

Q.1) After the formation of Asian Infrastructure Bank by China, do you think that the New Development Bank of BRICS has become redundant? Critically analyse.

IASBaba's Views –

1. The focus of NDB is global while AIIB focuses only on Asia.
2. NDB can address -global economic concerns like Basel norms, Taxation information exchange etc. But scope of AIIB is narrow – infrastructure
3. The NDB can fund poverty alleviation schemes, social projects etc.
4. The AIIB has a mix of developing and developed nations on board, while the NDB has the five BRICS economies as backers.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Draconian

Ans) The formation of two recent financial institutions – NDB of BRICS and China-led AIIB was and is envisioned as an answer to the stranglehold that the Bretton Woods Institution wield over the world which has given rise to impossible debts to be paid by Second and Third World nations.

Despite China being at the center of both the institution, they are different in their approaches:

- 1) AIIB focuses only on infrastructure finance in Asia like the construction of roads, railways, and airports in the Asia-Pacific Region only while NDB will also act as a platform for developing and weaker countries to represent their grievance at the global level.
- 2) AIIB is an Asia-centric institution led by China while NDB with five BRICS emerging economies as backers is having a global character providing a financing alternative to the World Bank.
- 3) AIIB is a finance-based institution while NDB is an ideas-sharing finance institution which makes it more attractive.
- 4) AIIB extends China's financial reach and competes not only with the World Bank, but also with the ADB while NDB aims to enhance the bloc's role in the international arena and promote reform of global economic governance.
- 5) NDB is more democratic in approach as it gives voting rights based on equality rather than equity of AIIB which can lead to dominance by big nations.
- 6) AIIB is supplementing World Bank (IBDR) on the other hand NDB is more of an IMF type of body as its prime focus is on CRA (contingency reserve) and managing liquidity.

While AIIB with its large resource base seems attractive but it is untimely to state that NDB formation would be redundant because in the long run the developing countries of Africa and Latin America will look up to the NDB for funds for their development whose main focus is on global economic governance.

Q.2) The SCO is described by Western analysts as a way for Russia and China to cooperate with each other in creating stability in Central Asia as well as challenging the current, Western-dominated global order. Critically comment. Do you think India's eagerness to join SCO can have negative impact on its relations with the West ?

IASBaba's Views –

Use these quotes for analysis and enrich answer with debates, suggest you to pick up gist from these quotes and write in own words

An Indian analyst warned two years ago that “Washington is not interested in New Delhi's official admission to the nuclear power club because that would enhance the latter's influence in international affairs. An important objective of the Americans in the region is to turn India into a major factor capable of counterbalancing a rapidly growing China.

“In order to reduce the SCO's role and influence in the region and to promote realisation of the American concept of a ‘Greater Central Asia,’ Tokyo and Washington are trying to drag New Delhi into a so-called Quadrilateral of Democracies aimed at building an alliance-like relationship between the US, Japan, Australia and India.”

Another Indian writer at the time echoed the same concern in stating, “It is indeed sad that New Delhi should continue to underestimate the importance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

“So enamoured are our foreign policy mandarins of the new found friendship with Washington that they have found no time to evaluate the SCO's great potential strategic importance to India.

“The US has sought to undermine the SCO and given an opportunity, it would have loved to throttle it in its infancy.

“India is the most important ‘swing state’ in the international system. It has the potential to emerge as a strong, independent centre of power. Must India allow the US to play midwife to the birth of a new great power?”

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Saurabh Sharma](#)

Ans) SCO membership includes energy deficient countries like China, India and Pakistan on one hand and surplus countries like Russia and 4 central Asian countries on the other.

The Central Asia is energy rich region. It has large deposits of natural gas, coal, uranium and other minerals. However, due to low infrastructural connectivity, trade and investment, this region has not seen potential economic development. Hence SCO provides a necessary institutional arrangement to cater to these needs.

However, there is a strategic dimension attached to it also which some perceives as anti-west.

It can lead to large amount of energy trade to be done in domestic currencies through bilateral exchanges. This will challenge the hegemony of dollar and provide immunity to members from any unilateral sanction of the west.

SCO agenda coupled with Chinese revival of old silk route provides prospects for a predominantly land based trade route so as to thwart US monopoly in international shipping.

The economic prosperity in the central asia will also contribute in stabilizing the region and thwarting US influence.

US ,as an effort to contain expansionist China and its association with Russia, wants increased collaboration with India in Asia-pacific region. however, being an energy deficient country, India's induction to SCO is natural rather than provocative. On one hand, India needs to look first for its own requirements rather than pacifying US suspicions. On the other, the clean past record of India suggests that it has never joined a grouping just for military needs.

Q.3) The growth of regional trade partnerships as well as bilateral and multilateral FTAs by different countries will make WTO irrelevant in future. Do you agree?

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Praneeth](#)

Ans) The deadlock in WTO negotiations is pushing the world towards bilateral and multilateral FTAs. The recent TPP covers 12 countries accounting for 40% of global GDP and 1/3rd of trade. Slowly this will make WTO irrelevant in future because:

1. WTO functioning is based on consensus and developed countries view unified resistance of developing countries as a huge hurdle. Former are pushing for greater liberalization and greater access to developing markets without any proportionate benefits in return to them.
2. In this context, bilateral and multilateral fora provide greater scope for developed countries to push their demands because of lesser bargaining power for developing countries. Thus, stringent standards can be imposed and greater access to markets. For e.g. recent TPP stringent labour and IP standards could be imposed, which other would have been opposed by developing countries such as Vietnam.
3. Or developing countries which are too strong to be coerced can simply be left out of these multilateral FTAs.
4. Developing countries cannot afford to be left behind and thus are joining FTAs and trying their best to get their concerns addressed. Also, in some cases their interests are better served by lower standards than WTO, especially in case of trade between developing countries.

Thus, the developed world would be reluctant to push for WTO. However, relevance of WTO grows for developing countries. Thus, it is important from the perspective of the developing world to push for WTO.

Q.4) Should there be an Union of SAARC countries on the lines of European Union to promote free trade, movement of people and ensure security across the borders. What can be the negative consequences of such an agreement?

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Draconian](#)

Ans) Chapter VIII of United Nations Charter encourages the formation of Regional integration for the goodwill and overall development of the region and welfare of its citizens while maintaining peace and security.

In contrast to UN charter SAARC, might as well be a blueprint as to how nations should NOT form a regional co-operation agreement because:

1. Fear of Indian domination: India is positioned strong in terms of economy, technology and demography and thus the partner States fear that economic integration would help India only.
- 2). The success of Euro was facilitated by France and Germany, the two bitter rivals, coming together. In contrast, India and Pakistan, the two big rivals continue to engage in direct and proxy wars
- 3). SAARC charter doesn't allow discussion of bilateral issues as a result of which the contentious issues continue to simmer and countries are not able to come forward
- 4) Barriers to trade: Tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers have also played their role in keeping the level of integration low while Pakistan hasn't extended MFN status to India with so many items been put under the 'negative list'
- 5) Difficult business environment: Failure to ensure single window clearance and removal of clumsy procedures resulted in high cost trade inhibiting the growth potential of the region.
6. Regional problems: Srilankan Tamil issue, Bangladesh's political conflict, Nepal's unstable terrain, and political instability in Pakistan further aggravated by militancy creating real bottlenecks in developing the region.
6. Lack of infrastructure: Non-availability of adequate infrastructure in the form of roads and cargo/ship handling equipment has also hindered the progress
7. Domestic Markets- Euro countries having rich intra- country trade. In contrast, to countries in south Asia being poor had less possibility of intra- country trade. Also Euro markets are facilitated with more finance and technology allowed them to invest in technologies to facilitate trade, monitoring, etc

SAARC to reclaim its space in the world, the stability in the region is must to transform South Asia likewise European Union has changed Europe and India as the largest country and fastest growing economy had to play a vital role in it.

Q.5) Why is the permanent membership in UNSC so important for India? Do you think India's claim to permanent membership is valid? Elucidate.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Draconian

Ans) A permanent seat in UNSC would elevate India to the status of USA, UK, France, China and Russia in the diplomatic sphere and warrant India a critical say in all global matters that matter globally.

Importance for India

—India can tackle human rights violations in neighbor countries SriLanka (After civil war crimes), Myanmar (Rohyanga Muslims), Afghanistan (Gender inequality) with more authority and can bring them to notice of UNSC.

—India can put its requirements and ask for more funds from UN contribution as part of Social and economic development of third world countries.

—Indian diaspora across will also benefits if any issues arise like unfair treatment to diplomats, racial attacks, providing equal opportunities in foreign countries.

—As regional representation increases, India could represent other countries to stop western forces (USA, UK, France) from promoting their vested interests. like Invasion of Iraq, bombing of Libya, non-recognition of Palestine state are few examples.

—Indian Ocean can be declared as “Zone of Peace”. This will stop China from deploying submarines in strategic locations engulfing India with its jingoistic “String of Pearls” policy.

—To protect her interests, India can enforce Pakistan to stop supporting terror elements and let non-state actors use its soil for terrorist actions.

— Having UNSC permanent membership, India can have leverage in geopolitics, military, economic and political groupings and negotiations in area likes Intellectual property rights, maritime issues, border conflicts etc

Why India Deserves it?

—India was among the founding members of United Nations with one of the largest constant contributors of troops in peace-keeping to United Nations.

—India happens to be the second fastest growing economy in the world making it an ideal destination for foreign investment and future growth

—India Ruled by a democratic, secular government which has never been upstaged by an army coup and can be labelled as a “responsible” nuclear power.

—With becoming most populous country by 2022. India can't be kept from decision making table of UNSC which brings with itself the “veto” power.

But great power always comes with great responsibility. which means India had to make a world a better place with peace and prosperity. As Pandit Nehru envisaged in its famous speech that " Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for anyone of them to imagine that it can live apart."

Q.6) American Constitution contains just seven articles and it came into force in 1789. Since then there has only been twenty seven amendments. On contrary Indian Constitution is the bulkiest constitution that has been amended more than 100 times. Does this mean that Indian Constitution is flawed and has to be corrected from time to time?

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Mumtaz Ahmad](#)

Ans) The procedure for amendment makes the Indian constitution neither too rigid nor too flexible. On the other hand, the procedure for amending the US constitution is a quite tedious task. Following points elaborate this difference:

1. Much of the provisions of the Indian constitution could be easily amended by an ordinary legislation. Such provisions are lacking in US constitution.
2. For some other provisions to be amended, a special majority i.e. more than 50% of total strength and 2/3rd present and voting is required in our constitution which is 3/4th in the latter.
3. The requirement relating to ratification by the state legislation is more liberal for amending Indian constitution (50%) than the US (75%).
4. Once the CA bill goes to the president he could not veto and must give his assent. There is no such restriction for US president.

The dynamicity in the Indian society and polity as compared to the US is much diverse and vast whether it is cultural, societal or lingual. In order to address these changing dynamics, a constitution should be well balanced i.e. neither rigid nor flexible. The situation in US is dramatically different where majority of the population speaks one language and profess one religion. In this context, the large number of CAs in past 70 years seems justified.

Q.7) During Constitutional debates, Dr B R Ambedkar advocated for reservation of socially and economically backward classes. Now, even after almost seven decades of independence, reservation still exists. Recently demands are being raised for reverse discrimination. What is reverse discrimination? What steps can be taken to check these demands?

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Draconian

Ans) As Dalai lama quoted "Of all the various delusions, the sense of discrimination between oneself and others is the worst form, as it creates nothing but unpleasant ". which rightly fits on Indian reservation system which form a new tantrum out of it .e Reverse discrimination which is a claim that occurs when a member or members of a majority are discriminated against on the basis of a protected factor, such as race or gender.

Examples of Reverse discrimination

→Hiring of non-Caucasians and women (rather than Caucasians and men)

→Hiring or promoting women solely on the basis of their gender over equally or more qualified males;

→Rejecting an applicant for school while admitting a minority applicant solely on the basis of race

→Non-hiring or firing of persons under 40 years of age

To uplift and empower the so called backward groups to lead a dignified life as Quota is necessary for transcending caste, not for perpetuating it. As per constitution, Article 15 and 16 provides for making reservations of SC, while article 29 and 30 for securing rights of religious and linguistic minorities Also, DPSPs of Art. 38 & 39(welfare state) and Fundamental rights stand guard to the rights of such minorities like securing minimum wages, free legal aid, free education.

Steps to Curb Reverse discrimination

—The focus should therefore be onmaximizing the educational infrastructure more fund allocation and that of reforming the entire teaching and learning process with a setup of committee to review the implementation of allocation of funds at the primary and secondary education level.

—Benefits if provided should be restricted per family to a maximum of two children irrespective of number of children in a family which will regulate their population giving way to the principle of equality

—However if it is deemed necessary reservation is to be implemented then its done on the basis of satisfying the minimum criteria of marks which every student, irrespective of caste or class has to secure

—There should be Consideration regarding the Hon'ble Supreme Court's observation in Indra Sawhney v. Union of India on the exclusion of creamy layer from the benefits of reservation and Once an OBC is self sufficient then include him in the general category

—Set a deadline for eliminating all kinds of reservations benefits provided to SC/ST & OBCs

Post-independence, caste based reservations have served their purpose to an extent. But if we look at present scenario there are anomalies and self defeating tendencies pertaining to it. This avails that Indian politics is in dire straits, where the people in power do not want to create an egalitarian society. Sir Ernest Benn, once described politics as the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy and as Reservation in India we have the prime examples for the statement!

Q.8) Many provisions of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) were put under this part because at the time of Independence the economic condition of India was not as such to make them justiciable. Do you think that now since we have progressed economically, some of these provisions should be made justiciable in court of law ? If yes, what provisions and Why ? If no, Why not?

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Draconian

Ans) An important feature of the constitution is the DPSPs mentioned in Part IV from Article 36 to Article 51 of the Indian Constitution although are asserted to be “fundamental in the governance of the country,” they are not legally enforceable. Instead, they are guidelines for creating a social order characterized by social, economic, and political justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as enunciated in the constitution’s preamble.

Though they are non-justifiable but they can be seen in many of the policies of the successive governments that has enacted social, labour and economic legislation and the efforts of translating the directive principles into reality are first of all evident in the five year plans as Sir B. N. Rau regards them as “moral precepts” with an educative value

—the 73rd and 74th constitution amendment act. 1992 to build Panchayati Raj Institutions as a administrative unit which fulfill villagers long standing dreams by their sufficient support and participation.

—The MGNREGA which was introduced in 2005 as NREGA to enforce the directive principle embodied in the article 39, 41.

—For the promotion of cottage industries (Art.43), steps have been taken to encourage the masses while Government has established the All India Handicrafts Board, The All India Handloom Board, The Small Scale Industries Board, The Silk Board, The Coir Board etc. for promotion of cottage industries.

—Various legislation such as The Employees State Insurance Act, Workmen Compensation Act, The

Minimum Wages Act etc. some of the efforts which try to establish a just order taking guidelines from the DPSP. Government enacted Equal Remuneration Act in 1976 which provides equal pay for equal work for both men and women

—for raising standard of living (Art.47) adopted as the first ever large scale program called Community

Development Project in 1952 for rural re-construction in the field of communication, transport, housing facilities, sanitation , agriculture, education etc.

—The Employees State Insurance Act, Workmen Compensation Act, The Minimum Wages Act etc. are some of the efforts which try to establish a just order taking guidelines from the DPSP .

—The principle of International peace and security enshrined in Art.51 finds its full expression in the external policy of India.

—The objective of universal elementary education was in the development program and after the 86th amendment act which inserted Article 21A in the constitution, the state seeks to provide free and compulsory education to all children between 6-14 years.

As, Ambedkar considered them as powerful instruments for the transformation of India from a political democracy into an economic democracy. while according to Granville Austin, they are “positive obligations” ... to find a piddle way between individual liberty and Public good.

The directives constitute a sort of “instrument of instruction” to all governments in the great task of transforming a laissez-fire society into a welfare state, a socialistic pattern of society and eventually into a socialist society.

Q.9) India is called a Quasi-Federal state. Do you think that India would have been a more successful state if more powers were given to states and Its federal structure was strengthened?

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny

Ans) Indian is quasi federal state with lot of differences among its federal units. Stark imbalances in terms of administrative ,political and economic lies with them. Though devolution will not bring a similar benefits for all, but what we can get by more power devolution is enumerated below:-

1. According to FFC recommendations , if financial devolution is done it will bring state's tailor made schemes rather than the CSS approach ,a single fit for all. The high administrative capacity and better infra will make state more successful by optimum use of resources but for poor capacity state leakage, corruption and vested interest of state local machinery can avail no benefit.

2. Political and administrative autonomy to state were also recommended Sarkaria and Punchhi commission. It will make states more responsible and accountable. But to strengthen cooperative federalism, elaborate guidelines on the issue like on NIA and NIC should be there.

What can be done to complement the devolution of powers to states:-

1. More autonomy for states would be further devolved to local self government in long chain of decentralization. It will bring responsiveness, sensitivity, efficiency and economy to make capacity of states to make India successful.

2. The more autonomy can be complemented by concern for poor states like 'special state category' and autonomous council on the line of Tribal and Hill council for specific under developed areas.

Thus India need a balance in devolving power though more autonomy as a reward to some states alongwith paternalistic behaviour to other. In case of Internal security and emergency conditions art 355, art 356 could not be ignored rather a overriding structure on the line of US homeland security is already recommended by commission.

Q.10) What states are to centre, local Self Governments are to states. Comment.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny](#)

Ans) Decentralization – the transfer of authority and responsibility from central to intermediate and local governments lies behind relation between Centre – state and State-LSG. The nature of relation is similar on many accounts but have considerable differences also.

The similarity of both relationship can be cited by following points:-

1. On basis of principle- to foster development, reduce poverty and consolidate democracy, power should go to people because it ultimately rest with them.
2. Idea of rationale- efficiency and effectiveness and enhancing responsiveness
3. The need basis- the increasing role of government as enabler and to bring governance in liberalization and globalisation alongwith traditional role of government

The differences are more stark than similarities as observed:-

1. state has its own legislative body but local self government is not developed yet like District government.
2. There is clear delineation of powers between centre and states in schedule seventh. but no clear devolution of fund and functions for subjects as guided by 73rd and 74th amendment acts by state to LSG.

3. State government have control over its territory , population and functions with its own bureaucratic machinery separate from centre to implement. But local bodies still work under such state machinery.

4. The LSG's are affected by problems of irregular elections ,suppression, inadequate representation, insufficient devolution of powers ,lack of financial autonomy and inadequate resources while states are more autonomous in various aspects.

Thus formation of states are part of federal structure in democracy while LSG are formed for democratic decentralization at grass root. The reason behind states and LSG's can be different but purpose and philosophy is same.

Q.11) Separation of power is important for the smooth working of democracy. How is India's separation of power different from USA's. Which model do you think is better?

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny](#)

Ans) Separation of Powers among three branches like Legislative, Executive and Judiciary is necessary so that each branch with its power can put a effective check on the other.This principle works in both presidential model and Prime ministerial model of democracy. with some basic differences. The US' presidential system have few advantages over Indian model in this context which are:-

1. As in US, president is executive and have authority to appoint executive team is separate from congress, the legislature. In India, a executive government has majority in Lok Sabha. In principle , it can put its own duties and fund sanction which seems a paradox rather a clear separation of power.
2. US president appoint federal Judiciary with advice and consent of senate. It is effective check over power of Judiciary while In India, well criticised Collegium system prevail which is not effective counterbalance between executive and Judiciary.
3. Executive president can veto a bill In US. Executive control over legislative such control in lies with Indian president who is not real executive.

Other side view is as follows:-

1. US president appoints executive team criticised as 'spoil system' while In india executive mainly come from legislature so a more harmonious and still separation of powers exist.
2. It is said that Supreme court made more amendments in US constitution than the congress through Judicial review. More then hundred amendments goes to credit of Indian parliament with minimum confusion and overlapping of jurisdictional territory, Though Indian constitution has also enshrined the principle of Judicial review.

Thus which system is better is not easy to evaluate rather it should be proved with their flexibility, adaptability and resilience while they are in work for a long duration of time in their own context and suitability.

Q.12) Examine the government budget by the Central Government as an instrument of public policy and as a tool of legislative control.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Noboundriz](#)

Ans) A112 provides for laying down the annual financial statement (Budget) in the parliament. Budget is both a policy statement and accountability mechanism put in place.

Budget as a policy statement can be seen from the following points

1. Budget mentions the allocations for various schemes like social sector etc which indicate the priority of government

Ex: The present budget has increased emphasis on infrastructure spending

2. Tax rates are mentioned which is an indication to the various sectors of the economy

Ex: Service tax, income tax, corporate tax

Budget is not only a policy statement but also provides an opportunity of the legislature to discuss the spending

1. Debates and voting happen in the parliament without which government can not withdraw money from consolidated fund.

2. legislature can pass various cut motions like policy cut, token cut etc showing the disapproval of legislature.

3. During debates concerned ministers from the government will address the questions from Mps.

4. If the budget is failed to pass then government must resign.

Hence Budget is both a policy statement and accountability mechanism.

Q.13) The prevalence of multiple channels for transfer of resources from the Center to the States is stated to have compounded the problems of federal fiscal arrangements. Discuss.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny](#)

Ans)

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Q.14) Public Undertakings of the Central Government could be booked upon both as an asset and a liability. Which measures would you suggest to enhance their utility as an asset and to reduce their drag as a liability?

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Tendulkar](#)

Ans)

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Q.15) “The Cabinet is not a constitutional body.” Critically comment.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal](#)

Ans) Cabinet is a group of senior ministers in government, with prime minister as head, which takes decision on important policy matters of governance. There is no mention of cabinet in Indian constitution. Article 74 mentions that there shall be a council of ministers, headed by prime minister. The concept of cabinet has been taken from British political system, where the cabinet is a powerful body taking all the important decisions. There are mixed views regarding the utility and merit of cabinet system in India.

Advantages of cabinet system are mentioned as:

- A. It is relatively smaller body, which is conducive for quick decision making.
- B. Cabinet system also ensures that the confidential information is not leaked, which might be the case with a larger council of ministers.
- C. Committees of Cabinet like on economic affairs security etc, helps in taking strategic decision in faster and smooth manner.

But, opponents of cabinet system cite certain disadvantages also:

- A. It works against the overall consensus building among council of ministers, and thus impeded democratic governance.
- B. All ministers are bound by the decision of cabinet regardless of whether they were member or not. This affects exercise of their independent view.
- C. Proceeding of cabinet are kept secret and thus goes against transparency.

Thus, cabinet is an essential body for smooth governance, and there should be steps like dissent notes on cabinet discussions, information about matters of discussion to improve the transparency of functioning.

Q.16) Discuss the evolution of the role of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) since independence.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny

Ans) Prime Minister's Secretariat became the Prime Minister's office in 1977. Normally, the PMO is not very significant part of the government machinery like the cabinet secretariat. But gradually, after Nehru's Era, it grew into a high profile body. It consists of six to eight key people headed by Secretary. Its role has also been changing in all these years.

1. In era of Lal Bahadur, Morarji Deasi and Indira Gandhi it became powerful and played a major role in affairs of government.
2. In Rajiv era it expanded qualitatively and quantitatively. It took keen interest in technology and in the field of science.
3. In 1992 it again did come back in spotlight to go down in Deve Gowda's government.
4. In BJP and its allies rule, old form strong PMO came.

But its core role is to facilitate the PM to discharge his functions like to deal with the public relations of the PM's office, examine the cases submitted to the PM, to keep liaison between PM and other ministries.

Now PMO has become a necessity in last two decades due to :-

1. Governance has increased in its complexity and scope.
2. The international situation is more complicated.

PMO is the nerve centre of power. This office is the mirror to the incumbent's character, personality and style of functioning. Like in current government, PMO is more powerful due to influence of PM over political party internally, full majority in the lower house and dominating personality characteristics.

It must be added that many a times, another institution called Prime Minister's House (PMH) is closely positioned with PMO. It usually consists of friends, relatives, politicians close to PM, ambitious bureaucrats, think tank of political parties and Godmen (later additions) etc.

Q.17) The recent Supreme Court verdict barring the display of pictures of ministers and leaders in government advertisements except the President, the Prime Minister, and the Chief Justice of India, though well intentioned, doesn't put necessary checks on wasteful expenditure on advertisements and also ignores the federal structure. Do you agree? Critically analyse.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal](#)

Ans) Government has the role of trustee of the public money. Therefore, it is supposed to utilize this money judiciously for the welfare of public. But off late it was observed that government is wasting huge amount of money on advertisements, which promote political benefits and cult formation, without any visible public utility. Taking cognizance, Supreme Court in a recent verdict barred display of ministers and leaders on the government advertisement with exception of president, prime minister and chief justice of India.

But, this ruling has been opposed on the following grounds:

- A. Barring the publications of the picture of chief minister, is against the spirit of federal character as it puts prime minister higher footing than chief ministers
- B. We have incidences of government publishing whole page advertisements in news papers, without pictures, which nonetheless results in huge expenditure
- C. Government also argues that, public have the right to know government policies and the architects behind it, and hence judgement is counter-productive.

Although, there is no denial, that often advertisements are abused by governments for partisan benefits, but having a blanket ban is not a optimal solution. Supreme Court may direct government to evolve a model code on government advertisements through consultation and public may hold the political class accountable for its violation.

Q.18) Hard cases often make bad laws. After the 'Nirbhaya' incident, the criminal justice system saw a major overhaul including sexual crimes committed by the juveniles. However, the juvenile criminal jurisprudence in India needs to strike a balance between retributive and reformatory approaches. Critically examine.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Another Brick In The Wall](#)

Ans) The infamous NIRBHAYA case, put the whole nation to debate on the provisions regarding juvenile justice in the statute book. There have been following demands by the different sections of the society

- 1) Lowering the bar for being categorised as juvenile.
- 2) Bring harsher punishments in the juvenile category.

The argument frequently given by the supporters of harsher norms for juveniles is that the society has evolved much over time and the technology has been corrupting the young minds in their early ages. The demand is many a times a reflection of sense of revenge.

The UN has accepted that the age of 18 for as the base for juveniles and says that the mind is not fully developed till this age and hence needs a softer treatment.

In any case the jurisprudence of Indian justice system is reformative and not punitive. A harsher punishment for a juvenile will only make him more provocative but also lessen his chances to transform.

Nevertheless the menace created by juveniles is on a rise as the National Crimes Bureau Report states it. But the solution lies in better schooling, better parenting, better rehabilitation centres rather than harsher punishments.

Q.19) The Shimla Agreement concluded in the aftermath of the 1971 war with Pakistan turned out to be a lost opportunity for India. Despite being in a formidable position or rather the clear winner of the conflict, India hardly behaved as the winning side. Do you agree with this argument? Critically comment.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Amruth Kumar](#)

Ans)

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Q.20) The controversy surrounding the Hindu Code Bill immediately after India became a republic and the political acumen shown by the contemporary leaders to tackle the crisis exemplifies the importance of political will in pushing difficult reforms. What clues can be taken from history in the context of the debates over the uniform civil code? Discuss.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cadet1970](#)

Ans)

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