, the most important thing is to change the mind set of the society which is the root cause of such discriminatory and abusive attitude towards the transgenders.

What are the principal factors behind declining child-sex ratio in India? Is enforcement the only way to address this problem? Can persuasion with an objective to change social attitude play a role? Discuss.

Introduction:

India has seen a drastic drop in the child sex ratio from 927 in 2001 to 919 in 2011 with some states doing even worse.

Body:

Reasons for skewed child sex ratio:

1. **Patriarchy** – It has ingrained a pre conceived notion about giving preference to male child in the family.
2. **Poverty**- lack of income and food turns a girl child into a burden for the family.
3. **Illiteracy** – makes most sections of society unaware of the potential of girls, principles of equality, etc.
4. **Societal norms**– like dowry system forces parents to go for female foeticide/ infanticide.
5. **Technology** – wrongful usage of sex detection machines despite laws have further aggravated the issue.
6. **Religion** – in Hindu religion it is still the son who performs the last rites of parents, this strong religious mind leads to preference of a male child.
7. **Ineffective implementation of laws**– like PC-PNDT, Dowry Prohibition Act, PSHWP Act etc.

The enforcement of the laws, however stringent will not be effective as it will not lead to change in the societal attitude towards the girl child, to change societal attitude strong social influence along with financial inducements is necessary, which can be done in the following ways:

1. **Lightening the financial burden to raise a girl child**: schemes like Mid-day meals, Kanya Samvridhi Yojana, Ladli scheme etc. have to be effectively pushed so that education and marriage are no longer financial burdens to the parents.
2. **Role models**: women achievers like P.V.Sindhu, Sakshi Malik etc. have to be co-opted as brand ambassadors for women empowerment.
3. **Awareness about girl child's worth**: schemes like Beti-bachao, beti-padhao have to be made use of to make people realize a daughter's value and as a future asset, these can significantly alter how people feel about their daughters.
4. **Education**: increasing the level of education along with strong human-rights values can help in loosening of the Patriarchal mindsets of the future generations which can provide environment of equality and freedom to the girl child.

Conclusion:

Write a short conclusion.

Best answer: Shernizaad

Declining child sex ratio in India is a cause of concern and has marred India's progress towards socio-economic development. The reasons behind this could be:-

- 1) Patriarchy – It has ingrained a pre conceived notion about giving preference to male child in the family.
- 2) Poverty- lack of income and food turns a girl child into a burden for the family.
- 3) Illiteracy – makes most sections of society unaware of the potential of girls, principles of equality, etc.
- 4) Societal norms- like dowry system forces parents to go for female foeticide/ infanticide.
- 5) Technology – wrongful usage of sex detection machines despite laws have further aggravated the issue.
- 6) Ineffective implementation of laws- like PC-PNDT

However, the issue of declining child sex ratio is a comprehensive one touching different aspects like economic, social, legal and therefore mere enforcement of laws would not be enough. It is important to strengthen the education system with the focus on subjects teaching gender equality. It is equally important to create awareness among the masses about the potential of a girl child. For this, initiatives like Beti bachao Beti Padhao is in right direction. There is also a need to reverse the impact of lack of finances and hence Sukanya Samridhi yojana is a positive initiative. Having said that, effective implementation of laws is the need of the hour to make everything fall in place.

Does India have a population policy? What are its objectives? What is the need of having a population policy? Elucidate.

Introduction:

Your introduction should give a brief history about the population policy in India. You can also give the data substantiating the need of a policy (in brief)

Body:

Objectives on population policy, 2000

- The **immediate objective** of the NPP 2000 is to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure, and health personnel, and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.
- The **medium-term objective** is to bring the TFR to replacement levels (2.1%) by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies.
- The **long-term objective** is to achieve a stable population by 2045 (Revised it to 2070), at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

What is replacement level fertility? (reference)

- “Replacement level fertility” is the total fertility rate—the average number of children born per woman—at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, without migration.

National Socio-Demographic Goals for 2010 (for reference)

- Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.
- Make school education up to age 14 free and compulsory, and reduce drop outs at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 percent for both boys and girls.
- Reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births.
- Reduce maternal mortality ratio to below 100 per 100,000 live births.
- Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
- Promote delayed marriage for girls, not earlier than age 18 and preferably after 20 years of age.
- Achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent deliveries by trained persons.
- Achieve universal access to information/counseling, and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
- Achieve 100 per cent registration of births, deaths, marriage and pregnancy.

- Contain the spread of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and promote greater integration between the management of reproductive tract infections (RTI) and sexually transmitted infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.
- Prevent and control communicable diseases.
- Integrate Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services, and in reaching out to households.
- Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of TFR.
- Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programs so that family welfare becomes a people centred programme.

Population growth in India continues to be high on account of (for Reference)

- **The large size of the population in the reproductive age-group** (estimated contribution 58 percent). An addition of 417.2 million between 1991 and 2016 is anticipated despite substantial reductions in family size in several states, including those which have already achieved replacement levels of TFR. This momentum of increase in population will continue for some more years because high TFRs in the past have resulted in a large proportion of the population being currently in their reproductive years. It is imperative that the reproductive age group adopts without further delay or exception the “small family norm”, for the reason that about 45 percent of population increase is contributed by births above two children per family.
- **Higher fertility due to unmet need for contraception** (estimated contribution 20 percent). India has 168 million eligible couples, of which just 44 percent are currently effectively protected. Urgent steps are currently required to make contraception more widely available, accessible, and affordable. Around 74 percent of the population lives in rural areas, in about 5.5 lakh villages, many with poor communications and transport. Reproductive health and basic health infrastructure and services often do not reach the villages, and, accordingly, vast numbers of people cannot avail of these services.
- **High wanted fertility due to the high infant mortality rate (IMR)** (estimated contribution about 20 percent). Repeated child births are seen as an insurance against multiple infant (and child) deaths and accordingly, high infant mortality stymies all efforts at reducing TFR.
- **Over 50 percent of girls marry below the age of 18**, the minimum legal age of marriage, **resulting in a typical reproductive pattern of “too early, too frequent, too many”**. Around 33 percent births occur at intervals of less than 24 months, which also results in high IMR

Need of population policy

- **skewed female and child sex ratio** which is spreading from urban into rural areas.

- **Migration:** -The Census 2011 has given the picture of interstate and intrastate migration triggered by employment, business, education, marriage and other variables. While migration is welcomed by the manufacturing, construction, software and service sectors, it can spell trouble when it leads to insider-outsider tension. Unplanned migration to the metros and large cities also puts pressure on the infrastructure, housing and water availability. If this is factored into of the population policy, it would make for more foresight and greater coordination, and avoid the inevitable outcome of mushrooming slums and unplanned habitations.
- **Ageing factor:** – The growing population of the elderly and the increase in life expectancy accompanied by chronic diseases have the potential to deflect resources from the primary task of providing education, skill development and increasing employability. **In the next 10 years, the elderly will account for 12% of the country's population.** Until now policies on the elderly have been buffered with soft talk about old-age homes and protective laws—despite the fact that the elderly is virtually unable to take recourse to such provisions. **Dependency ratios** are increasing rapidly while the joint family system has disintegrated. The market of caregivers is today unregulated, expensive and undependable. The business opportunity to match the growing needs of this population cohort after factoring in their growing disability needs to be a part of the population policy.
- Sustainable development
- Economic factors

(you can add more points)

Conclusion:

You should end by saying that a new population policy is the need of the hour. Population policy draft is already in public domain. It should be implemented as soon as possible.

What is dependency ratio? (Reference)

- The dependency ratio theory is an age-population ratio of those typically not in the labor force (the dependent part) and those typically in the labor force (the productive part). It is used to measure the pressure on productive population.

Best Answer: Night Fury

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Best Answer: vengeancee

In 2000, National Population Commission under Chairmanship of Prime Minister was formed & it released India's Population Policy in 2000. In review meeting held in 2010, policy & its targets were revised.

Objective of revised Population policy:

- 1) Population stabilization by 2070.
- 2) Lowering TFR (Total Fertility Rate) to 2.1

Need for such population policy:

- 1) Poverty, unemployment: are direct effect of rising population in India where economic resources are not enough to provide equal resources to everyone.
- 2) Illiteracy, poor health: in wake of large population limited State owned services can't fulfill needs of ever growing size.
- 3) Policy Planning purpose: Problems like urbanization, De- Ruralization can be effectively tackled when Population growth is taken into account.
- 4) Avoid demographic trap: incase population growth doesn't behave as per estimates, it could lead to serious socio-economic implications.
- 5) Provisioning basic services: after review of population studies, schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana , Indira Gandhi Maatritva Sahyog Yojana were launched.

Failure of Policy in 2000 should be taken as guiding steps for further decision makings, recent Census data are encouraging when for first time in over 80 years, population increase reduced in absolute numbers. These are encouraging signs, and should be taken cue of.

Best Answer3: Dreamz Unlimited

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Developing an indigenous manufacturing base for defence equipments is not only imperative for India's security and strategic needs but is also a lucrative economic proposition having many positive spillovers. Do you agree? Examine. Also discuss the significance of the Make in India scheme in indegenisation of defence technology.

Introduction:

You should outline the defence sector condition in India at present (in brief) / or the status of defense budget etc.

Body:

Strategic importance of indigenous manufacturing:

Security:

1. Stockpile of arms in war times – to avoid kargil like situation
2. Data breach – Recent Submarine related data
3. Getting obsolete technology or take time which is strategically harmful – INS viraat etc.

Global position: –

1. Disturbed neighborhood
2. UNSC seat – Hard power
3. Self-reliant power

Economic proposition: –

1. Burden on BoP
2. India's focus on developing its own manufacturing sector
3. Jobs/ Demographic dividend

Spillover on other sectors: –

1. Patents/ Technology
2. Medical sector
3. Will improve the supply chain overall
4. Will provide jobs and increase the number of ancillary industries

(You can add more points)

Make in India in defence sector:

FDI policy

- 100% FDI in defence sector: Up to 49%, automatic route; FDI above 49%, through Government route where it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.
- The defence industry is subject to industrial licenses under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and manufacturing of small arms ammunition under Arms Act, 1959
- The requirement of single largest Indian ownership of 51% of equity removed.
- A lock-in period of three years on equity transfer has been done-away with in FDI for defence.
- FDI in the defence sector is subject to other security conditions.

Procurement Policy:

- The defence procurement is governed by the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP).
- IDDM (Indigenous Designed Developed & Manufactured) as 1st priority during purchase of equipment's notified in 2016 as part of Defense Procurement Policy is component of Make in India.

Offset Policy:

The key objectives of the defence offset policy is to leverage capital acquisitions to develop the Indian defence industry. Mandatory offset requirements of a minimum of 30% for procurement of defence equipment in excess of INR 20 Billion have been envisaged.

(For References)

Facts:

- Third largest armed forces in the world
- 1% of budget spent on capital acquisitions
- 60% of requirements met by imports

Silver linings in defence exports:

India exported defence equipment to 22 countries, including to the US, the UK, Israel and Russia.

- India exported forging equipment, electronic assemblies, flight control panels to the US
- It sold transmitting tubes to the UK
- MIG and Sukhoi 30 aircraft spares and services to Russia.
- Cheetal helicopters to Afghanistan
- Dhruv helicopters and bulletproof jackets to Nepal
- Sukhoi 30 avionics and MIG spares to Malaysia

- Offshore petrol vessels and ammunition to Mauritius
- Jaguar aircraft spares and services to Oman.

Best Answers1: – vengeancee

Few decades back India's automobile sector was opened to 100% FDI with apprehensions, but today we see India as major automobile hub, and may become the largest hub in future. Such lessons are imperative, and developing India as manufacturing base for defense equipment's is not just strategically or economically relevant, but has various spillovers.

- 1) Forex, employment, industrial, export led growth could be possible especially when considering huge turnover defense contract generate.
- 2) "State-of-the-art" production in India will modernize defense industrial setup, and give strategical advantages.
- 3) Strategical autonomy & anonymity: Recent leaks by French company could have led to major security implications for buyer country like India.
- 4) Transfer of technology or Joint Venture with other developing countries could help India in generating Forex, as well as soft power.

However, certain challenges do persist like:

- 1) Lack of funding in Defense Research.
- 2) Lack of private sector participation.
- 3) Lack of facilities in PMEs (Professional Military Education) Institutions.

Significance of Make in India:

- 1) 100% FDI permitted recently on case-to-case basis is progressive step in light of Make in India.
- 2) IDDM (Indigenous Designed Developed & Manufactured) as 1st priority during purchase of equipment's notified in 2016 as part of Defense Procurement Policy is component of Make in India.
- 3) Tax, land, revenue benefits given by MII are needed for successful manufacturing base creation.

Recent launching of INDU (Indian National Defense University), acceptance of Dhirendra Singh Committee recommendation, changing Blacklisting Policy are some positive steps taken in this regard.

Best Answer2: – DS27

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The President gave his assent to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill recently. The roll-out of GST will usher India into an era of simplified tax statutes and also help India improve its position in the Ease of Doing Business rankings. Elucidate.

Refer to <http://iasbaba.com/2016/08/iasbabas-daily-current-affairs-4th-august-2016/>

GST is an important indirect tax reform that has been on the cards for more than a decade.

What is GST?

- In simple terms, Goods and Services Tax is a unified indirect tax imposed on goods and services across the nation.
- In broader terms, GST is a comprehensive tax levy on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods and services at a national level.
- In principle, GST is same as the Value-Added Tax (VAT) – already adopted by all Indian States – but with a wider base. While the VAT was imposed only on goods, the GST will be a VAT imposed on both goods and services.

Current Tax Regime (without GST)

In the current tax regime, States tax sale of goods but not services. The Centre taxes manufacturing and services but not wholesale/retail trade.

The GST is expected to usher in a uniform tax regime across India through an expansion of the base of each into the other's territory.

Under current tax regime, without the GST, there are –

- multiple points of taxation
- multiple jurisdictions
- imperfect system of offsetting credits on taxes paid on inputs, leading to higher costs
- cascading of taxes (tax on tax)
- inter-state commerce are hampered due to the dead weight burden on Central sales tax and entry taxes, which have no offset

All this will go once the GST is in place.

Why GST? What are its benefits?

GST will create a unified, un-fragmented national market and pushes competitiveness.

1. GST, by subsuming an array of indirect taxes under one rubric, will simplify tax administration, improve compliance, and eliminate economic distortions in production, trade, and consumption.

2. GST will widen the tax base and make it identical for both the Centre and States. (Unlike an excise duty whose base consists of manufacturers, the GST is paid only by the final consumer)
3. By giving credit for taxes paid on inputs at every stage of the supply chain and taxing only the final consumer, it avoids the 'cascading' of taxes, thereby cuts production costs, and makes exports more competitive.
4. GST will create a single market, enhances ease-of-doing business and make our producers more competitive against importers.
5. GST will eliminate inter-state taxes and reduces black money, thus will free up some capital. All this will add to demand and also efficiency.
6. According to the economists, thanks to these efficiencies, the GST will add 2 per cent to the national GDP. (at least GDP growth can go up by one percentage point on a sustained basis)

Co-operative Federalism:

The adoption of GST is an iconic example of

- 'Cooperative Federalism' and
- 'Nationwide, multiparty consensus-building exercise'

Best answer 1: Deep

The idea of Goods and Services tax (GST) was first coined in 2003 by Kelkar Task Force. GST incorporates the spirit of "One nation, one indirect tax."

The role of GST in simplifying tax statutes:

1. EASY tax compliance as only one tax to be paid
2. TRANSPARENCY in tax regime and easier to be understood by common people
3. Easier to collect taxes by govt
4. It is expected to WIDEN tax base and decrease fiscal deficit
5. Self-policing mechanism in tax administration will evolve
6. Better control on leakages as more transparency and easy monitoring
7. Better revenue control and welfare spending

The benefit of GST for improving ease of doing business:

1. NO CASCADING burden thus it will lower price and boost demand
2. Increase competitiveness as it will put a similar structure throughout the nation
3. Consumers will bear only the GST charged by the last dealer in the service chain
4. Reduced price will control inflation
5. Dual monitoring by Centre and States hence better cooperation

6. AS GST is a DESTINATION BASED tax it will benefit poor states
7. It will UNIFY the market so will expedite Ease of doing business

Though GST has some challenges such as less flexibility for states to decide their tax structure or deciding RNR, still GST is the need of the hour. A reform like GST is a leap of faith where challenges are to be resolved with time and cooperation

Best answer 2: Mani

Roll out of GST is the most crucial reform in Indian economy after the liberalisation of 1990s. It will create a national market for goods and services with simplified structures:

Tax statutes:

- It will subsume major indirect taxes levied by centre and state governments like service tax, sales taxes, octroi, excise duties etc.
- It will create a unified tax structure with tax rates at central and state level decided collectively by the GST council.
- With uniform taxes in all states, interstate tax contradictions will be removed.
- Since GST is a destination based tax, it will promote tax compliance
- Streamlining of tax statutes will promote better tax administration and tracking of tax evasions.

Ease of doing business:

- It will lead to more uniform market resulting in smoother flow of goods and services.
- Paying taxes will be much more simpler for companies
- Simplified structures will help in reducing unintentional evasions
- Since tax rates will be decided by council it will lead to more predictability in tax administration, will help in curbing tax terrorism.
- It will promote industries in states in a more balanced way. Currently, states having more favourable tax structures attract more companies.

Thus, GST will help Indian economy grow in a significant way. It will ensure transparency in the way indirect taxes are levied, paid and collected.

The regulatory functions of the State must be based on a right based approach and should be non-exclusionary. Analyze the statement in the light of the proposed surrogacy law.

Introduction:

Your introduction should outline the need of rights in modern state and why regulatory functions of state should follow right based approach and should remain non- exclusionary.

Body:

In this part, you should discuss about the major controversies related to surrogacy law which shows that few of the provisions are against the fundamental rights and whose impact is exclusionary for some sections like transgender, single parent etc.

Conclusion:

You should conclude it by saying that a nation like India cannot afford to compromise its basic democratic ethos. The law should reflect the idea of inclusion and it should empower the citizen.

Important facts related to surrogacy (regulation) bill 2016

1. According to the Bill, only Indian couples, who have been married for at least 5 years can opt for surrogacy, provided at least one of them have been proven to have fertility-related issues.
2. Only close relatives, not necessarily related by blood, will be able to offer altruistic surrogacy to the eligible couples.
3. The new Bill has put a complete ban on commercial surrogacy.
4. It also bans unmarried people, live-in couples and homosexuals from opting for altruistic surrogacy. Now, foreigners, even Overseas Indians, cannot commission surrogacy.
5. A woman can become a surrogate mother only for altruistic purpose and under no circumstances she will be paid for it, although payment can be made towards medical expenses.
6. Surrogacy regulation board will be set-up at both Central and State-level.
7. The law will be applicable to the whole of India, except for the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
8. All Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics will need to be registered.
9. Surrogacy clinics will be allowed to charge for the services rendered in the course of surrogacy, but the surrogate mother cannot be paid.
10. Commercial surrogacy, abandoning the surrogate child, exploitation of surrogate mother, selling/import of human embryo have all been categorised as violations that are punishable by a jail term of at least 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.
11. Under the new bill, the clinics will have to maintain records of surrogacy for 25 years.

12. The surrogate child will have the same rights of as that of a biological child.

Best answer 1: DS27

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Best answer 2: TheCredibleHulk

The recent surrogacy bill aimed to regularize the debated practice and bring in transparency and structure. But it also **drew some sharp critical comments** as well.

Ever since the birth of the **concept of State**, the most popularly accepted approach has been the rights-based one where rational individuals come together and delegate some of their rights to an entity called State for a just and ordered political society. **All the individuals are equal and enjoy equal rights to live a dignified life.**

This bill though contains **some provisions** that infringe upon some of the basic rights of certain categories of citizens and a few bizarre exclusionary principles which are not supported by any empirical study.

- Commercial surrogacy is banned, which though raises ethical questions, is well within the right of a person to use her body the way she wants.
- Single parents and LGBT community are not allowed for this process which is right out discriminatory.
- Even couples can go for surrogacy only after 5 years of marriage. 5 is totally arbitrary here.

But this is to be understood that this issue also contains complex ethical principles, potential to affect citizenship norms and human rights of those who are affected adversely. Hence, hard locking to a rights based approach should be avoided here and a comprehensive point of judgement should be taken.

Best Answer 3: Machiavelli

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<http://a.disquscdn.com/uploads/mediaembed/images/4239/5069/original.jpg>

What are the symptoms of chikungunya? How does it spread? What precautions and measures should be adopted to stop its spread? Discuss.

(straight forward question- for reference:
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs327/en/>)

Introduction:

Tell in basic about the first emergence of this virus/ current news.

Body:

- Symptoms of chikungunya
- Ways of transmission
- Precautionary measures – can give international experiences like Srilanka etc.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should reflect the need of coordinated efforts by various agencies and awareness through various campaigns.

Best Answer 1: DS27

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Best Answer 2: vidhu

Chikungunya is a disease caused by the Chikungunya virus. It is transmitted to humans by 2 mosquito species **Aedes Aegypti** and **Aedes albopictus** who carry the virus as a vector.

When these mosquitoes bite an infected person, they themselves get infected and thus transmit the virus when they bite a healthy person.

The symptoms of chikungunya which begin in 3-7 days are:

1. Fever, headache, fatigue
2. Joint pain
3. Rashes in the body

The symptoms do not result in death but they can be very painful and disabling in nature.

There is no vaccine available for treatment. It can be prevented by:

1. Controlling the mosquito population by limiting their habitat: not allowing water to collect and stagnate, putting oil / DDT/eucalyptus oil on standing water to kill their breeding population
2. Emptying all waste baskets, cans, waste utensils to avoid collection of water for mosquitoes to breed
3. Wearing full body covered clothing
4. Using mosquito repellent, nets to prevent them
5. Use of window screens, mesh to keep them outside
6. R&D to develop GM mosquitoes which make the mosquito population sterile
7. Implementing cleanliness in our surroundings to prevent breeding of mosquitoes

The menace of mosquitoes is high in the tropical and poorer nations. If proper cleanliness and safety measures with awareness is implemented, the effect and repercussion of this disease can be contained effectively.



What is 'special category status'? How is it different from 'special status'? What benefits do states with special category status enjoy? Discuss

Introduction: –

Your introduction should define the special category status and why was it established.

The concept of a special category state was **first introduced in 1969** when the **5th Finance Commission sought to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax breaks**. Initially **three states Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir** were granted special status but since then eight more have been included (**Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand**).

- The rationale for special status is that certain states, because of inherent features, have a low resource base and cannot mobilize resources for development. Some of the features required for special status are:
- hilly and difficult terrain;
- low population density or sizeable share of tribal population;
- strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries;
- economic and infrastructural backwardness; and
- non-viable nature of state finances.

http://www.thehindu.com/multimedia/dynamic/02524/commen1_2523607g_2524508f.jpg

Body

- **Differentiate between the special status and special category status.**
- **Benefits which special category status states are getting.**
- Significant concession in excise & customs duties, income tax and corporate tax
- 30 percent of planned expenditure (central budget) goes to 'special category' states
- Special Central Assistance for economic development.
- Centre bears 90% of the state expenditure (given as grant) on all centrally-sponsored schemes(CSS) and external aid while rest 10% is given as loan to state. (For general category, the respective grant to loan ratio is 30:70)
- Unspent money does not lapse and gets carry forward.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should say that more financial autonomy and accountability should replace these politically decided categorization and a level playing should be created OR you can opt for a different conclusion with justifying the need of special packages but in that case also you should focus on more transparency and accountability.

Best Answer1: CSE2016 aspirant (ABG)

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Best Answer2: Ashutosh

The status of special category states are given to various states on the basis their backwardness in various geographical and socio-economic parameters like hilly terrain, low population density, poor resource base, less sources for finance etc.

This status has its history to 1969 with recommendation of 5th finance commission and it is given by union government on recommendation of NDC.

On the other hand special status criteria was bestowed on only state in India J&K due to its unique historical position with separate constitution and more autonomy in various legislative, executive spheres.

States with Special category status are accorded following benefits---

- 1) 30% of planned expenditure of union budget is allotted to them.
- 2) Centrally Sponsored schemes have C-S ratio of 90:10, whereas in rest of the States it is generally 70:30 or 60:40 or even 50:50.
- 3) Special Central Assistance given to them which is additional to other benefits.
- 4) Concessions in income, corporate, excise, custom duty etc are given.

Way forward---

Recently some states like Bihar, AP have raised the demand for SCS. But keeping in mind the various reforms like abolition of planning commission with establishment of NITI AYOOG with mandate of cooperative and competitive federalism ; 42% devolution of tax resources by 14FC and more autonomy to states in various politico-administrative – financial matter is the right step in abolition of this criteria and doing away with planned and complained budget has also reinforced the positive step with more equitable, harmonious and inclusive development of country and states in a sustainable manner.

Best Answer3: Super Samurai

'Special category' status is a classification given by Centre to assist in development of those states that face geographical & socio-economic disadvantages like hilly terrains, strategic international borders, economic & infrastructural backwardness and non-viable state finances.

Special status, in India has been given to only J&K whereas SCS is provided to 11 states. Under special status, J&K enjoys more of political powers like Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are not applied to J&K, President can't declare financial emergency in relation to J&K etc however SCS is more or less about providing financial assistance to some states.

Benefits for SCS states: –

- 1) Significant concession in excise & customs duties, income tax and corporate tax
- 2) 30 percent of planned expenditure (central budget) goes to 'special category' states
- 3) Special Category states are benefited because of Normal Central Assistance which was skewed in favour of these states. These states get more funds in terms of NCA and most part of these funds was in the form of grants rather than loans.
- 4) Special Central Assistance given to SCS is also an additional amount which can be used by the concerned state for economic development.
- 5) Centre bears 90% of the state expenditure (given as grant) on all centrally-sponsored schemes and external aid while rest 10% is given as loan to state. For general category, the respective grant to loan ratio is 30:70 whereas external aid is passed on in the same ratio as received at the centre.
- 6) Unspent money does not lapse and gets carry forward.

Hence, special-category status catalyses the inflow of private investments and generates employment and additional revenue to state. Since centre bears 90% of state expenditure on all centrally-sponsored schemes, state can take more welfare-based schemes from the new savings.

What are the constitutional provisions to solve water sharing disputes? Are they adequate? Give your opinion.

Schedule VII – State List and Union List

- States have power to legislate (under State list) with respect to water (water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power).
- Union list – Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys.

Article 262 Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers or river valleys. It makes two provisions:

- Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.

River Boards Act (1956) and the Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)

- In exercise of the power conferred by article 262 of the Constitution, Parliament has enacted the above two acts.
- River Boards Act provides for the establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of inter-state river and river valleys.
- Inter-State Water Disputes Act empowers the Central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley. The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.
- Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act.

Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.

The provisions or the mechanisms are not adequate, there are some lacunas: (The below points and opinion is comprehensive. Some of the points should be in your answer within word limit)

The mechanism dealing with inter-state water disputes functions ineffectively because of several reasons.

- The most prominent problem faced by it is that it do not have any effective authority for the implementation of the order of the tribunal.

- The Tribunal can only give an award but cannot enforce its implementation. It has not been clothed with powers of punishment for 'contempt'.
- In the event of non-implementation of an ISWD Tribunal's award by a state government, the central government can (failing persuasion) issue a direction to the erring state and then invoke Article 356, but that seems an extreme step; besides, when a popular government comes back it may once again refuse to implement the award. There is no easy answer to this problem.
- The tribunal also lacks the power of enforcement of its decision which Supreme Court is endowed with. Thus such matters which involves public importance should be guided and decided by the court.

(Cauvery water dispute case is a classic example showcasing complicated scenario of river water management and governance in India. When there is shortage, when developmental projects grow, and riparian States do not enjoy equal access to the source, inter-state problems are bound to rise in sharing.)

- Though the issues relating to the water allocation involves special technicalities but entrusting the adjudicatory power to the tribunal leads to undermining the status of the Federal government. This may lead to creating of more obstacles rather finding a solution.
- The Provision under Article 262 seems to be insufficient. It would have been better if a machinery had been written into the Constitution itself. Then it would not be left to the Parliament to provide a machinery.
- Article 262 grants power to make a law; it does not impose a duty, for no court can issue a mandamus to the legislature to make a law. Also no provision of the Constitution can be held ultra-vires, but any law, or part of law made under Article 262 can be held ultra-vires.
- Also there are always inordinate delays in the setting up of tribunals and deciding the award. The right to have a dispute referred to a tribunal under IWSDA is dependent on the opinion of the Central Government that the matter cannot be settled by negotiations.

Recommendations (Because of Cauvery issue, we are giving this additional points. Just for your information for Mains exam.)

In light of the prevailing loopholes in functioning of the system, certain recommendations can be considered.

- Firstly, there is a need to set up a permanent tribunal for such disputes instead of creating one each time.
- Then it has been suggested by the NCRWC that the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 be repealed and in its place a more comprehensive parliamentary legislation should be enacted.

- It is of the view that it is not necessary to exclude Inter-State Water Disputes from the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under article 131 of the Constitution and that such disputes should also be made to fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- The rationale behind this is that almost in every case either of the party approaches Supreme Court seeking judicial review of the order or for the enforcement of the Fundamental rights. This leads to involvement of two forums in decision making.
- Also, parliament needs to exercise its powers under Entry 56 List I effectively. According to National Water Policy, this can be done by setting up of river boards.
- Alternatively, it has been suggested by some scholars that the Supreme Court should only be granted appellate jurisdiction, if an appeal to the Supreme Court is possible, at least no state can reasonably nurse a sense of grievance and as the Supreme Court's decisions are still being respected and obeyed in this country, the non-implementation problem will disappear.

Best answer Officer in making

In a federation like India, Integrity of the nation and autonomy of the states are sine qua non. Recent ongoing water sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu yet again questioned the viable approaches to address this issue.

Constitutional provisions thereof –

1. In 7th schedule entry 56 of Union List has given power to the Union with respect to interstate rivers, river valleys. However this power is subjected to conditions that Union can regulate to that extent prescribed laws by the Parliament in public interest.
2. Under Article 131, original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court empowers it to address issues related to center and states, and inter states.
3. Under Article 136, through a special leave petition to Supreme court the earlier ruling by the other courts or any other Tribunal can be challenged.
4. Article 262 says parliament may by law provide for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter state rivers.
5. Under Article 263, President may constitute Interstate council in public interest which has the function to regulate , advice up on any disputes which may arise between states.

Though there are constitutional provisions as well as legislations enacted by the Parliament, water sharing disputes has not been addressed pragmatically . These provisions have made a minimal impact because –

1. Union government has taken a lackluster stand on this issue. So mediation and conciliation approach has not worked so far. Hence states are turning towards judiciary.
2. the judiciary itself has burdened with so many pending cases and SPL methods are further aggravating the tension.
3. Inter state council has not been regular otherwise it would have played a major role in mediation.
4. the Water Dispute Tribunals takes a long time for it's composition and submission of report thus delaying the matter.

From the above it is evident that our political system has enough provision to address the water sharing issues but proper utilization of those forum was minimal. As per various committee recommendations including Sarkaria Commission , River water disputes must prefer the route of Interstate council as ist route. A permanent Constitutional Bodies like Election commission, Finance commission, a water commission could be set up to resolve water sharing disputes.

Best answer 2: Sahil Garg

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Indian Railways is a classic case of public sector monopoly. Do you agree? Does Indian Railways require an independent regulator? Critically examine.

(Outline for the answer is given. Most of the points have been covered under best answer section.)

Introduction:

In your introduction, you should briefly outline the importance of Indian railway or you can start with recent news related to privatization of some part /functions of Indian railway.

Body:

- Discuss in brief – about the need of railway as a public sector
- Mention the points which reflects its monopoly and also which are against it.
- No Competitor
- Government backup
- Price regulation
- Capital intensive venture
- Mention the need of Independent regulator. Also mention the committee recommendations (Bibek debroy committee)

http://www.thehindu.com/multimedia/dynamic/02683/rail_2683311f.jpg

- 1) Price fixation
 - 2) Transparency
 - 3) Adjudication of disputes
 - 4) Futuristic vision incorporating a growth on sustainable trajectory.
- Limitations of an Independent Regulator.

This will essentially mean setting up a body outside of the powerful and centralized Railway Board, which might resist such a move. The setting up of an independent super-regulator has been spoken about in the financial services space, but not much has happened on that front.

Conclusion: –

You should conclude by saying that a balance should be maintained between keeping the sector viable and providing services to the lowest strata of society.

Best Answer1: Sk19

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Best Answer2: Ap psir

Indian railways with a network of more than 65,000 km is world's third largest railway network, it is the lifeline of indian economy and a source of livelihood for a vast majority of population.

It can be by large said to be a classical example of public sector monopoly because of many reasons:-

-Capital intensive venture : which can be understood from the fact that it has a separate budget of its own every year.

-Economics of Scale:It is operational in whole of the country and its services reach to every person irrespective of his earning level.

-Price regulation:It is solely responsible for price regulation in all the services it provides.

-No Competitor:No other firm or company operating in railway sector to give competition to the public sector giant.

-Government backup :Government through legislative means provide support to railways.

There has been people long suggesting for an independent regulator for the railways, same was recommended in Bibek debroy committee report. Reasons to justify an independent regulator are:

-For evolving a new and competent way of accounting of railway funds.

-To help railways in clinching PPP Projects for its infrastructure development till now which have been a far cry for railways.

-Regulator would help in dispute resolution and making railways profitable and competitive with other public sector profit reaping giants.

A regulator may help in changing the overall landscape of the railways, transforming it into a powerhouse, but it may come with its own drawbacks, so critical evaluation of its working along with a robust policy and a sound working environment would make it a game-changer for railways.

Best Answer 3: SBS

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Best Answer 4: Aspirant-upsc

Indian railway carries approx.2 crores passengers daily.monopoly is the classical case of railways because of

1. It is the sole producer and sole service provider in railway transportation.
2. Indian railway controls the entire market of railways and control over price.
3. no entry for other competitive companies.

There have been demand for independent regulator in railways.Some of the advantages would be

Fix fares:power of fixing fares will be transferred to technocrats since fares have not kept pace with inflation.

Financial health:regulator will resolve disputes and revenue will improve . it would be more attractive for private players.

Efficiency:regulator will fix efficiency parameter for railways ,setting benchmark for passenger amenities.

But,having a regulator has some disadvantages too.they are

Social:railway considered as a common man rail.but because of high price fixed according to inflation fare would go high.

Private players:involvement of private companies would weak trade unions and accountability towards public may reduce.

Bureaucratic trap:involvement of bureaucrats and systematic lethargy will affect railway efficiencies.

bibek debroy committee recommendation to scrap railway budget,independent regulator and involvement of private companies are a good step in this direction.reduction in fare prices with proper facilities and accelerating growth of transportation in country should be the goal of railways.

The mayors of Indian cities must have the powers to govern and not only administer. Do you agree? Examine the case of direct election of city mayors in this regard.

Note: Many of you have failed to provide good points under 1st demand of the question. You have to highlight your opinion. Should mayors be empowered with governing powers in addition with administrative powers (which they currently enjoy)? Your opinion should be substantiated with brief points – satisfying “why” they should have powers to govern?

For answering this effectively, you should know the difference between the two terms “governance” and “administration”.

- Powers to Govern or Governance is the act of governing. It is the creation of laws, policies that shape a country, state or province through debate and discussion. Governance is the brain that creates the various aspects of society.
- Public administration, on the other hand, deals with the act of implementing the results of governance, ensuring that a work force of enforcers can carry out the will of governance.
- The governing body is the head: it issues commands to the rest of the body, which the body — the public administration — then carries out.

So what do you think? Mayor should be empowered with governing powers along with administering? – This should be your introduction.

Providing your opinion will also carry marks. Many of you are not learning, from next time be aware to these minute demands in the question.

Examine the case of direct election of city mayors “in this regard”

Here one should give good view points about – a directly elected mayor with both governing and administering powers. Write only relevant points keep an eye on word limit.

Points should include both benefits and implications. (3 crucial points on each)

Provide good conclusion whenever question asks your opinion or the question ends with examine/analyze.

Sample answer from IASbaba:

Demand 1:

Mayors in India are perceived to be rivals, rather than complements, by state governments and state governments have refused to devolve power and resources, effectively reducing a mayor to a figurehead. Mayors generally lack executive authority and have limited financial and functional independence. The actual power continues to lie with the state government, which runs the city through the municipal commissioner.

With Mayor as a mere administrator, city governance in India is being pulled and pushed in different directions — sometimes even torn apart — by a chaotic urban administrative set-up.

Demand 2: Opinion

Hence, there is today a growing awareness of the need and importance of an elected mayor with substantial powers of his own who acts as a provider of services to local communities and as a mechanism for democratic self-government.

or

There is “no doubt that India’s future is in the cities”, hence, mayors empowered with both governing and administering powers would address the structural governance shortcomings and overburdened infrastructure problems.

Demand 3:

Direct election with fixed tenure will accord greater accountability to the local leadership, to roll out long term plans that will ensure major changes in the cities political and economic landscape, may ensure greater coordination among the different city departments and promote decisive decision making.

However, Political differences may also arise between legislators/councilors and mayors if from different parties and lead to administrative gridlock, which has prompted many states such as Tamil Nadu to scrap provision for direct election of mayor.

Therefore, direct election isn’t only means to empower office of mayor and can be done with indirect or creating an empowered and accountable political executive for cities. Hence, a directly elected mayor should be a political option rather than making it mandatory, but empowering the institution of mayor should be a reform that must be brought about.

Best answer 1: Kumar Harsh

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Best answer: Nazreen

With increase in population, infrastructural set ups and problems around them, urban cities asks for better governance with reasonable power and autonomy to do work.

Current scenario:-

- UK, JHARKHAND, CHHATISGARH, TN, UP AND MP has a mayoral system, but due to toothless powers, their mayors are mere figureheads.
- Municipal commissioner, “appointed” by state govt having executive legislative and financial powers within, thus diminished the responsible notion of the governance.

Benefits of direct elected mayor:-

- Make sure accountability and responsible system thus strengthen the democracy.
- If financial power comes under mayor, corrupt free transfer of funds, with more probability of “ground” development can be seen.
- Mayor will be chosen upon “merit” rather than upon political priorities.

Challenges:-

- Poor will of state govt to develop authority to such lower extent.
- Confrontation between municipal commissioner and mayor may damage the whole purpose.
- If mayor belongs to the minority party, conflicts with other members may increase. E.g> in HP, due to this reason whole concept was scrapped.
- Legislator may see mayor as rival, and may undercut his authority.
- Blur the line between 3 levels of govt>union-state-local govt.

Way forward:-

- Devolution of executive and financial powers to mayor, by clearly demarcating his sphere constitutionally, to overcome mayor-commissioner conflicts.
- Voter awareness regarding separate responsibility of legislator and mayor.

Yes, to resolve the day to day entangling of urban life, a responsible management is needed. And inclusion of this post may create wonders in city lifestyle.

Best answer 3: Mayur

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Recently, the NITI Ayog decided to set up a behavioural economics unit. What is behavioural economics? What is its significance for public policy in India? Discuss.

Introduction: –

Your introduction should briefly tell about the recent news related to Nudge units being setup by Niti Ayog and also discuss what is behavioural economics in brief.

Body: –

Mention the Significance of behavioural economics in public policy under broad headings. Also give examples.

1. bottom up approach
2. Participation
3. Efficiency and effectiveness
4. Better response towards the schemes.
5. Optimal utilization
6. Improves acceptance
7. Recognizing social norms

(you can add few more points)

Conclusion: –

You should mention that it is a step in the right direction but a caution should be taken while applying it.

Best Answer: -MYK

Far beyond the realm of Keynesian economics, lies the domain of behavioural economics which addresses anomalies as to WHY? an individual behaves in a typical way under a given set of economic choices.

Behavioural economics is the branch of psychology that deals with social, psychological and cognitive factors that shapes the behaviour of an individual. With greater need to optimize the government scheme's outcomes, NITI Aayog's collaboration with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to establish "BEU / Nudge" units is a timely and welcome step.

Significance: –

Lies in persuasion and influencing the behaviours of individual & institutions. This is highly sought as:

1) Scheme's success and failure is in part their acceptance by public. "Give Up Subsidy Scheme" failure to elicit a strong response.

2) Helps understand the impact that the scheme intervention will have on social, economic, cultural & educational level. "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" aimed at influencing the citizenry of the importance of girl's education; "Indradhanush" Immunization scheme

3) **Persuasion** -> The benefits of family planning is well acknowledged, however there is no rational use of contraceptives and sterilization techniques

4) **Influence & Reform** -> Swachh Bharat Mission which aims to put an end to "Open Defecation" works on bringing a change in mind-set of individuals.

5) **Cost effectiveness** - Pushing the awareness campaigns in areas where it is needed - Though, stringent punishment are listed under PCPNDT Act, it needs to reform patriarchal norms in low sex ratio areas - say, an intensive sex ratio drive in Haryana versus a low drive in Kerala

6) Enables informed and well intentioned actions - Optimize electricity usage while not in use, use of CFL, participation in local committees etc. are major factors under community's behavioural science

Needless to say that in a resource constraint Nation, optimum utilization is the road to sustenance. NITI Aayog's "Behavioural Economic Units" would surely pave a way to ensuring a sustainable future.

Best Answer2: - SherniZaad

By establishing a Behavioral Economics/ Nudge Unit in collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Niti Ayog has made a move towards more effective implementation of the government's flagship programmes like Digital India, Jan dhan yojana and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Behavioral Economics basically is a study of psychological, social and cognitive factors affecting the economic choices of individuals as well as institutions. It helps towards achieving better outputs with minimal level of expenditure which is quite a need in India in the context of growth and development. It has the potential of making huge impact on the policy making and implementation :-

1) Awareness - Government schemes remain underutilized due to lesser or no awareness among the most needy masses. Nudge unit with help of ad campaigns can bridge the awareness gap.

2) Close relationship – Better implementation of government programmes will help in shaping the relationship between the government and people thus improving governance.

3) Expenditure – can be reduced with better utilization of fund and avoid misuse which can help India in containing its deficits.

4) Bottom up approach- knowing the behavior and decision making style of people is very important for successful implementation of schemes.

5) Attitudinal change- efforts of the Unit will be in understanding as well as changing the attitude of the society by recommending changing in advertising (Jaha Soch Wahi Shochalaya), financial flow etc.

India is a democratic country with people belonging to different backgrounds with different line of thinking. It's impossible to impose any plan or policy on them or expect them to adapt to new schemes equally. Hence, stealing a leaf from UK's book of creating a Nudge unit is a welcoming step and this will help India to reach towards holistic development.

Best Answer3: – Kyu

Behavioral economics explores why people sometimes make irrational decisions, and why and how their behavior does not follow the predictions of economic models.

The recent decision of NITI aayog to set up a “nudge unit “ or Behavioural Insights Team in order to apply behavioral economics while formulating public policy in India is significant since:

–well intentioned policies so far have failed due to behavioral quirks e.g., failed TB interventions because patients don't follow complete treatment course, usage of toilets built through Swachh Bharat

–the magnitude and diversity of Indian population would make a top down approach unviable. Understanding people's behavior and enabling their participation would be the key here.

–would enable optimum resource usage in a resource-strained nation such as India and avoid wastage due to failed policy initiatives

Apart from enabling success of public welfare schemes it also finds application in possibly curbing tax avoidance and inculcating sense of civic duty.

However, a certain level of prudence also must be observed while resorting to behavioral approach since there is a danger that policymakers might assume a paternalistic attitude

with respect to citizens. Behavioral economics is simply one of the tools that might be adopted to ensure public and national welfare.

Best Answer4: Mani

Behavioural economics involves studying, analysing and understanding the behaviours of different sections of an economy. Since economy functions on the basis of interactions between people, government, businesses and markets, behavioural economics is important:

1. It helps in understanding the ways in which people perceive policies and initiatives of govt. thus, govt can frame better policies
2. Given the diversity at economic, cultural, social levels, studying behaviours will help in clearer understanding about the impact of these factors on people
3. Increased efficiency in implementation of policies. Areas that are defined as requiring more assistance can be given greater attention. For example: In places where open defecation is more rampant with people supporting it, requires extra effort than just providing funds under swachh baharat abhiyan
4. Help in evaluating the effects of policies on ground. Many times pilot projects work but fail on scaling. Studying people's response to initiatives will help in improving them.
5. Provide adequate data to private sector in understanding gravity of issues and help accordingly under PPP initiatives.
6. Promotes community participation in public policy.
7. Help in economising expenditure and ensuring efficiency in spending.

Recently a World Bank report highlighted that policies based on behaviours of people are more likely to succeed on ground. Thus, NITI Ayog's decision to set up behavioural economic unit holds promise. However, effort must be made towards efficient data collection, analysis and implementation of results with transparency.

Evaluate India's strategic opportunities and risks in Afghanistan.

Note: Many of you have just highlighted the economic benefits of India-Afghanistan relationship, rather than evaluating on strategic opportunities.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) drawdown in 2014 led to a cautious approach to the otherwise proactive policy India followed in Afghanistan.

India's strategy in Afghanistan is guided by the desire to prevent an Islamist government that would readily provide Pakistan with strategic depth and a safe haven for terror groups rather than facilitating a pro-India government in Afghanistan.

Some important points are given below, which should be in your answer. Provide brief description of 2-3 lines each as the question asks you to "evaluate".

1. Elimination of Anti-India Terrorism and ISIS
2. Undermine Pakistan's Influence in Afghanistan and Reduce Political Space for Pakistan
3. Undermine Taliban and other Terror Groups
4. Strategic Depth vs Pashtunistan: Durand Line
5. Strengthen Ties with Iran
6. Enhance Ties with the CARs
7. Enhance Stake in the Natural Resources of Afghanistan
8. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline
9. Counter Chinese Influence in Afghanistan
10. Projection as a Regional Power
11. Baluchistan
12. Balawaristan: The Northern Areas of J&K
13. India's Internal Security Preparedness and Strategy
14. Intensify Economic Activities
15. Intensify Creation of Alternative Infrastructure
16. Financial and Military Aid
17. Projecting Power

(Provide at least evaluation of some 5 points)

Risks:

1. Terrorism from AF-Pak Region
2. ISIS: An Indirect Threat and Threat of Radicalisation of Afghanistan
3. Threat of encirclement of Pakistan
4. Still politically unstable and recent attacks by extremists don't present an assuring picture

5. India's absence in Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) on Afghanistan reduces its ability to influence decisions.
6. China and Pakistan involvement also hamper the India's interest with their huge infrastructural investment and being neighboring state respectively.
7. India's friendly relations with Kabul might turn India- Pakistan's relationships more bitter . Moreover, India's strategy of getting closer to Kabul might make other countries to form alliance to counter India (ex- Friendship 2016 drill between Russia, China and Pakistan).

(Provide good conclusion)

Best answer 1: Soumya Anand

India and Afghanistan's civilisational ties have been bolstered with India's soft diplomacy in the form of Zaranj-Delaram Highway, Afghan Parliament and Salma Dam leading to strong strategic relationship.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- > Heart of Asia Conference should be utilized and invitation to join the "6 plus 1 group" should be accepted to ensure India's safety concerns from TTP etc.
- > India should utilize its military prowess and increase supplies of defence equipment along and training of Afghan soldiers.
- > Afghan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement and Chabahar port should be leveraged to access the growing Afghan markets and to Central Asian Republics.
- > Initiatives like TAPI need to be focused which create incentives for peace for all parties.
- > The immense goodwill enjoyed by Indians in Afghan should be translated to trade and greater cultural contact.

CHALLENGES:

- > Taliban continues to grow along with other terrorist organisations directly threatening Indian security.
- > \$ 2b have already been invested by India in Afghanistan creating a lot of stakes for peace.
- > Afghanistan prefers the northern route to Central Asia and China's OBOR due to Pakistan's obstructions and is increasing Chinese influence.
- > India's absence in QCG on Afghanistan reduces its ability to influence decisions.
- > Withdrawal of US forces might lead to greater instability in the country.

India should choose its path carefully and with “strategic independence” keeping in mind the immense potential a peaceful and progressive neighbor can hold.

Best answer 2: APPLE

Bilateral relationship between Afghanistan and India have traditionally been strong and friendly and they reached a one step further when India became the only south asian country to recognize soviet backed democratic republic of afghanistan in 1980s

OPPORTUNITIES

1-Pak is situated b/w AFGHANISTAN , iran,india and through chabahr port, india can control geopolitical interests of pak and counter CPEC.

2-indian army has constructed a major road in afganistan province connecting Delaram to Zaranj which is key to build up transportation link to bypass pak.

3-In 2005 ,India proposed Afghanistan’s membership in (SAARC) which can b reciprocating factor for India as well in acquiring a permanent seat in UNSC.

4-salma DAM officially called” india afghanistan frnship dam”is a major irrigational dam set up..

5-TAPI gas pipeline and afghanistan -pak-india trade route are strategically imp.

RISKS

1-Sending of AFGHAN cadets for millitary training to pak and allowing of pak securities to conduct “joint millitary”operations in eastern part of afghanistan are examples of terrorism like threat...

2-developement projects may get hinder due to hostile environment in afghanistan..

3-involvement of china n pak can pose developmental and economic threats

Clearly remarked as” BIG BROTHER” yet india needs to move cautiously to maintain the relations and combating the risks for herself as well which no country can hamper.

The Constitution of India derives its inspiration from the law books of many other countries. Yet it is unique in character. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Since the question mentions about inspiration from other Law books, in the introduction a stray mention can be there about what we have adopted from other constitutions. Like Federal Structure with Unitary tilt (Canada), Fundamental Rights (America), Emergency Provisions (Weimar German Constitution), DPSPs etc.

The mains focus has to be on the Uniqueness of the Indian Constitution. Many of you have covered good points.

- The first and most unique thing about Indian Constitution(IC) is that, that even though most of the aspects were taken from other constitutions, it is written keeping Indian society in mind.
- It is the bulkiest Constitution including even the smallest aspect of governance is included in it.
- It is rigid as well as flexible for amendments, making it a living document.
- Universal Adult Franchise given by our constitution without any discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, education etc. was never seen before in the world.
- The idea of secularism enshrined in our constitution is very different from European Secularism. Here state can interfere in the religious practices. All religions are given equal respect and state has no religion.
- There is no absolute separation of powers and checks and balances are present to make all pillars of democracy accountable.
- Special category areas are specified to avoid one size fit for all approach to see the specific needs of different people

More points can be mentioned according to the world limit.

Best Answer 1: Mukesh-Max

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Best Answer 2: Dharavi Writer

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Best Answer 3: Shernizaad

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Critically examine the evolution of the 'basic structure' doctrine and the role of judiciary in it.

Note: The following content should be definitely present in your answer for scoring better marks.

- 1. Article 368 of the Constitution (Amendment to Constitution) versus Art 13 (Fundamental Rights)**
 - The question whether fundamental rights can be amended under article 368 came for consideration in the Supreme Court in **Shankari Prasad case**.
 - In this case validity of constitution (1st amendment) act, 1951 which inserted inter alia, articles 31-A and 31-B of the constitution was challenged. The amendment was challenged on the ground that it abridges the rights conferred by part III and hence was void.
 - The Supreme Court however rejected the above argument and held that power to amend including the fundamental rights is contained in Article 368 and the same view was taken by court in **Sajjan Singh case**.
- 2. Issue with Acts added in Ninth Schedule: In Golak Nath case**, the validity of 17th Amendment which inserted certain acts in Ninth Schedule was again challenged. The Supreme Court ruled the parliament had no power to amend Part III of the constitution and overruled its earlier decision in **Shankari Prasad and Sajjan Singh case**. In order to remove difficulties created by the decision of SC in Golak Nath case parliament enacted the 24th Amendment act.
- 3. Kesavananda Bharati vs. The State of Kerala** – The Supreme Court recognized BASIC STRUCTURE concept for the first time in the historic Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973.

The court propounded what has come to be known as “the basic structure” doctrine. Any part of the Constitution may be amended by following the procedure prescribed in Article 368. But no part may be so amended as to “alter the basic structure” of the Constitution. It is unamendable.

Role of judiciary:

Ever since the Supreme Court has been the **interpreter of the Constitution** and the **arbiter of all amendments** made by parliament.

The court by majority overruled the **Golak Nath case** which denied parliament the power to amend fundamental rights of the citizens.

The Supreme Court declared that Article 368 did not enable Parliament to alter the basic structure or framework of the Constitution and parliament could not use its amending powers under Article 368 to ‘damage’, ‘emasculate’, ‘destroy’, ‘abrogate’, ‘change’ or ‘alter’

the 'basic structure' or framework of the constitution. This decision is not just a landmark in the evolution of constitutional law, but a turning point in constitutional history.

Through the concept of basic structure the Supreme Court has upheld:

- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Republican and democratic form of government
- Secular character of the Constitution
- Separation of powers between the legislature, executive and the judiciary
- Federal character of the Constitution

So for the protection of welfare state, fundamental rights, Unity and integrity of the nation, Sovereign democratic republic and for Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, interpretation of judiciary is mandatory. We can say none is above constitution even parliament and judiciary.

Best answer: Credible Hulk

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The provisions of amendment in the Constitution make it a living and responsive entity rather than a rigid and inflexible book of law. Do you agree? Critically examine.

Introduction

Your introduction should highlight that how and why our constitution makers opted for a living constitution and also mention the drawbacks of rigid constitution in brief.

Body: –

- you should briefly mention the process of amending the Indian constitution
- Article 368 – Simple majority, special majority etc.
- Amendment outside 368.
- Mention the areas which cannot be amended
- Basic structure – federalism, secularism, judicial independence etc.
- Mention the hurdles/ obstacles in amending the constitution
- Hung parliament – multi party coalition
- No joint sitting – Rajya sabha can stop/ delay – as happened in GST.

(You can add more points here)

Conclusion

You should conclude it by saying that any modern democratic nation need to have a flexible constitution which can sustain the democratic ethos/values while also accommodating the aspirations of its people

Best answer1: -iasnoob

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Best Answer2: -SherniZaad

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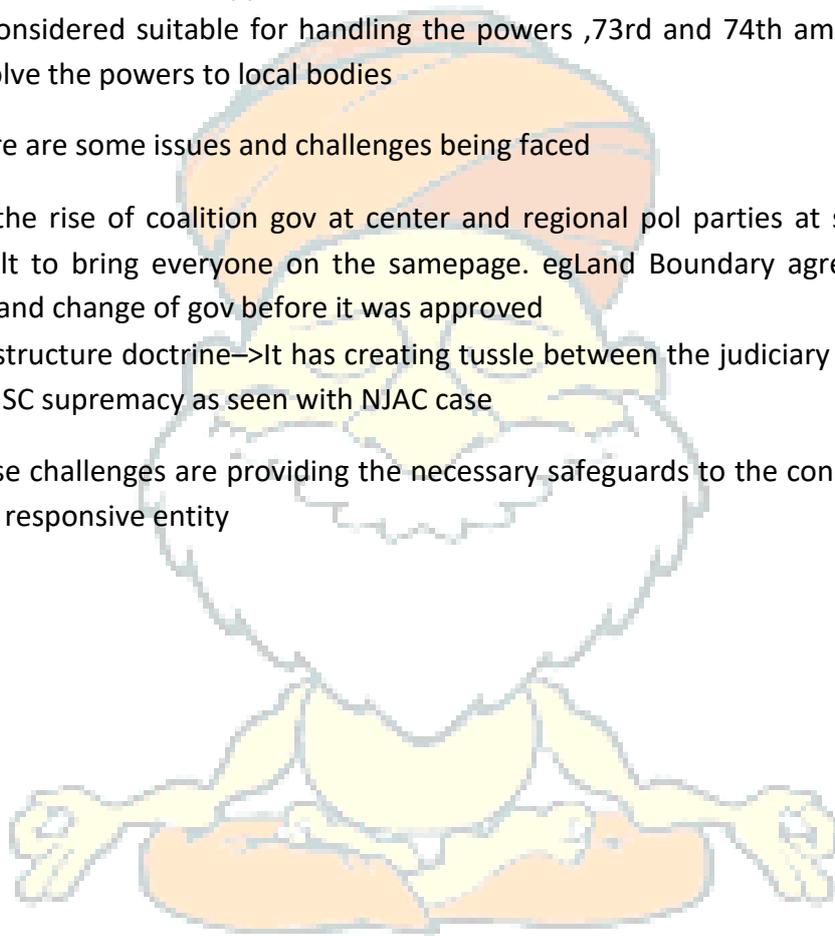
Best Answer3: -Madster

The makers of the Constitution tried to add all those provisions which they thought would satisfy the pressing needs of the population. However, there were certain provisions which required a mature democracy to be implemented eg. a 3 tier government would devolve powers to the masses however considering the conditions prevailing in rural villages like discrimination, poverty, illiteracy, it was preferable not to give them powers without making them capable of handling it efficiently. Therefore the makers added a provision of Constitutional Amendment under article 368 which enabled the parliament to make suitable changes to the constitution in accordance to the needs of the changing times and as the situation demands ,with the approval of the states. Thus when the rural and urban local bodies was considered suitable for handling the powers ,73rd and 74th amendment were made to devolve the powers to local bodies

However there are some issues and challenges being faced

- With the rise of coalition gov at center and regional pol parties at state level it is difficult to bring everyone on the same page. eg Land Boundary agreement took 3 years and change of gov before it was approved
- Basic structure doctrine→It has creating tussle between the judiciary and legislature giving SC supremacy as seen with NJAC case

However these challenges are providing the necessary safeguards to the constitution which is a living and responsive entity



Frequent terrorist attacks on civilians and army establishments have exposed the weakness of India's intelligence gathering apparatus. Examine. Also suggest the measures to develop a robust intelligence framework in India.

Introduction:

The recent attack on an Army Base camp in Uri, which led to the death of 18 soldiers of the Indian Army, exposes the weakness and lapses of India's intelligence gathering agencies.

Earlier incidents like the Pathankot, Boudh gaya, even kargil war could have been averted if we had strong intelligence inputs.

Body:

Major causes the lapses:

Lack of co-ordination between different intelligence agencies which leads to not only delay in intelligence gathering but also in taking action on that intelligence

Much needed institutions like the NATGRID and NCTC have not been taking shape at the required speed which causes scattering and isolation of valuable data.

The state police forces have been slow on taking action on the intelligence input, this is because of shortage of manpower and sometimes due to pure apathy.

Measures to be taken:

- Giving statutory status to IB and creating a unified intelligence agency to oversee and coordinate all the intelligence operations at the same time making it accountable to the parliament.
- Increasing the manpower of intelligence agencies, so that they can more relevant field information, for this proper training is necessary.
- International cooperation must be sought to curb international movement of the terrorists and to also pre-empt any attack, collaboration in the form of intelligence sharing, training, joint exercises can be undertaken.
- NATGRID should be made operational very soon, so that all the scattered intelligence can be collected and analyzed.
- Government should setup NCTC as early as possible, any concerns and differences with the states must be ironed out.
- Intelligence agencies should not be playing turf war but should be actively sharing the information with other agencies too, so that national interests are not compromised.
- High end technology such as drones, satellites and listening devices must be utilized for effective information gathering

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion

Best answer: Vengeance

Gurdaspur, Pathankot, and recently Uri became targets of terrorist attacks killing Indian soldiers & disrupting Indian intelligence strategies.

Fault lines have come up to surface as:

1. Lack of inter-departmental coordination: with Army, State Police, Paramilitary forces not aptly aligning together.
2. Lack of intra-departmental coordination: defense intelligence units like IB, NSA, NSC have been creating lacunae within.
3. No National Security Doctrine: which has been hue & cry for decades after consistent attacks.
4. Hierarchical confusions: with office of PMO, NSA, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Home Affairs all in loop creating slipups.

Measures to develop robust intelligence framework:

1. Operationalized NATGRID: this will integrate various information from different security agencies.
2. National Security Doctrine: to be drafted which should be inclusive.
3. Military, Economy, Internal, External security: to be comprehensively planned & work out with all stake-holders.
4. Intelligence sharing agreements: with different countries, and International forums.

Indian Intelligence has been vulnerable, from various dimensions including cyberspace to territorial integrity. July, 2016 finally saw appointment of NATGRID chief after years of delay which is an active step in strengthening intelligence infrastructure

Having the infrastructure and systems in place is no guarantee of public policy success. Do you agree? Substantiate by taking at least two examples, one from financial inclusion schemes and other from the health sector.

Introduction:

Your introduction should outline the ingredients of a good public policy. Also mention how and why focusing on only one or two aspects out of them cannot lead to successful policy.

Mention the factors apart from infrastructure and systems, which are needed for public policy success.

- effective implementation
- behavioral changes
- awareness
- monitoring and feedback systems
- accountability

Body

- You should give examples substantiating your argument.
- Give example – Here you should mention about the infrastructure and systems which are already in place while focusing on limitations or need of other factors to make it successful.
- Financial inclusion – Jhan dhan yojana; payment banks etc.
- Health sector example- Tb control, Schemes related to IMR, MMR etc.
- Other sectors.

Conclusion

Your conclusion should say that a successful policy need participation from all the stakeholders and it should be designed to include all. Mere focus on Infrastructure or/ and system will not lead to successful implementation always.

Best answer1: – Mukesh MAX

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Best answer2: -SherniZaad

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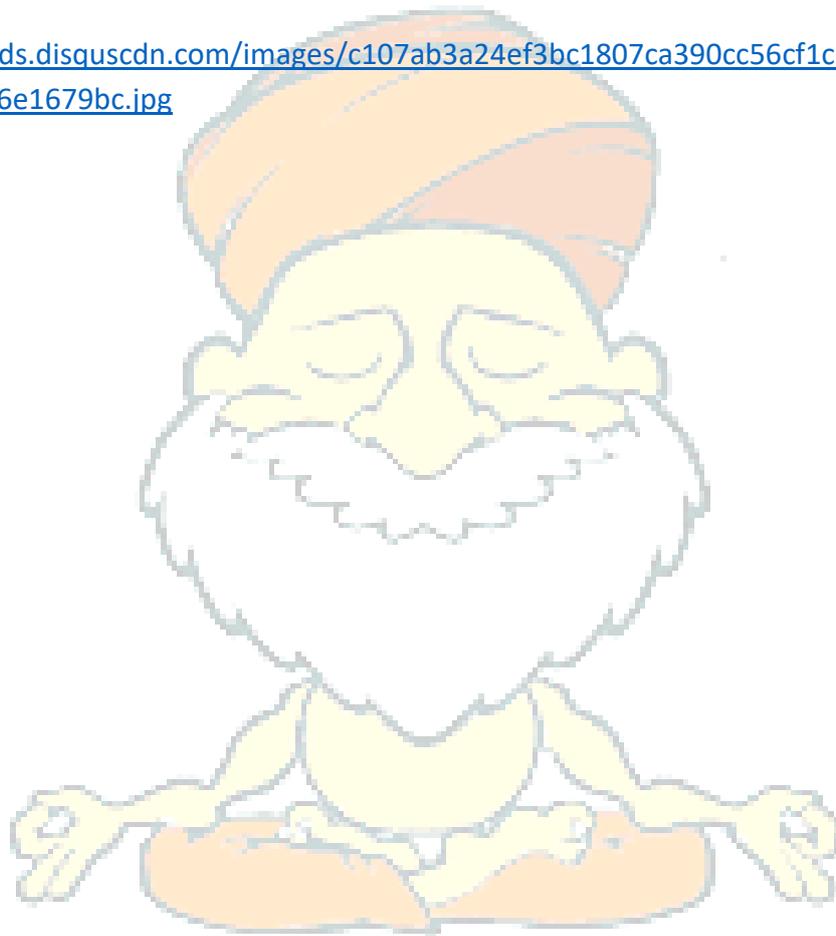
Best answer3: -iasnoob

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Best answer4: – TheCredibleHulk

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The doctrines of 'separation of power' and 'checks and balances' enshrined in the Indian Constitution are dotted by contradictions. Do you agree? Substantiate by taking suitable examples.

Introduction:

Your introduction should include the brief discussion about the origin of separation of power OR it can be started by discussing the evolution of separation of power in Indian constitution.

Body:

- Discuss the principle of separation of power and checks and balances in Indian constitution in brief.
- Separation of power: – (just for knowledge)

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- Mention the contradictions using examples.
- Judicial Activism
- NJAC, collegium
- Ordinance – Executive bypassing legislation.
- Inter water state dispute – Cauvery case.
- Aadhar bill, GST bill etc.
- Parliament secretaries

Conclusion: –

You should conclude by saying that even though there are some contradictions in principles yet Indian democracy is successful in maintaining a healthy balance between different organs. If each organ start working properly then the encroachment over one's power will automatically reduce.

Best answer 1: Deep

The doctrines of 'separation of power' and 'checks and balances' are aligned with 'trias politica' principle. Originated in ancient Greece, this governance model was developed by Aristotle, Montesquieu etc.

It conceptualized a state where the executive, the legislative and the judiciary has separate and independent powers, and no one can be supreme over other.

India follows a parliamentary system of government and independent judiciary. There is clear separation of power between judiciary and other organs, but not so between executive and legislative. There is also separation of power between union and state level. There is ample constitutional 'checks and balances' to maintain independence of each organ.

Despite this there are many **examples of interferences and contradictions** such as:

#Recent dispute regarding Collegium, NJAC and **judicial vacancies** expresses the distrust between executive and judiciary.

#**President's rule** in Uttaranchal and Arunachal Pradesh originates from power struggle and lack of coordination between union-state.

#The substantial delay in passing **GST bill** shows the bitter squabble between legislative and executive.

#The **Aadhar bill** controversy and passing it as a money bill also expresses distrust between legislative and executive.

#Recent **Cauvery row** between Karnataka & Tamilnadu or Mandovi dispute between Goa & Karnataka demonstrate the same, but between two states.

Barring these examples, independence and coordination between organs of government is illustrated through basic structure doctrine, fiscal federalism by NITI Aayog or 14th finance commission, Inter-state council as recommended by Sarkaria commission etc.

India thus always maintains this principle of trias politica. Separation of power prevents concentration of authority, thus is the bedrock of democracy, secularity and sovereignty.

Best Answer2: TheCredibleHulk

India is a parliamentary democracy where division of powers between **Executive, Legislature and Judiciary** enable a smooth functioning. But there have been **conspicuous contradictions** in the scheme of things:

- Legislature, if dominated by a majoritarian Executive, doesn't distinguish from the latter for all practical purposes.
- Constant power struggles between the Executive and the Judiciary, the most recent being the NJAC fiasco.
- Judicial overreach over Legislative mandate. Eg: SC directive to ban diesel cars in Delhi.

There have been several **checks and balances** so that each of these division keep a check on each other without overstepping their own boundaries. But those have proved less than effective as well:

- Coalition politics has converted the Parliament into an adversarial arena where disruptions rule more than debate.
- Independent agencies like CAG, CVC, Lokayukta, etc. have been highly politicised.
- Judiciary has often exploited its power as ‘the final interpreter of the constitution’ to its own advantage. Eg: Establishment of a non-transparent and unaccountable collegium.
- Criminalisation of politics and politicisation of criminals have consistently eroded the power of the electorate to keep a check on the representatives.

But everything isn't all gloomy. People like T. N. Sheshan, Justice H.R. Khanna, etc. have worked towards restoring the dignity of their respective institutions and Indian polity, overall. An active civil society also helps in sustaining the balance. (225 Words)

Best Answer3: – Abyss

Indian polity stands on 3 pillars namely the legislature, executive and the judiciary. Article 53 and 154 separate powers of legislature and executive through President and Governor while separation from judiciary is enforced through Article 50 from DPSP.

There has been a fine balance through various checks like independent appointment of judges, discretionary powers of the Governor for reserving bills for President, various parliamentary committees and many more. Yet there are contradictions:

1. **Judicial activism vs judicial over reach:** There are instances like Lodha committee on BCCI where the mis-functioning of executive was highlighted. Yet ordering ban on diesel vehicles in Delhi is an over reach by judiciary
2. **Ordinance promulgation:** Case of DC Wadhwa on ordinance promulgation in Bihar, completely sidelining the role of legislature by executive.
3. **Judicial appointments:** Encroachment by legislature in judicial appointments through NJAC
4. **Parliamentary secretaries:** Placement of MLAs by states like Delhi, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal as parliamentary secretaries, circumventing office of profit and encroaching on executive

There is numerous such instance where the bodies clash and cross over their roles yet the fundamentals of a democracy have been salvaged through the same instruments like judicial activism, media acting as the conscience keeper and the 4th pillar.



Do you think the piling up of millions of cases at various levels in the judiciary makes the 'right to legal aid' a dead letter? Examine. Also discuss the significance of alternate dispute resolution mechanism in this regard.

Introduction:

Article 39-A directs the State to ensure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

Right to free legal aid or free legal service is an essential fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. It forms the basis of reasonable, fair and just liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which says, "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law".

1. Large number of vacancies at every levels-Absence of judges leads to reduced solutions. Extent of problem can be evidenced by fact that even SC doesn't have full attendance and the problem gets multifold at the lower levels i.e. 70,000 judges are required at the lower levels.
2. Infrastructural constraints-Lack of support staff and proper court infrastructure leads to highly disturbed coordination.
3. Behavioral constraints-Lawyers are generally seen to be favoring for longer duration of case due to selfish deeds or gain an advantage over opponent party.

Significance of alternate dispute resolution mechanism:

1. Forms: Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation.
2. Lot of cases are of civil nature which can be solved with basic legal knowledge.
3. ADRM helps in reducing the delays and the costs of the adjudication thereby making it effective, speedy and cost effective
4. Gram-nyayalayas have been given powers to adjudicate on minor criminal cases, if properly utilized this platform can reduce dependency to a significant extent.
5. Lok adalats that hear cases frequently help in citizen grievance redressal in terms of batches of same types which can help in disposing of cases of similar nature speedily.

Conclusion:

Write a short conclusion.

Best answer: Simran

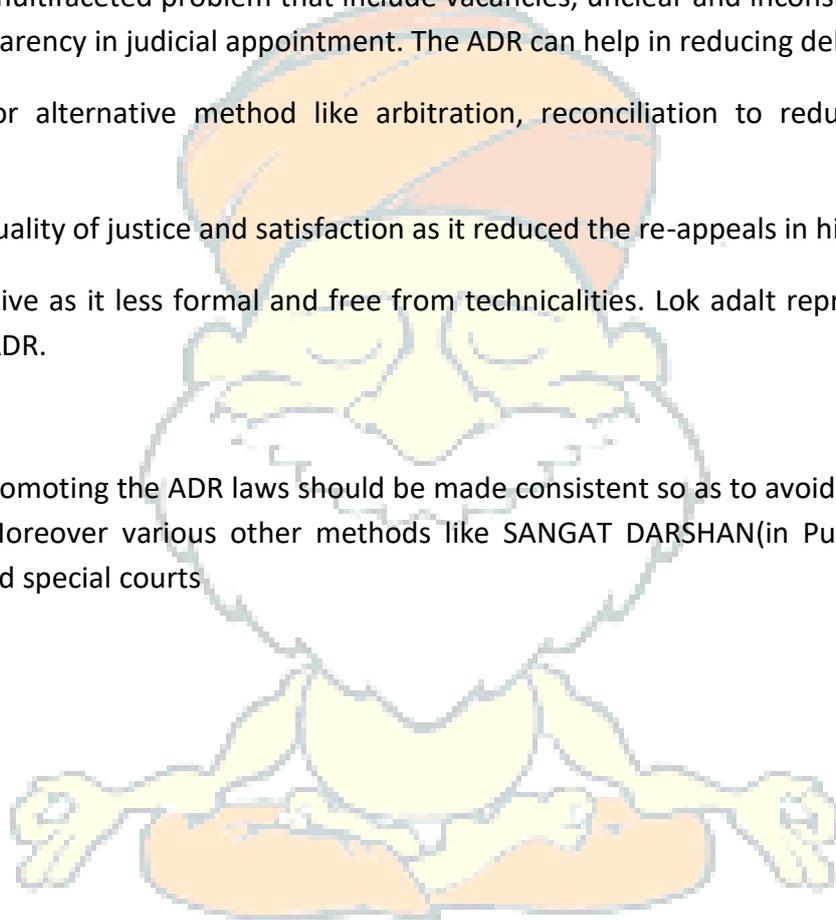
Constitution enshrined with the provision of JUSTICE economic political and social to all citizens and with article 39A it make sure that it is not denied due to economic and other disabilities.

Upon looking at the cases pending with judiciary at each level with 52% at subordinate courts and 68% in higher courts and coupled with the vacancies of judges(2 in SC and more than 400 in HC) making it a illicit dream of getting justice within appropriate time.BUTthe Legal aid has not become dead letter as it is fulfilling its mandate of providing access and affordability of justice. The justice is only delayed not denied that too because of internal and external structural defects.

The delay is multifaceted problem that include vacancies, unclear and inconsistent laws and lack of transparency in judicial appointment. The ADR can help in reducing delay as :

1. Provide for alternative method like arbitration, reconciliation to reduce burden on judiciary.
2. Promote quality of justice and satisfaction as it reduced the re-appeals in higher judiciary.
3. Cost effective as it less formal and free from technicalities. Lok adalt represent the true potential of ADR.

Along with promoting the ADR laws should be made consistent so as to avoid overlapping of provisions. Moreover various other methods like SANGAT DARSHAN(in Punjab), NAYAYA Panchayat and special courts



The provisions of federalism in the Indian Constitutions are inspired by the West. Yet the Indian federal structure is sui generis in nature. Do you agree? Substantiate by taking examples of at least two other constitutions.

Introduction:

Indian constitution has features of many other constitutions whose features were adapted and modified to suit Indian needs. Features were not copied identically rather the best features were chosen to best suit Indian diversity and socio-political needs.

Body:

The separation of powers between the Centre and the states is modelled on the cons of USA but unlike USA. The functional independence and autonomy are restricted to normal times only, the Centre can legislate upon the state subjects in times of national emergency (Art 352), failure of constitutional machinery in the state (Art 356) and the residuary power lies with the Centre (Art 148)

Unlike Dual Citizenship and separate Judiciary of USA India had single citizenship and single integrated judiciary. The separation of judiciary is one of the primary features of western constitutions with the Supreme Court only dealing with constitutional matters, but in India the SC decides not only constitutional matters but also Civil and Criminal matters as well.

The fundamental rights and the republic is modelled on the France constitution. But the FRs in India are far more extensive which includes rights of minorities both religious and linguistic.

The bicameral legislature is modeled on the lines of constitutions of USA and Britain, but the Indian upper house unlike the Senate of USA does not have equality in representation of from all the states, it is based on the population of the state.

Parliamentary sovereignty in Britain while Indian federalism is a balanced wheel of executive, legislative and judiciary. The notion of PRIMACY does not hold water here as all three wings are equally powerful.

-In Britain, hereditary monarch is the head of the State while Indian seeks for Republic form where the President will be an elected candidate.

Sui generis nature of Indian federalism:

1. Tribal Rights- 5th and 6th schedule: separate administrative setup and financial devolution.
2. Finance commission: Indian FC not just decides upon the financial division between the centre and the states but also on the principal on division between the local bodies.

3. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act: constitutional status to the PRIs and UBLs, with financial powers
4. 122 constitutional amendment act (GST Reforms).

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best Answer: Spectre

Indian constitution is the lengthiest written constitution in the world. Though most of the features are substantially borrowed from others, they are modified according to the existing needs of the country.

Federalism is a system of government in which sovereignty is divided between central governing authority and constituent political units (states). Unitary system is governed as one single unit, with one constitutionally created legislature.

Indian federal structure is sui generis in nature because it has a federal system with unitary bias, unlike USA, which is a federal state. The constitution provides for division of power between central and state government. Each state has its own constitution, elected legislature, governor and Supreme Court. But in India the constitution is uniform for all the states with one common Supreme Court and central government is vested with more powers.

Great Britain is a unitary state with all powers vested in a single supreme central government. The local governments are created only for administrative convenience and they derive authority from central government which can abolish them altogether at any time. In India there is division of powers between central and state governments and state governments cannot be abolished.

Though in India the system of govt is federal, the constitution enables federation to transform into unitary during emergencies. This is a unique feature of the Indian constitution.

Thus it can be said that though the features appear to be borrowed from other constitutions they are modified in a unique manner to suit the needs of the country

The recent stalemate in the Rajya Sabha over crucial bills has given impetus to a thought that important bills should be converted into money bills so that their legislation doesn't require the approval of the Rajya Sabha. What are your views on this issue? Also discuss the constitutional provisions in this regard.

Try to understand the idea behind the question.

Money bills practically pass Rajya Sabha and are passed anyway, whether they are supported by Rajya Sabha or not.

Rajya Sabha or the Upper house acts as a mechanism of checks and balance to the Central Government. If a government is there with absolute majority, it is very easy for it to get its bills passed in Lok Sabha. But Rajya Sabha has the participation from the states. Members are indirectly elected from States. This promotes debates and deliberations on different clauses before the passing of bill, so that loop holes in a bill are minimized.

Constitution has provided strict guidelines for money bills (Art 110) so that it cannot be misused.

- Only the Speaker designates a bill as a money bill.
- It has to get prior approval from the President.
- Rajya Sabha cannot keep the bill for more than 14 days. After that it is considered as passed.
- Rajya Sabha can only provide recommendations for amendment, that can be accepted or denied by the Lok Sabha.

Bypassing Rajya Sabha will be against the democratic and federal structure of our parliament.

However it is seen from quite some time now that opposition to bills has become a political tool to hamper the smooth running of the legislative process. This has led to stalemate in Rajya Sabha over some crucial bills, GST being one of them.

Law makers should understand that they are entrusted with a responsibility to run the country. They have a duty towards their country.

Representatives of the government supporting the bill should persuade the other members reasonably taking their concerns into the account and should come to consensus.

Even if that consensus is not reached, Constitutionally there is a method of joint sitting of the parliament to come to a conclusion. If the bill is still defeated, than it means it is through democratic channel and it is not the right time for the bill to be passed in its current form.

Changing the procedure of passing of bills, and giving them the same mechanism of money bill will result into a redundant Rajya Sabha. It will defeat the Constitutional ideals and will lead towards a dictatorial Lok Sabha.

(Since it is an opinion based question, you can present the answer your way. It is only a general idea for your understanding)

Best Answer: Naresh

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Why is it important to have an indirectly elected upper house in a democracy? Examine?

(Outline has been given. Points have been discussed in detail under Best answers.)

Introduction:

Your introduction should mention the importance of Rajya sabha in brief. Also mention why it was in news recently.

Body:

Mention the important of indirect election for upper house in democracy

- Cost of election
- Stop it to become a replica of lok sabha
- Pluralistic character – intellectuals etc. those who lack public popularity might get an option to reach the decision making institutions
- Check on haste decision
- Federal structure – selection through states or state representation in centre

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should reflect that the presence of upper house has maintained the healthy democracy. It might come under question in recent time but nobody can deny its constructive and positive role.

Best answer 1: Officer in Making

64 years after the creation of the Upper House which is an indirectly elected house continues to provoke the question of its existence and usefulness. Some eminent politician calls it as a clog in the wheel of progress. These statements have come out after the continual stalling in parliament and oppose of passing the GST bill in Rajya Sabha.

In a parliamentary democracy like India, the wisdom of functioning of democracy depends up on the smooth functioning of the two houses. However there the critics questions the credibility of the indirectly elected body over the directly elected body. Constituent Assembly decided to have a indirectly elected upper house because of following reasons –

1. direct election to the upper house would have cost the Indian economy further for the expanses in election.
2. population of the states in India is uneven and if the upper house would have directly elected then it would have the replica of lower house.

3. Rajya sabha reflects the country's pluralistic character where the learned, intellectuals in various fields get represented. Those representatives may not be the leaders like the Lok Sabha who are directly in touch with the people in general.
4. directly elected Rajya sabha would have asked for more power and further aggravating the synchronization between the two houses. Thus it could have endangered the true spirit of federalism.

Hence from the above it is justifiable to have an indirectly elected Upper house. The house should function for upholding the spirit of federalism as well as parliamentary democracy unlike continues stalling of parliament and opposing to every other bill for political motive.

Best Answer 2: iasnoob

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Best Answer 3: Lokesh

India parliamentary democracy provides for Bicameralism with Lok Sabha as house of people and Upper house Rajya Sabha as house of elders.

Reasons why such arrangement with an indirectly elected upper house is important are: –

1. Rajya Sabha act as a federal chamber: it gives representation to the states thus strengthening the federal character of constitution.
2. House of Professionals: President can nominate 12 members, who are experts in fields of science, art, literature etc. This brings expert knowledge in deliberation and legislation.
3. As a revisory body: it provides checks and balances to arbitrary legislation by lower house because of populist pressure.
4. Provides continuity to legislation process: Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and this provides continuity in legislation and discussions.

Despite great significance and regarded as “second house ” and not “secondary house” Rajya Sabha has come under criticism for losing its relevance for eg.

1. Residence clause for election to Rajya Sabha has been removed weakening its federal character.
2. Rise of Regional parties has undermined relevance of Rajya Sabha, as states through regional parties are well represented in Lok Sabha.
3. Professional and intellectual environments have been replaced by impasse over political issues as witnessed over passing of GST Bill, Land acquisition bill.
4. Raja Sabha is being used to accommodate disgruntled, election loosing politicians and big corporates.

However, instead of discussing relevance of Rajya Sabha, steps are required to eliminate the barriers as discussed above for it act as impartial second house of parliament.



The Judiciary must be brought under the purview of the Right to Information Act to address the lack of transparency in its processes and functioning. Do you agree? Critically examine.

Introduction:

The RTI Act has revolutionized the government and citizen interface. Increased people's participation has contributed in strengthening democracy and is still a transformation in process. The basic idea was to empower the common man and to bring about transparency and accountability in governance.

Body:

Judiciary is not an exception under RTI whose details like appointments, transfers or complaints against judges are not covered under any exemptions in RTI. However, judiciary has decided to stay away from it owing to its independent authority and unbiased position. The reasons given being,

1. Reduce the independence of the judiciary
2. Make decision making process susceptible to public pressure, not allowing for free and frank opinion
3. Can hurt the reputation of a judge who is not considered appropriate in the proceedings of the court. It is true that judiciary would lose public trust if it is found corrupt, but then that is the objective of the RTI. In the long term, RTI would lead to long-term trust development. Collegium while appointment, which will in turn hurt the judicial pronouncements of that judge.

RTI act clearly spells out the grounds of non-disclosure of information, threat to national security being one of them, it is hard to understand how will providing information judicial appointments and transfers will be a threat to national security.

Corruption is rampant in lower level judiciary RTI can be a revolutionary tool in curbing this, as judges will know that it will hamper their future prospects, so it can act as a strong deterrent on the erring judges.

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best answer: Spectre

The independence of judiciary is significant legal principle in India. Its independence has been used on several occasions most notably to lay down norms regarding appointment of

judges, transfer of judges between high courts, claiming exemption for the office of CJI from the Right to information of act.

The use of judicial independence promotes impartiality and is a key feature of fair adjudication. so bringing it under RTI is not right because

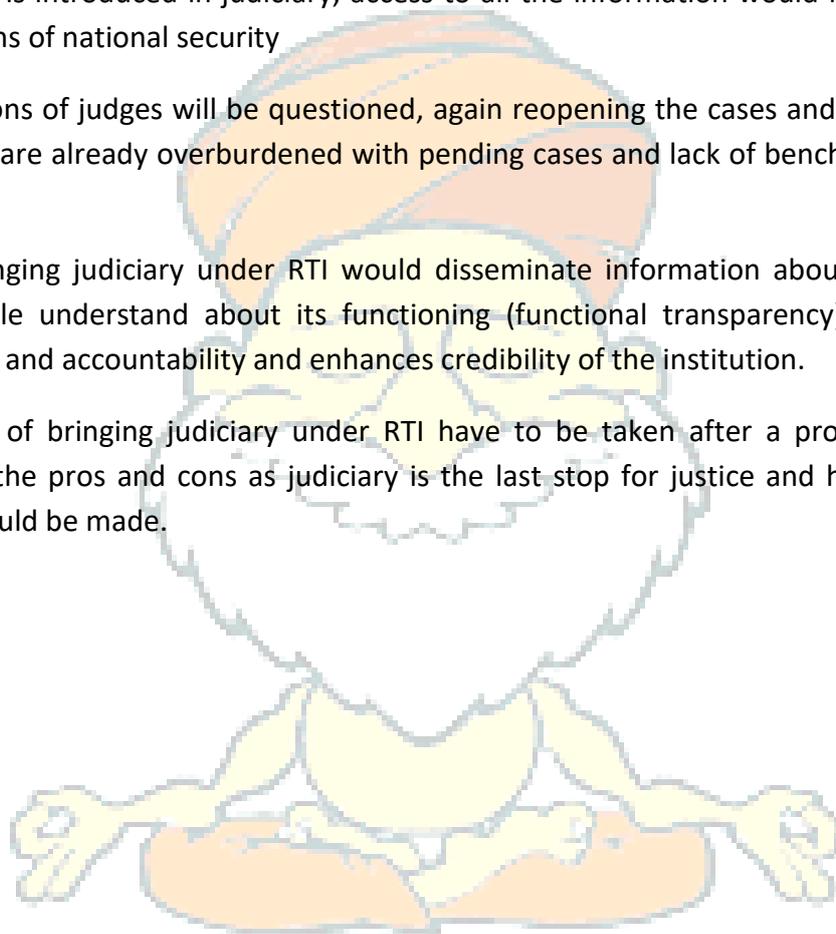
>>slightest doubt in the public mind of excessive proximity between the judiciary and the government may lead to significant apprehensions of a lack of impartiality thereby questioning the legitimacy of the entire adjudicatory setup. As the Supreme Court of India itself likes repeating in its judgments, "Judges, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion."

>>Even if RTI is introduced in judiciary, access to all the information would not be possible with intentions of national security

>>The decisions of judges will be questioned, again reopening the cases and burdening the courts which are already overburdened with pending cases and lack of benches, judges and staff

However bringing judiciary under RTI would disseminate information about its working , making people understand about its functioning (functional transparency) and increase responsibility and accountability and enhances credibility of the institution.

The decision of bringing judiciary under RTI have to be taken after a proper consensus weighing all the pros and cons as judiciary is the last stop for justice and hence no hasty decisions should be made.



A strong PMO with centralized decision making powers doesn't augur well to the ideals and objectives of democratic governance. Elucidate.

Elucidate means you will have to clarify or enunciate the given statement.

Our constitution has provided us with a parliamentary form of government, where the council of Minister is responsible for policy making and execution. We don't have a presidential government where all executive powers are centralized to one individual.

Our constitution has also given us a federal form of a government where participation of states in policy making is healthy for proper functioning of Indian Democracy.

A strong PMO doesn't augur well with both of the above ideas.

During the terms of coalition governments, PMO had to become strong in order to have the final say during impasses. So that decision making can become smooth. But it has some negative effects like:

- Decision making became top to bottom. It was 'one size fit for all' approach which sometimes failed on the ground level.
- Other ministries felt left out from decision making as they lost their say in front of PMO.
- Process of debate and discussions was many a times by passed to get to a decision.
- Decisions were influenced by the ideology of PM rather than consensus.

(Many more points can be added)

Moving away from this tread of complete centralisation, the formation of NITI Aayog (including stake holders from states and experts) for planning and decision making is a positive step.

Best Answer 1: Toad Sage

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Best Answer 2: Nithish Anchan

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There is a case to merge some of the central ministries to ensure better coordination and realize the cardinal rule of minimum government and maximum governance. What do you think? Which ministries in your opinion are the most suitable candidates for such merger? Examine.

Part 1: Provide your views on merger of some central ministries to ensure better coordination and realize the cardinal rule of minimum government and maximum governance.

Part 2: Provide examples of some ministries which you think they are suitable candidates for merger. Substantiate your views by providing why they need merger.

End the answer with conclusion.

There are so many Ministries today and there is a saying – the more ministries you create, the more political interests you placate.

So functions that really belong together were divided up amongst different political heavyweights, not because they warranted a separate governmental machinery but because the individual in question had to be given a chance to exercise authority over something tangible, however undemanding that share of the pie might be.

For instance,

Ministry of Industry and MoMSME/MoTextiles/MoSteel/mines

- Though we have a Ministry of Industry, we also have separate ministries for heavy industries, micro, small and medium enterprises, steel, mines, textiles, chemicals and fertilizers, and food processing, all of which properly speaking, are merely different kinds of industries.
- The heavy hand of regulatory and licensing authority in each of these industries was then exercised by a different minister in each case, spreading the clout (that comes from having the authority to grant permissions) to many hands.

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and MoExternal Affairs

- Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was set up to improve engagement with the Indian diaspora. However, substantial work of MOIA is done through External Affairs Ministry missions abroad.
- It would be logical to merge the MOIA with the External Affairs Ministry — Minister for External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs to address duplication as well as unnecessary delays in various works.

Different Ministries for energy:

- We have separate ministries for coal, power, and new (or 'alternative') and renewable energy. Different ministries located in different buildings. India's energy, petroleum and natural gas, stands as a ministry by itself.
- It would be more logical to have one all-inclusive Ministry of Energy to ensure that the nation has a comprehensive and co-ordinated energy policy, one that sees multiple sources of energy as elements in one national energy mix, needing policy direction from one minister.

Conclusion

Merger of ministry is a much needed effort to downsize the government setup and bring in maximum Governance. However, merger is not the panacea of problems, it has to be complemented with various other reforms like use e-governance, ratings of the ministries, mid term appraisals, ease of doing business and the likes.

Best answer: Aniruddh Shrivastava

Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was recently merged in order to ensure better coordination and reduce redundancies. To put into practice of notion of Minimum government, maximum governance, merger of ministries is required which can help in many ways:

- 1) Reduce data and work redundancy
- 2) Cost cutting in official work
- 3) Effective budget with proper allocation
- 4) Reduce complexity and clashes of interests between ministries.

There is a need of merger of following ministries:

- 1) Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation: Objectives of both the ministries are more or less same.
- 2) Ministry of Coal to be subsumed in Ministry of Mines.
- 3) Ministry of Steel to be subsumed in Ministries of Heavy Industries and public enterprises.
- 4) Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been ineffective in tackling local bodies issues. It needs to be bifurcated into department of rural panchayat and urban panchayat and merged in to their respective ministries viz. Ministry of Rural development and Ministry of Urban development.

Ministries can be merged due to its less roles and responsibilities like textile ministry but since India's textile industries are on a decline and export is falling there is special need to focus on this ministry.

Also, Merging of ministries is not guarantee of well functioning. It might also increase work load on a single person. The need is to properly utilize time and resources thereby making "minimum government, maximum governance" justifiable

Best answer 2: Yogesh Bhatt

Recently India has merged minister of Overseas Indian Affairs with Minister of External Affairs; there is also a demand to merge minister of Panchayat raj with minister of agriculture. Merging ministries good by following reasons-

- 1- Reduce overlapping- at different level and to ensure single window system for efficiency and reducing duplicity like in MOIA and MEA.
- 2- Less government and more governance- it reduces complexity in government functions and fast forwards the policy implementation.
- 3- Reduce government expenditure- to sustain a full ministry is a costly matter so reduce to use resources efficiently.
- 4- Federalism- on many regards there is demand for more decentralization so fewer ministries will help to achieve it.
- 5- Will reduce political clashes- at political level, more ministries become cause for political tussle especially in coalition government, so merger will reduce such confusion and challenges.

But there are certain challenges with it

- 1- It promotes the delegate legislation and execution and bureaucracy holds more power
- 2- Ministries like Panchyat Raj are very important for reforming the third tier so need to maintain it
- 3- With more welfare agenda, government needs more specification of implementation and channelizing resources, which may not be possible after clubbing ministries.

In recent time need to merge ministries like

- 1- Rural development and urban development
- 2- Agriculture and panchayat raj

3- Ayush with health

4- Power with mines, petroleum and natural gas, and renewable energy.

Merging ministries will one step ahead for reducing government interferences and gap can be filled with experts' entry in governance and use of IT and technology at all level.



Merging the railway and union budgets is a right move but require to be complemented by other key reforms. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction: –

Your introduction should focus on the history of separate railway budget and present step to dissolving the separation.

Body:

Why it is good move to remove the separate railway budget

- Share has been reduced
- appeasement policy
- free up the Task of preparing a budget
- save the dividend paid by railway ministry
- can regulate railway fares
- professionalism
- reduce regional bias

Other reforms

- Independent Regulator
- Overhauling the freight sector
- Rail Safety & Quality Authority
- Innovation

(You can add more points here)

Conclusion

Your conclusion should say that it is a positive step in right direction but more need to be done. Steps like infrastructure, restructuring in finance, modernization etc. should be taken soon.

Best Answer 1: Simplex

A separate railway budget was made on the recommendations of Acworth Committee in 1924. The Government after more than 90 years has again merged the Railway budget with the Union budget.

This is seen as a needed approach because:

- 1) Railway budget, over the period of time has become a appeasement policy of the government for political motives.

2) It will free up the Task of preparing a budget by railway ministry and thus more time to work and implement policy initiatives.

3) It will also save the dividend paid by railway ministry to the finance ministry, which means more money to be saved and invested back in railways.

4) Railway fares may be adjusted and revisited at any time and the railway does not have to wait financial year end for such steps.

5) This will further professionalize the working approach of railway ministry.

6) This will end the regional bias in the railway ministry.

7) the Indian Railway will retain its independence.

However, the merger is one among the many reforms which is long due in Indian railways. Such merger must be further complimented with other reforms like:

1) Setting up of Independent Regulator for overseeing tariff and fares, like Railway Tariff authority suggested by Bibek debroy.

2) Attracting more investment in infrastructure of the railways.

3) Overhauling the freight sector of the railways. freight sector contributes heavily in terms of revenue but it hardly gets the due attention.

4) Focusing more on the use of ICT to make the railways more time efficient and comfortable.

5) setting up of independent rail authority with different sections like operation, technical, commercial etc to maintain better services and professionalism in the Indian Railways.

Thus, bringing in a set of reforms is very necessary for overhauling the status of IR, and the merger of the budgets is the work in right direction and a much required step.

Best Answer2: vengeancee

Recently, Cabinet gave approach to proposal of Rail Ministry to merge railway budget with union budget & ending more than 90 year old approach. This is said to be right approach because:

1. Railway budget is less than Defense Budget: which was unlike when budget was separated after Acworth Committee report & was 80-90% of total budget.
2. Populist event: Rail budget had become yearly cycle to give away announcements & gain popular support.
3. Regional bias: new trains announcement were dependent on region of Rail minister.

4. Loss making exercise: Railways had to borrow funds due to severe losses & thereby increasing deficits.
5. Professionalize & zero base budgeting adopted by Ministry of Finance: will improve Railway finances.

However, such move needs to be complemented by other reforms like:

- 1) Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority: which will independently manage tariff rates.
- 2) No Cross- subsidization of freight & passenger fare: to make railway competitive against water, land transport.
- 3) Rail Safety & Quality Authority: will independently monitor safety, quality rules & regulations.
- 4) Innovation: by funding in R&D, developing crucial systems like fog visibility facilitation, etc.
- 5) Freight Corridors: to be setup on priority basis.

Rail budget abolition was also proposed by Bibek Debroy Committee, and such initiatives should be taken in other aspects to complete Government's objective of "Good Governance", and "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government."

Best Answer 3: rahul bansal

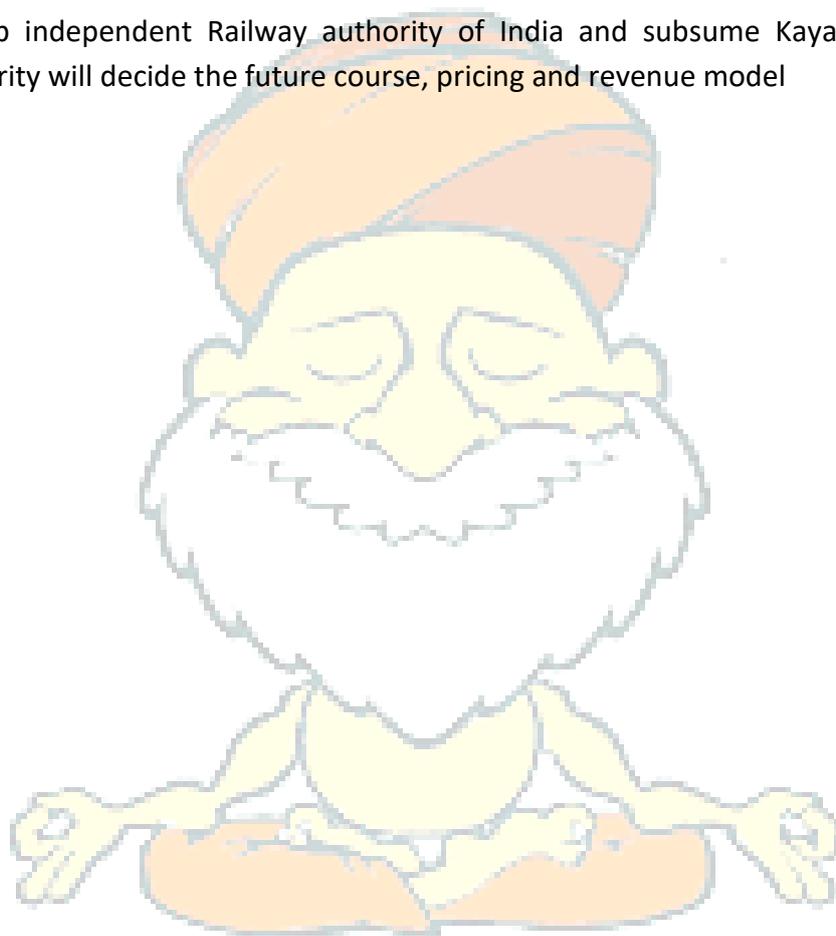
Tradition of presenting separate railway budget in 1924 on recommendation of Acworth committee was aimed to provide secure stability for general revenue and strengthen the railway finances.

Why it's a good move:

1. More of a political exercise rather than political necessity: recommendation of Bibek Debroy committee
2. During post-independence era railways accounted for 75% of passenger transportation and 90% freight: Today share has reduced to ~25%
3. no need to pay dividend ~9k crores: investment in critical infrastructure as operating cost is 93% leaving little finance with railways
4. Having a standalone railway budget made sense when the British ruled India because it constituted 85% of the country's general budget then. Now, it accounts for just about 4%
5. leverage to increase fares at any stage-> less populism
6. enticement of sorts for small parties to join coalition government -> Introduction of new home trains to get minor votes -> increase regionalism

Possible exploitable options:

1. Flexible pricing system for all busy routes -> meet demand and supply gap and raise revenue
2. Possible tie-up with Aviation ministry -> options for cheap airlines or railways in case of ticket non-availability -> much options for consumers to choose
3. separation between operations and services -> railways should focus on operations with services transferred to 3rd party eg- Railways run schools which can be outsourced to Kendriya vidyalayas
4. focus on current infrastructure development than announcement of new trains and services.
5. Set up independent Railway authority of India and subsume Kayakalp into it -> authority will decide the future course, pricing and revenue model



The provisions of the Representation of People's Act have left the political arena open for criminal elements. Do you agree? What suggestions do you have to improve the scenario? Discuss.

Introduction:

The main intent of Representation of People's Act was to provide for the conduct of elections of the Houses of Parliament and to the House/s of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses, the corrupt practices and other offences at or in connection with such elections and the decision of doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with such elections.

However, some provisions of RPA have certainly not been as effective as hoped for isolating criminal elements from the political arena. (Provide 3-4 provisions)

- Section 8(3) of RPA exempts convicted law makers from disqualification if the sentence is less than 2 years. This acts as an enabler for criminal minded people to enter public life.
- No capping on party expenditure again lets huge money coming into the elections and this money may belong to some anti social elements too.
- The RPA law fails to offer significant powers to the Election Commission to reprimand those parties which are habitual offenders of spreading communalism or inciting hatred to win votes.
- Funding of political parties is also another contentious issue since parties are not required to track funds of less than Rs 20,000; which lets in some unaccounted money into the electoral process.
- Insertion of Section 62(2), which allowed a person in detention to contest elections as he's no longer ceased to be an elector as his name is included in the electoral roll except for conviction in certain cases.

Criminalisation of politics has always been a cause of concern for India for a long time and still remains. As many as 33% of MLAs and 25% of MPs today, have criminal charges pending against them.

Suggestions:

- The RPA must be amended to give powers to Election Commission to countermand the polls in case of use of black money and money power.
- Model Code of Conduct should be given legislative backing by the RPA to ensure its strict implementation.
- In order to check the growing menace of 'paid news', there is need to make paid news an electoral offence under the Representation of the People Act.
- Ensuring fast track clearance of cases involving people's representatives

- All political parties must be mandated by law to fall under the domain of the RTI so that funding becomes transparent and black money does not get into the system
- There must be a certain cap on the party expenditure too and that must be strictly monitored.

The RPA act was passed in good faith but unfortunately it has proving inadequate to check criminal and unlawful activities in the electoral process. The RPA act must be suitably amended in order to make the elections truly free and fair.

Best answer 1: Saurabh

Free and fair elections is the biggest testimony of a functional democracy. The Representation of People's Act 1950 was passed by the Parliament immediately after the Constitution came into force.

However, like all laws, this also has certain lacunae:

- 1) Section 8(4) of the law prevents disqualification of convicted law makers if they appeal against their conviction in 90 days. This has however now been quashed by the Supreme Court
- 2) Section 8(3) of the law exempts convicted law makers from disqualification if the sentence is less than 2 years. This is an enabler for criminal minded people to enter public life
- 3) Funding of political parties is also another contentious issue since parties are not required to track funds of less than Rs 20,000; which lets in some unaccounted money into the electoral process
- 4) No capping on party expenditure again lets huge money coming into the elections and this money may belong to some anti social elements too
- 5) The law does not offer significant powers to the Election Commission to reprimand those parties which are habitual offenders of spreading communalism or inciting hatred to win votes

Some measures are extremely important:

- 1) All convicted persons must be disqualified for a certain time depending on the quantum of sentence and the crime
- 2) All political parties must be mandated by law to fall under the domain of the RTI so that funding becomes transparent and black money does not get into the system

- 3) There must be a certain cap on the party expenditure too and that must be strictly monitored
- 4) Election Commission should be provided with more teeth to penalize errant political parties and candidates
- 5) Press Trust of India must make strict guidelines to check paid news

The RPA act was passed in good faith but unfortunately it has proving inadequate to check criminal and unlawful activities in the electoral process. The RPA act must be suitably amended in order to make the elections truly free and fair.

Best answer 2: Rhesus26

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Best answer 3: aman

Criminalisation of politics have been a cause of concern for India for a long time and the RPA has certainly not been as effective as hoped for by a country found on the ideals of leaders and politicians of the stature of Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and many more

The reasons for this increase in criminalisation

- Resource mobilisation by people belonging to such background has been easy as they command huge money and power in the society
- Elections demand huge funding and the caps on election spending by the Election Commission is insufficient, thus it leads to the involvement of funding from illegitimate resources
- The RPA initially allowed the convicted politicians by the lower courts to appeal before higher courts within 90 days and retain their seats in legislature but it has certainly been corrected by the SC judgement in Lily Thomas vs UoI case.

Steps for improving the scenario

- Public funding for elections can ensure curbing the menace of money from illegitimate source thus reducing criminalisation

- The period disallowing contesting of election in case of conviction must be increased
- The RPA must be amended to give powers to Election Commission to countermand the poles in case of use of black money and money power
- Model Code of Conduct can be give legislative backing by the RPA to ensure its strict implementation

Free and fair elections are essential for the survival of democracy and criminilisation of politics is biggest hurdle in ensuring this,thus it is important to take urgent steps for decriminalising politics as soon as possible.



Discuss the role of various constitutional bodies which give Indian polity its unique federal character.

It is a straight-forward question. Refer to best answers.

In introduction, you can briefly provide about what federal character means.

You should discuss the roles of following bodies – (at least any 5 of them)

- Election Commission
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commission
- Finance Commission
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Integrated Judiciary
- Inter State Councils

Best answer 1: Simplex

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Best answer 2: SherniZaad

India borrowed federalism as a system of polity from the West however the way we apply it according to the Indian scenario through the constitutional bodies which make india federalism unique in true sense.

1) **Election Commission of India**– it's an integrated election machinery system which conducts election at both the levels- Centre and States.

2) **Integrated Judiciary** – where Supreme court is at the top followed by the High Courts and then the subordinate civil and criminal courts to maintain same application of laws through India.

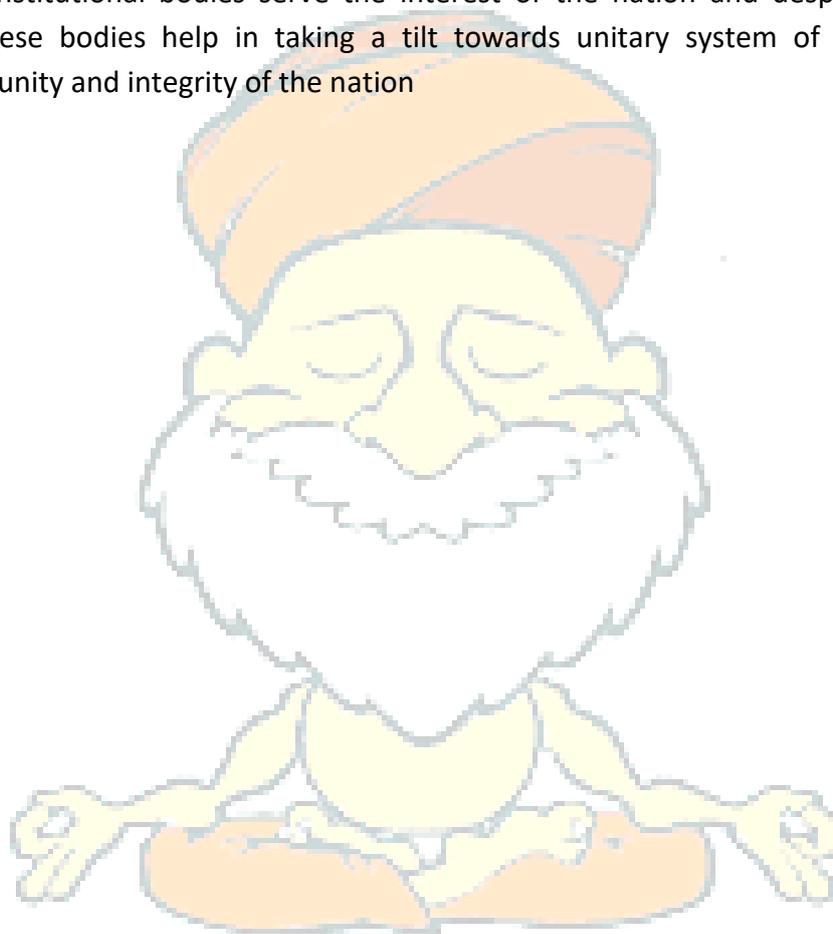
3) **Finance Commission** – constituted by the President every 5 years to decide the formula based on which funds are devolved to the States and local government despite them deriving their powers from the constitution and not the Centre.

4) **CAG** – to conduct audits and keep a check on the public purse being spent by the government at the Centre and states.

5) **Inter State Councils** – inserted later in the constitution to tackle the the problem of disharmony among centre and states, facilitate coordination among states as well as between centre and states promoting cooperative federalism.

6) **UPSC**- which conducts competitive examination for All India Services whose officers are posted at all the levels of the government to maintain similar level of administration throughout the country.

Thus, our constitutional bodies serve the interest of the nation and despite the federal character, these bodies help in taking a tilt towards unitary system of governance to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation



There are several constitutional, statutory and non--statutory bodies/ offices/ posts which function as safeguards against corruption and excessive appropriation by the Government. Identify these bodies/ offices/ posts and critically evaluate their role.

Introduction:

Constitution of India envisages democratic political setup, to check on the concentration of power in any one organ of the state. Hence it has many internal checks and balances as well as outside bodies which act as a check on the state especially the executive.

Body:

Constitutional bodies:

1. Comptroller and Auditor General: Under art 148 of the constitution the CAG audits all the accounts of the central as well as state governments to hold the executive answerable to the legislature for the financial handlings. The CAG has helped in identifying the corrupt practices of the government by unearthing 2G scam, coal allocation scam etc.
2. But excessive scrutiny and notion of presumptive losses by CAG has had an adverse impact on the decision making capabilities of the Bureaucracy as many officers fear that, any managerial mistakes can be seen as corrupt practice.
3. The Election commission of India: under art 324 the EC has the power to conduct election for the legislatures of the union as well as the state. It has been given various powers to make sure a level playing field and that the government of the day does not use its official position gain an unfair advantage.
4. But still favorable postings and transfers, use of money and muscle power by the successive governments both at the Centre as well as state are rampant.

Statutory and non-statutory bodies

1. Lokayuktas: many states have setup institutions of Lokayukta with various degree of freedom to investigate and prosecute the ministers, Legislators and civil servants for misuse of official positions and corruption. But the lack of powers, funds and expert personnel has seriously curtailed their scope of operations and efficacy.
2. Central bureau of investigation: CBI has had a chequered history with many prosecutions as well as failures. CBI has been effective in arresting and prosecuting many ministers and higher bureaucracy officials in 2G and coal-gate scams, yet given its lack of autonomy and shortage of personnel has rendered it a caged parrot.
3. The Chief Information Commissioner: CIC works through the RTI Act and help bring transparency in the governance system. Many corruption issues came to light through the information disclosed by RTI. Though it is unable to bring political parties under its ambit.

Conclusion: Write a brief conclusion.

Best Answer: Vengeance

Dealing with menace of corruption has been top priority of Indian Government over the years, which has led to creation of several bodies & safeguards. Let's evaluate their respective roles:

1) Lokpal:

Positives:

1. Appointment of Lokayuktas in various States.
2. Made corruption as issue to bring awareness.
3. Findings & investigation successes in Karnataka, etc.

Negatives:

1. No Lokpal appointment after 3 years of passage of Act.
2. Lokayuktas getting allegation of corruption.
3. No coherence in appointment of Lokayuktas making post vacant. Ex: UP.
4. Recent amendment in July 2016 of Lokpal Act to extend deadline of disclosure by officials, NGOs.

2) CVC (Central Vigilance Commission)

Positives:

1. Became directly responsible for corrupt practices abolition.
2. Authority to receive complaints & work on them.

Negatives:

1. No appointment of CVC since more than 2 years.
2. Acted in hands of Political Executive.
3. No significant findings or achievements in recent past.

3) CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation)

Positives:

1. Most active & vibrant anti-corruption body.
2. Significant findings & research activities in past.
3. Well structured & functional approach towards complains.

Negatives:

1. "Caged Parrot" as called by Supreme Court.
2. Acting on directions of Political Executive.
3. Biased approach as dictated by Central Government. Ex: Ishrat Jahan case.

India has created institutions, but their functioning has been matter of debate. Other bodies like CAG, ECI, Supreme Court, have also been playing their active part in combating corrupt practises & ongoing civil society activism will certainly help in the process.



The National Human Rights Commission lacks the teeth and autonomy to function as an effective enforcement agency of human rights. Do you agree? Critically examine.

The **Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is an autonomous public body** constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA). The NHRC is the national human rights institution, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as “rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants”.

NHRC put forward its grievance in front of Supreme Court that it has become a “toothless tiger”. Considering recent developments we can say that NHRC’s grievance has some weight to it.

- It is facing difficulties in discharging its duties because of non cooperation of state governments.
- It has acute shortage of staff.
- It is helpless in taking any coercive measures since it has no power to take action against persons or authorities who do not follow the guidelines laid down by it [NHRC] nor does it have power to give directions or pass orders but can only make recommendations.
- Armed forces and areas under AFSPA are out of the ambit of NHRC.

(The above points have been cited by the NHRC itself. You can mention some more points)

But the picture is not as gloomy. You can mention many positive steps taken by NHRC.

NHRC’s intervention has improved the condition of people with Disabilities and mental disorder, bonded labour, victims of rape, acid attacks and household violence, child labours, Juvenile Justice Act etc.

(You can elaborate the above points if the word limit permits.)

Conclude the answer by providing some positive measures like

Providing some autonomy and power to prosecute.

- Proper guidelines for selection of members.
- Reducing political interference
- NHRC should be given the right to investigate a case and summon officials if need be. Also it should be allowed to check the police records for investigation without prior permission of State Government.

Best Answer1 : Naadan Parinda

Being a signatory to UN declaration on Human Rights, India formed statutory body NHRC in 1993. Its aims were to ensure respect for human rights, fair treatment and dis-allow atrocities. However now NHRC is also being termed as toothless tiger because-

>The members are directly appointed by Executive. This generates suspicion over its functional autonomy

>Its recommendations are kept recommendatory in nature with no enforcing power. This provides Executive with a free hand to surpass it

>Has not been awarded power to look into matters of atrocities involving persons of armed forces-no AFSPA review scope

>Though it can take up cases within 1 yr of their incidence, it does not have its own investigating team. This refrains effectiveness on its part as it is completely dependent upon state machinery

>The composition of members do not leave scope to bring in any expertise and professionalism- 3 members from judicial stream only

WAY FORWARD-

>Bringing in expertise in work panel and filling staff requirement-will ensure efficiency

>need to avoid conflict of interest between executive's working and NHRC

>Spreading awareness among people by NHRC-would increase credibility in minds of people

>Bringing in regions like North-east, JK under its ambit as most cases are reported from there under shield of AFSPA

Though NHRC has played its role positively by highlighting conditions of prisoners, riot victims etc but there is need to reform this body. However by functionalist approach keeping interest of all stakeholders in mind, NHRC can play well in future

Best Answer 2: Rahul Bansal (Not exactly an ideal answer because of the word limit. But a detailed answer.)

Recent statement by ex-chief Justice Mr. H.L.Dattu calling NHRC as "Toothless Tiger" describes the lack of functional autonomy with the commission.

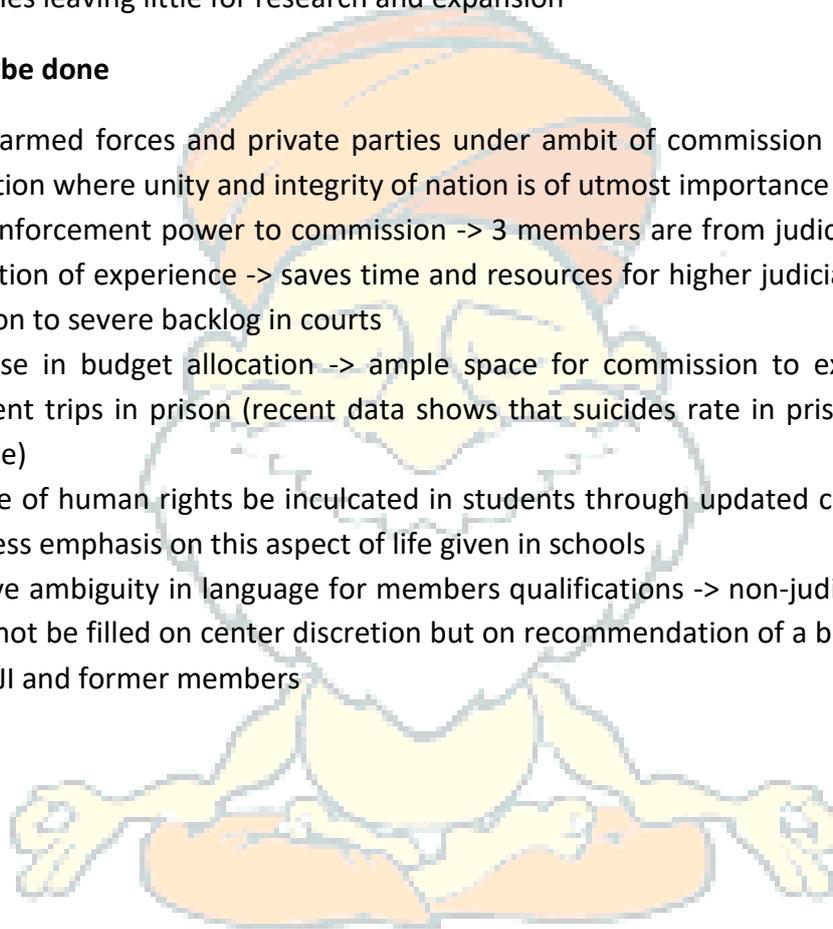
Reason for statement:

1. Power to hear cases only < 1 year old -> In India most of cases go unnoticed due to societal shame specially in rural areas and rape cases -> cases where victims gather courage later are out of ambit

2. no power to hear Armed forces abuse -> can only ask for reports from center -> hence AFSPA abuses out of reach
3. only recommendatory powers , no enforcement -> can only make recommendations to center and judiciary -> not back by “human rights prevention Act”
4. not empowered to act if human rights violations take place through private parties
5. ambiguous qualification condition for members -> 3 members are from judiciary, but does not require any prior experience in human rights cases -> for other 2 members language vague -‘people having knowledge and experience of human rights’
6. lack of human and financial resources -> commission working with less than prescribed strength -> back log of cases -> big chunk of expenses lost in daily activities leaving little for research and expansion

What should be done

1. Bring armed forces and private parties under ambit of commission -> with certain limitation where unity and integrity of nation is of utmost importance
2. give enforcement power to commission -> 3 members are from judiciary, hence full utilization of experience -> saves time and resources for higher judiciary -> potential solution to severe backlog in courts
3. increase in budget allocation -> ample space for commission to expand -> more frequent trips in prison (recent data shows that suicides rate in prison higher than outside)
4. culture of human rights be inculcated in students through updated curriculum -> as very less emphasis on this aspect of life given in schools
5. remove ambiguity in language for members qualifications -> non-judiciary members must not be filled on center discretion but on recommendation of a body comprising PM, CJI and former members



Why was the Indus Water Treaty in news recently? Do you think the treaty is unfair to India? Critically examine.

Introduction

You should mention about the recent news related to Indus water treaty. Also give details in brief.

Body

(points were taken directly from answer by "OK").

Unfair to India

1. JK
2. disproportionate distribution
3. failure of reciprocation
4. denial of development works- energy
5. internationalization of issue – disrespecting generous attitude.
6. non uniform distribution among states – SYL crisis
7. complete utilization of S, B, R not possible – environmental + human rights violation.

How it can be considered fair:

1. 20% can be utilized
2. division 3-3 rivers
3. respecting the riparian states
4. regional balance- china also.
5. respecting developmental needs
6. successful treaty – no major setbacks.

Way ahead:

1. JK denial. major issue.
2. equitable distribution of all the rivers.
3. involve all stakeholders. development of JK region.
4. redistribution: SYL solve.

(You can add more points here)

Conclusion

Your conclusion should be a balanced one which should say that this treaty is one of the most successful one and it should not be considered unfair due to current conditions. Efforts should be made to utilize it fully by Indian side.

Best answer1: vengeancee

Indus Water Treaty came into news in aftermath of Uri attacks allegedly by Pakistan as retaliatory measure against its state sponsored terrorism. Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between Pt. Nehru & General Ayub Khan to divide Indus river & its tributaries.

Critics have often called it to be unfair to India due to reasons like:

- 1) India got Eastern rivers namely Ravi, Beas, Sutlej with low catchment area, and water flow.
- 2) Water sharing arrangement allows only 20% of Indus water to be used by India, & 80% by Pakistan.
- 3) 35% of Pakistan's share of water goes in sea without being utilized by either country.
- 4) Western rivers where India can use water for non-consumptive purpose is red-flagged by Pakistan, and International tribunals. Ex: Baglihar Hydropower projects.

However, calling it unfair is wrong:

- 1) Western rivers can be used for non-consumptive purposes which are willfully not used by India except recent Kishanganga, Baglihar projects where permission was finally granted.
- 2) Indus is lifeline of Pakistan, and its importance is similar to Ganga's for India.
- 3) Earned India respect & stature over its generosity, which makes IWT at most successful water treaty anywhere.
- 4) Water reaching Pakistan contains silt, and isn't same as used by India.

IWT was willfully made in generosity to avoid troubles from neighboring state, and escaping their hostility. But, it has become instrument of army & Government in Pakistan to incite its citizens against India.

Best answer2: Samudra gupta

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Best answer3: Yogesh Bhatt

Indus water treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, which covers water distribution of six rivers. This treaty is in news recently after Uri terror attack and seen as part of India's one of multidimensional options to put Pakistan under pressure. It has been argued that Indus water treaty is most generous water treaty across the world. It can be said unfair to India as

1- Indus flow from India, but India uses only 20% of its water for different purpose and rest flow to Pakistan.

2- Largest river under treaty, Indus has been utilized very little by India even when it passes from India

3- Indian potential to use rivers for hydro power project is up to 18000 MW but generating only 11000 MW.

4- In spite of climate anomalies, continuous hostility by Pakistan, and increasing water demand India has never demanded to modify the water treaty.

5- Efficient use of three rivers passes to Pakistan can help to irrigate large part of J&K to boost local economy.

However many do not feel it as unfair treaty because

1- Water as common good need to accessible to all

2- India is also using three eastern rivers and do not share water with Pakistan.

3- Indus and Sutlej do not originate to India so we are also users of water coming from China.

4- 95% Indus flow in Pakistan but still India uses 20% water.

India need to look all aspects before taking any paradigm shift change regarding existing water treaty because it will affect our relation with other neighbor nations and position as global major power.

The poor operational and financial efficiency of state owned distribution companies (discoms) has been a cause of serious concern. In this light, discuss the provisions and significance of the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojna (UDAY) scheme for the power sector in India.

Introduction: –

Your introduction should mention the condition of power sector and the conditions of discoms in present time. Also add some facts related to it.

Body: –

You should mention the provision of UDAY

Mention the significance of UDAY

(Details are given below in best answer section)

Conclusion: –

You should mention that UDAY scheme is a positive step in right direction. Success of it will improve the conditions of Indian discoms and will also benefit the consumer at last.

Best answer1: -naadan parinda

Electricity plays an important role in boosting a nation's development cycle in multiple ways like industries, social infrastructure, transport, agriculture etc. However distribution companies of India have found themselves in pitiable situation because-

- >Higher transmission loss
- >are forced to sell electricity at prices lower than market price
- >frequent political interventions in form of subsidised electricity
- >opaque mechanism of power pricing in power exchanges

This led to multiple side effects like disrupted power services, inadequate infrastructure development, increased financial deficit etc

Citing this scenario govt came up with ujjwal discom assurance yojana(UDAY).Its provisions are-

- >50% of debt of power companies to be taken up by state govt in this fiscal year
- >next 25% in upcoming year 2017-18

>remaining 25% of debt to be converted into bonds with state govt being guarantor-can be purchased by banks but out of statutory quota

>this financial negative would be kept out of FRBM targets of state government in respective years

>scheme is optional for state government

Significance-

>Cooperation-Respects the principle of cooperative federalism to solve a grave financial situation with win-win situation for all

>efficiency-will help companies to focus more on operational efficiency-installing new feeder lines,transformers

>financial support-states to get incentives in multiple schemes like DDUGJY,increased availability of coal for energy production

>Inclusive growth-will help to expand infrastructure in regions still out of reach of electricity

The worthiness of this scheme has been accepted by multiple states.This innovative idea has come up with promising framework tangible enough to serve India's aspirations.

Best answer2: Spectre

India's power distribution companies are plagued by two types of losses

1. transmission and distribution losses
2. aggregate technical and commercial losses, the reasons being tariff hikes not keeping pace with rise in costs, pilferage, incorrect billing etc.

UDAY is an effort to make these DISCOMs financially and operationally healthy, to be able to supply adequate power at affordable rates, and enable the Governments to make efforts towards 100% Village electrification and 24X7 Power For All.

Provisions of the scheme:

>> According to the scheme, states will take over 75% of DISCOM debt as 2015 over two years – 50% of DISCOM debt will be taken over in 2015-16 and 25% in 2016-17.

>>states will issue bonds in the market or directly to the financial institutions holding the discom debt

>>GoI will not include the debt taken over by the States as per the scheme in the calculation of fiscal deficit of respective States

>>States accepting UDAY and performing as per operational milestones will be given additional/priority funding through DDUGJY, IPDS etc

Thus is UDAY accelerates the process of reform across the entire power sector and will ensure that power is accessible, affordable and available for all.

Rating agency Crisil believes that by fiscal 2018, UDAY can potentially reduce the power companies' losses by 50%.

Best answer3: vengeancee

DISCOMs debt had risen to about 4% of GDP due to years of trouble in operational procedures, and financial lacunae. With launch of UDAY (Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana) in 2015, power sector debt is hopeful to be resolved.

Provisions of scheme:

1. 75% of debt taken over: by State government within 2 years & it won't add up to their fiscal deficit.
2. State governments can sell bonds to market, banks, financial companies.
3. Bonds can be purchased by banks, but they won't be allowed when calculating SLR requirements.
4. Future bonds of DISCOMs need to be guaranteed by State government to prevent losses.
5. Loss reduction to be reduced by upgrading & replacing transformers in certain identified circuits.
6. Regions with reduced losses will be rewarded by increased supply of electricity.

Significance:

1. Help DISCOMs get over the debt.
2. Encourage DISCOMs to align tariff with respect to real purchasing cost.
3. Operation efficiency with loss reduction in supply.
4. State Governments to get incentives in other schemes like DDU Gram Jyoti Yojana.
5. New beginning for sustainable growth prospects of DISCOMs.

UDAY scheme is ambitious and is readily adopted by many states whose number has now exceeded 15.

There are two schools of thoughts with regards to strategy adopted to reform education and health sectors in India. One of them advocates larger role of the private sector while the other emphasizes upon a state administered framework. What do you think in this regard? Substantiate your viewpoint.

(You should give a balance answer instead of taking a side)

Introduction: Your introduction should talk about the present condition of education and health sector in India.

- Health spending is 1.2% (less than recommended 5 % in Draft national health policy).
- Education spending is 3.5% (way less than the recommended 6% by T S R Subramaniam committee).

Body:

Arguments in favour of public spending:

- Large % of population is poor
- Faith of people
- Basic needs
- Inclusive reach
- Legitimacy of government
- affordable access
- principle of equality

Arguments in opposition of public spending

- Unsustainable
- Inequitable servicing
- Regionally biased
- Lack of success in past
- lack of professionalism
- corruption
- inefficient working
- low quality service

Apart from above points,

Few more Positives/negatives of Private involvement

- better management
- quality ensured
- professionalism

Negatives

- deprived sections often neglected,
- profit oriented – lack of regulation, high fees etc.

Conclusion:

You should say that even though both of them their own positives and negatives but going by the statistics we need participation from both sides to utilize India's demographic dividend properly by providing better health and education services.

Best answer 1: vengeancee

Scholars and technocrats have recently been divided on viewpoint whether private sector led education and health reforms or Government led measures.

Arguments favoring both viewpoints are enormous, but relatively Government led reforms move ahead in the race because:

- 1) **Zero Profit Motive:** of Government enterprise which makes servicing at lesser cost.
- 2) **Inclusive reach:** as developmental concerns of Government is not area or region specific, but in totality.
- 3) **Basic needs:** health, educations are some of the common minimum needs which are uncompromisable due to any lacunae.
- 4) **Faith of people:** in Government led initiatives which make participation more effective & successful.
- 5) **Legitimacy of Government:** is built when society feels its efforts, and this in turn strengthens democracy.

Private sector led reforms may be non-feasible as:

- 1) **Unsustainable:** if profit making is not ensured and such initiatives don't demand profit motives.
- 2) **Inequitable servicing:** by private sector, as admission chances more for those who may afford.
- 3) **Regionally biased:** as urban areas are hub of private sector instead of rural.
- 4) **Lack of success in past:** towards providing comprehensive growth targets. Ex: RTE implementation of 25% admission of economically weaker section.

However, with current spending on health & education hovering at around 4%, is much below than desired 6%. Without funds, Government or Non-Government led reforms may not get any success.

Effective implementation of RTE, 2009 , TSR Committee Recommendations, bringing gender parity, health insurance coverage, managing out-of-pocket expense are some of the urgent steps needed.

Best answer 2: naadan parinda

Recent TSR Subramiam Committee report has shown abysmal performance of education level in India. Similarly, National family health survey report has shown the inadequacies present in health sector. This has brought forward a debate on which path to proceed on- Public or Private. Both these routes have their positives and negatives like-

>Public sector= gains-will ensure affordable access, follow principle of equality hence save weaker sections from getting sidelined.

However some negatives are- lack of professionalism, corruption, inefficient working and low quality service

>Private sector= gains-better management, quality ensured, professionalism negatives- deprived sections often neglected, more belief in making profits

There a proper strategy to bring in reforms in health and education sector would be to bring in an evolved mechanism. Government should be the torch-bearer and private sectors should participate to work on field.

This would proceed as-

>Govt to go into PPP mode where it would provide funding in rational proportion(VGF)

>private sectors will have to work on ground and further disbursement of funds to be on basis of their performance

>private sector needs to ensure quality service to weaker sections. This record to be effectively monitored by government

>Bringing in participation of local people with proper feedback mechanism in place and if possible, going for social audits (kerala model)

>maintaining transparency through updated data availability and framework be designed which fixes accountability to persons concerned (under digital India pillar)

>going in for cross-subsidization so that economic interests of privates isn't hampered. Also providing them with suitable incentives in future projects in ethical manner (csr benefits and preferential shares in public sectors)

In this way we can bring in the required change by taking positives of both these schools and reducing the negatives.

Best answer3: Simplex

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NGOs may be called as a product of the perceived and demonstrated inadequacies of the state led traditional model of development. Do you agree? Discuss.

Introduction:

Write a short introduction.

Body:

Shortcomings of the state led model:

1. The state led model deliberately or otherwise leads to an element of centralization where policies are formulated with a good intention but miss some of the public concerns.
2. State needs inputs from various quarters, collecting which is time and labour consuming, which leads to delay in policy making or even outdated policies.
3. State led policies have also witnessed some contradictions in the past which hamper the whole idea of development.

Factors responsible for the NGO'S to be a critical part of the development process:

1. Lack of various resources with the government to link critical pieces in the development process.
2. NGO'S with the grass root level help to spread the governmental policies and programs far within the country.
3. NGO's act as a platform for the civil society to convey its grievances in the governance and issues with the government, helps in conducting social audits etc.
4. Undertake various activities for social development, help people connect with the mainstream economy with the help of SHG.
5. NGO's have supplemented government's efforts for the upliftment of the most vulnerable groups e.g. the destitute children, hunger, old aged people and women.

E.g. Children: Kailash satyarathi

Women: Shakti vahini

Old age: Help Age India.

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best answer: Prasoon

Non Government Organisations have become ubiquitous in almost every field in recent times. They play an important role in not only improving development outcomes in various fields like education, health, environment awareness etc, but also in bringing forth many important legislations like Right to Information, Lokpal Act etc.

NGO may be understood as filling the voids of the state led traditional model of development owing to the following points:

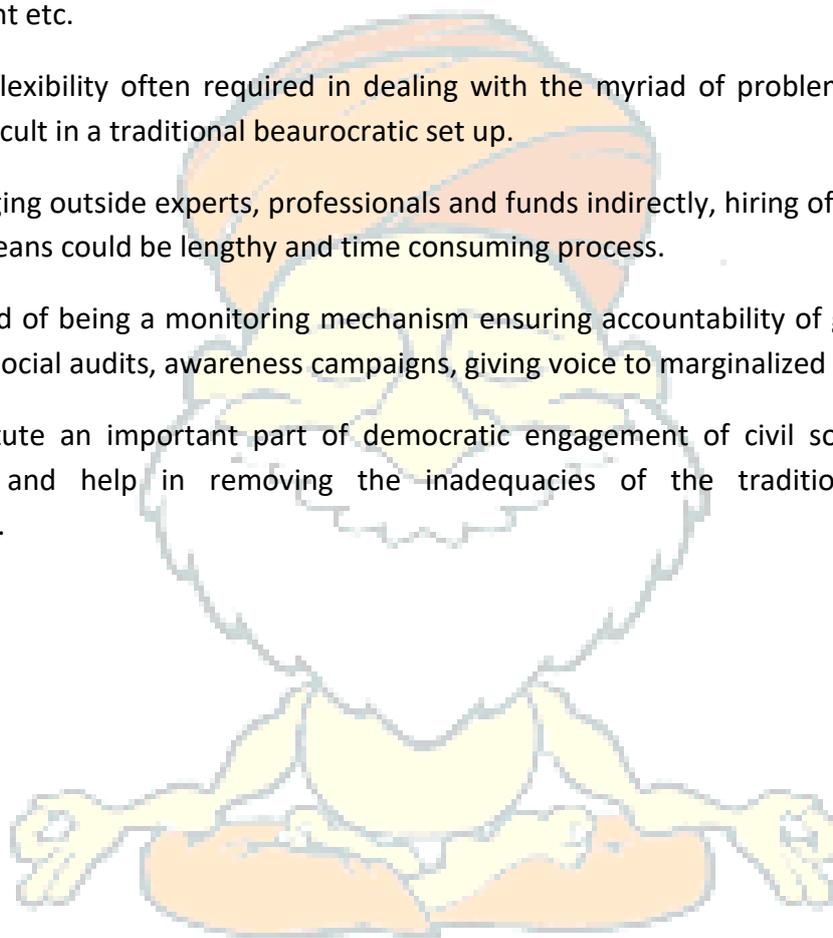
They are the medium through which the civil society engages with various developmental issues directly, where the state has lagged behind in providing adequate services. For eg sanitation in rural areas, promoting biogas in place of biomass based fuel, women empowerment etc.

Provide the flexibility often required in dealing with the myriad of problems which often becomes difficult in a traditional bureaucratic set up.

Help in engaging outside experts, professionals and funds indirectly, hiring of which through traditional means could be lengthy and time consuming process.

Fulfill the void of being a monitoring mechanism ensuring accountability of government by undertaking social audits, awareness campaigns, giving voice to marginalized sections etc

NGOs constitute an important part of democratic engagement of civil society with the government and help in removing the inadequacies of the traditional model of development.



International funding of local NGOs and other civil society groupings has been a matter of controversy recently. Why? Are the concerns being raised genuine? Critically examine.

In the introduction site an example of the NGOs which are in news because of the controversy eg- Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Peace Foundation etc.

Controversy is there because **allegedly**,

- Many NGOs are funded by foreign organizations to stall developmental projects initiated by the Government, Like Kudankullam Nuclear plant.
- They are misleading the local population by citing wrong facts and examples and provoking them to take anti-government stand.
- There is no financial accountability and transparency. Many NGOs are not abiding to FCRA.
- Money is used illegally to influence election outcomes.
- NGOs are used as a tool for money laundering.
- Some of the NGOs are using the raised money to fund anti-national and terrorist activities.

However, it is also found that government is acting against some organizations to set their political vendetta. Before taking any action, a proper enquiry is required. Once the judiciary or the concern authority confirms that the NGO is involved in some shady activities, than only a strict action should be taken.

NGOs are playing an important role in developmental activities, creating awareness, reaching the grass root level. Kailash Satyarthi's NGO is a great example. So a decision should not be taken in haste and facts and figures should be taken into consideration. A proper mechanism should be devised to ascertain their accountability and transparency.

Best Answer: Saurabh

NGOs and the civil society groups are an important component of of the developmental process and their effective participation is warranted. However, lately there have been some concerns related to their international funding.

The concerns have been emanated due to the following reasons:

1. Many NGOs are reluctant in disclosing their sources of income and have perceivable unaccounted money obtained from foreign sources
2. Corporate funding of NGOs has been observed which arouses suspicions as the NGOs may then take a line which the corporate house dictates them, especially in areas of vital development projects
3. Violations of FCRA have become quite common

Some of the concerns appear genuine:

1. Some vital projects like the Kudankulam nuclear plant have been stalled by NGOs despite them being declared safe by independent experts
2. Many NGOs have been found taking an anti India stance in sensitive issues of national interest, which is a cause of grave concern
3. Black money may enter the whole system, which would impede the whole idea of a civil society activism

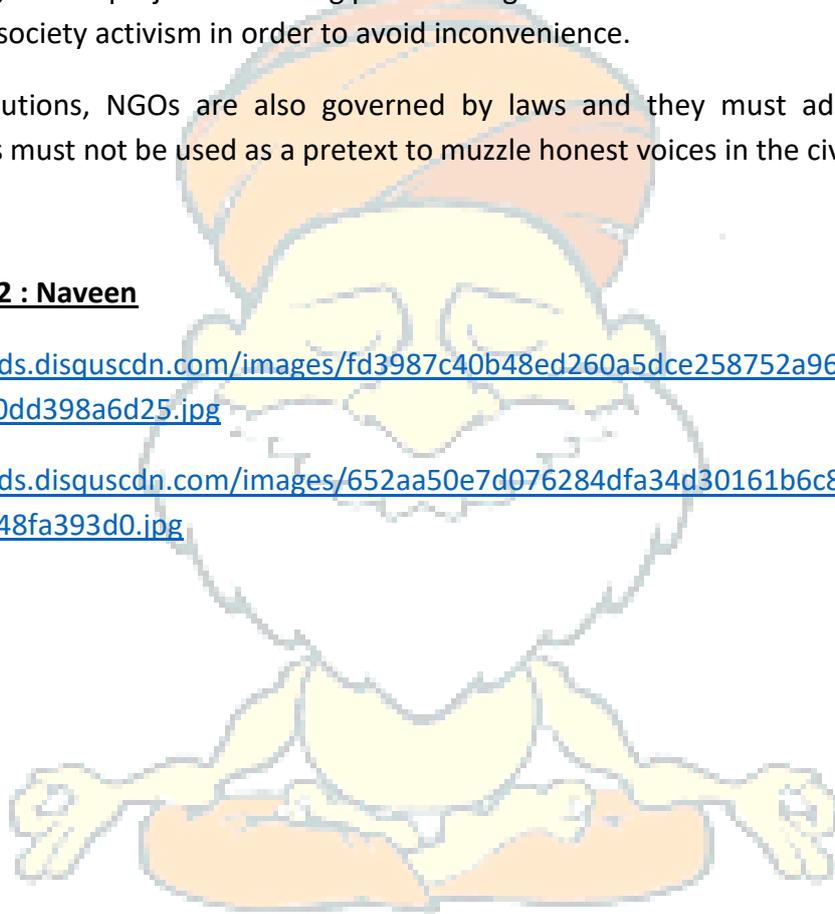
However, some of the concerns are manufactured and frivolous too. Some corporate houses in India try to use their political clout to spread falsehoods about genuine organizations, if their projects are being protested against. The state also sometimes tries to regulate civil society activism in order to avoid inconvenience.

Like all institutions, NGOs are also governed by laws and they must adhere to them. However, this must not be used as a pretext to muzzle honest voices in the civil society.

Best Answer 2 : Naveen

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Whether or not the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) should continue in the areas declared as 'disturbed' is a political question which requires consultations at the ground of its operation. Unfortunately, the lack of political will in this regard has further alienated the people in these areas. What is your assessment of this argument? Critically examine.

Note: Many of you have failed to understand the question properly. Some of you have deviated while answering.

Please read the question twice, try to highlight important demand areas. There is no need to write whether AFSPA is needed or removed; in favour or against.

Understand the demand areas:

1) Statement – Whether or not the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) should continue in the areas declared as 'disturbed' is a political question which requires consultations at the ground of its operation.

Statement simply says – While declaring whether AFSPA should continue or not, government should consult the ground of its operation.

2) Unfortunately, the **lack of political will in this regard** has further alienated the people in these areas.

Again here, question gives a statement arguing that there is a lack of political will – i.e. government is not ready to consult the state or security forces at the ground of its operation. And this lack of political will to consult the ground operation has resulted in alienating the people in these areas.

3) Now the question starts – What is your assessment of this argument? Critically examine.

So one need to give their opinion whether there is lack of political will, whether the Centre failing to consult the respective state or security forces and assesses the ground situation while it considers continuing or declaring an area "disturbed".

AFSPA empowers the governor of the state, or the central government to declare any part of the state as a 'disturbed area', if in its opinion there exists a dangerous situation in the said area which makes it necessary to deploy armed forces in the region.

The lack of precision in the definition of a disturbed area under the AFSPA demonstrates that the government is not interested in putting safeguards on its application of the AFSPA.

The Supreme Court in its 1997 order in the popular NPHMR case (Naga People Movement for Human Rights vs Union of India) said there is 'no requirement' but it is 'desirable' that the central government consults the state government before making the declaration.

Provide substance by providing examples of those states or disturbed areas where this lack of political will has resulted in alienating people. Manipur is an apt example where protests against AFSPA rule the street but AFSPA remains out of the political mind space.

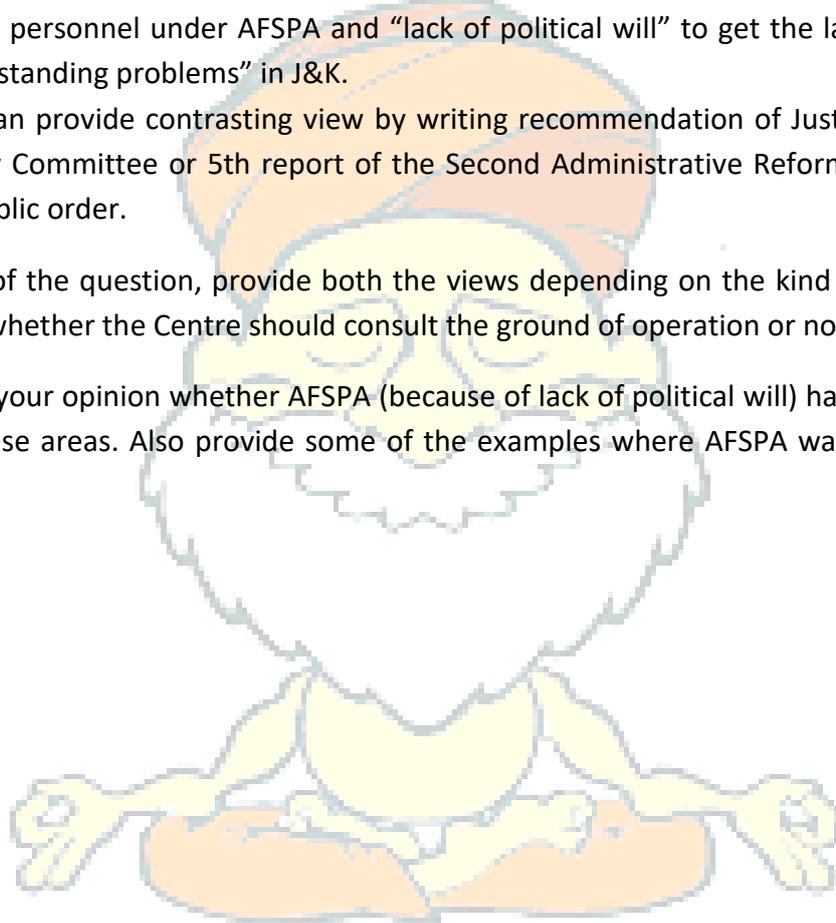
Tripura has shown the way to withdraw AFSPA, political will, smart governance and an effective utilization of the force. So you can give contrasting arguments by citing Tripura's example.

While assessing issues, always substantiate your views with some reports/committees etc.

- Amnesty International (AI) in its recent report has termed "impunity" to security forces personnel under AFSPA and "lack of political will" to get the law repealed as "long standing problems" in J&K.
- You can provide contrasting view by writing recommendation of Justice B P Jeevan Reddy Committee or 5th report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission on public order.

In next part of the question, provide both the views depending on the kind of disturbance and dispute whether the Centre should consult the ground of operation or not.

Also provide your opinion whether AFSPA (because of lack of political will) has alienated the people in these areas. Also provide some of the examples where AFSPA was declared and successful.



VALIDITY OF CURRENT AFSPA ENFORCEMENTS IN DIFFERENT STATES

State	Valid up to
Assam (entire state)	3-Nov-15
Nagaland (entire state)	30-Jun-15
Manipur (except the Imphal municipal area)	30-Nov-15
Arunachal Pradesh (Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts + 20 km belt bordering Assam)	31 Mar 2015 and 3 Nov 2015
20 km belt in the State of Meghalaya having common border with Assam	3-Nov-15
Mizoram	Unspecified
Jammu and Kashmir	Unspecified

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Pic. link: http://www.livemint.com/r/LiveMint/Period1/2015/05/29/Photos/WEB_AFSPA.jpg

Conclusion:

This said, it must be clearly understood that the final decision on this must rest on the advice of the armed forces. It might be said that the idea of redeployment has in fact originated from amongst army officers that have served in the State, with a high sense of purpose. If, by mutual consultation it is agreed that the law must continue, this must then be subject to review and Rules carefully crafted for its enforcement, which must bring the law into the fullest conformity with the freedoms of every Indian citizen guaranteed to them by no less than the Constitution of India.

P.S. We request everyone to rewrite answer (as none have satisfied the full demands of the question) and provide your opinion/argument whether there is lack of political will while consulting state and security forces and how this is leading to alienation of people.

Best Answer: Lokesh

(Only some points are good and in line with demands of the question. But compared to other answers, yours is best. Try rewriting again, Lokesh, with above inputs)

Experts are divided on the assessment of instability in Jammu and Kashmir. Some view it as a problem which require military solutions, and other differ, and view it as a political problem requiring political solutions.

They argue that imposition of ASFPA is a political question because :-

1. It infringes on the political rights of the people such right to privacy, right to safe and secure environment and right to justice for alleged act of excesses by armed forces.
2. The root of the Kashmir problem is right to self determination which requires a consultation among all political stakeholders.
3. Similarly, in North East, the root cause of problem is political right of " limited sovereignty " and demand for " greater Nagaland " , demand for protection of tribal rights, lands, customs, traditions

But lack of political will has alienated people further for eg.

1. The interlocutors report on J&K had recommended decentralization and strengthening of local bodies which is yet to be implemented.
2. Justice Jeevan reddy commission report that recommended repeal of ASFPA and put the required provisions in other existing acts is still in shelf for want of political consensus.
3. Inability to bring all political groups other than NSCN (I-M) in the talks.

Delay in solving problems has alienated people.

But, there is also military question of :-

1. State sponsored terrorism which requires act like AFSPA that strengthens capacity to counter react and take preventive steps.
2. cross border infiltration and radicalization of the minds of people.
3. Use of violence in the North -East and incapacity of police to handle the insurgency. (even admitted by Tripura high court).

Hence, there is also a military element, but it is the political will to resolve the root issues which will provide solutions to military related problems.

Examine the recent laws passed for the protection of child rights. Are the existing provisions adequate in addressing the challenges faced by children in India? What steps must be taken to create a conducive environment for their overall growth and protection?

Laws for the protection of child rights:

- 1) Right to Education Act- which makes it mandatory for children up to 14 years of age to go to school free of cost in the government schools.
- 2) Art 21A of the constitution and The Child Labour Act- recent amendment has banned employment of children below 14 years in all the enterprises and prohibited working in hazardous industries below 18 years.
- 3) Maternity Benefit Act- which increases the leave period of pregnant women to 26 weeks which are crucial for the care n nutrition of the child.
- 4) POCSO- aims at eliminating sexual violence against children.
- 5) The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (GWA) which provides for the adoption of children by the Hindus and the other religions.
- 6) The prohibition of Child marriage act which prohibits the marriage of people below 18 years of age.
- 7) Juvenile justice act: which provides for the care and protection of children in conflict with the law.

Adequacy of the acts: not adequate because of the following reasons.

1. Child marriage: According to 2001 census there are 1.5 millions of girls in India under the age of 15 years already married. Some of the harmful consequences of such child marriage are that, child losses opportunities for education and segregation from family and friends, sexual exploitation, early pregnancy and health risks, child more vulnerable to domestic violence, higher infant mortality rate, low weight babies, pre-mature birth etc.
2. Nutrition: as per NFHS-3 data, 2015 child malnutrition figures were 40.4 per cent (underweight), 22.9 per cent (wasted) and 44.9 per cent (stunted).
3. Education: near universal enrollment at the primary school level but the annual average dropout rate of boys is 4.68% in 2013-14 and of girls 4.66%, which is too high in absolute terms.

Steps to be taken:

- 1) Improving the condition of government schools, building toilets for girls, encouraging girls' parents to send them to school. Initiatives like BBBP, SSY are in right direction.

- 2) Strict actions against child labor, monitoring of industries is needed. Rescue, rehabilitation and education of these children must be done in mission mode.
- 3) Proper implementation of health schemes directed towards children as well as improving the qualities of government hospitals.
- 4) Most importantly creating mass awareness about the sexual offences against the children is imperative.

Best answer: Aman

Multiple laws have been introduced for the protection of child rights, like the recent Child Labour(Prohibition & Regulation)Amendment Act, The Juvenile Justice Act or the RTE Act but these provisions have been sighted as inadequate due to the following reasons

- The Child labour Act allows children under 14 to work in family enterprises which can be a source of exploitation & also interferes with the RTE Act and ILO & UNICEF’S Conventions
- Children under 18 are not allowed to work in hazardous occupation but the list has been pruned to mining,explosives & others under Factories Act, this can lead to children working in areas like chemicals,brick kiln etc
- The JJ Act allows children from 16-18 years to be tried as adults in various criminal cases which goes against the UN Rights of Child Convention
- These provision goes against the Constitutional rights under article 21A & 24 which are the fundamental rights of the children

Measures to be taken for their growth

- Proper implementation of the provisions in the RTE Act is one of the most important steps
- Complete ban on child labour according to the international conventions & standards with strict implementation
- Ensuring better health & nutritional status under ICDS & Mid Day Meal Schemes
- Arranging better counselling and care home facilities for adolescents instead of treating them as adults

It is the duty of the state as well as all the stakeholders to take part in the development of children welfare for ensuring as better tomorrow.

What is social security? By taking suitable examples, examine the significance of social security for the vulnerable section of the population. Also examine the social security schemes launched for the poor in India.

Introduction: –

your Introduction should define what is social security in brief.

Also mention the constitutional obligation of government India to provide the social security.

Body: –

You should give examples of social security for vulnerable section of the population.

Also mention the schemes related to various factions of society like Old age, disable, women, poor etc.

(Schemes have been mentioned in best answer section)

Conclusion: –

You should mention that Indian government has made various efforts including rights for larger section (especially poor) for improving the social condition at large but still there is a need of better implementation to reach its maximum potential.

Social security related reference material:

- India, being a welfare State, has taken upon itself the responsibilities of extending various benefits of Social Security and Social Assistance to its citizens. The social security legislations in India derive their strength and spirit from the Directive Principles of the State Policy as contained in the Constitution of India.
- Although the Constitution of India is yet to recognize Social Security as a fundamental right it does require that the State should strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice social, economic and political shall inform all the institutions of national life.
- Social Security is increasingly seen as an integral part of the development process. It helps to create a more positive attitude not just to structural and technological change but also the challenge of globalisation and to its potential benefits in terms of greater efficiency and higher productivity.
- Article 41 of the Constitution requires that the State should within the limits of its economic capacity make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.

- Article 42 requires that the State should make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.
- Article 47 requires that the State should raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and improvement of public health as among its primary duties.
- The obligations cast on the State in the above Articles constitute Social Security
- The well designed social security system for the workers in the unorganized sector will help in improving productivity, contribute to the harmonious labour relations and thus to socio and economic development. It will encourage and propagate the social peace by reducing the frequency of industrial conflicts, increase the willingness to work, make it easier to meet delivery commitments and lead to improved quality product, a better investment climate and thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the economy.
- Effective enforcement of Social Security Acts through institutional mechanisms would impact on the level of trust and confidence of the working class. There is a felt need to look at the delivery mechanism in implementation of the Acts like EPF & MP Act, the ESI Act, Minimum Wages Act, Maternity Act, Workmen Compensation Act and the Payment of Gratuity Act.
- The wage policy for the unorganised sector secured mainly through the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is oriented towards providing a 'Need-based Minimum Wages'. In the unorganised sector, the wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The fundamental objective of minimum wage fixation is to improve the standard of living of those sections of the working population in the sweated sector whose wages are very low and whose living and working conditions leave much scope for improvement. Under the Act both the State and the Central Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction.
- **MNREGA** (providing minimum employment guarantee)
- **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana** (medical insurance to poor and unorganized section),
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** (for giving assured income to farmers for their crops despite any mishaps)
- **UJJWALA** (gas cylinder connection for every below poverty household) and
- **PMJDY** (for financial inclusion).
- <http://www.pmindia.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Government-of-Firsts-Securing-the-unsecured.jpg>
- Good link to read about all government schemes – <http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/infographics-1/>

Best Answer1: – Samudra Gupta

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<https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/cc4db533d42e1a39d0301c34f61db66f88f69f0774e4b7d7d34fac29ca956e70.jpg>

Best Answer2: – SherniZaad

Social Security is a tool used by the government of any country to transfer socio-economic benefits to the marginalised and vulnerable sections of the population in terms of pension, insurance, scholarships, subsidies etc.

They have a high significance especially in a country like India where diverse groups of vulnerable people coexist like women, poor, farmers, disabled, backward classes, etc.

- 1) Inclusive development – can only be achieved if socio-economic conditions of vulnerable sections improve.
- 2) Faster growth – contribution of every section is imperative for faster and higher growth. Various scholarships for ST/SC, aims at increasing their contribution towards growth.
- 3) Bridging Socio-economic inequality – because it's a major hindrance towards holistic development.
- 4) Peaceful environment – if vulnerable sections are not taken care of it can lead to breakage of social fabric and create domestic problems.

Various schemes have been launched for the poor which include MNREGA(providing minimum employment guarantee), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana(medical insurance to poor and unorganized section), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana(for giving assured income to farmers for their crops despite any mishaps) , UJJWALA(gas cylinder connection for every below poverty household) and PMJDY(for financial inclusion).

However, few issues like delay in transfer of wages and lack of funding in MNREGA, zero and inoperative accounts in banks, ineffective implementation of schemes like RSBY, bureaucratic hurdles, corruption have been acting as hurdles towards complete success of these schemes. Countering these issues would lead towards the comprehensive development of each and every section of the population.

Best Answer3: -bhawana

Social security is a kind of assurance that a state provides to its people in the form of security which may be financial, social or cultural. It includes assurity of necessitated food, adequate income generation, general public health and assistance in case of disability.

Welfare functions of a state have increased in leaps and bounds in last some decades. Now they are concerned about each stage of a citizen's life so as-

1. To form an equitable and vibrant society which can embark upon innovative and advanced technological developments for all its people like by FI which banks the unbanked and connects them to financial institutions.
2. To ensure dignity and integrity of the human being mandated under article 21 like by banning untouchability, institutionalizing dalit capitalism and discarding notions of pollution and purity.

India started with revolutions for food security like green revolution, NFSA, MSP, PDS but passed through income assurance schemes like MNERGA, EFPO and reached to class specific social security like BBBP, MDM, ICDS and PMKSY. India has tried to insure its citizens in their adversities in the form of Atal pension yojna, jeevan jyoti yojna, PMFBY and now the life insurance on the lowest ever premium (less than one rupee) by railway dept are some of the many social security schemes of India.

Performance of them has always been a mixed bag due to their lackadaisical implementation, lack of information and bureaucratic hindrances. Still we have reduced poverty level from 32% to 22% by MNERGA, facilitated income for old age of lakhs of workers by EFPO, gave ahead to the OROP scheme, raised the literacy up to 73% and eliminated life taking disease like polio and small pox. Many states have worked on their levels like ban on liquor, tobacco, manual scavanging and social boycotts.

India being a member of global forums like UNICEF and UNESCO and signatory to many agreements like SDGs and marrkesh treaty (for visually impaired) has always strived for social security at the global level.

What are your views on the ongoing debate whether Pakistani artists should be sent back to their country?

Since this is not a question but a debate, it can have two angles. Either you can support the action of banning the Pakistani artists working in India or can go against it, but you should be able to rationally support your view.

It's better to tell both pros and cons of this action and conclude the answer accordingly.

As it is meant for interview debate, we as an institute would not take a particular stand over it.

Following are some good answers for this question.

Best Answer 1: Simplex

Art and culture has no boundaries, so is the case with artist. An artist represent the love and peace that art has. It is through his creation, act or work he/she shows the path towards peaceful Co-existence. However, the recent decision of sending back the Pakistani artist and the decision of Indian Producers association to ban the artist is justified because:

- 1) At time of strike or war, the nation must stand united and back the armed forces to give a moral and psychological support.
- 2) At international level, when the diplomats and senior officials are trying to corner down pakistan for their terrorist activities, then the internal policies must be coherent with such line of action.
- 3) Such an action is also in coherence with India's soft power diplomacy, as it would create an internal pressure on Pakistan to stop supporting terrorism and militancy.
- 4) In an era of economic and military blockade, India's action of cultural blockade is an innovative, milder than economic, yet powerful measure to corner down pakistan for its militant activity.
- 5) India has been a peace loving country and has always given a chance to improve. However, at time stand is required to be taken, so that patience is not misunderstood as cowardice.

The recent tweet by former Pakistani, now Indian, artist Adnan sami condemning militant activity is also laudable. When questioned by the Pakistani media about such tweet, he himself confessed that even a true Pakistani would also condemn such terrorism. It is in this line, it must be understood that the attack is not on pakistan, but on terrorism. Even the people of pakistan are suffering from Terrorism badly, but the political Hypocrisy of pakistan

that supports terrorism continues to take life within and outside the border. Thus, the act of banning Pakistani artist is justify to create internal cultural pressure on government.

Best Answer 2: The Dark Knight

The issue of Pakistani artists working in India has been debated since long time. There has been demand of not allowing Pakistani artists to work in India and be sent back, even during the relative calm phase in India Pakistan relation, like some Indian singers and Politicians opposing programme of Gulam Ali at Banaras. This issue is being debated more hotly in recent times after the dip in India Pakistan relations. This issue can be analysed as

1. Allowing Pakistani artists to perform in India can maintain link with the prominent people of Pakistan, thereby maintaining channel for Track II diplomacy. Such links come handy during extreme hostility.
2. It also showcases India's maturity as a credible and responsible super power on the world stage, which deals with immediate problems while keeping its eyes on the distant horizon.
3. But it may put the national government in a tight spot in the eyes of common Indians. Such situation may be exploited by anti-social elements to flare up communal tensions in India, thereby further creating law and order problems also.
4. Providing high level of security to Pakistani artists may not be possible at all times , exposing them to several vulnerabilities. This can further create trouble in India Pakistan Bilateral relations as well as will showcase India in poor light on world stage.

Hence it can be summed that government should provide required security to Pakistani artists and strict message to people against taking law in their hands be given. At the same time it should advise the Pakistani artists to speak to their audiences in India and create a rapport with them with their words and work.

Best Answer 3: Meiji

The recent spike in the terrorist attacks on the security establishments causing large number of casualties and infrastructural damage has been a major problem the country has been facing. The recent Uri attack in September 2016 claimed 18 of our army men wounding many others.

India as a country and its civil society definitely condemns the usage of non-state actors by enemy states like Pakistan to achieve strategic goals and the radicalization of youth in the name of terrorism. But there are some lean voices, raising the issue of sending back Pakistani artists as a step to condemn the attacks. What the society should accept is the fact that Pakistan's democracy isn't developed vis-à-vis Indian democracy and the civilian govt.

isn't in control of the security establishments. It is world known fact that – “Every state has an Army, while Pakistani Army has a state”.

The civil society of Pakistan wants peaceful relations with India, their taste for Indian movies, food, culture, etc. represents their acceptance of Indian society. Sending the artists, who have obtained a valid, legal visa to take part in the Indian movie industry or otherwise doesn't send right signals. Artists who represent the soft-power of a country are no way related to politics and also play a positive role in bringing the people of the country together.

So sending back the artists, wouldn't serve any purpose and also may be counter-productive showing the narrow mindedness of the Indian society. We also should remember, India has a strong diaspora presence worldwide numbering ~30M people, if political differences affects the common man, India should also be ready to face such situations during adverse times.

Best Answer 4: Veracity

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Best Answer 5: Lokesh

The ethics of the question ” should pakistan artists be send back to their country” be decided taking into account consequences of decisions, present circumstances, rights and duties ,and international ethics.

Decision is wrong because :

1. National interest should not be put above the humanity i.e love for all regardless of nationality.
2. Consequences will be bad. Hostility will increase. Peace will be victim. No progress will be possible.
3. Injustice : Since, artists are not responsible for terror why they should be punished.
4. Violation of the fundamental right of people right to live with dignity. And such sending back is indignified.
5. Lack of compassion and empathy towards artists ,who promote arts and build relations.

Decision may be considered ethical because :-

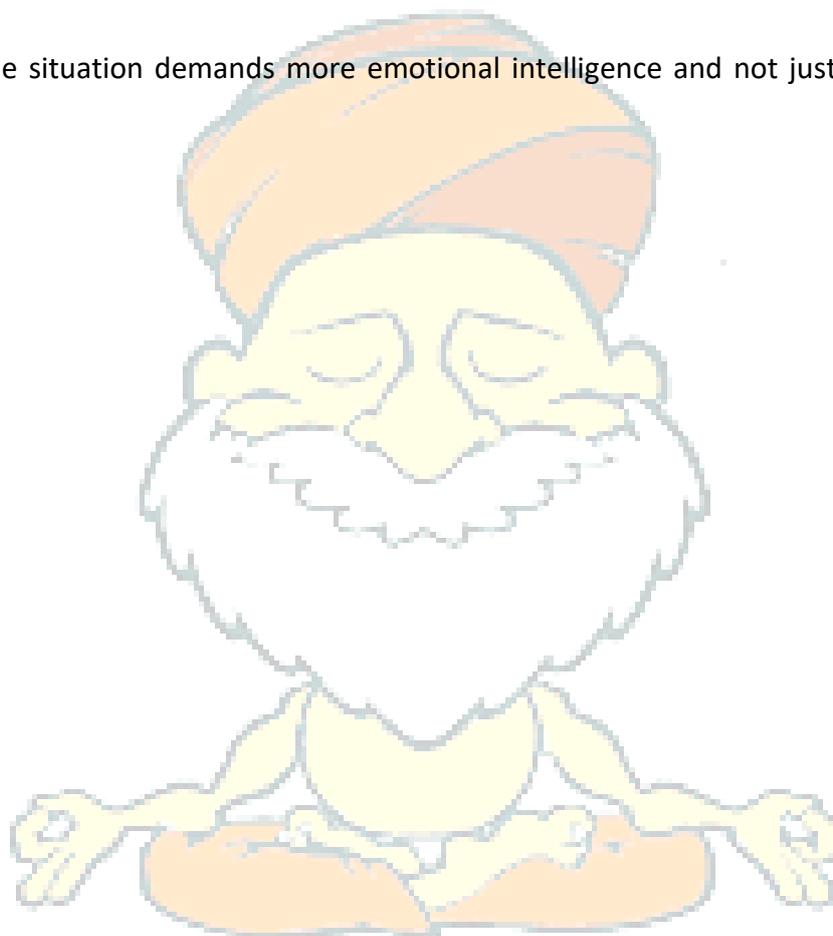
It was duty of the artists to condemn such attack, which they did not.

2. Consequences will be good. Pakistan will be forced to change its ways.

3. Can be said as an step towards justice to those who were killed in Uri attack.

While above analysis suggests there are equally valid arguments on both side. however, one has to be emotionally intelligent to understand the present situation. The call for sending back artists is because of sudden emotional outpour of love for country and hatred for all Pakistanis. Which is not tenable. The Pakistani artists emotions of fear of the fundamentalists in their home country, who can pose threat to artist families has to be understood.

So overall, the situation demands more emotional intelligence and not just outpouring of emotions.



What do you understand by 'hidden hunger'? Which sections of the population are affected most by hidden hunger? What are its causes? Analyse.

Introduction:

Your introduction should define hidden hunger.

http://cdn2.btrstatic.com/pics/showpics/large/909799_klvSjAo7.jpg

Facts related to Hidden Hunger

http://www.vitaminsinmotion.com/fileadmin/data/pdf/Infographics/DSM_Fighting_to_End_HiddenHunger_Infographic.pdf

Body

- Mention the impact of hidden hunger across the life cycle.

http://harvestplus.org/sites/default/files/longform/H%2B_hidden%20hunger2.png

- Mention the causes of Hidden Hunger
- Poverty
- Culture
- Patriarchal society – biased towards male child
- Inefficient delivery system
- Weak health management
- Corruption

(you can add more points here)

Solutions

- Flour fortification

http://www.vitaminsinmotion.com/fileadmin/data/pdf/Infographics/DSM_Fighting_to_End_HiddenHunger_Infographic.pdf

- Dietary diversity
- Schemes run by various governments
- India Newborn Action Plan (INAP)
- National Nutrition Mission
- Mid-day meal scheme

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should stress that making of a Prosperous nation depends upon its healthy population. Hidden hunger can have serious ramifications and it should be tackled effectively.

Best Answer1: Yogesh bhatt

Hidden hunger is deficiency of essential micro nutrients, minerals, and vitamins in the body because no or poor diet. It is different from hunger because food availability is not a challenge but issue is with nutrient uptake by body. It is important because even micro nutrients, minerals, and vitamins are required in very little amount but it is important for regular functioning of body. It can affect any section of population who do not take quality food in diet but more prone are-

- 1- Malnourished population especially children and adolescents are susceptible to it.
- 2- Pregnant women, tribal community, and disable people
- 3- People affected by migration, disaster, and unsettled by different reasons.

Cause of hidden hunger

- 1- Poor PDS service and limited food access through it.
- 2- Limited food habit in recent time and little diversity
- 3- Promotion of fast food culture.
- 4- Economic poor so not able to afford quality food like vegetables and fruits
- 5- Social reason as girls do not treated same as boy so limited access of quality food.
- 6- State social welfare have limited access to poor and needy people
- 7- Supplementary medicines are limited available in PHCs at affordable cost.
- 8- Agriculture policy so farmers promote more grain crops and limited focus on oil crops, pulses, and vegetables.

To address it, NFSA act and mid-day meal scheme can be a game changer. Here focus need to shift from food access to quality and quantity of food. Similar at PHC level need to make affordable access of important nutrients for lactic mothers and adolescents

Best Answer 2: SherniZaad

Human body needs nutritious and balanced diet encompassing vitamins and minerals for achieving an optimal level of health and growth. However, when the diet lacks these nutrients it can cause the body suffer from a 'weird' kind of hunger known as "Hidden Hunger ". This is because most of the people suffering from it don't exhibit typical symptoms associated with hunger and malnutrition like stunting and wasting.

The sections of population most prone to it are women, children and especially if they belong to the low income group families which is caused due to following reasons: –

- 1)Poverty – attacks the purchasing power capacity and curtails food choices.
- 2) Culture- in many tribal communities , consumption of starchy food items cooked from rice, corn etc only satisfy the hunger pangs and not provide nutrients.
- 3) Patriarchal society – where women and girls eat the left overs(mainly carbohydrates) after men and boys are done with their food.
- 4) Westernization of diet- especially among the children of richer section which is unhealthy and lack nutrients like pizza and burger.
- 5) Gaps in State's initiatives – ineffective implementation of schemes like distribution of zinc and folic tablets.

Hidden Hunger has serious ramifications in the long run because it has the potential to cripple the physical and mental abilities of the affected ones. India must take comprehensive measures like proper implementation of schemes like MID DAY MEAL, SABLA backed with awareness campaigns.

Best Answer3: Simplex

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Higher education in India is faced with challenges that range from lack of institutional autonomy to heavy bureaucratization of policy making. In light of the given statement and the recent 'Occupy UGC' protest, examine the need of having a national education policy. Also suggest the broad framework which should be adhered to by the policy.

Introduction:

In introduction, provide the challenges faced by Higher education and its present status or performance. You can also state some reports or rankings.

In next para', one need to discuss only 2-3 sentences the recent 'Occupy UGC' protest –

- UGC announcing that it would be discontinuing the “non-NET fellowship for M.Phil/PhD” scheme from the next academic year, on the grounds that there were complaints of its misuse and of non-transparency in implementation.
- UGC’s decision to terminate financial support for thousands of post-graduate students across the country.
- UGC’s recent circular asking distance education institutes not to set up centres outside their home state has been opposed by both education experts as well as activists.

On basis of these controversies and protest, now explain why there is need for a NEP.

Students allege that the UGC’s decision reflects a hidden agenda of the government. There were questions regarding the relevance of NAAC, UGC to regulate higher education was also questioned. **(Provide 2-3 points)**

- Therefore, there is a need for NEP which serves as a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country.
- There is a need to review the regulatory framework and make it more relevant to current and future needs of the higher education system. Several challenges relating to the regulatory regime in higher education need to be tackled carefully. It is necessary to bring about a healthy balance between autonomy and accountability with a NEP.
- To address poor enrollment ratios, quality-related deficiencies, Higher education governance and management, Budgetary constraints.
- To ensure equitable, inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- To meet the changing dynamics of the population’s requirement with regards to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry.

In conclusion, provide some suggestions how the NEP can mandate the functions and role of UGC in regard to higher education. **(Provide any 3-4 points from below)**

1. Maintaining the standard of research, teaching and examination in the universities.
2. Promoting university education
3. Making regulations to maintain the minimum standard of education in the country
4. The Governmental control in the Universities must be reduced, so that the University autonomy and accountability are strengthened and academic decisions are taken on merit.
5. New methods and procedures of financial regulations should be devised and direct interference of the finance department in the financial management of Universities, which is counter productive should be stopped.
6. As the Colleges are the feeding sources of the Universities, a better coordination in their working and activities is very much required. The participation of the teaching faculty in through a democratic process should be ensured.
7. Complete transparency should be maintained in the working of Executive/ Academic Bodies and other Governing Councils of the Universities.
8. There is an urgency to review the University Acts in different States and revise the same in the light of the new requirements and the challenges being faced by the Universities.. New technologies of information and communication should be utilized for obtaining administrative efficiency.
9. Students involvement in the area of University/College governance should be encouraged.
10. Political interference in the appointment of University teachers and administrators should be totally stopped.
11. A liberal milieu in the Indian Universities must be reconstructed. Diversity of opinion and critique of society and its processes need to be encouraged.
12. The appointment of bureaucrats, police officers/generals as Vice Chancellors and Registrars must be avoided as far as possible.

Best answer:

(No best answer, we suggest you to rewrite this answer going through the synopsis.)

Some answers comparatively fair from others –

Simplex

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<https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/902fdd99c9ae68060f288595ff1af9b25d94574f2f7f6e9e2398271c97ece52e.jpg>



There is an urgent need of launching a comprehensive universal national health assurance scheme. Do you agree? Substantiate in light of the 'public versus private' debate in the area of healthcare of services.

Health is a human right. It's accessibility and afford ability has to be ensured. The escalating cost of medical treatment is beyond the reach of common man. While well to do segment of the population both in Rural and Urban areas have accessibility and affordability towards medical care, the same cannot be said about the people who belong to the poor segment of the society.

Health care has always been a problem area for India, a nation with a large population and larger percentage of this population living in urban slums and in rural area, below the poverty line.

As compared to the population, the health sector of India is highly underfunded. The infrastructure is in shabby condition, and people are compelled to move towards private sector which is usually out of pocket of a common man. Because of the unavailability of health facilities, there is no culture of timely check up in India, and people avoid general medical anomalies till they become hard to cure diseases.

In order to develop, a country needs a healthy population. Then only the demographic dividend will be useful for India, otherwise, it will become a demographic burden.

- Indian health financing scene raises number of challenges, which are:
- Increase in health care costs
- High financial burden on poor eroding their incomes
- Need for long term and nursing care for senior citizens because of increasing nuclear family system
- Increasing burden of new diseases and health risks
- Due to under funding of government health care, preventive and primary care and public health functions have been neglected
- Extremely poor infrastructure in government hospitals, especially in rural clinics and Primary Health Centers.

Considering the above issues, **there is an urgent need of launching a comprehensive universal national health assurance scheme.**

Universal Health Assurance means equitable accessibility to health facilities for everyone.

The ability to deliver quality health services that does not impoverish populations has meant balancing the demands of complex health systems with the ability to fund a progressive range of services. In addition to shielding populations from spiraling healthcare and medicine costs UHC is also seen as route to building build robust, responsive and efficient

health systems capable of addressing growing inequalities in healthcare demands and access. UHC has become a critical indicator for human equity, security and dignity.

With limited resources, it will be difficult for the government alone to provide Universal Health Assurance. For this to be achieved, a help from private sector can be taken to provide health insurances as well as health facilities in collaboration with the government (with PPP model etc.)

(This synopsis is written so that you can have more points. This is not an ideal answer.)

Best Answer: Abhi 971

Private Health care system is the main service provider in health system in India. According to National Family Health Survey-3 70% people in urban areas and 63% in rural areas rely primarily on private sector for health care. The cost of medical treatment in private sector is one of the main reason for driving people in poverty. According to a study 35% of Indian household incur Catastrophic Health Expenditure highlighting the sorry state of our health care system.

Govt. budgetary allocation to health is around 1.1% of GDP which is quite low as compared to China (5.6%) and OECD countries (9%). Such low expenditure coupled reflects in the near absence of Govt. in secondary and tertiary sector, poor health indicators and diseases such as dengue, malaria etc. causes crisis time and again in National capital. Health has to be primary responsibility of state, it is time govt. play a dominating role by increasing its budgetary allocation to health to atleast 2.5% as the Draft National Policy 2015 says.

Universal National Health Assurance scheme has become the need of time to revive the health care system. It provides good health facilities both preventive and promotive health care by state governments, free drugs, a dozen of free diagnosis and health insurance for all (free for poor and low cost for the rest).

The regulatory regime for the advertisement of consumer products leaves a lot to be desired in terms of legal and moral framework. The troika of manufacturer, licensing authority and advertisement agency should be held accountable for the false or unverified claims being made by celebrities for endorsing a product. Do you agree? Also, does in your opinion any accountability be imposed on the celebrities who endorse such products? Critically examine.

Note: The below excerpt is analysis of the above topic. It should not be treated as model answer. The below content act as a raw material to develop your answer.

Central Consumer Protection Council (CCPC), the apex body for consumer protection in India, has now decided to hold actors accountable in cases of false claims made in advertisements for products which they endorse. This means that a consumer can now claim compensation for false claims, made in respect of a product, not only from the advertiser but also from the celebrities associated with the brand.

At the outset, a notice to film stars for faulty products might look like a big joke, but misrepresentation of products, especially in the food sector, is a serious issue, and not as silly as many would like to believe.

The rationale behind this decision of the CPCC was that celebrities had considerable influence over consumer choice, and that there must be some form of liability for the endorsements being made.

50% of advertisements in India are celebrity endorsements. For a country which reveres and adores its film stars and popular personalities, celebrity endorsements could entirely change the consumer's likes and dislikes.

In India, laws like the Consumer Protection Act and Food Safety and Standards Act protect consumers against false claims and advertisements, and celebrities could be held liable under these laws. There has been considerable debate in India in the recent years over endorsement of beauty products and fairness creams. But the misrepresentation of food products using celebrities has been spoken about less.

Yes! They can be made liable

No doubt can be posed to the fact that advertisements have a strong impact on the society and celebrities become a part of customer preferences. Celebrities are celebrities because people and their fans made them so. They make huge profits in their profession because their fans spend money to watch their movies and other stuffs.

So, if they take so much from the society then, don't they owe just this much to the society that they must not endorse the products without looking into their quality just for the sake of making huge monetary profits. In this modern world where the law has evolved to such an extent that even a corporation or a company being an artificial person has a corporate

social responsibility, then why should the highly privileged citizens of the country not be made liable for endorsing the low quality products or for being so highly irresponsible towards the countrymen who have given them the status they are enjoying. Such kind of false and misleading endorsement is nothing but the exploitation of the fan following by celebrities and the big brands. **With great power, comes the greater responsibility!** It seriously needs to be realized by our influential and rich celebrities.

Also, it is worth noticing that endorsement has become quite competitive and it is common that celebrities to remain ahead of another chose to endorse certain production without checking their quality.

An advertisement related to the health of consumers can not be treated at par with a fictitious TV series or a bollywood film. They have to be beholden towards society morally as well as legally. So, it is the legal as well as social duty of celebrities to draw a line between the products they should endorse and which not.

Recent example of this can be of Kangana Ranaut who refused to endorse a fairness cream because according to her being dark complexioned is not a social stigma and must not be considered inferior. She does not want to send a message to the society that is against her ideology.

Another example is of Sachin Tendulkar when he refused to endorse a liquor brand because that is hazardous to health or as like P. Gopichand refused to endorse cigarettes. This means that celebrities themselves confess that they send a message to the society through such advertisements and Amitabh Bachan himself said so after he stopped working for pepsi that we would not endorse anything that is misleading. This clearly means that they actually know what their responsibility is but, are ignorant. Ignorance of law is no defense.

Advertisement is no fiction or a source of entertainment; it is a piece of information that cannot be misleading. Actors have ignored the law on their own peril, so they have to face the consequences too.

When a celebrity is endorsing a product, common man believes their words more than any other person. So, in that sense, there exists a fiduciary duty on the part of endorser towards the consumers. It is all about trust common man poses in a celebrity when he/she endorses a product. In that case, any misuse of their position causing harm to common man should constitute as criminal breach of trust.

No! they cannot be made liable

In this era, where advertisements by celebrities have become a part and parcel of our life, even a customer below the level of reasonable prudence is aware of the fact that such endorsements are just to lure the customer and nothing else. The celebrities have nothing to do with the manufacturing of the product, they just represent the product say, like an

agent or however they are directed to. No doubt, they must ensure about the quality and standard of the product but, at last, they are not scientists or experts in the manufacturing of that product. They would obviously believe what the company tells them.

How can you expect Madhuri Dixit to go to the laboratory for checking the samples of our national food? She will anyway have to believe what the experts of Nestle say like recently she admitted that she met the experts and was reassured about the high quality of the product. What else is she supposed to do? Also, celebrities do not enforce any personal insistence upon anybody to buy the product they are endorsing then, how can they be held liable for misrepresentation. Why don't we question the food safety board for letting the products hazardous to health enter Indian market?

Celebrities in our country are being held liable for misleading through endorsements, accepted! Is there anybody to question the misleading advertisements by politicians in their manifesto during elections? Are they all fulfilled? The answer is obviously in negative. The problem with countrymen is that they forget to question what they should actually question.

The irony is that none of us would sue the politicians or government for misleading public but, would over hype an issue which certainly does not demand that much attention and can be tackled without so much hustle and bustle.

Conclusion

No doubt, the celebrities would be liable under FSSAI provisions but at the same time, it is definitely against the Food Standard Authorities that certain product has entered into the Indian market and has not been checked upon.

Prevention is much better than cure, so, any product must not be even allowed to enter the market which does not abide by the safety and health standards of the people of country.

Such costly endorsements by celebrities are bad for the society itself no matter the product is useful or not. It is nothing but, just wastage of money by the company which they can use for a social cause or for the welfare of the society. A law must come up that limits the amount charged by celebrities for endorsements or say, as costly the advertisement gets, more the company must be abided by law to contribute in charity or for society. The idea behind this is that it is consumers who buy the product and help in elevating the company, then, why should their money go to that portion of society which already has a lot. Such costly advertisements also tend to increase the price of the product which again is gross violation of rights of consumers and thus, needs to be curbed.

Best answer: vengeancee

Recent proposed amendments to Consumer Protection Act brought into light the accountability and verification of false claims during advertisements into question. Troika of manufacturer, licensing authority, advertisement agency should be held accountable for false claims because:

- 1) False information dissemination: This is misleading & can be termed as cheating, and illegitimate.
- 2) Moral, Ethical responsibility: to educate masses on products when high cases of illiteracy, poverty exist in India.
- 3) Private gains at expense of public interest: amount to unjustified, and misuse of power of authority.

However, it is wrong to blame them because:

- 1) Self-responsibility: is the key, as in such challenging times, relying on a guide to walk you through is unrealistic.
- 2) Competitive world: with cut-throat war for profit needs little exaggeration of products.
- 3) Awareness among masses: who have requisite knowledge to vote & decide who will lead this country, also have wisdom to decide what is logically correct or not.

In my view, holding them responsible is justified but only to a limited extent, and not for every minute technicality. Ex: if among lacks of Frooty packets, there is found 1 minor insect, it is pardonable, but if Constituents of Frooty mentioned are misleading, then offense is unpardonable.

Holding celebrities responsible is right as:

- 1) Public figures: like them hold responsibility of their actions due to idolizing nature of Indian masses.
- 2) Promotion of rationality: is integral part of 21st century, and disseminating irrational, illogical thought is uncalled for.
- 3) Basic verification of claims isn't tedious: but will lead to self-realization of promoting rightful products.

However, other side says:

- 1) Money making exercise: as many stars don't take money for working in films, and rely on advertisements for income.
- 2) Time constraints: to go into legality of products this will be approved by various authorities in future.
- 3) Technical know-how missing: amongst them which prevents them having close scrutiny of products endorsing.

Holding celebrities responsible is also justified but only upto a limit. They should clarify & raise queries on basic attributes of products, but not for every little damages, and technicalities in future proceedings.



What are the parameters to measure good governance? Examine the performance of the State on at least two of those parameters.

Introduction:

You should mention about Good governance and also mention the parameters on which good governance can be measured.

Characteristics of good governance (according to UN)

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Indicators of governance as per world bank

- i) Voice & Accountability
- ii) Political Stability and Lack of Violence
- iii) Government Effectiveness
- iv) Regulatory Quality
- v) Rule of Law and
- vi) Control of Corruption

Body:

You should mention the parameters under which you are going to check the performance of the state.

You should check them under few headings

1. No of beneficiaries
2. Extent
3. No and type of policies implemented
4. Impact

(you should go through the best answer section for examples)

Conclusion:

You should conclude it by saying that good governance is the ultimate aim of public policy and every state should try to achieve it and keep raising their bar for further improvements.

Best Answer1: Yogesh Bhatt

Good governance is becoming a silent global resolution and demanding for it, it is difficult to define but there are specific characters of it

- 1- Rule of law as per constitutional values
- 2- Transparency in information flow to all section of society
- 3- Government should be responsive to people need
- 4- Government should be participative and decision based on consensus
- 5- Governance should be inclusive in approach and accessible to all irrespective of caste, class, religion, gender and other hierarchy.
- 6- Executive should be accountable to people

Indian government is moving towards good governance which can be justified by few examples–

People participation– now more in governance through digital platform like mygov, social media, and ministry invitation to people on legislation discussion like education policy. People suggestion to prime minister for better policies and policy like digital India has encouraged people participation in governance.

Accountable– Now executive are direct and more accountable to people up to grassroot level. Social audit make local administration accountable to people. RTE act empowered to ask questions to administration. Initiative like PRAGATI has ensured top officials monitoring by Prime minister. Competitive feeling among states pushing them to do more; public service bill in Maharashtra is example of it. Judiciary, CAG report, and other institutions also compelled for it.

India is gradually moving with good governance agenda but lot more need to be done for achieving future ambitious targets like SDGs, house for all, and top 50 rank in ease of doing business index, and so on.

Best Answer2: Mukesh MAX

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Best Answer3: SPECTRE

According to world bank the definition of good governance is the manner in which the power is exercised in the management of country's economic and social resources for development.

The parameters of good governance are:

>>PARTICIPATION- govt needs to ensure the requisite freedom to the citizens to participate in decision making process thereby boosting the independence, autonomy and self reliance of citizens.

>>RULE OF LAW-any governance needs an effective fair legal framework that enforces impartiality with the support of an independent judiciary.

>>TRANSPARENCY- it means decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules. it also means that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions.

>>RESPONSIVENESS-It entails a govt structure that is sensitive to the needs and aspirations of society

>>EQUITY

>>ACCOUNTABILITY

Major initiatives of the state in this direction:

RTI, e-governance, right to public service delivery act

>>RTI opens up govt records to public scrutiny thereby making govt more accountable. Transparency in govt organisations makes them function in more objectively thereby enhancing predictability. This act has given the citizen the freedom to get information from the govt.

>>e-governance is an essential component in transformation of any govt towards improving transparency, developing accountability , empowering citizens and providing better governance.

Application models- government to government, govt to citizens, govt to business, govt to employee.

The whole idea of good governance is the participatory system of governance in which those who are called upon to govern on behalf of the people are motivated with a will to give their best, serving and doing well to the people, making their lives more livable and satisfying.

2. The RTI law is not merely a tool for financial oversight of the expenditure of the taxpayers' money by various government agencies. Rather it is the harbinger of the philosophy of transparent and accountable governance. Critically comment.

We have already discussed about what is transparency and accountability, and also why it is so vital for a healthy democracy in our previous questions.

The Right to Information Act became operational in India in October 2005.

According to Gol:

RTI is "An Act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

(Only for Information)

The first and most important of RTI was indeed Financial Accountability. Now the tax payers could know where their money is being spent by the government agencies.

They could also know how much money spent on welfare measures is reaching the target population.

But this is only one aspect of RTI:

- RTI helped in uncovering many scams like 2G, Coalgate, Mining scam etc.
- People can question about the efficiency of an office-like how many hours the people are working, on what basis a particular decision is taken.
- It has created transparency in selection process of many government offices.
- Officers who believed that they have absolute authority, now got a check. This made public the final authority in democracy.
- Transparency helped people in being informed citizens and discharge their duties during elections.
- There has been a remarkable decline in corruption.
- It has helped people in timely grievance redressal.

(More similar points can be added. It will be better if you can support these statements with the help of an example.)

But there have been certain impediments as well as drawbacks too in the implementation of RTI Act. Some of them are:

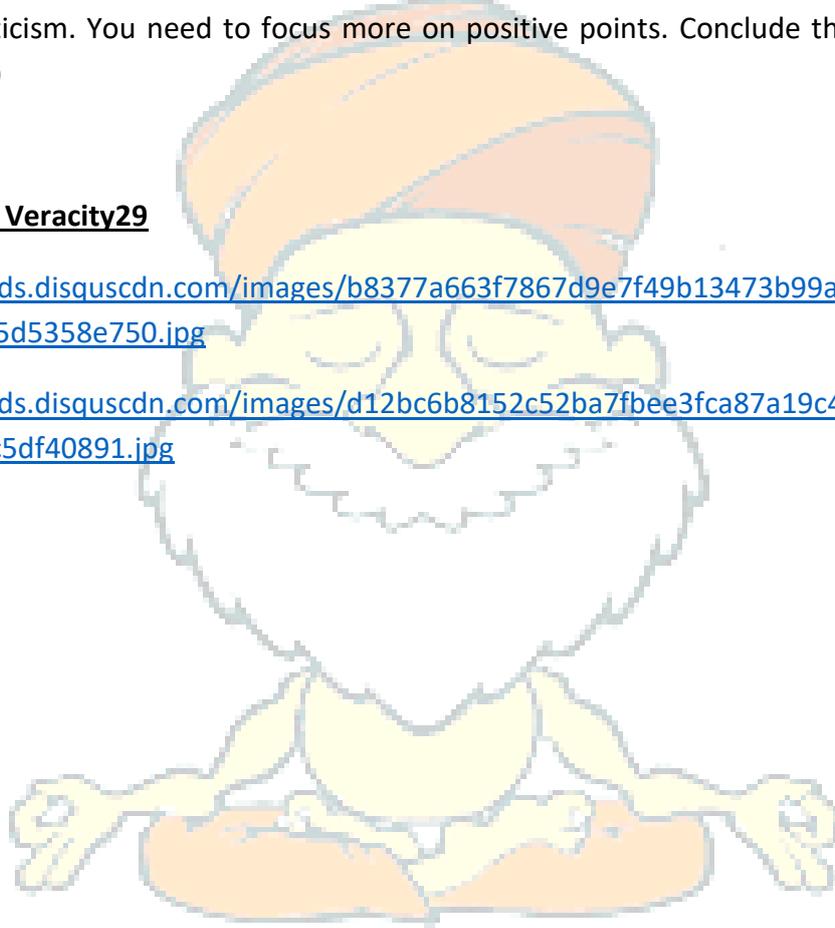
- There are many personal queries which people ask just for the sake of it. This takes a lot of working hours for the officials to answer the questions which are actually of no use.
- People are targeting honest officers also for personal vendetta.
- Awareness regarding RTI is not very high. Because of this, RTI is not being used to its complete potential.
- Judiciary and political parties are not in the ambit of RTI.
- The clause of 'Secrecy' and 'National Interest' are ambiguous.
- No concrete measures for whistle blower protection.

(Note: the criticism points are only for your information. The question doesn't need many points on criticism. You need to focus more on positive points. Conclude the answer on a positive note)

Best Answer: Veracity29

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Local governance in India is characterized by tokenism and surrogate representation in terms of participation of women, voice of the marginalized classes and rights of the Dalits. What do you think are the principal reasons behind the state of affairs at the grassroots level? Examine.

Why there is underrepresentation of Dalits in all levels of government (esp. at the grassroots level)? Reasons –

1. There are separate quotas to facilitate their inclusion in local governance. Unfortunately, however, political representation through quotas has not led to effective political participation for the majority of Dalit women or marginalized classes. The main obstacle is the multiple discrimination these women or dalits face arising from the entrenched caste hierarchy, chronic poverty and patriarchy.
2. Violence against the marginalized by locally powerful groups to prevent their inclusion is the extreme form of exclusion.
3. Dominant castes often engineer elections by propping up Dalit women or marginalized classes as proxy candidates.
4. “Dalit candidates, especially women, are frequently forcibly prevented from standing for election or, if elected, forced to resign from village councils or other elected bodies or not to exercise their mandate, [and] that many Dalits are not included in electoral rolls or otherwise denied the right to vote...”
5. caste and sexually-based verbal abuse; disparagement of the women’s political capacity; harassment, threats or physical assaults; property destruction; restrictions on freedom of movement; and illegal and fraudulent voting practices.
6. As the most marginalized groups are uneducated, untrained the power equation is still in the hands of higher castes. Nevertheless, a process of political socialization has begun within the society. The bureaucratic resistance is visible in many matters. The stereotype and routine mindset of local bureaucracy has understood that the Panchayat will remain forever and the bureaucracy has to work within the changed scenario.
7. Internal factors such as — lack of awareness, experience, knowledge, skill, leadership quality, low level of education, lack of exposure etc.
8. external factors such as — influence of family, caste, social outlook, patriarch etc.

Best answer 1: El Nino

Local governance brings greater accountability and responsiveness in administration, sense of ownership among local people, use of traditional ideas, cheaper solution, inclusivity and dignity among people. Hence under article 243 of Indian constitution provision of democratic decentralization has been introduced. But the performance not been

satisfactory and local institutions are marred with tokenism and surrogate representation with voice of weak being unheard. Following are the reasons for the same:

1. Low social empowerment – Political empowerment cannot come without social empowerment. Dalits and women find it extremely difficult to win from non-reserved seats.
There have been cases where women Sarpanch have to get back to work as domestic help after her term was over. This demotivates them to take up leadership role.
2. Class barrier – Landlords still control major resources in rural areas and tend to dominate local institutions as well. Caste system's influence in politics makes it tough for Dalits to garner political support.
3. Less awareness – Low level of awareness about political and legal rights creates further hindrance in decentralization process
4. Patriarchy – Women are kept subjugated from the beginning. This develops subservient attitude in them and surrogate representation becomes easy.

However, local governance has led to women and Dalit empowerment and increased their participation in electoral process, especially in states like Kerala, West Bengal Tamil Nadu etc. Kerala's Kudumbashree units is a model to be followed which has given women political, social and economic respect.

Just and fair representation in local bodies is imperative. Otherwise as said by Dr. Ambedkar decentralization in a society having asymmetric power will perpetuate exploitation by the powerful against the marginalised classes like Dalits and Women

Best answer 2: DK

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There is an urgent need to implement a national land use policy in order to address the issues of land use diversion, land acquisition and developmental imperatives. Analyse the statement in light of the controversies surrounding the amended Land Acquisition Bill.

Introduction

A line intro about Land, how it is fixed and cannot be increased or decreased but can only be transformed from one usage to another. How many times ordinance was passed and withdrawn and link it to why national land use policy is needed in body.

Body

Need for land policy:-

- Talk about the necessity, around 3 to 4 points.
- Rapid urbanization, need to create employment, economic growth and development.
- Legal land diversion which or else might land up as illegal encroachment or illegal diversion and might lead to delay in project completion and revenue generation.

Also two or three points about who might pose hurdle for such bills and why LARR was rejected:-

- NGO's, farmers group etc.
- Then two points highlighting the drawbacks of LARR bill like it excluded many projects from SIA, reduced percentage of approval of farmers etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with alternate remedies like how states can go about it giving example of Amravati capital land conversation and Gujarat and Rajasthan state bills.

Best answer: ILP- KUNA3885 (thevagabond85)

Factors contributing urgency :

- * Growing urbanization has led to increasing stress on land and diversion from agricultural to industrial & housing purpose.
- * there has been gradual decline in area for agricultural usage and forestry.
- * Land fragmentation – average size of the holding has been estimated as 1.15 hectare(2011 census).The holding size has shown a steady declining trend since 1970-71.
- * Easy land acquisition for ease of doing business (Make In India).

* States such as Rajasthan, UP, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh etc. has witnessed increasing desertification.

The amended Land Acquisition Bill sought for easing the acquisition process by reducing the threshold of percentage of consensus of people from existing 80% to 75%. This made people apprehensive.

Formulation of National Land use policy must take into consideration following points :

* fare compensation to the land owners in case of acquisition. Often there's a sentimental value attached with land and people are unsure of receiving promised compensation. One way of resolving it would be to include land owner or their offspring in the project itself thus, making projects more inclusive.

* There is dire need to increase the productivity of agricultural land use. Model land lease bill drafted by NITI Ayog should be mooted. States must consider adopting the bill. This will provide win-win for both unwilling and willing farmers.

* India is a signatory to UNCCD (UN convention to combat desertification) . Government of India along with WB has taken projects in several states to combat desertification.

In a democratic setup like India, there can be some hurdles to development but any such policy must also take into consideration the inclusiveness, sustainability and productivity.

Best answer 2: Lokesh

Population growth has put enormous pressure on land resources. At the same there is need for optimal utilisation of land resources for sustainable development.

Consider the following facts : –

1. India need to raise its forest cover from present 23 % to 33 % (INDC committment of addtional carbon sink of 2.5- 3 billion ton Co2).
2. Urban population is going to increase from present 31% to 50% by 2050.
3. Rising population and food security concerns demands increase in the gross cultivated area.
4. Challenges of inculsive growth and developement demand land for setting industries.

Thus, for limited land resources, there is tremendouns demand from different sectors. This necessitates a urgent need for National land use policy for resolving the in conflicts demand for land

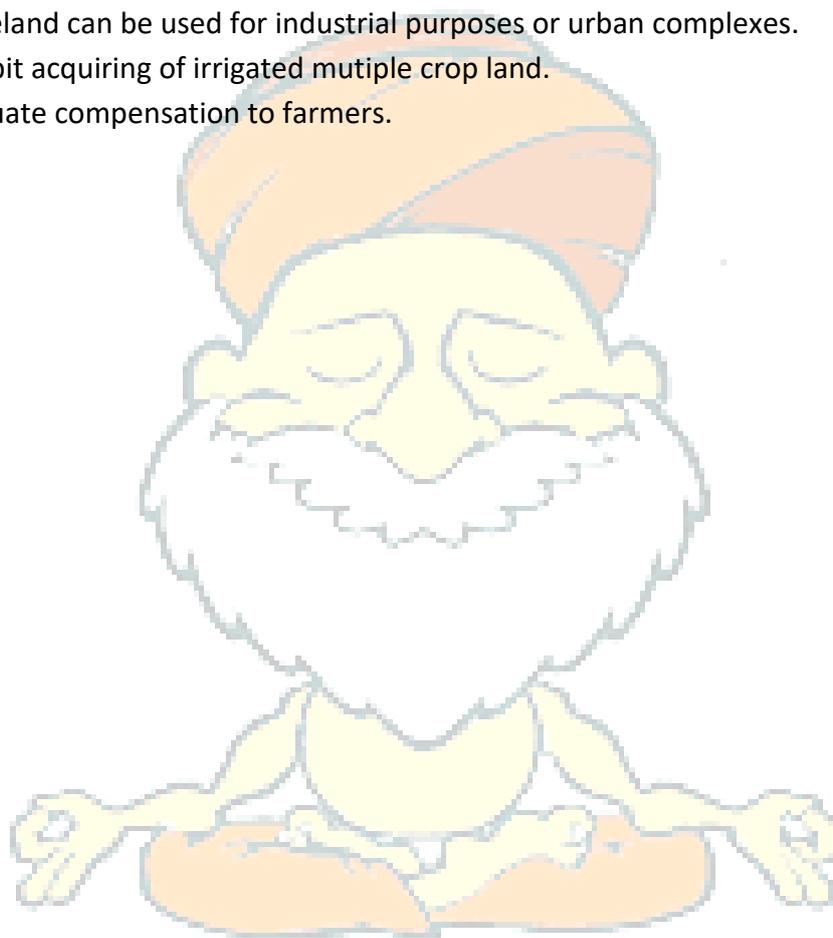
In this light, the provisions of land acquisition bill, 2015 have not been able to meet the “balancing different demand” challenge. for eg.

1. Under the bill, land acquisition for affordable housing, defence, social infrastructure, rural infrastructure , industrial corridors will be done without any social impact assessment, food safety assessment and no requirement of consent clause of at least 70% of land owners.

–This is neglecting livelihood concerns of farmers, food security of the nation.

Need is for optimal utilisation of land resources for eg.

1. Wasteland can be used for industrial purposes or urban complexes.
2. Prohibit acquiring of irrigated multiple crop land.
3. Adequate compensation to farmers.



Accountability is the life blood of a democracy. Comment.

Accountability literally means to acknowledge and take responsibility of one's own actions.

A democracy is a system of governance with checks and balances. Taking accountability out of equation will convert any government into dictatorship.

(Most of you have written very good, but general points saying how each organ of democratic government is accountable to another in democracy.

You had to mention why that accountability is important. Some of the important points are given below which you can use in your answer. You can add some more points to it.)

- In a democracy, the final authority is the people of that country. And every organ in the system has to be directly or indirectly accountable to them.
- Since in a democracy, technically, power flows from the bottom, i.e. from people to the top authority, it is very important that the people are informed. For this the government needs to be transparent. It will help in building faith of the governed on the government. An informed citizen can take a rational decision in selecting the future government.
- Even for different organs of the government, the responsibilities are divided to prevent encroachment of one organ into the domain of other.
- It is said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Accountability is required to create a moral pressure on the authority to take the right decision on rational basis and helps in reducing corrupt practices.
- In India, and many other countries, an oath of secrecy is taken. It is argued, that if the government is taking a morally correct decision and can explain it, than there is no need of secrecy from the people. Rather, there should be an oath of transparency, to have the confidence of public, and have real democracy.

If we see the overall picture, we will find that democracy is nothing but accountability.

Best Answer 1: Singh Swadesh

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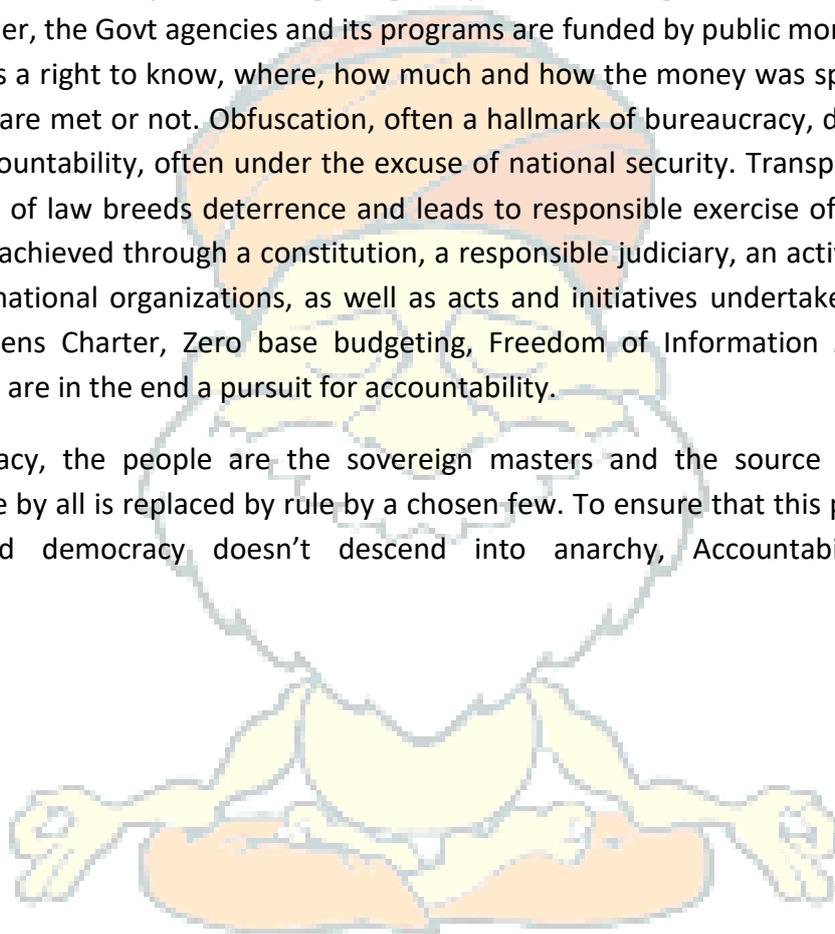
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Best Answer 2: abhishekrwt597

Democracy, or the rule of the people, and its most sustainable avatar, representative democracy, fails to function without due accountability, ie, the ability to attribute action to individuals/orgn. that pursue it. Being a harbinger of transparency and answerability, the case for accountability cannot be overstated.

The govt is elected either directly or indirectly by the people. Absence of accountability to the people may turn the govt into a despot, where nepotism replaces due process, and tyranny replaces public welfare. Further, if there are no rules and regulations, the govt may be free to use and abuse its powers(undefined) as absence of restrictions give it inbuilt deniability. Bureaucrats, as employees of the Govt, often enjoy widespread discretion, and are accused of abuse of power, and getting away without being held accountable for their actions. Further, the Govt agencies and its programs are funded by public money. Therefore, the public has a right to know, where, how much and how the money was spent, and if the desired ends are met or not. Obfuscation, often a hallmark of bureaucracy, dilutes this vital aspect of accountability, often under the excuse of national security. Transparency, limited govt and rule of law breeds deterrence and leads to responsible exercise of power. This is sought to be achieved through a constitution, a responsible judiciary, an active civil society, NGO's, transnational organizations, as well as acts and initiatives undertaken by the Govt itself(RTI,Citizens Charter, Zero base budgeting, Freedom of Information Act). All these initiatives too are in the end a pursuit for accountability.

In a democracy, the people are the sovereign masters and the source of all powers, However, rule by all is replaced by rule by a chosen few. To ensure that this provision is not misused, and democracy doesn't descend into anarchy, Accountability is simply irreplaceable.



Citizen's right to information is increasingly being seen as an important instrument to promote openness, transparency and accountability. Why? Examine.

Introduction:

Talk about the RTI Act and what it intends to bring about. Like RTI Act is an act by parliament to establish a framework which helps citizens in bring about transparency, accountability and openness in working of public offices in the year 2005. With 10 rupees post card any person can get hands on any information excluding those affecting security and international relations.

Body:

Why it is seen as instrument to promote the same:-

-Talk about how increase in education and literacy level have changed the concept of democracy and working of government and expectation of public from them.

-Talk about how mass media have shown examples of other countries functioning and the awareness level of people increasing and demands being raised day by day.

-Talk about how citizens participation has increased the need for being accountable for the action taken and changes brought about by RTI in there working atmosphere.

-Also mention one or 2 points about how it can also lead to disruption in normal functioning of government and misuse of the same.

-Give examples for both arguments.

Conclusion:

End with how with many social activists, NGO's and other institutions have spearheaded the campaign and made it a success and like about its future success of how efforts can also bring about political parties under the RTI net.

Best answer: GURU

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In India E-governance is more about the 'E' and less about 'governance'. Examine the statement in the light of the initiatives taken by the government since the beginning of the National E-governance Plan (NeGP).

Introduction:

Your introduction should mention about the e – governance program in India. Also mention the main purpose of digitization in governance.

Body:

Mention the initiatives taken under National E-governance Plan

- MeghRaj
- Digi-locker
- National judicial data grid
- E-Basta
- Swayam, GIAN
- Service delivery guarantee system like e- Sampark
- Passport facility, e-visa
- JAM trinity, PAHAL etc.

Issues related to E-governance plan

- Digital illiteracy
- Lack of basic infrastructure
- Lack of awareness
- Digital divide
- Non- responsiveness of government

Success related to E-governance plan

- Reduction in corruption
- Reducing time in benefits accessibility
- Improved connectivity
- Participation in policy making.

(you can add more points here)

Conclusion: –

You should conclude it by saying that though there are some lacuna in existing scheme but it is a right step in right direction. Govt. should increase its efforts to improve it further.

Best Answer1: -Lokesh

NeGP plan was started with the objective to improve governance through use of technology. It was felt that digitisation would help in reducing interface, making process faster, and more transparent. This would help in upholding norms of good governance vis rule of law, transparency, accountability, participation of the citizenry and ease of doing business.

Sadly E- Governance has shown mixed success for eg.

- National judicial data grid (NJDG) has not led to reduction in pendency of cases.
- While people can complain in online platforms but there is not deadline to redress them.
- RTI can be accessed online, but understaff manpower leads to delays.
- National land record modernisation programme has not resulted in reduction in land disputes due to absence of land title law.

We need to understand that technology can only help in providing faster access but is not panacea to structural problems. For eg. in the absence of judicial reforms, periodic updation of citizen charter, administrative reforms in terms of business process restructuring (2nd ARC), the E-governance will merely remain "E" without governance.

It has been found that wherever enabling infrastructure has been provided E-governance has shown good results for eg. Telangna government right to clearance act, Shram Suvidha portal (labour reforms), PRAGATI platform (for cooperative federalism), India.gov.in (participatory governance)

And, lastly, simultaneous efforts for digital literacy, bridging digital divide need to be undertaken actively so that E-governance is more inclusive and participative.

Best Answer2: vengeancee

National E-Governance Plan launched in 2006 takes a holistic view of providing services in electronic format in the country. After decade of its inception, E-Governance has been brought in question as less focused on governance as:

- 1) MeghRaj initiative launched in 2014, has provided cloud services but digital literacy towards what is cloud computing is below 1% in India.
- 2) Twitter governance in present times is gaining popularity, when Twitter is least used social media enterprise among popular ones.
- 3) Digital Divide persisting, as only 18% of India is currently connected to internet.

4) Non-Responsiveness in Government portal: where complaints stay pending after stipulated mentioned reply time.

However, situation isn't such one-sided:

1) Annual award given to ministries for citizen grievance redressal effectiveness making governance stronger.

2) Campaign like Net Neutrality prove importance of E-based governance being achieved as TRAI reversed its decision after huge response in E-Mail.

3) CSCs (Common Service Centers) are hugely popular in states like Madhya Pradesh, and have made E-Governance true in character.

4) Growth of smartphone users in India is 4 times world's average making E-Governance sustainable alternative.

NeGP was ambitious program, and has made certain strides. However, much needs to be done to improve governance structure, recent initiatives like JAM Trinity, E-Transactions, mygov.in are active steps in that regard.

Best Answer3: naadan parinda

Concept of governance firmly stands over the pillars of accessibility, transparency and inclusiveness. Bringing in real dimension to this aspect, Indian government came up with NeGP in 2006. The vision was to make government services accessible to all. However greater attention was paid towards electronic interface can be seen as-

>Multiple citizen service centers were opened with availability of timely updates and information dissemination- but adequate attention was not laid on Digital literacy and filling Digital divide

>Government institutions were stressed to be connected optically- but proper training mechanisms to ensure changed mindset of people working was not stressed

>e-NAM to ensure fair prices to farmers and maintain transparency regarding food stock availability- But we face multiple bottlenecks like transportation, storage, farmers' awareness etc.

>Vigorous campaign to ensure optical connectivity of Gram Panchayats- But we have not been able to provide adequate infrastructure in terms of towers, spectrum, electricity etc.

E-governance as a whole is well accepted norm. However, it requires to ensure equal attention towards governance aspect also. For this we need to have-

>Ensuring content availability in regional languages and timely grievance redressal mechanism in place

>Adequate infrastructural availability with trained professionals in place

>Ensuring safety of data in this cyber world and making it strong enough to counter multiple new challenges

By plugging in the loopholes with approach to bring in change in lives of people, way of “E-governance” provides us with promising future as seen multiple cases like PDS of Chhattisgarh, Digi-locker etc.



Even though fair elections are held at regular intervals for State Assemblies and Parliament, they do not reflect the true consent of the people because a large number of women are 'missing' from the electorate. In the light of the term 'missing women' coined by Dr. Amartya Sen, critically discuss the gender dimension of voting in India.

Framework:

Amartya Sen coined the term "Missing women" to point out the females that are literally not alive due to gross family neglect and discrimination translating into low sex-ratios.

- Seen in this context, India remains one of worst performers with a rank of 133 out of 146 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) – which captures the loss in achievement within a country due to gender inequality and is based on measures of health, labour force participation and empowerment.

In the electoral rolls

- In the last 50 years of Indian democracy, the absolute number of missing women has increased fourfold from 15 million to 65 million.
- As a percentage of the female electorate, missing women have gone up significantly – from 13 per cent to approximately 20 per cent.

In Public Policy making

- Female participation in Parliament and state legislatures is very low around 11%.
- Moreover, the representation of females in elite civil services, higher administrative posts, judiciary etc. is also very less.
- In local bodies, representation stands at 33%, but is not effective as many female representatives are political proxies for their husbands.

Implications

- Hence, fewer female voters will voice their opinions through elections.
- Political decisions which are based on election outcomes therefore under-represent the female population.
- They are not a true reflection of the female policy preferences.
- Such discrimination in public policy sphere will create a vicious cycle resulting in degrading conditions for women.

Therefore, there is a need to increase the representation of women effectively in the legislatures; increase awareness about the importance of voting amongst women; and introduce gender neutral policies with some positive discrimination in the public sphere.

Refer the original article published in The Hindu: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/indias-missing-women/article5670801.ece>

Best answer: SherniZaad

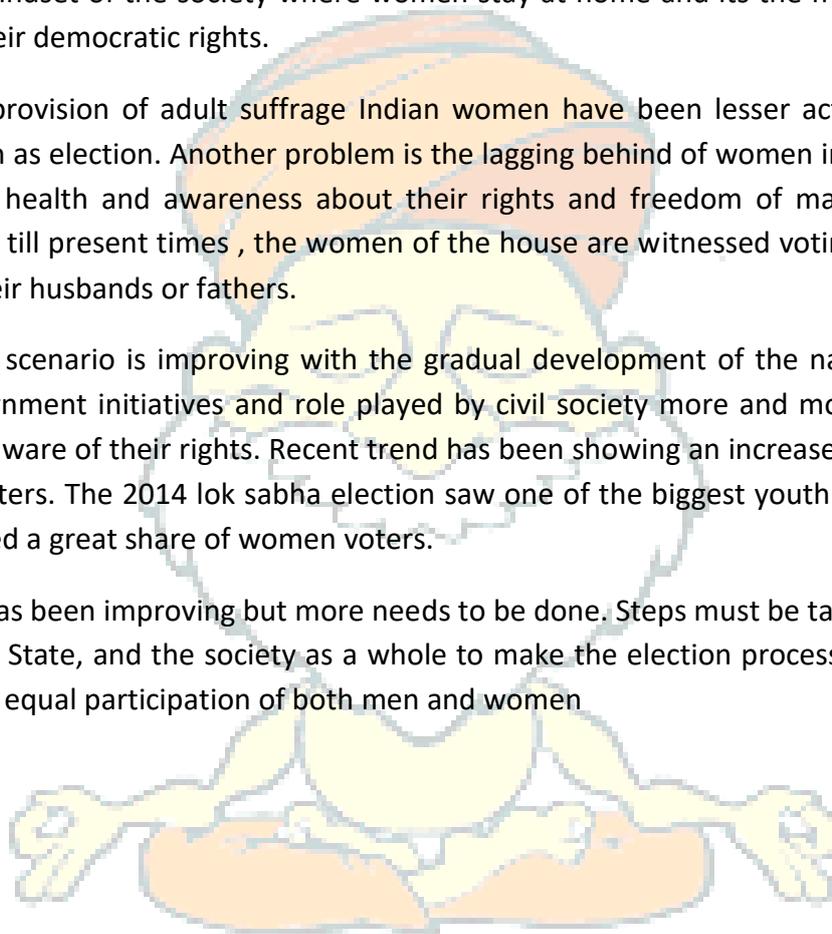
The term “Missing Women” indicates a shortfall in the number of women with respect to their expected number in any particular region or sphere like gender dimension of voting in accordance with the question.

India since its independence has seen mainly successful elections bagging itself the title of a strong and stable democracy. However, looking into it deeply, the picture seems gloomy because of “ Missing women” scenario. The main reason behind this could be the patriarchal mindset of the society where women stay at home and its the men who go out to express their democratic rights.

Despite the provision of adult suffrage Indian women have been lesser active in political activities such as election. Another problem is the lagging behind of women in every field be it education, health and awareness about their rights and freedom of making individual choices. Even till present times , the women of the house are witnessed voting according to the will of their husbands or fathers.

However the scenario is improving with the gradual development of the nation. With the help of government initiatives and role played by civil society more and more women are now getting aware of their rights. Recent trend has been showing an increase in the number of women voters. The 2014 lok sabha election saw one of the biggest youth voter turnouts which included a great share of women voters.

The picture has been improving but more needs to be done. Steps must be taken by Election Commission , State, and the society as a whole to make the election process democratic in true sense by equal participation of both men and women



Obsolete and inconvenient laws cause equal inconvenience to citizens, businesses and the administration. With respect to the statement, discuss the present situation in India. What steps has the government taken to remedy this situation?

Introduction: –

Your introduction should mention the need of removing inconvenient laws. Various committees and reports (Law commission etc.) has underlined the importance of removing these laws. Also mention how laws are the product of their time.

The existence of obsolete and inconvenient laws is a major hindrance in the exercise of smooth administration in India. Such laws are often not required, either discriminate, or are simply non nonsensical in this day and age.

Body:

- You should mention the statistics of such laws in present time

Around 1200 such laws exist which led to multiplicity, delay in execution, confusion etc. (acc. To law commission report 248, 249, 250, 251 etc.)

Report no 248: -Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal”

Reason why we should remove these laws: –

“Every legislature is expected to undertake what may be called the periodical spring-clearing of the corpus of its Statute Law, in order that dead wood may be removed and citizens may be spared of the inconvenience of taking notice of laws which have ceased to bear any relevance to current conditions. This process in itself, assumes still greater importance in modern times when Statute Law is growing in bulk and magnitude”

Also mention the efforts made by Govt. of India in this regard.

- The passing of one — Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill 2015 — could repeal 758 old appropriation acts, the other one — Repealing and Amending (Third) Bill, 2015 — could weed out the other 295 Acts
- Labour reforms
- GST
- APMC act etc.

(examples are given for reference. You can add more examples here)

Mention the potential benefits in brief.

- Ease of doing business
- Transparency

- Improve efficiency
- Faster resolution – lesser pending cases.

Conclusion:

You should conclude it by saying that with changing time, laws also demand change. Govt. should keep a track of them and make necessary changes accordingly which suits the present needs.

Best answer1: ILP- KUNA3885 (thevagabond85)

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Best answer2: vengeancee

Obsolete & inconvenient laws are not just hampering ease of doing business, but have multitude of implications for general public, administrative authorities, and State including judiciary. Present situation can be termed as:

- 1) Labor laws: are approximately 44 with wide overlapping, and incompatibility with current times.
- 2) Taxation laws: direct taxes like Income Tax, Custom Tax, Corporation Tax, Central Excise, etc are constraints hampering tax outputs realized by Government.
- 3) Dismal global ranking: India in 2015 ranked 130 by World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Rankings.
- 4) Environment laws: Water, Forest, Environmental protection, Air, Biodiversity laws are indicative of poor environmental governance.

However, Government has recently taken steps to provide remedy like:

- 1) Introduction of GST: will subsume multiplicity of indirect taxes
- 2) Foreign Trade Policy, 2015: has merged 6 earlier schemes of export under MEIS (Merchandise Export from India Scheme)
- 3) NITI Aayog involvement: has been commendable in clearing out absolute laws in J&K, Rajasthan, etc.
- 4) PC Jain, Ramanujam, Law Commissions (248th Report) to report on repealing obsolete laws.

India has been climbing steadily in Ease of doing Business rankings over past few years, this is a healthy sign towards improvement where due emphasis is needed.

Best answer3: – abhishekrwt597

The existence of obsolete and inconvenient laws is a major hindrance in the exercise of smooth administration in India. Such laws are often not required, either discriminate, or are simply non nonsensical in this day and age.

For instance, the Indian Aircraft Act 1934 makes every kite and balloon flyer a potential offender, unless licensed by the Govt. This makes little sense, especially when India has a rich and ancient Kite flying tradition. Similarly, the Railway act allows it to discriminate against leprosy patients. With increased awareness and treatment of leprosy, such stigmatization has serious constitutional implications. Similarly, the OSA can legally withhold any information from public disclosure under the often dubious garb of national security. Factories Act and IDA, 1947 are seen as major impediments to labour reforms in India, with stringent penal provisions for defaulters, and constraints on hiring and firing. Defamation, although often defended by the Govt, is equally harmful to citizens and administration alike. By preventing even valid criticism of the Govt, it prevents enrichment of the democratic discourse. Similarly, several cess(eg salt cess) exist, whose collections are smaller than the cost involved in their collection.

In light of these, the current govt has passed several bills(eg the appropriation Act repeal bill 2015) that have together seen close to 1200 laws being repealed till date. The law commission of India too has recommended the repealing of several archaic laws from the lawbooks. Further, the govt is actively considering setting up a post legislative scrutiny mechanism on lines of those existing in developed countries, with periodic review of laws (every two years for most laws in Australia), hiring legislative expertise while framing laws, and ensuring sunset clauses in all laws henceforth(as in Canada).

The above steps will go a long way in reducing unwanted legislation, red tapism and attracting investment to the county. What we need is good, and not more laws.

We know that India is committed to the principle of mutual 'non-interference' in international affairs. However, will it be ethical to follow this principle if there is blatant violation of human rights in a neighboring country? Examine.

Introduction:

Your introduction should mention about India's commitment to principle of mutual 'non-interference' i.e. mention about Panchsheel in brief. Also mention about India's commitment of this principle.

Body:

Mention about the ethical dimension of Indian principled stand.

Ethical dimension of Indian stand stands on two aspects one as a responsible neighbor and power and other on being a promoter of Universal peace.

India's believe that every country should tackle its own problem maintains a high moral ground and shows India's belief in peaceful co-existence however, as a country who wants to be a major global power and who feels responsibility towards protection of Human Rights. secondly, it may have an impact on the national security and can create internal tensions ex. Exodus of large no of people from myanmar, bangladesh etc has created local problems in area like assam, manipur etc. So to protect it's own citizens make interference ethical.

- Mention the events when India has violated the principle for protection of Human Rights – Bangladesh as Mukti Vahini, Part of IPKF in Srilanka etc.
- Mention about the Indian approach regarding Human right violation:

India being a signatory of UN declaration of Human rights gives high priority to protection of Human rights and a promoter of Human rights on global arena.

Though India has maintained that It believes strongly in policy of non- interference, but India has used the platform of UN to raise issues of gross human right violations in its neighbor. Recent call regarding Baluchistan shows the changing trend in Indian Approach. India feels the responsibility to protect the people of the region.

Conclusion: –

Your conclusion should say that the question of being ethical or not should be tackled rationally. Though India is committed to cause of Non Intervention, but it would be ethical for her to intervene neighboring countries in case of human rights violation and the protection of its own national interest.

Best Answer1: Spectre

The principle of non interference in mutual affairs forms the base of NAM and the Panchasheel doctrine. The recent Prime minister's independence day speech where he voiced his concern about Balochistan's human rights violation, showed deviation of India from the the non interference doctrines which the country had been maintaining for decades.

>>India had established NHRC, which is in line with the UN declaration of human rights, and also being the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping missions shows the country's commitment to check such atrocities

The country has always raised voice against such atrocities

eg: India had supported Palestine and opposed Israel's entry to the UN

– raised its voice against colonial domination by european nations in Africa and South America, including the opposition of apartheid in south africa

>>Intervention right or wrong :

India being an emerging super power, trying to spread its wings in the global arena, it is rightful on its part to extend its support to fight human right violations in its neighbouring countries. It will enhance its image at a global level ensuring that the country will always support and will always stand by what it considers as rightful, thereby not deviating from its values. Ethically this is correct.

>>Going diplomatically, taking a stand may not be the right approach, as it will strain the relations with the neighbours. eg: India and Pakistan relations had always been sour. With the PM voicing his concern about Baloch, had further deteriorated the situation, saying that India had crossed the red line. It shows the failure in foreign policy.

So it can be said that whatever that seem to be ethically correct, may not always be rationally correct. So the decisions should always be made weighing both ethical and rational concerns and taking a stand accordingly which will not strain the relations of the country with its neighbour.

Best Answer2-Mukesh Max

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What are the elements of corporate governance? Discuss. Why is it important to have a robust corporate governance structure? Examine in light of the increasing instances of corruption in MNCs.

Introduction:

Start with what is corporate governance. Corporate governance is the process of decision making and by which decision are implemented in a corporate setup. Or the rules, method and manner in which a corporate company is governed and managed.

Body:

Part1:- Elements of corporate governance:-

-Mention elements of corporate governance and one line explanation to it.

Part2:- Why is it needed:-

-Tell why it is needed and its effects on economic interests like revenue to government, employment, financial misappropriation, crony capitalism, financial frauds, Black money generation and money laundering issues.

-For each point give a recent examples like Satyam, kingfisher, bank of Baroda (Money laundering), Sahara scam, offshore tax havens etc.

Conclusion:

End with what all agencies are present to check and keep track of them and in wake of these scams how improvement can be made to avoid such things in future like robust and technically specialist institutes, tribunals with no appeal law to bring offenders to books, too big to fail bank type initiatives for big companies etc.

Best answer: vengeancee

Corporate Governance in simple terms can be referred as structural mechanisms that establish harmonious relationship between economic & social goals of corporate organization. Its elements include:

- 1) Accountability: Board responsible to shareholders, management accountable to Board.
- 2) Fairness: small, medium, large investors are all treated equitably.
- 3) Independence: of auditors, independent directors, etc.

4) Transparency: financial, promotional aspects.

Robust corporate governance is needed because:

1) Fudging of balance sheets by Auditors, Managing Directors make huge losses to shareholders, and ultimately to Indian economy. Ex: Satyam scam.

2) Shell companies getting carved out making fund cross-transfers make investors lose interest in Indian markets. Ex: Sahara scam.

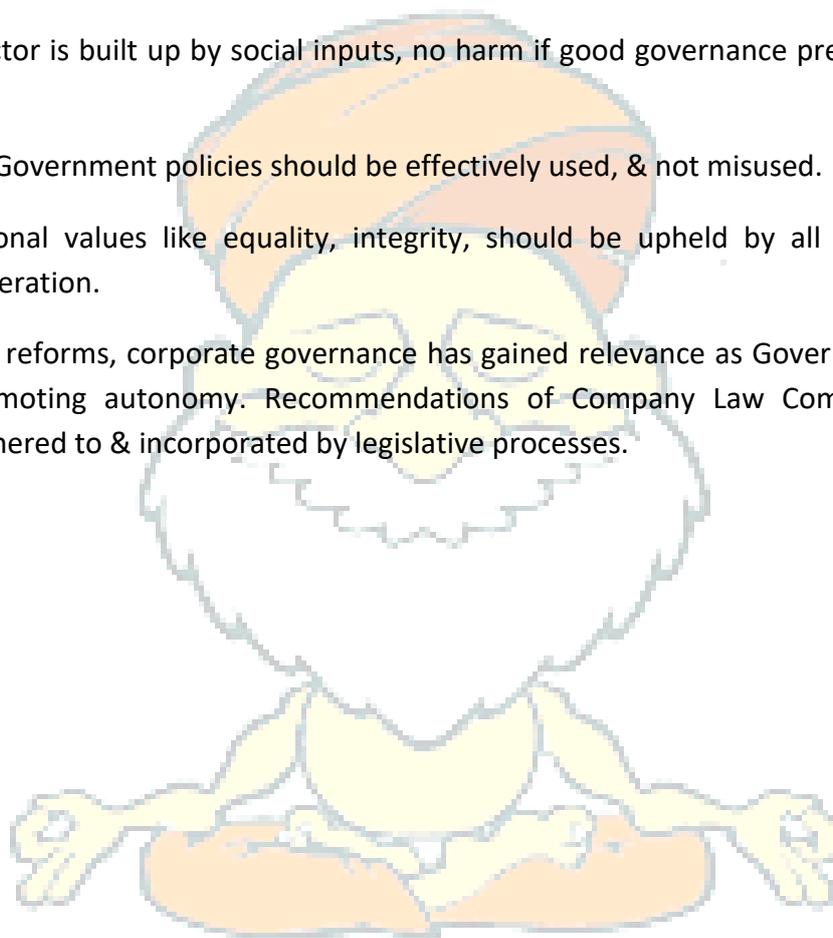
3) Bank NPAs are rising due to failure of good governance model in companies ultimately eating taxpayer's money. Ex: Kingfisher scam.

4) Private sector is built up by social inputs, no harm if good governance prevails in private bodies.

5) Favorable Government policies should be effectively used, & not misused.

6) Constitutional values like equality, integrity, should be upheld by all irrespective of domain of operation.

In era of LPG reforms, corporate governance has gained relevance as Government is siding away & promoting autonomy. Recommendations of Company Law Commission, 2013 should be adhered to & incorporated by legislative processes.



What do you understand by ethical governance? If everything is enshrined in the law, why should a bureaucrat be ethical? Examine with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

You should explain the concept of ethical governance.

(concept is explained in detail for better understanding. You should only mention the concept in brief).

- In brief, ethical governance denotes **administrative measures, procedures and policies that fulfill criteria required for the ethically good or acceptable handling of public affairs**, such as in public administration, public health care, education, and social security.
- In the context of public administration, ethically good or acceptable behavior is often defined in terms of justice, fairness, equality, and integrity. Thus, ethical governance is a normative expression and not a purely descriptive one.
- The concept of ethical governance also implies a value assessment and is thus value-laden. It is precisely because of this value-laden property that different organizations in both the public and private sectors often use the terms ethical governance and ethical management as labels or advertisement slogans for their marketing purposes—for example, in the labor market, or to gain economic or political benefit. However, people can always ask of governance whether it really is ethically good.
- The use of the adjective ‘ethical’ does not guarantee, of course, the true ethical goodness (i.e., justice, fairness, equality, integrity) of governance. Thus, the term ‘ethical governance’ should be used for actual systems of governance only when the appraisal is based on a critical and unbiased evaluation of their goals and Such evaluation requires invoking normative premises (i.e., commands and prohibitions) such as ‘Governance should be equal and impartial’, ‘Civil servants ought to keep their promises and be true to their word’, and ‘Authorities should take good care of public affairs’.
- Thus, ethical governance, as a normative notion, denotes the characteristics or virtues of ethically good civil servants. At the same time, it denotes the criteria based on which the ethical quality of governance is assessed. These criteria involve, for example, the integrity, equality, and justness of civil servants and of their administrative activity. The ethical quality of governance can be good or bad. In the former case, it is said that governance is ethical or conforms to ethical requirements. In the latter case, it is said that governance is unethical or breaks ethical standards.
- One common way of explaining these characterizations is to say that in good governance civil servants and authorities follow the ethical and other norms, commands and prohibitions they are obligated to follow in their actions.

- Bad governance violates these norms. In this explanation, the ethicality of governance is expressed in terms of rule-following. Thus, the concept of governance ethicality involves an evaluative aspect that is often conceptualized as obedience to rules. However, the care-ethical approach introduces another way to conceptualize the ethicality of governance.

According to this approach, good governance cares for its citizens and their welfare and takes good care of administrative matters related to the citizens.

- We can also differentiate between the minimalist concept and the maximalist concept of ethical governance. The minimalist concept involves the minimum requirements for ethically acceptable governance, whereas the maximalist concept aims at enriching our understanding of what ethically good and high quality governance involves or could involve.
- The minimalist concept of ethical governance states absolute prohibitions that public authorities and civil servants are forbidden to violate in all circumstances.
- They include prohibitions of all forms of corruption (e.g., bribery, graft, and nepotism), extortion and coercion, deception, theft, and discrimination
- **The maximal concept of ethical governance additionally invokes positive commands, such as 'Be fair and impartial', 'Safeguard the well-being of citizens', and 'Take good care of the administrative tasks entrusted to you'. Furthermore, the maximalist concept specifies positive characteristics of a good authority or civil servant, such as diligence, kindness, patience, and humaneness.** It is only a short step from the maximalist concept of ethical governance to a care-ethical citizen's point of view of ethical governance, as genuine caring goes beyond basic duties and an ethical minimum. On the other hand, care is one of the basic moral values, perhaps even the most basic one, and as a value care designates what many public and private practices ought to involve.
- As was characterized above, the focus of the ethics of care is attendance to the needs of people for whom we are responsible. Taking responsibility for public affairs and serving citizens are what civil servants ought to do.

Body:

Mention the relationship between law and ethics. (Details are given only for understanding purpose)

- A relationship exists between law and ethics. In some instances, law and ethics overlap and what is perceived as unethical is also illegal. In other situations, they do not overlap. In some cases, what is perceived as unethical is still legal, and in others, what is illegal is perceived as ethical. A behavior may be perceived as ethical to one person or group but might not be perceived as ethical by another. Further complicating this dichotomy of behavior, laws may have been legislated, effectively

stating the government's position, and presumably the majority opinion, on the behavior.

- Law can be defined as a consistent set of universal rules that are widely published, generally accepted, and usually enforced. These rules describe the ways in which people are required to act in their relationships with others in a society. They are requirements to act in a given way, not just expectations or suggestions to act in that way. Since the government establishes law, the government can use police powers to enforce laws.
- The word ethics is derived from the Greek word ethos (character), and from the Latin word mores (customs). Together they combine to define how individuals choose to interact with one another. In philosophy, ethics defines what is good for the individual and for society and establishes the nature of duties that people owe themselves and one another.
- It is important to note that there is also a difference between ethics and morality. Morality refers both to the standards of behavior by which individuals are judged, and to the standards of behavior by which people in general are judged in their relationships with others. Ethics, on the other hand, encompasses the system of beliefs that supports a particular view of morality.
- Though law often embodies ethical principles, law and ethics are far from co-extensive. The law does not prohibit many acts that would be widely condemned as unethical. And the contrary is true as well. **The law also prohibits acts that some groups would perceive as ethical. For example, lying or betraying the confidence of a friend is not illegal, but most people would consider it unethical. Yet, speeding is illegal, but many people do not have an ethical conflict with exceeding the speed limit.** Law is more than simply codifying ethical norms.

The following diagram shows the relationship between law and ethics.

<http://ansteadsue.tripod.com/Image9.gif>

(above mentioned details will help you in answering below statements too)

- Explain whether being legally correct also represent ethical correctness.
- Also explain why a bureaucrat should be ethical.
- Give examples to show where legality and ethicality are at opposite ends.

Conclusion:

You should conclude it by saying that though law is important in public life but ethical dimensions helps a bureaucrat to effectively implement the laws and to achieve the goal of good governance.

Best Answer1: Mukesh Max

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Best Answer2: Yogesh Bhatt

Governance is about using the power by democratic rulers to serve the people for their social, economic, and political welfare. Ethics is paramount in governance because it ensures transparency, accountability, and compassion while delivering the service. Governance may be the subject of benevolence but it is ethics in governance which bring essence of duty to reach up to neediest people.

It is true that our constitution has essence of ethics and other than that, civil service code, duty norms of bureaucrats are full of ethical guidelines but in spite of that a bureaucrat need to ethics. Guidelines do not execute law but an individual do, so he needs to be ethical while delivering duty. It is work ethics who separate people like E Shridharan or Verghese Kurein from other bureaucrats. Guidelines serve the boarder purpose but bureaucrats need to work in details; in Defamation case SC mentioned that it is police officer who needs to use his logic to register the complaint. Such role play needs high values for effective interpretation of law.

Laws are static but bureaucrat duty is very dynamic and so law interpretation may different with situations. A police man will follow traffic rules in normal cases but same rule he cannot apply when an emergency vehicle running on the road and he is responsible to make green corroder for patient safely.

So law and guidelines are important but equally important is ethical office for its execution than only society may relish good governance.

The composition of the boards (governing) of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) is said to be a model in corporate governance. How far do you agree with the statement?

Introduction: –

Your introduction should define corporate governance in brief.

- Corporate governance refers to the accountability of the Board of Directors to all stakeholders of the corporation i.e. shareholders, employees, suppliers, customers and society in general; towards giving the corporation a fair, efficient and transparent administration.

(For understanding Purpose)

- The OECD principles define corporate governance as involving “a set of relationships between a company’s management, its board, its shareholders, and other stakeholders. Corporate governance also provides the structure through which the objectives of the company are set, and the means of attaining those objectives and monitoring performance are determined. Good corporate governance should provide proper incentives for the board and management to pursue objectives that are in the interests of the company and its shareholders and should facilitate effective monitoring. The presence of an effective corporate governance system, within an individual company and across an economy as a whole, helps to provide a degree of confidence that is necessary for the proper functioning of a market economy.”
- From a banking industry perspective, corporate governance involves the manner in which the business and affairs of banks are governed by their boards of directors and senior management, which affects how they function:
 - Set corporate objectives;
 - Operate the bank’s business on a day-to-day basis;
 - Meet the obligation of accountability to their shareholders and take into account the interests of other recognized stakeholders;
 - Align corporate activities and behavior with the expectation that banks will operate in a safe and sound manner, and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
 - Protect the interests of depositors.
- Also mention how recent scams like Satyam etc. lead to demand of corporate governance in India.

Body:

Mention about composition of governing boards of Public Sector Banks.

Discuss how Board of Public Sector banks perform on the criteria's to be a model in corporate governance in India.

- The present composition of the boards of public sector banks (PSB) could theoretically be termed as a model in corporate governance. The boards represent diversity (except on gender) and multiple public interests. A typical PSB bank has three directors representing minority (non-government) shareholders' interests; three directors who are expected to represent societal interests; a director each representing the union government, workmen, officers, and regulator (RBI). In addition, an independent chartered accountant is appointed as a director and the person usually heads the audit committee. The bank also has three or four whole-time directors including the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- While the above composition looks good, there is still a huge problem. This problem is about the process of identifying individuals to represent these diverse interests. The Nayak committee rightly identifies it. It terms the boards as "non-independent" except for the shareholder directors. The process of the election of even these so called "independent" directors may also show that they are largely nominees of the government, albeit through a different process. They are elected by shareholders excluding the government. The non-government share-holding in many of the banks are substantially held by institutions indirectly controlled by the government – insurance companies, financial institutions etc. These institutions largely select the "independent" directors as well.
- However, distinguished the panel that will select the chairman, it is always possible for the government to influence the chairman once he or she is appointed. The result would be to pit a political appointee against the CEO who has to deliver results. Second, the chairman may have his or her own agenda; this would render the CEO ineffective. It would have been better to defer the separation of roles until PSB boards had begun to function effectively with independent directors.

We thus have a situation where the public sector banks end up not having a semblance of good corporate governance.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should mention about the way forward in terms on corporate governance in general and for Board of Public Sector banks in particular. Creation of Banks board bureau is a significant step in right direction but it has its own limitation which should be overcome soon to become implement the true form of corporate governance.

Best Answer1: vengeancee

Governing board of PSBs are claimed to be an example of good corporate governance when this new concept has started to find ground, but has been far from reality especially in private enterprises. Such claims can be said to be true as:

- 1) Regular auditing and transparency measures are adopted with rule-bound precautions.
- 2) Regular board meetings are held, and necessary information are divulged to public & shareholders regularly.
- 3) Independent directors are regularly appointed, and provisions like their remuneration, timely renewal & providing cooling-off period are maintained.
- 4) Post for CMD, CeO are regularly shuffled, before power concentration starts to take place.

However, certain problems are also exists:

- 1) No bifurcation of Chairman & Managing Director post has taken place in several banks despite multiple recommendations by experts, & committees.
- 2) Political patronage still works in key appointment as they are generally mandated by Cabinet Committee on Appointments (CCA) headed by PM.
- 3) Scams are not devoid of PSBs due to faulty governance procedures adopted, ex: Syndicate Bank controversy in 2014
- 4) Lack of autonomy persists through Finance Ministry's interference, and Government being their major stakeholder.

Calling them model of corporate governance is rather difficult, and uncalled for. Corporate Governance is still in process of evolving, and PSBs are not flawless despite being comparatively satisfactory. Calling them a model to be followed by others in going down a slippery slope.

Best Answer2: Mukesh Max

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Best Answer3: abhishekrwt597

The Board of Directors are the nerve centre of Corporate Governance. Their importance is magnified further in PSB, that are repositories of public funds (as stated by Narasimhan Committee). However, the composition of the Board of PSB is far from being a model in corporate governance and suffers from the following issues.

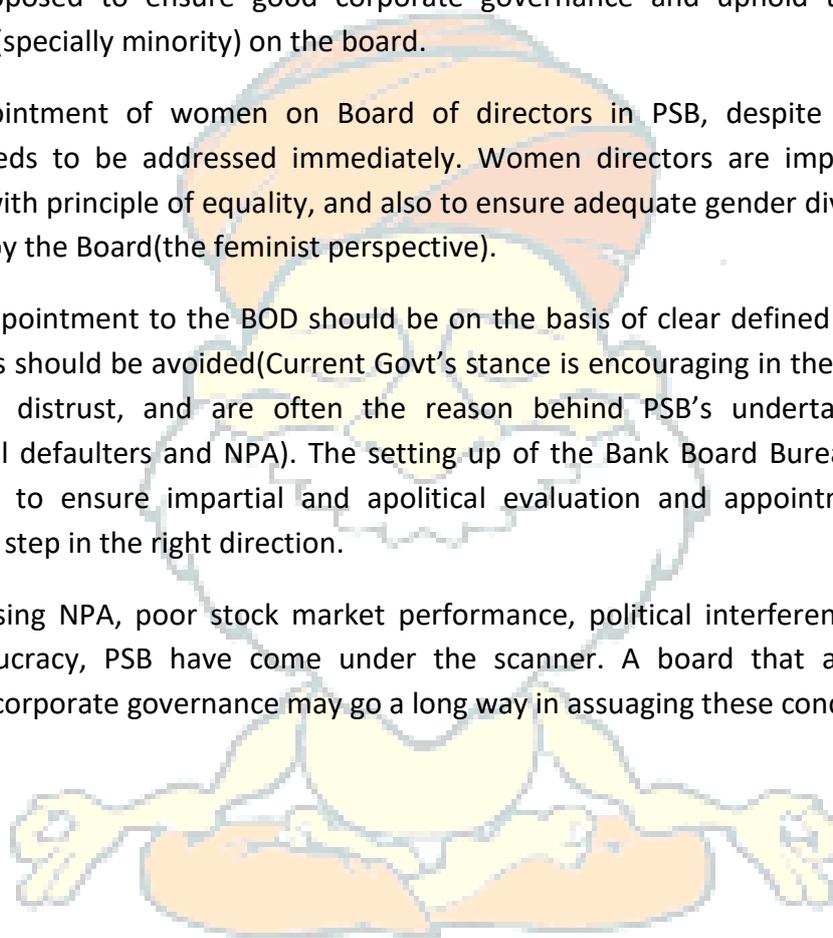
Firstly, the qualification and remuneration of board members needs to be clearly defined.

Secondly, qualification of Independent directors, their minimum number (1/3rd as per Companies Act), and their term in office needs to be specified. This gains significance as they are supposed to ensure good corporate governance and uphold the interest of shareholders (especially minority) on the board.

Thirdly, appointment of women on Board of directors in PSB, despite repeated SEBI directive, needs to be addressed immediately. Women directors are important both in accordance with principle of equality, and also to ensure adequate gender diversity in policy formulation by the Board (the feminist perspective).

Lastly, the appointment to the BOD should be on the basis of clear defined merit. Political appointments should be avoided (Current Govt's stance is encouraging in the same), as they breed public distrust, and are often the reason behind PSB's undertaking subprime lending (willful defaulters and NPA). The setting up of the Bank Board Bureau (BBB) by the current Govt to ensure impartial and apolitical evaluation and appointment of Board members is a step in the right direction.

With their rising NPA, poor stock market performance, political interference and middle heavy bureaucracy, PSB have come under the scanner. A board that adheres to the principles of corporate governance may go a long way in assuaging these concerns.



Human Rights Commissions should adhere to their primary duty of protecting the right of individuals. In the light of the statement, critically discuss the major limitations of the HRC in India.

Since we have already discussed NHRC in detail in previous synopsis, here we will concentrate only on the question.

HRCs both at center and state level were formed by law i.e. statutory bodies to protect the human rights of the individuals or check the human right violations by public as well as private agencies. They are made independent bodies to minimize government interference in their working, with a retired Judge of Supreme court as its Chairman.

They have also been given the right to take Suo Motu cognizance and start an enquiry.

But HRCs in India have been crippled by certain drawbacks like:

- The selection process of members of HRCs is opaque and no selection criterion is fixed. Involvement of executive raises questions on allegiance of members to a particular government.
- Questions are raised on the expertise of the members.
- HRCs are recommendatory bodies and the government is not bound to take actions on it. Moreover, it can only recommend a compensatory fine and not a strict punishment in case of violation. It should be given some power for prosecution.
- There are a high number of cases and HRCs lack workforce to tackle them.
- It lacks funds as well as expertise for investigation. So even if there are a number of cases it can cater to only few of them.
- Any case older than a year will not come under the purview of HRC. In India, where many cases come to the light much later after their occurrence (especially in case of women and children), this clause is especially crippling.

(Since the focus of the question is only drawbacks, try to highlight them in your answer. But end your answer on a positive note, mentioning some of the successful actions taken by HRC against child rights, bonded labour etc. in your conclusion. We have already discussed them in the previous question on NHRC.)

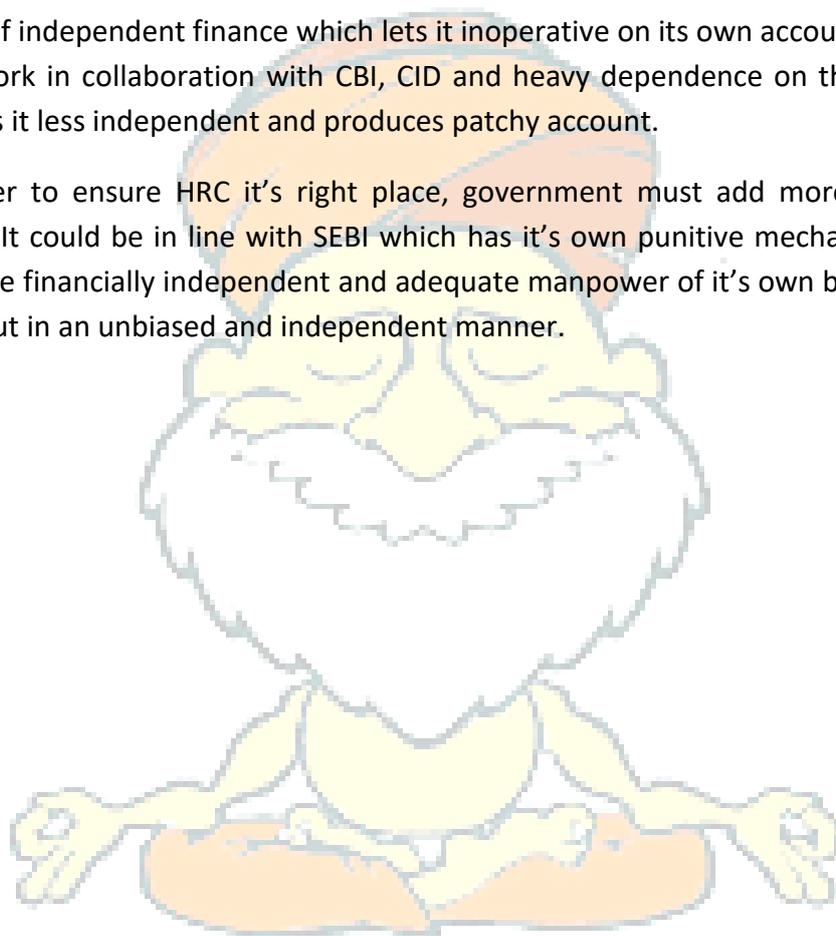
Best Answer: MYK

One cannot protect without the very means to protect. This is much similar to a reflection of 2nd ARC {12th report} on the bleak role that HRC has been reduced to. The ordinance route and subsequent law enacted paved way for a statutory status to the HRC.

The body suffers from serious drawbacks:

1. No teeth – The Commission has only recommendatory nature. It cannot initiate and pronounce punitive actions on its own. This makes it's very existence dubious.
2. Lack of personnel – A greater scope and cases that would require permanent staff/ manning is in contravention to its existing strength.
3. Moderate in action – With State actors like Army and Police being reported as perpetrators of human rights violations, the Commission has failed to address the issue.
4. Administrative delays in appointment of members further strains the working of HRC and makes it rudderless.
5. Lack of independent finance which lets it inoperative on its own account
6. It's work in collaboration with CBI, CID and heavy dependence on the State actors makes it less independent and produces patchy account.

Thus, in order to ensure HRC it's right place, government must add more teeth to the Commission. It could be in line with SEBI which has it's own punitive mechanism. HRC can be made more financially independent and adequate manpower of it's own be given so that it can work out in an unbiased and independent manner.



With the budgetary allocations for the social sector going down and increased devolution of finances to the states, there is a need to rethink the roadmap for improving the key socio-economic indices. Do you agree? Examine in light of the schemes including the centrally sponsored schemes being given lesser share of allocations in the last budget.

Introduction:

The central government has cut the social sector budget to push for more Co-operative Federalism, this decision was taken after the 14th Finance Commission increased the State's share from the Divisible Pool from 32% to 42%.

Body:

- The states will get an extra Rs 63,941 crore as their increased share of taxes, money that needs to be shared out among programmes on agriculture, education, housing, water sanitation and health.
- The central grant to states in the budget only covers capital expenditure, which means states now have to bear revenue expenditure such as salaries that are the bulk of the cost of development programmes.
- The Centre has cut its grant to the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, for instance, to Rs 4,500 crore from Rs 9,864 crore last year. The government stopped funding for eight schemes, including setting up 6,000 model schools, the National Mission on Food Processing and the Backward Regions Grant Fund. These schemes entailed a budgetary support of nearly Rs 10,000 crore this year.
- Since the union budget has shrunk its social sector outlay to 1.68% of GDP this year (excluding the food subsidy) from 1.92% in FY14, states will now have to step up to keep these schemes running.
- The Centre's assistance to the states for social sector schemes has come down from a budgeted Rs 3.56 lakh crore in FY15 to Rs 2.20 lakh crore in FY16. The government gave Rs 1.42 lakh crore additionally to the states from the divisible tax pool, it cut back Rs 1.16 lakh under central government schemes.

Given the changed scenario in funding, socio economic development needs a need roadmap:

1. States must increase their budgetary allocation to health, education etc. as the sole responsibility of formulation and implementation lies on them.
2. States will be able to frame their own scheme with lesser "one size fits all" approach, which had led to distortions in target setting and also in redundant schemes in some parts.
3. Increased emphasis on weaknesses of the institutional capacity of the states, as the poorest states need to upgrade their capacities for the implementation, they will

have to earmark large funds and human resources to be able to compete with the rich states.

4. As accountability of states will increase, appropriate mechanism to monitor these schemes is crucial.

Conclusion:

(Write a brief conclusion.)

Best Answer: Derozio

Guided by the principle of cooperative federalism and fourteenth finance commission recommendation government devolved 42% of funds from divisible pools to states increased from 32% .

However in my opinion roadmap to socioeconomic indices needs following changes

1. With the increase of “untied ” funds ,states should prioritise their spendings according to specific requirements. Eg- Bihar may go for increased spending in primary education while Tamilnadu in higher education
2. Also restructuring and consolidating of centrals sector schemes in core of the core will lead to greater focus.Eg MGNREGA
3. States needs capacity building to effectively implement these schemes. State administration and agencies needs support and training in the transition period.
4. Outcome based monitoring should be adopted in health and education schemes like jannasi Swasth yojna,ICDS and Sarva shiksha Abhiyan as suggested by NITI AYO

However budget cuts in central sponsored schemes needs to complemented with increased states share but this will lead to reduced fiscal space for states and thus limit their ability to go for state specific programs

The whole mechanism of social sector spendings needs to be stabilised quickly as many of the schemes are instrumental to achieve Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty, health, education etc by 2030.

Issues pertaining to governance, funding, institutional oversight and sustainability are the major stumbling blocks in the path of creating 100 smart cities. What are these issues? Discuss. Also suggest ways that can truly impart smartness to the urban landscape in India.

For the information of candidates, we are sharing these mind maps regarding 'Smart Cities'.

<http://iasbaba.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/100-Smart-Cities-Global-Economic-Power.jpg>

<http://iasbaba.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Digital-Governance-in-Smart-Cities.jpg>

<http://iasbaba.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Indias-Smart-Cities-JPEG.jpg>

<http://iasbaba.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Greenfield-Smart-City-projects-India.jpg>

Now the question asks about major stumbling blocks. i.e.- Governance, Funding, Institutional Oversight and sustainability.

Governance: The issue with governance is that, these cities are not union territories. Hence the responsibility of governing these cities will rest on the State Government. But since this is a Central Project, Central Government would want to interfere. Also, Special Purpose Vehicles are being used for the implementation of the project. This has caused Local Self Government bodies to take a back seat.

Funding: Initially the Central Government has assigned 100 Cr Rupees per city. If you see this amount, these days high budget bollywood movies are made with almost 100 Cr. So this is a minuscule amount for a smart city. The rest has to be put in by the State Government. Also we are asking for FDIs and foreign funding for the project. Non-availability of funds can stall the projects.

Institutional Oversight: Since SPVs are involved and on the ground the power of local government is curtailed, this is a big question of which agency will be responsible for the working and maintenance of the project.

Sustainability: (Here the question doesn't ask about the environmental sustainability which many of you have mentioned. It is asking about the sustainability of the project. Since the project is to create the new infrastructure but old problems will remain unchecked like overpopulation, creation of slums, waste management etc. Mechanism should be developed to check these problems.

Suggestions:

- Smartness can be truly imparted to the urban landscape by behavioural change. There is a need to inculcate civic sense and basic mannerism and good civic habits should be taught in schools and should be strictly followed in public offices.

- Smart cities should be supported by smart villages so that in migration can be checked.
- More employment opportunities should be created in rural areas.
- Fast grievance mechanism should be there in cities and basic services like sanitation, plumbing, electric work and communication network should be provided under the supervision of government.

(Many more unique points can be added here by you.)

Best Answer: ManojTanajiMane

The best way to predict the future is to design it, they say. However, if the very design is plagued by the the same problems which made past a failure, their is little scope for a different future. Smart cities project also point out such impediments, which must be rectified , before they blow out of proportion –

1. The problem with Indian cities is that they are dysfunctiona and expanding their infrastructure would require funds. Yet funds if solely dependent on market (which is the case in Smart City) would only be attracted by existing infrastructure -> thus limiting the smartness to a select few urban centres.
2. The debt-laden balance-sheets of urban local bodies would need guarantees from state governments to raise project equity forfeiting their autonomous status.
3. The conflict between ULBs, the state government, the center and the SPV would require a definite policy structure to in place.
4. Multiple Bureaucracies; the case of the national capital Delhi; MCD (Solid Waste, Storm Water Drainage), Delhi Jal Board (Water Supply and Sewerage), and enclaves managed by the Cantonment Board and NDMC are almost always in conflict.
5. The Smart City is very much based on Smart People and Smart Management: This would require capacity building in the people to access the various services and at the same time infrastructure to manage the possible issues – grievance redressal, etc.

Thus, a combination of state-led funding, roadmap for proliferation of smart cities into tir 2 tier t3 with private funding and following a cluster approach would be needed. This would require:

1. Political and fiscal autonomy as well as reinforcing administrative capacity at the local level.
2. Power should be divested to local government structures in order to set political accountability that can be ballot-tested by its patrons. This may even involve exploring the idea of having an elected mayor.

3. Using Municipal Bond led funding mechanism, and resource pooling for achieving distributed growth as done in Tamil Nadu.
4. Ensuring convergence between various bodies and introducing the concept of utility fee, instead of pure government funded amenities.

Fiscal devolution, governance strengthening and benchmarking it to institutional capacity, could yield results that would really make the initiative SMART.



Do you think the rights of home-buyers in India need special protection? Why? Also discuss the key provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 in this regard.

Introduction: –

Your introduction should mention the need of special protection of rights of home-buyers in India.

Facts related to Real Estate sector in India: –

<http://www.ibef.org/uploads/industry/Infographics/large/Real-Estate-Nov-2015.png>

Need of special protection of rights of home buyers in India: –

1. Home-buying is considered an important landmark in person's life with emotional, psychological, and economic aspects relating strongly to it. This makes purchasing home important regulatory exercise considering the vulnerabilities due to large costs associated.
2. Builders would promise myriad facilities to the buyers before buying house, but after the construction if they were not provided with the same.
3. The shortage of homes in the country is due to the Permit Raj. Although the system was abolished in the early 1990s in the manufacturing sector, it remains active in the real estate industry, resulting in the man-made shortage of housing and artificially high prices. Under the permit system, builders need approvals for development and construction, given the master plan of a township or a city. The process of approvals involves delays, contacts with officials, politicians and 'god-fathers' and black money. All this can act as barriers to the entry of many hardworking and sincere people in the construction of homes. The result is that by and large the costs are high, the quality is low and there is little innovation.
4. Recent cases of fraud, misinformation, delay in completion of projects (87%), liability lapses, and pending delays in disposal of complaints by responsible appellate tribunals & regulatory authorities.

Body: –

some important features of the bill:

Better organised real-estate sector

The real-estate sector in India is unorganised which leads to various discrepancies in the functioning. The bill will establish state-level authorities called Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (RERAs) which will regulate transactions related to both residential and

commercial projects. The authority will grade the projects helping customers to make better decisions.

Timely completion and hand-over

One of the problems which buyers face is that they don't get possession of property as promised by the seller because of delayed construction among other issues. The bill ensures that 70 per cent of the money taken from buyers has to be kept aside in a separate bank account and this money can only be used for construction activities. This will ensure that the sellers don't invest the money received from one project into another project.

Accurate information

As per the bill, it will become mandatory for sellers to disclose all information like project layout, approval, land status, contractors, schedule and completion of project with customers as well as the RERA.

Appropriate punishment

If the developer fails to hand-over the property to the buyer on time, then he would be liable to pay same amount as interest which he is charging from the buyer on delay in payment. Also, the property cannot be sold on the basis of 'super area' which includes both flat area and common area. If the developer violates the orders of appellate tribunal, then he/she can get a jail term of up to three years or penalty.

Allottees association and after-sales service

It has been made mandatory to set-up an allottees association within three months of the allotment of major units/properties so that the residents can manage common facilities like a library and a common hall. Also, if the buyer finds any structural deficiency in the property, then he/she can contact the developer for after-sales service within one year of possession. The promoters or developers cannot make any changes to the plan without consent of the buyer, the bill states.

Conclusion: –

You should conclude it by saying that though there are some lacuna in the present act but it is still a positive step in right direction which will further protect the interests of all stakeholders.

Best Answer1: – Anjlika Gupta

In the light of the importance of the sector not only in terms of economy (9% of GDP) but also a psycho-social importance of owning a home, it is imperative to safeguard buyers interest for the following reasons: –

1. In real estate sector builders could extend the possession of house to the time they want. In such a case the buyer suffers a lot since the amount has already been paid and an added amount of him living in the old home is also added.
2. Builders would promise myriad facilities to the buyers before buying house, but after the construction if they were not provided with the same.
3. Builders as NPA's or bankrupt:- there had been no provision to safeguard buyers interest who has already paid the amount to the builder in case of NPA or Bankruptcy.
4. Many agents were also found selling one flat to multiple buyers, this added to the pain of the buyers due property dispute leading to court cases etc.

The provisions of the bill are-

1. Escrow account with 70% of the amount to safeguard buyers money only in construction activity and not in allied service.
2. In the wake to improve transparency and accountability, a number of duties have been mentioned in the bill for all the stakeholders to abide by, failing which penalties are to be imposed.
3. Real Estate Regulatory Authority is made the ombudsman to regulate all the real estate activities, registration (builders and agents) and grievance redress body for the stakeholders involved.
4. Setting up of Appellate tribunals.

Though the Real Estate Bill 2016 is not a panacea to all the real estate problems but is move in right direction to safeguard interests of all stakeholders.

Best Answer2: –vengeancee

Home-buying is considered an important landmark in person's life with emotional, psychological, and economic aspects relating strongly to it. This makes purchasing home important regulatory exercise considering the vulnerabilities due to large costs associated with it.

Special protection is henceforth needed due to recent cases of fraud, misinformation, delay in completion of projects (87%), liability lapses, and pending delays in disposal of complaints by responsible appellate tribunals & regulatory authorities.

Recently, Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 was passed by Parliament, and has some key provisions like:

- 1) Establishment of RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) in every State.
- 2) Commercial & Residential projects are covered under its ambit.
- 3) Mandatory registration of real estate projects & agents.
- 4) Developer has to deposit 70% of the collected amount from buyers in a special account which will be gradually released as per completion stages of project.
- 5) Developers need to receive all clearances, before issuing property for sale.
- 6) Liability to repair damages is extended from 2 to 5 years.
- 7) Consumers are entitled to full refund with interest if long delay of completion of project.
- 8) Insurance for land titles are provided under the act.

The legislation however infringes on rights of State Government, as land is a State Subject, along with other issues like lack of liquidity, stringent norms may increase cost of property. Nevertheless, Act provides a way to recognize Rights of home-buyers, and is a progressive steps towards it.

Best Answer3: – Dharavi Writer

Buying home is an important event in life of man as it gives him a psychological, economical and emotional satisfaction. Buying homes require huge amount of money sometimes even savings of whole life. The delay of projects leads to stress on customer. The housing sector was recently rocked by Pune Housing Scam which underlines the risk associated with home buyers. Hence, there is a need to protect rights of home buyers. Protection will help home buyers to ensure transparency and accountability from builders.

Govt in this regards passed REAL ESTATE (REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT) ACT 2016. The main provisions of this act are:

1. Covers commercial and residential projects.
2. Compulsory to register all projects
3. Builders cannot sell the project if all permissions are not taken
4. Foundation of REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (RERA) in all states.

5. 70% of the total money need to be deposited in a special account. this money can be withdrawn on gradual completion of project.

6. Maintenance and repair to be carried out by builder upto 5 years.

7. Insurance to land titles

Thus, this act will help in curbing mal practices in real estate sector. Hence, there is a need to apply this law in letter and spirit for protection of home buyers



What is the mandate of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO? Recently, some allegations were made by India against the efforts to bring within DSB's ambit some non trade issues. What was the controversy? Examine.

The WTO's procedure for resolving trade quarrels under the Dispute Settlement Understanding is vital for enforcing the rules and therefore for ensuring that trade flows smoothly.

A dispute arises when a member government believes another member government is violating an agreement or a commitment that it has made in the WTO. The authors of these agreements are the member governments themselves — the agreements are the outcome of negotiations among members. Ultimate responsibility for settling disputes also lies with member governments, through the Dispute Settlement Body.

Recently DSB was in news as India alleges that developing nations, including India, are at disadvantageous end in DSB.

According to India, the disadvantage is because of two aspects:

- Lack of sufficient pool of trade law experts to represent these nations at DSB
- Efforts of some developed countries to bring in some non-trade issues, supposedly global trade's new challenges, specifically, labour and environmental issues in the ambit of DSB.

With the global trade slowdown and the consequent rise in trade restrictive measures taken by many countries, the world is witnessing increasing use of trade remedies (such as anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty and countervailing duty). Many of these measures are ending up as disputes in DSB.

Apart from these, developing countries lag behind the developed world in terms of progressive labour laws and environmental compliance. If these issues are also included, the developing countries will face double disadvantage. Very often these are conditions that add as restrictions in the freedom of trade particularly for developing countries.

India has been advocating that certain issues, including labour and environment, must be kept out of the WTO's purview and instead be dealt with by the global bodies concerned such as the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(Rest of the points are covered in the best answer.)

(Since the article on dispute was covered nicely in 'The Hindu', most of you have written a direct answer from there included irrelevant points. Try to stick to the demand of the question and answer accordingly.)

Best Answer: Vengeancee (Very good analysis and articulation)

DSB (Dispute Resolution Body) of WTO consists of representatives from all member nations, (Generally IAS or IFS officers from India) who put forward their case & stand in the body. Decision is taken by a special process called “reverse consensus”

Recently, India alleged DSB for taking into ambit some non-trade issues like labor & environment. India’s stand is to keep such issues in jurisdiction of global bodies concerned with them, like International labor Organization, UNFCCC. However, developed nations say that due to complex interdependence, and inter-relatedness among trade variables, labor & environment related issues come under “new challenges”.

Points favoring India’s stand:

- 1) Lack of experts in WTO: who can comprehensively judge merits of every issues.
- 2) Compromising with utility of other organizations: who have designated members for such disputes.
- 3) Specialized job: must be handled with specialized personnel, as dispute resolutions are worth is billions of \$.

Points against India’s stand:

- 1) General image of India as spoiler: due to several conflicts in recent years has made India’s stand look to be seen from biased prism.
- 2) Consensus based decision making: which makes dispute resolution process fair, transparent, and acceptable.
- 3) Losing record in past: which has made India’s stand seen as retaliatory measure.

WTO disputes have been hovering over past, recent case of DCR requirements in solar cell was another such case. Policy of such dispute resolution maneuvers should be looked over by Government.

Personal laws must comply with Constitution. Critically comment.

Personal laws are the laws covering personal issues like marriage, inheritance, divorce etc. They are religion specific and are based on the religious texts. Since India is a secular country it has given ample space to all the religions to grow and prosper (**Mention some articles in support of this**). **Following their customs is one such freedom.**

But the debate has been going on for the compliance of Personal Laws with the constitutional values.

Constitution is the highest and most revered code of the country. And it is compulsory for every citizen to abide by its values irrespective of religion, region, race or caste.

Considering this fact, the compliance of personal laws is a necessity.

Recently, the issue again came into light with the petition of Muslim women against 'Triple Talaq'. This custom is indeed exploitative and against the gender equality. (**Mention some articles/rights which are being breached by these type of laws**)

There can be other personal laws as well which are against the basic ethos of the constitution like inheritance laws, polygamy etc. They need to be checked to curb exploitation.

A brilliant point was mentioned by 'MDA' (Best answer 1) that a large population is becoming Atheist. Personal Laws do not provide them an escape route as according to law they have to stick to their 'personal Law'.

(More points are covered by the Best answers today.)

However, this should not be made a premise to impose a majoritarian ideology on everyone. It is a delicate issue and if not dealt with care it can lead rift in society on the basis of religion. Minority can feel that it is an encroachment to their fundamental right to profess their religion. Government needs to take some confidence building measures in this regard and consult religious leaders as well to come to a conclusion.

(The question was about the compliance of Personal laws with the Constitution. It does not mean that Personal laws should be removed and replaced by a Uniform Civil Code(UCC). Many of you have focused on UCC only and drifted away from the question. Try to understand the question before attempting it.)

Note: In questions like these, never get emotional. Try to keep your answer simple and support your statement with fact. It should be balanced.

Best Answer: MDA

Personal laws (involving marriage, divorce, custody), guided by religion have since long enjoyed primacy over fundamental rights and are considered beyond the purview of legal jurisdiction. However, with increasing gender sensitization and emphasis on equality and liberty, personal laws are being seen in a light of constitutional compliance.

Personal laws need not comply with constitution:

In India, different religions have different personal laws: Hindu Marriage act,1955, The Parsi marriage and divorce act, 1936, Muslim Personal (Shariat) laws, 1937,etc, thereby ensuring freedom of religion .

Balance between social recognition and legal remedy (as given by SC in Vishwa Lochan Madan Vs Union of India) is given as individuals have the right to legal remedy via courts if they feel they have been wronged under their personal laws.

Personal laws must comply with constitution:

Article 14 of constitution guarantees equal protection of laws to all its citizens. Rising instances of discrimination(Ex: Shah bano case, etc) have drawn attention towards necessity of these personal laws complying with the constitution.

Smaller religious groups like Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists are often miscategorised or ignored(ex: Bahais)and force-fitted into a religious identity . This is a violation of rights of religious minorities.

#2.87 million Indians are atheists, agnostics or rationalists. Personal laws based on religion do not offer exit route for such population.

Different sects of one religion have various interpretations of their holy scriptures. Personal laws, based on one sect's opinion is infringement of the other sect's fundamental right to practise one's religion.

India is secular and pluralistic in nature. Here, not all personal laws are discriminatory neither is Judicial activism the only way ahead towards a just society. However, certain laws that are out of context in the present era when made to comply with the Constitution of India can guarantee us an egalitarian society.

Best Answer 2: Kumar Harsh

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BRICS countries must extend the synergy being witnessed in economic and strategic areas to the fight against terrorism? Discuss.

Introduction: – Your introduction should introduce BRICS countries in brief i.e. their global standing, economic contribution, global stature etc.

Body: –

- You should mention the areas under economic and strategic headings. (in brief)
- Economic collaboration
- New Development Bank – Forced IMF, World Bank etc. to reform their quota system.
- Contingency reserve fund
- Various agreement on economic collaboration.
- Strategic collaboration
- Worked as a bloc on various global platform and issues like Climate change etc.
- Impact of Terrorism on BRICS nations
- China: Uighur minority in Xinjiang Province
- India: Pak sponsored terrorism in J & K, target attacks like Pathankot, Mumbai etc.
- Russia: Chechnya
- South Africa: African continent is impacted by various civil wars and presence of groups like boko Haram keeps a sword hanging on its doors.
- Brazil: Comparatively immune but we had seen in 9/11 that even country like USA is not safe.
- Why they should fight against Terrorism?
- Countries like India, China, Russia are directly suffered from the terrorist activities in the region.
- 3 of them are in the vicinity of ISIS affected area and Turmoil in the middle east not only creates a security problem but also have huge economic impacts on them.
- Responsible power – 2 of them are the part of UNSC and others are aspiring countries. They should lead the world in a responsible manner. It will also help in gaining respect and votes for rest 3 nations to get into UNSC.
- These 5 nation constitute a major growing economic bloc. Terrorist activities not only hamper the economic growth but also forces the countries to spend a major share in security infrastructure.
- Terrorism have other ill effects like black money market, drug trafficking, illegal arms trade, human trafficking etc.

(you can add more points here.)

Major roadblocks

- Pakistan is a major partner of China in this region. So China defends it and restrain itself from openly accepting the linkage of Pakistan with terrorist activities.

- India – china relation also has its own share of problems which forces China to remain in line with Pakistan.
- Growing tilt of India towards US created some strain in Indo-Russia relations.
- Brazil is suffering from political crisis at home and not directly impacted.
- Countries like China and Russia themselves engaged in Cyber terrorism.

Conclusion: –

You should conclude it by saying that though BRICS nation have come on board on various aspects and evolved as a responsible and major player in global arena, more has to be done to tame the evil of terrorism. This require a mature and responsible approach by all players which demands them to raise above the local or regional interests.

Best answer1: veracity29

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<https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/50e25205175434f376fb8bb0381f920eb720cb8e08ff390b838b4fda80eae3b9.jpg>

Best answer2: – falguni Sharma

BRICS nations accounts for almost half of the humanity, ~24% of global trade, all 5 members among the G-20 has a huge potential in reforming global economic governance instituions, fight terrorism and among others.

BRICS synergy can be seen in economic and strategic areas as below :

- 1) NDB : Formation of NDB to cooperate & complement the existing multi-national banks under which India has already received loans.
- 2) CRA : proposed contingency reserve fund if finalize soon, it will help member nations to fight BoP crisis by currency swap arrangement.
- 3) IBSA : tri-partite grouping of 3 nations to cooperate on various issues of global & members' interest.
- 4) Strategic partnership : between China & Russia & Proposed RIC alliance (Russia-India-China) mark the strategic success of BRICS upto some extent.

However, BRICS is struggling on front of Terrorism:

1) **ISIS:** While Russia is unilaterally countering ISIS in Syria by backing the political leadership, other members have either supported Russia's intervention through (India, China) or take neutral stance (Brazil, SA). All members need a coherent policy & stance to counter & combat ISIS.

2) **Cross-Border Terrorism:** While all members have condemned the recent cross-border terrorist attacks (Pathankot, Uri) in India, however none has explicitly held Pakistan responsible for it.

3) **International Convention on Terrorism:** While India is on fore-front to sensitize the UN & world to adopt it for global action against the terrorism, other members of BRICS has not shown any interest in it.

4) **Differentiation among terrorists:** BRICS with an exception of China has now realized that there is no good or bad terrorism. China's blockage of India's move to brand Azhar Masood as a terrorist reflect it.

5) **Cyber Terrorism:** when China, Russia itself have been indulging in cyber-terrorism as a state policy, BRICS cannot fight the terrorism which is expanding through the social sites & internet networks.

BRICS needs a political will to not compromise on Terrorism for their short term gains. It should unite itself against the Terrorism & agree upon a comprehensive agreement. If BRICS stands up against terrorism, world will have to follow.

Best answer3: Naadan Parinda

In the times when there is an evident tilt towards regionalism, BRICS has emerged as a powerful organisation. Reasons being-large global share of economy and power status due to two permanent members of UNSC. There has been increasing synergy noticed in form of NDB, contingency reserve funds and even envisaging services like BRICS university. However this understanding needs to move further towards regime of new global threat- Terrorism.

>It has emerged as a new global threat using multiple techniques like cyber world, ideology, which cannot be dealt by the sole countries itself. Ex-ISIS, Al-Qaeda have their bases in multiple states

>Increased usage of these non-state actors by some nations as their prime foreign policy instrument needs to be dealt in comprehensive manner

>Concert among nations regarding terrorism, its supporters and applying intelligence sharing mechanism will have form a joint front to obliterate the menace

>Synergised efforts will help in coping terror support modules through-black money,drug and human trafficking etc.

Though we often see a dichotomy over taking stands towards terrorism citing one's own foreign relations(China supporting Pak,Role of Russia in Syria),need of hour is to come together.

BRICS came into frame to bring in new vibes against fractured work mechanism of UN and dominance of Western interests.Hence it as an opportune moment for BRICS to show their caliber,rationality & relevance to bring in peace.



What is a feminist foreign policy? Explain and contextualize. Why the need is being felt to have a feminist foreign policy?

A country's foreign policy, also called foreign relations or foreign affairs -policy, consists of self-interest strategies chosen by the state to safeguard its national interests and to achieve goals within its international relations milieu.

Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) refers to women-centric foreign policy which aims at striking a balance between 'masculine' and 'feminine' facets of policymaking which till now has remained biased towards the former in forms of war, power, military actions, etc. In other words, FFP aims to strengthen women's rights, representation and access to resources.

Sweden became the first state ever to publicly adopt a feminist foreign policy, with a stated ambition to become the strongest voice for gender equality and full employment of human rights for all women and girls.

Why the need is felt to have FFP?

- to promote gender equality in the international arena
- including women in peace and security decision-making will help create the conditions for sustainable global peace
- FFP promotes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security
- To counter growing incidents of human rights violations.
- To have an empathetic attitude towards issues like refugee crisis.

Best answer: SherniZaad

Sweden became the world's first country to adopt a feminist foreign policy. Feminist Foreign Policy aims at striking a balance between 'masculine' and 'feminine' facets of policymaking which till now has remained biased towards the former in forms of war, power, military actions, etc.

Ever since the world began witnessing development in the form of Industrial Revolution, Colonialism and Imperialism, foreign policies have been influenced by the theory of masculinity witnessed in the form of world wars, cold war, defense and security. However, when world started developing besides just growing economically, few gradual changes started happening in terms of feminism and human rights, and globally the value of peace and equality started gaining prominence.

There's growing need for FFP because:-

- 1) We need a peaceful and a safer world free from social disasters like wars and terrorism.
- 2) Inclusive development where both men and women contribute equally.
- 3) Sustainable development in order to protect our environment from over exploitation.
- 4) To counter growing incidents of human rights violations.
- 5) To have an empathetic attitude towards issues like refugee crisis.

As the world is progressing, its women are becoming more and more aware of their capabilities. Also the importance given to FFP by developed nations like Sweden gives a ray of hope towards a peaceful and a happy world.

All the Best ☺

