

Q.1) Cooperative federalism is not only required for the smooth governance of the country but also imperative for pursuing India's relationship with the immediate neighbors. Examine the statement in light of the recently concluded land boundary agreement with Bangladesh and the Teesta river water sharing agreement.

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

Ans) Strengthening of Indian federal structure has intensified in past few decades. The dominance of regional political parties in states as well as their role in forming government at centre has become crucial. However, India's foreign relations especially its neighbourhood policy remains to still be formulated without any institutionalised mechanism to consider states' views. Since many states share international border with our neighbouring countries and have linguistic and cultural linkages, they need to be involved in policies that affect relations between India and our neighbours.

The Land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh involved exchange of enclaves in the states of West Bengal, Assam and few other north eastern states. Similarly Teesta water sharing involves substantial water being shared with Bangladesh. Water and land being scarce resource and state government having mandate to secure rights of the people of the state, should be involved to agree upon any agreement signed between India and Bangladesh. While the Land Boundary Agreement has been concluded successfully because of cooperative federal practice of involving states in key decision making, the lack of consensus among states and between the centre is making Teesta water sharing difficult to agree.

When foreign policy gets affected by regional politics, image of India gets affected. We need to speak in a single voice. The institutionalised mechanism for formulating our foreign policy involving states is need of the hour. An informal grouping of centre and states with international borders be set up to formulate neighbourhood policies or centre state council under art.263 be strengthened by including foreign policy formulations in it. This would help build an effective neighbourhood policy.

Q.2) Irreversible miscarriage of justice in cases involving death penalty is one of the principal arguments put forward against capital punishment in India. Keeping in mind the dismal record of the judiciary in maintaining consistency in death penalty jurisprudence, do you think the time is ripe to abolish capital punishment in India? Examine.

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

Ans) Art 21 of constitution provides that No person shall be deprived of his life , except under procedure established by law . However , stealthy killings of Afzal Guru and Ajmal Kasab and delay in execution of Yakub Menon has raised a debate regarding abolition of capital punishment

Arguments for capital punishment

1. Capital punishment is exercised in rarest of rare cases , as remarked by SC in Bachan Singh case
2. Due process of law and provisions to challenge the judgement is provided by petitions
3. Executive clemency by pardon, remission, etc is allowed under Art 72 of Constiution
4. Required to maintain security, unity and integrity of nation

Arguments against

1. Two wrongs do not compensate each other
2. Right to life is a universal and unconditional
3. Capital punishment can induce a criminal to kill his victim , thus witness
4. It is irreversible , thus cannot be a part of an error prone judicial system
5. Delay in disposal of cases can lead to psychological stress to individual and family , as remarked in Shatrughan Chauhan case .
6. No data to correlate death penalty and deterrence

Law commission recommendations of death penalty only in terror related cases can be considered in this regard. Also , restorative justice which provides for transformation of criminal into responsible citizens should be ensured, along with provisions of judicial and policing reforms. This will help in reducing death penalty while upholding India's security, unity and integrity.

Q.3) Severe unemployment and dangerous levels of drug abuse in the bordering states are major irritants to our border security apparatus. Do you agree? Analyse.

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

Ans) India's geographical location is between International opium producing areas of golden triangle and golden crescent.

Golden triangle includes northern Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. This area borders India's north east states. India Myanmar border is unfenced. Drug trafficking is one of the major financial tools of NE insurgents. Lack of industrial development and unemployment in the border states

is luring young people into drug abuse.

In Punjab drug abuse has reached a very serious level. Unlike the global trend of drug abuse which engulfs urban youth, In Punjab even rural youths are drawn into drug abuse. Lack of industrial development, mechanization of farm and use of migrant labours have resulted into large scale unemployment in Punjab. With geographical proximity with golden crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran) and nexus of politicians, businessman etc have made this racket a serious issue.

Drug abuse is major irritant to border security apparatus as

1. It finance insurgent groups.
2. It leads to nexus of organized crime, terrorists and politicians which is hard to crack.
3. It increases smuggling of drug through tunnels and other channel in border areas.
4. Drugs money is used for money laundering.

Drug abuse is a serious issue. It is wasting our precious human resource and luring them into anti social action. It involves terrorists, insurgents, organized crimes and petty politician. It is a sheer wastage of our national wealth. Hence it poses a serious threat to our security apparatus.

Q.4) The recent terrorist attack in the city of Gurdaspur in Punjab has revealed fault-lines in the state that can be exploited by external state and non-state actors to destabilize India. Moreover, it has also brought in front, the issue of Sikh militancy with faint yet considerable signs of its resurgence in Punjab. Elucidate.

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

Ans) Internal disturbances indicating instability within, also make a state vulnerable to external forces. Recent Gurdaspur attacks are a reminder of the following-

- Border security is of uncompromising priority.
- Lack of Coordination and cooperation among central intelligence agencies and the state police force can prove fatal.

However, the problem in the state of Punjab goes beyond mere security loopholes :

- Unemployment among youth.
- Drug peddling facilitated by proximity to border.
- Female infanticide and domestic violence.
- Most recently, incidents of intolerance like the 'desecration' of the holy book of the Sikhs- the Guru Granth Sahib.

All these factors indicate an unstable atmosphere in the state making it a fertile land to breed militancy and terrorism, and thus revive sikh militancy.

Also, with creation of Telangana, separatist movements have also revived across various regions.

The road ahead:

- Government initiatives on developmental front like Skill India are welcome.
- States need to put security at top of priority catalogue, thereby trying to reach a consensus at the federal NCTC.
- Above all, an atmosphere of tolerance needs to be set up. While preserving the pluralistic nature of our country, security and sense of belonging has to be ensured among religious minorities.

Q.5) Police modernization must become the foremost priority in order to thwart security threats even if it emerges from outside India. Examine the statement in light of the recent terrorist attack in the border city of Gurdaspur in Punjab.

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

Ans) The response to recent Gurudaspur attack by local Police was in many ways reminiscent of 26/11 Mumbai attacks. But the fact that we repeated some similar mistakes raise bigger question of police preparedness in case of such attacks.

- 1) Some policemen had inferior self loading guns against automatic rifles used by terrorists. This bring down morale of our forces.
- 2) Lack of attention to protection by local policemen who rushed to site without protective gears. Even the Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) team was not wearing rudimentary protection at Dinanagar.
- 3) The police had to borrow bulletproof vehicles from the army to approach the building under siege.
- 4) Lack of coordination among various response teams was clearly visible.
- 5) Punjab has been downgraded in terms of support for expenditure on security, and the Central scheme for police modernisation has also been scrapped. This is despite the fact that the IB is constantly issuing warnings that Punjab is a “sensitive state”.

The above clearly raise serious issues about the capabilities of our force in terms of both material and operational preparedness. Terrorism is a real threat that can occur anywhere anytime. SO our forces should also be ready to respond as such.

This needs special emphasis for police modernisation ensuring right equipment are available and also right training as right response is important as good equipment.

Q.6) The Teesta river water sharing agreement is a complex geopolitical challenge that not only involves the issues of interstate relations and India's

treatment of it's neighbors but also encompasses environmental and livelihood concerns. Comment.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Noboundriz

Ans) Teesta river which originates in Sikkhim, flows through West Bengal and into Bangladesh has been a teething problem in the bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh. Earlier attempts in 1983, 2011 and 2013 did not solve the issue

Issues involved

1. Inter state :

- a. WB continues to claim more share by citing its dependence on farming which is not acceptable to Sikkim
- b. HEP in sikkhim are reducing flows to WB

2. Bilateral relationships:

- a. Bangladesh is an important for N-E and look east policy ex: Transit facilities, and insurgency
- b. All other relations are contingent upon Teesta deal
- c. To shed big brother attitude this deal is vital

3. Livelihood issues

- a. Teesta basin consists of 30 Mn farmers. Climate change and erratic monsoon is already threatening their livelihood. Ex: WB has been citing this reason

4. Environmental issues

- a. Climate change, drying of aquifer and rising sea levels etc are adversely affecting the Bangladesh and Teesta basin.
- b. Encroachment of sea water is making the basin uncultivable.

sharing would help both the countries as the benefits spread across different sectors and a holistic view of the problem can be taken. And also the deal would help joint development of the basin which would be a win-win situation.

Q.7) Recently, Rajasthan enacted a law that significantly transformed the provisions related to labour in the state. Also, there is a view that state governments should be given free hand in framing their own land acquisition laws. In your opinion, do these changes indicate towards a paradigm shift in federalism in India? Critically analyse.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – SBT57](#)

Ans)

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Q.8) India's relations with Central Asia has been more symbolic than of substance. More than two decades of stagnation and cosmetic ties have diminished India's prospects in the region vis-a-vis China. Do you agree with this assessment? Critically comment. What course corrections would you suggest to give boost to the ties?

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

Ans) China's trade with Central Asia (CA) is \$50 billion whereas India's is only paltry \$ 1 billion. This stark difference shows the extent of difference between depth of relation with Central Asia vis-a-vis India and China.

The major reason for this is geography. India traditionally accessed CA through Afghanistan that access was gone after partition and bitter India-Pakistan ties.

The engagement has by and large very limited and cosmetic. Most of it has been in terms of cultural engagement, MoUs in education, healthcare field etc. The only positives are Uranium deal with Kazakhstan, ONGC Videsh got a 25% stake in Satpayev oil field. TAPI pipeline now has progressed with TurkmenGaz becoming Consortium leader.

Further steps to enhance engagement:

- 1) INSTC- International North South Transport corridor has progressed at snail pace. Though dry runs have begun there is much to be done. India needs to push this through
- 2) Chahbahar Port- India has got the contract to develop the port in Iran. India needs to finish the project very soon
- 3) Iran Nuclear Deal- With signing of the deal Iran is improving its relations with west especially US. The previous opposition to projects such as TAPI will not be there and India can further engage with Iran to ensure connectivity to Central Asia going even beyond Chahbahar port.
- 4) SCO- Now that India has been accepted as member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, this provided greater opportunity to engage with Central Asia.
- 5) Promote Indian Corporate Investment- Indias private sectors engagement with Central Asia has been minimal there is lot of scope to enhance investment in CA.

Geography is seen as India's impediment, but lack of boundaries means CA countries do not see India as hegemonic unlike China or Russia. India needs to convert this opportunity into its advantage.

Q.9) The lack of a legal architecture for the intelligence and investigation agencies of India is repugnant to the ideas of democracy, rule of law and accountability. Do you agree? Is parliamentary oversight needed in the functioning of these agencies? Analyse.

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

Ans) The investigation and intelligence agencies play a major role in ensuring India's security and sovereignty. While being major institutions in the democracy, their own democratic functioning needs serious review, especially in the backdrop of lack of any legal framework governing them:

Hurting Rule of Law-

– Uncontrolled rights over people's privacy in the name of national security. Non-compliance with equality before law.

Defying accountability-

– Need for secrecy in intelligence network is undisputed.

– However, no legislation guiding their actions implies no transparency which in turn means no accountability.

– Also, they do not come under the ambit of RTI.

Undemocratic:

– No law governing them implies no regulation over them by the elected law-makers and thus, the people.

– Taking power onto itself would anyway make an institution absolutist and undemocratic.

All these along with initiatives by Government like Adhar and digital India demand for parliamentary oversight. With people constantly being monitored digitally, a proper e-surveillance policy needs to be in place.

Besides, proper legislation would ensure coordination among the agencies at various levels in a federal setup like India. Working out the NCTC system needs expeditious reconsideration.

Q.10) The conclusion of the nuclear deal between Iran and the US and it's allies paves way for a new world dynamics. Do you agree? How India's interests will be affected? Discuss. Also suggest the path that should be taken by India to balance it's interests.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny

Ans) The conclusion of the nuclear deal between Iran and the US and it's allies paves way for a new world dynamics. Do you agree? How India's interests will be affected? Discuss. Also suggest the path that should be taken by India to balance it's interests.

Ans. The unwritten part of the deal is that the sanctions relief will provide the new legitimacy to the Iranian regime which further have potential to change the world dynamics in the following way:-

1. Israel and GCC will be wary of the resurgent Iran. They still fear Iran's Nuclear capabilities. Saudi Arabia can get closer to Pakistan to attain nuclear capabilities. India ties can get constrained in that context.
2. The issue of stability in Af has brought Iran and Pakistan together.
3. The more rivalry in middle east geopolitics and geoeconomics due to increased production of oil and gas by Iran will be seen in near future.
4. The Syria- Iran-Russia and China in collaboration will fight aggressively against rebels in Syria thus more war ravages, Refugees and devastation if not curbed through dialogue and deliberation.

India's interests can be affected both positively and negatively. The negatives are:

1. the seeming isolation coming from the Iran-China and pak ties in energy trade.
2. Indo- GCC relations due to increased rivalry in Middle east but based only on the presumption which can be reversed if pursued tactically.

India's balance of interests can go in the way:-

1. Indo- Iran ties to harness CAR connectivity, energy resources of Iran and fighting IS in concerted efforts of Iran, Pak and China.
2. Indo- Israel relation to provide the capacity, intelligence , arms and arsenal to counter terrorism and militancy.
3. Indo- Saudi relation to have alternate of Energy and employment to Indian diaspora and solidarity to Indian Muslims with larger Islamic world.

joint comprehensive plan of action for Non-proliferation, regional balance, trans Asian connectivity for roadways and railways, oil and gas pipelines and for stability of the region.

Q.11) The recent order by the Government to cap the number of beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana is not in line with the objective of a welfare state. However, there is also the need to streamline the architecture of social entitlements in order to check leakages and corruption. In light of the statements, suggest a roadmap that can bring harmony between both these aspects.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Khwabeeda

Ans)

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Q.12) The rural data revealed by the socio-economic census presents the grim reality of the countryside. While the intended use of this data is still unclear, the government should move towards universalizing the social entitlements along with giving significant leeway to states to implement them. Do you agree? Critically examine.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny

Ans) The rural data from SECC,2011 reveal that the more than 50 % Households are landless dependent on manual labour and live in deprivation. One side poverty is still worse and we are still finding the right way count the poor. Centre and state collected data have less consensus. In this dire situations one way is to universalizing the social entitlement along with some autonomy to states to implement them is right approach due to the following reasons:-

1. We can be free from exclusionary policy. It means the deserving one should not be eliminated even at the cost of two non deserving take the benefits out.
2. Frugality and moderation have been Indian way of life. Some global institution from Western ideology and thought cannot tell us what is poverty and how should we count and provide solution. Indigenous way out rather than emphasis on counting of poverty ridden merely.
3. Poverty line is still debatable after Rangrajan methodology which is not much different from Tendulkar Committee.
4. Centre would be for indicative targets not for imperative and could fix some incentives for well performing states. In this method state can take help of Local self government instead of bureaucratic parastatals. Evidence based planning can be realised in this way.

but there are some poor performing states with less capacity and caught in vicious cycle of low growth and increasing burden of debt for such states only direction from centre may not work.

States subjects like health, water, agriculture and police have been traditionally low performing and more rely on state's approach would be always doubtful. The corruption and leakage in Mid day meal, ICDS, PDS and MNREGA has been evidence before us.

That is why first act like NFSM can be implemented by devolving distribution of subsidized grain to states in the way it is designed to include more than 80 percent population including both APL and BPL. This would be a followup example for greater states autonomy and leeway for other cases of central schemes also.

Q.13) The proposal to codify the central labour laws under five simple headings is a welcome step. Do you agree? What in your opinion are the principal irritants in labour laws that hinder investment and neglect labour interests? How codification of central labour laws can resolve these issues? Analyse.

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

Ans) The proposal to codify the present 44 labour laws into 4 heads – wages, industrial relations, social protection and safety and working conditions is a progressive step. This will lead to proper categorisation of multiple laws and prevent the confusion among employers, as well as employees.

Following are the irritants in labor laws that hinder investment:

1. Lack of freedom related to retrenchment and closing down.
2. Rigid trade unions which hamper tough decision making.
3. Differential laws for MSME and large industries discourage expansion to escape the inflexible laws.

Neglect of labor interest:

1. Large informal sector is outside the ambit of these laws.
2. Social safety net is inadequate like pension, insurance etc and limited largely to public enterprises.
3. Lack of basic facilities like washrooms.
4. Minimum wages act is not strictly adhered to.

Recent initiatives like amendments to factory act, apprenticeship act, Deen Dayal Shramev Jayate Karyakram act are welcome steps.

Codification of laws would also contribute positively. It will boost investor confidence. Litigation related to labor laws would take less time to settle and hence save precious times and money. It will reduce the regulatory hassles due to multiple laws. It's also expected to improve compliance. It will prevent harassment of employees due to non understanding of laws.

But, it's also important that the amended laws are implemented in right spirit so as to achieve a balance between interests of employers and the employees.

Q.14) Allowing foreign law firms to operate in India will not only promote competition and enhance the efficiency of Indian law firms but also reinforce the commitment of the state to do away with the roadblocks that hinder the flow of foreign investment. However, adequate safeguards should be put in place before foreign law firms are permitted in India. Comment.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rumbler488](#)

Ans) In the contemporary era of globalization, almost no sector is free from its positive and negative consequences. In this light, allowing foreign firms to operate in Indian legal market (which has hitherto remained untouched) will have the following consequences:

- 1) It will increase the efficiency of Indian law firms as they will be forced to innovate in light of competing with global best practices and high compensatory packages offered by law firms. This will also attract the best minds of the country towards the legal profession.
- 2) With the focus on liberalization, ability of MNCs to hire the best global legislative firms in India along with the advent of dedicated foreign law firms in Indian market will also facilitate 'ease of business' in India along with bringing substantial amount of foreign investment.

However, certain safeguards need to be put in place in order to ensure smooth integration of these firms in the Indian legal framework:

- 1) Adequate protection to the nascent Indian law firms in order to ensure that they do not get obliterated by the foreign firms. This can be done in the form of mandating joint ventures with majority Indian ownership.
- 2) A pro-active regulatory regime must be put in place to avoid proliferation of bogus firms that may jeopardize the sanctity of Indian legislative process.
- 3) Advent of foreign law firms may have inflationary effect on the cost of litigation which may be harmful, especially for poor people. Hence, a certain percentage of law firms can be directed to handle indigent cases (as is the case in Priority Sector Lending for Banks)

In essence, a strong regulatory framework coupled with adequate protection can help us popularize the slogan 'legislate in India'.

Q.15) Ethics in politics is at the all time low. Elections are being contested by manufacturing perceptions and on medieval issues with hardly any trace of accountability. Does this state of politics in India reflect badly on the mindset of the society? Critically examine.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – SBT57](#)

Ans)

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Q.16) The 40th anniversary of the imposition of emergency was an opportune moment to contemplate about the resilience of the institutions to withstand any onslaught on democracy in India. What do you think of the 1975 emergency? What lessons did we learnt from it? Did the emergency work as a bitter antibiotic that rather strengthened Indian democracy? Examine.

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

Ans) Against the backdrop of anti-corruption movements led by Jay Prakash Narayan , rising poverty , arbitrary judicial appointments and criticisms by media and opposition , emergency was imposed.

Though Emergency was justified for maintaining discipline , improving efficiency of government functioning , especially in essential services and maintaining the unity and integrity of India , the emergency led to restriction on right to free speech and expression by banning press and public meetings . Right to life and liberty was curbed by arbitrary use of preventive detention against political leaders and common public . Unpopular population control programmes , concentration of powers by executive by 42nd amendment and political appointments led to criticism of government across the public , civil society and international organisations

Post emergency , 44th constitutional amendment was introduced to reverse the wrongdoings , by strengthening the emergency and fundamental rights provisions . Right to life was expanded in Maneka Gandhi case , while balance between fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy and separation of powers between executive and judiciary was affirmed as basic structure , under Minerva case . which strengthened the institutions .

Thus , Emergency worked as a bitter antibiotic as importance of political rights , parliamentary democracy and constitutionalism was realised. However , this antibiotic could have been avoided if proactive measures like reasonable restrictions , separation of powers , constitutional means of opposition, etc were adhered to.

Q.17) 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 it's 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.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – SBT57](#)

Ans)

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Q.18) The recent law passed by the Gujarat government making voting compulsory in civic elections has good intentions. However, in terms of democratic rights and practicality of implementation, it may not hold water. What is your opinion in this regard? Substantiate.

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

Ans) Election are considered as bedrock of Indian democracy . However , rising corruption , criminalization and role of black money has reduced public participation in the electoral process . So , to promote voter turnout , Gujarat government introduced compulsory voting which declares voters failing to vote as " defaulter voter " .

Arguments for

1. Promotes awareness of political rights , thus promoting accountability of public representatives
2. Increases participation in political process
3. provides legitimacy to government
4. Disenchanted voters should exercise NOTA option than abstaining

Though well intentioned , concerns regarding its feasibility and violations of democratic rights are raised like

1. Art Section 79(d) of the Representation of the People Act says: that "electoral right" includes the right "to vote or refrain from voting at an election"
2. Every fundamental right has negative connotation , as remarked by Supreme court in P Ratinam case . Thus ,voting cannot be enforced as it against right to speech and expression
3. According to UNESCO report , internal migrants comprise one-third of India's population , thus enforcement is challenging
4. Increased litigations would over burden the judiciary with high pendency of cases
5. Daily wage and agricultural laborers may lose their income

Thus , need of the hour is to promote voter's awareness , representative's accountability and reducing corruption which would promote confidence in electoral system , thus improving turnout , and achieve a true representative parliamentary democracy.

Q.19) Powerful countries of the world have often taken recourse to sanctions and unilateral war against other countries. Recently, the former UK Prime Minister apologized for some of the mistakes that were committed by his administration in the assessment of intelligence and also the way things shaped up after the war in Iraq. However, there hardly seems any possibility of an international platform condemning such blunders or holding the powerful countries accountable for the war crimes. In a global order like this, how far principles of ethics in international relations hold importance? Analyse.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Cosviny

Ans) The underlying problem of the lack of condemnation of blunder at international level is more about about the following concerns:-

1. The lesser democratisation of the world at international level like UNSC and other financial institutions which is reflected in taking decision by few powerful countries about sanctions and wars single handedly or through lobbying. The attack on Iraq by US is apt example.
2. the idealism in Global order with principles of Ethics could not work without balanced global order. The requisite multi polarity with balance would work better for correctives related to blunders done unilaterally by any powerful lobby. Like in case of Libya
3. The east -west and north south inequalities in terms of economic and political or cultural terms may exacerbate the conditions conducive for arbitrary action of powerful country. Like usual interference of powerful countries in failure state of Somalia in name of curbing piracy.
4. the principles of Ethics are not formulated yet unanimously . so a implementing Global government is a necessity. the International court of Justice has been less success in its mandate whether in Sri lanka or Sudan.

All the countries of the world come together to frame ethics in any particular or common crisis related to sanctions against any country, interfering internal affairs of a country when needed , Refugee issue of humanitarian aid or shelter by intake quota for each, reforms in UNSC and wider consensus sought for other issues is prerequisite and long awaited.

Q.20) What strategic importance does Indo-African ties hold for India seen in the larger framework of global south-south cooperation? What are the major takeaways for India if the relations with the Africa turn out to be the way it was envisaged in the recently concluded Indo-African Forum Summit.

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

Ans)

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Q.21) 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.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – SBT57](#)

Ans)

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Q.22) Even though the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the sedition law of the IPC and the Law Commission opined that the related provisions ought to remain in the statute books, there is a need to review the relevance of the sedition law. Critically examine.

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

Ans) Sedition defined under Section 124A of IPC is a colonial law of the 19th century invented to suppress the voice of Indian. The relevance of this law in contemporary situation seems obsolete and full of caveats:

1. The sedition law is in contradiction to the freedom of expression enshrined in article 19(1)(a).
2. The aforesaid law has served as a powerful tool in the hands of government to suppress dissent and protest which lie within restrictions imposed by article 19(2).
3. Previous few decades have observed exemplary large use of sedition law especially against artists, poets, columnists such as the recent case of singer Kovan in TN.

The SC in its historical judgement in Kedarnath vs State of Bihar(1962) has interpreted that a person could not be charged with sedition unless there is an act of 'incitement to violence' through speech etc. However the government and legal authorities have used it for the very purpose that the colonial government used it suppress voices of mere dissent.

Since article 19(2) encompasses necessary restrictions imposed on freedom of speech, thought and expression, the continuation of colonial law in contemporary times seems unjustified.

Q.23) Even though India improved its rank marginally in the list of countries released by the World Bank in ease of doing business, a segmented analysis of the constituent parameters of the report rather portrays a different picture altogether. Critically examine the issue in light of the World Bank rankings in ease of doing business.

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

Ans) In recently released World Bank Ease of Doing Business Rankings India was ranked 130 moving up 4 places. EoD ranking measure a countries performance on 10 indicators namely starting businesses, construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

Ranking improvement has brought some cheer because:

- 1) India moved up in rankings, after slipping for four years in a row
- 2) The report points out that “India is the South Asian economy recording the biggest increase in the distance to frontier score since 2004.” Its overall distance to frontier (DTF) score in 2004 was 40.7, it now stands at 54.68.
- 3) Starting a Business and getting electricity got big push, main reason for better ranking.

But some skepticism remains because:

- 1) Access to credit for a business has become marginally more difficult over the past 12 months, resulting in the ranking dropping six places.
- 2) Low distance-to-frontier scores for the two measures of enforcing contracts and dealing with construction permits. Only Bangladesh fares worse than India among the eight South Asian countries in the 189 nations on the list in resolving commercial disputes.
- 3) India ranks a lowly seventh above war-torn Afghanistan on the ease of obtaining the approvals necessary to build. Palestinian enclaves of the West Bank and Gaza still rank one place above India, with both registering property and paying taxes

The ranking has improved mainly due to improvement in starting a business and getting electricity. To make a true overall improvement and for success of schemes like Make in India further more reforms such as Nayak Committee report implementation, Bankruptcy law, passing GST bill etc are needed.

Q.24) 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.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by –

Ans) Untill 2013, land acquisition was governed by Land acquisition Act 1984. Previous government came up with the Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Act, which further amended by the present government. The amendments made by the present government lead to many controversies, those are-

1. removal of consent clause for acquiring land for 5 purposes; namely: industrial corridor, PPP projects, affordable housing, rural infrastructure and defense.
2. removal of social impact assessment.
3. as per the existing law land will be given back to farmers if it remains unused for five years. However the amended version says the land will be returned only if the specified project on the land fails to meet the deadline.
4. earlier it was private company and now it has become any private entity.

These controversies would be addressed with a land use policy because-

1. reallocation of resources from agriculture to manufacturing and services is sine qua non of development. So a land use policy would help in structural transformation.
2. there should be well defined distinction b/w agricultural land, non agricultural land, fertile and infertile land before any acquisition of land.
3. property right should be maintained with proper land records.
4. agricultural productivity and market price of the land should be taken care of before any acquisition.
5. first farmer's right and tribal's right would be addressed with a land use policy.

Make in India initiative and recent reform in FDI would be implemented properly, if we address this issue of land acquisition in smooth manner while taking care of the issues of rehabilitation and resettlement with a land use policy.

Q.25) Are merit and affirmative action mutually exclusive? Critically examine. It is also said that the present discourse on affirmative action in India is fraught with contradictions and political manipulations. What do you think? Analyse the issue in light of the recent Supreme Court observation/ directive with respect to reservations.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Monk Who Sold his Nano

Ans) Affirmative actions are based on premise that humans are unequal and need leveling; a flawed concept to begin with. All humans are equipotential, but the potential is a vector and not scalar quantity. For instance, Sachin Tendulkar and Raghunath Ram Rajan are both excellent in their respective fields, but affirmatively letting Rajan open batting for India or Sachin control batting for India, would be ridiculous. So, yes, merit and affirmative action are mutually exclusive.

Even from the context of historical wrongs, discrimination can't be used to cure discrimination. In a democracy, state shouldn't be involved in business of deciding what share goes to what community, or what new shares can be added. That puts the burden away from state of creating new opportunities by adding a new share for dissenting class of people. A neighboring authoritarian, communist state has been able to assimilate its dissenting Manchus, Shan and Tibetan populace, not by doling out freebies of reservation, but by creating equal politico-economic opportunities for them, same holds true for assimilation of African Americans and Hispanics in US.

Even from context of unfair advantage, every person is born with some inherent advantages/disadvantages. I may not have equal educational footings as a kid born to parents who are professors, or equal financial footings with a kid whose parents are bankers. But it would be ridiculous if they are denied their deserved education or finance for my sake.

Affirmative action requires recognition, cooperation and cultivation of values of homogeneity. Reservation apparently fails in the later part. We can't have homogeneity by propelling heterogeneity. Besides, ridiculously increasing reservations, without improving and adding opportunities would foment rebellions (Patidars/Jats/Gujjars). Reservation is no more a solution, but a problem itself.

Q.26) The denial of socio-economic and political justice to the Dalits has more to do with present day institutions than the law of the land. Discuss. Further, would you agree with the argument that it is not the law and order machinery but an attitudinal change in the society only that can check incidents of atrocities against the depressed sections of the society? Critically examine.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – SBT57

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Ans)

Image 1 – <https://a.disquscdn.com/uploads/mediaembed/images/2825/5868/original.jpg>

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Q.27) Although India can't compete with China's ventures in Africa in terms of capital investment, resources and scale, India's core competencies and expertise in human resource development, capacity building, IT and local governance provide an edge that needs to be tapped in Africa. Elucidate.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Tom_Dwan

Ans) India-Africa trade currently stands at \$70 billion an unimpressive figure compared to China's \$200 billion trade with Africa. Still we can exploit our expertise in human resource development, capacity building, IT and local governance to compete with China.

1. Human Resource Development

- India announced 50000 scholarships for African students.
- Promote greater interaction, exchange and partnership between the tertiary institutions of Africa and India
- Intensify cooperation through sharing of experiences, gender-specific training

2. Capacity Building

- enhance collaboration in the application of advancement in, research and development to training in the area of HIV, TB, Malaria, Ebola and Polio.
- developing sustainable fisheries, managing marine resources, port operations, promoting eco-tourism, developing renewable energy and disaster risk reduction.
- increase cooperation in improving farming techniques through organic farming, improving crop varieties, seeds. agribusinesses and food processing industry.
- cooperation in developing renewable energy generation including solar, wind, hydro, geo-thermal and bio-mass along with building power transmission systems.

3. IT

- Upgrade the existing Pan African E-Network Project infrastructure and TEAM-9 programme.
- establish a robust fibre optic infrastructure in Africa, contribute in cyber security and tap India's huge BPO services.
- emphasize the importance of the early introduction of ICT in educational institutions as a key enabler for capacity building.

4. Local governance

- Help African villages with our knowhow of panchayati raj institutions.
- India's Self Help Groups and microfinance institutions can collaborate with their African counterparts.

These measures will help India counter China, UNSC expansion, WTO terms, SDG's and Climate change negotiation alongwith peaceful and robust Africa.

Q.28) The vagaries of weather combined with weak institutions have led to severe agrarian distress in India. Only a comprehensive roadmap that focuses equally upon input cost, infrastructure creation, credit facilities, marketing framework and insurance support can provide meaningful and sustainable relief to the agricultural sector. Examine.

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

Ans)

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Q.29) The rhetoric of global war on terror must transform into an actionable roadmap to uproot terrorism. However, this is possible only when the categorization in the form of good and bad terrorism would cease to exist and consensus is evolved on the very definition and characteristics of terrorism. Critically examine.

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

Ans)

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Q.30) Myanmar witnessed the largest democratic exercise in it's recent history when elections were held under the close observation of the global community. However, the very fact that military junta still controls 25% of the seats in the Parliament and the rights of Rohingyas Muslims and other ethnic minorities were not central to the electoral process may defy the optimism that surrounds this democratic experiment. Critically analyse.

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

Ans) The recently held democratic elections in Myanmar, witnessing more than 80% voter turnout, is a giant leap towards change, a change from military rule to democracy. Nevertheless, there are various issues that needs to be addressed:

1. Myanmar is a disciplined democracy, with 25% of the seats in parliament being reserved for the serving army officers, a major hurdle towards democratization.
2. Some of the crucial portfolios such as internal affairs, defense and border security are reserved for military junta.
3. There are many armed ethnic groups, who despite the peace accord signed, not ready to give up guerrilla warfare.
4. The majoritarianism of the Buddhist groups has further created religious tensions and brutal clashes with the Rohingyas muslims.
5. The Rohingyas muslims who were eligible to vote in the 90s democratic elections were this time denied their voting rights thus posing a question on the model of democratic process being adopted.

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD's) long pending demand for a transformation of an authoritative regime is going to bore fruits of democracy but there is an urgent need to make the process more participative, progressive and justice driven.

Q.31) Sports administration in India is in dire need of reforms. An intervention at the highest political-administrative level is the only way that can dismantle the sports-business-politics nexus. Analyse the statement in light of the recent findings of the Mudgal Committee.

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

Ans) Corruption, bureaucratic interference & political nexus tarnish the image of any country's sports administration. Mudgal Committee report in the backdrop of IPL Scam highlights this issue:

1. Sports administration is suffering from extreme political interference.
2. Funding problems, lack of professionalism has given rise to bureaucratic hassles.
3. Selection of board members is fraught with conflict of interests. Recent BCCI issue in the cricket administration highlights this.
4. Bias towards certain sports. Although being the national game, Hockey suffers a the hands of cricket in terms of funding, administrative support and infrastructure.
5. Gender bias, sexual harassment is also prevalent. Recent issue of suicide of some badminton players in Kerala highlight this.

6. Politics has been linked to sports and this has given rise to corruption, betting scandals, favoritism.
7. Members of board have owed in sports teams due to absence of strict regulations.

There is a need to make sports administration more accountable and transparent. India where certain sports are treated as "religion", sports must be considered as a public good (as highlighted by SC with respect to cricket and functioning of BCCI).

1. Sound framework for selection of members of committees solely on merit.
2. Political interference must be reduced as sports should be administered by people who have been in sports.
3. More openness in dealing with corruption. Fast tracking the cases.

Q.32) The Indian diaspora is not only clustered in the developed west but also in other parts of the world that include Africa, Latin America, South East and West Asia. It is unfortunate though that their interests and problems have not been central to Indian diplomacy and their presence not viewed in the same potential terms as their counterparts in the developed west. Do you agree? Substantiate.

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

Ans) Historical ties, colonial history and enterprising nature of Indians, have resulted in widespread distribution on Indian diaspora all over the globe. In developed west significant Indian origin population is based in US, UK and Canada. The indentured labours taken by britishers have their generations in Latin American nations like Guyana, suriname, caribbean islands. Trade and cultural links result in Indian Diaspora in south eastern nations of Thailand, Singapore, malaysisa , Indonesia etc. In Nigeria and south Africa, significant Indian Diaspora is present. People, particularly, from southern states of India migrate to west Asia for blue collar jobs.

But, despite this global distribution, it has been observed that Our diplomatic processes puts over emphasis on Diaspora of developed western countries. Some of the factors could be:

- A. Diaspora in developed west have resources and capital to invest in india.
- B. Many Indian origin people are at helms of the Multi national companies in western countries.
- C. NRI associations of west are more vocal and organized in presenting their concerns and demands.

But off late India has started to focus on its Diaspora in rest parts of world also:

- A. A scheme called MADAD had been launched by government to support blue collar workers in gulf countries which are under distress.
- B. Evacuation of large number of Indian people were done in Yemen during operation Rahat.
- C. Prime minister of India visited Fiji after a gap of 20+ years, UAE after a long time gap. Signaling intent for increased relationship with Diaspora.
- D. Recently, Prime minister has engaged with Indian Diaspora in Sychelles, Mauritius and other countries of Mainland Africa having significant Indian population.
- E. Efforts were made by external ministry to rescue Indian people who were made captive by Islamic State.

Thus, although our overseas policies have been west centric, there has been a renewed emphasis on engaging with Indian Diaspora worldwide

Q.33) The interplay of the Ukrainian crisis, sanctions by the west on Russia and Russia's new global posturing through the modernization of it's ballistic missile inventory is an indication of the return of the Cold War era but in a different shape and form. Do you agree with this assessment of the global order today? Critically comment.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Amit

Ans) Increasing face-off between Russia and U.S give a deja-vu experience of the cold war era. However, there are stark difference too-

Differences –

1. In cold war era, major vehicle of influence peddling was capitalism v/s socialism which is not the case now.
2. Changing global equations specially after Soviet Union break-down is forcing Russia to look for new and emerging partners like China to counter the effects of sanctions and trade and investment.
3. China today is a major force and hence, the world order is different than before 1991 (Soviet breakdown)

Similarities –

1. Russia is using different mechanisms to assert its influence like using veto power on Syria in UNSC.
2. Russia's direct intervention in Syria also projects its increasingly desire to play a larger role in world affairs.

3. Russia's annexation of Crimea (to safeguard its interests in black sea) despite NATO's objection points towards a re surging Russia under President Putin.

All said and done, world today is different than it was three and half decades back with different geo-political, security ,economic and strategic equations in place with many nuclear states in world. Hence, it would be good if the two major powers of the world co-ordinate with each other to collectively fight the common challenges such as climate change, terrorism, slowing global growth that the world is facing.

Q.34) NGOs have occupied a pivotal position in the democratic space of the Indian society and their contribution in areas of agriculture, education, health, ecology etc can't be over emphasized. However, there is an urgent need to create a regulatory framework which can streamline the functioning of NGOs. Examine the issue in light of the recent move by the government to terminate the registration of some NGOs recently.

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

Ans)

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Q.35) 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 in your opinion any accountability be imposed on the celebrities who endorse such products? Examine in light of the recent Maggi controversy.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Sepoy No 1446](#)

Ans) Consumer products directly affect the end users. Food products like Maggie, noodles, dairy products, chocolates and various “quick to make” products can have detrimental impact on health of consumers if they have to be of substandard and downgraded quality. Hence multilevel accountability needs to be ensured.

Manufacturer accountability: to ensure right ingredients are used, standard procedures are followed, quality check to be done for all primary and intermediary raw materials and a final

quality check before releasing it into market. No false or misleading information to be circulated on packaging or in advertisements.

Licensing authority: like FSSAI or other regulators must have good quality labs and skilled manpower to evaluate the products coming out of factories. All claims must be confirmed by regulator. Necessary punitive actions and legislative methods must be enforced without any prejudice.

Ad Agency: must see the impact of their action. They should be in a position to do a preliminary check on all claims of "safe and reliable" product before dissemination of information in form of advertisements.

Celebrity responsibilities:

Constitution under article 19 gives freedom of expression, article 21 gives freedom to livelihood. Both are inherent in celebrity adopting a particular product through advertisements. Hence they are free to endorse a product. However they also have social responsibility and more so because of their charisma and appeal which goes to distant corner of countries. Hence they must exercise caution and due deliberation before endorsing such products. They can seek certification through their PR, can contact regulating agencies and thus must convince themselves first before telling the entire world.

Q.36) Excessive political intervention at the micro level of planning and implementation is inimical to the objectives of grassroots democracy and societal oversight. Examine the issue in light of the recent decision taken by a state government to discontinue eggs from the menu of ICDS and Midday Meal scheme.

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

Ans)

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Q.37) Economic reforms that require legislative sanction have become victim of the politics of the day. Consensus on key reform initiatives seem distant and in the meantime, India is losing the window of opportunity that could propel economic growth to the next level. Critically comment.

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

Ans) Although, with favorable macro-economic fundamentals and demographic advantages India has been seen as the new engine of world economic growth, but certain economic reforms are stuck due to parliamentary logjam. Some of them are:

A. Goods and Services Tax: This tax regime has been mooted for quite a longtime, and has the potential to increase our GDP by 1-2% GDP points. But it has been stuck due to political opposition in the parliament.

B. Land acquisition Act: Although a new Land acquisition act has been framed in 2013, but still it hasn't resulted in much of investment. But the new governments step to bring changes has been met opposition by the political parties.

This is the reason why certain global firms like Moodys have raised the concern of India missing the opportunity of the favorable conditions and have revised the GDP figures downward.

One of the downside of this is increased number of ordinances. Government had promulgated Land ordinances .It has also came up with ordinance on arbitration and conciliation. There are also talks about designating bills as money bills, to prevent obstruction by Rajya Sabha.

A functional parliament is the duty of legislators in the national interest. Therefore, both opposition and government should build consensus through discussion for passing of key legislations for economic growth and development of country.

Q.38) The incidents of cheating and fake certificates are symptomatic of the bigger rot that has set into the education system of India. The deeper problems lie in the absence of a robust regulatory framework, lack of institutional autonomy and neglect of mass education at all levels. Critically examine the issue.

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

Ans)

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Q.39) While India strives to better it's record on the front of indigenization of technology, the domestic ecosystem is not conducive for measures like joint development and transfer of technology. Critically comment.

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – SBT57](#)

Ans)

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Q.40) 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.

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

Ans) The Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) recommended for 42% of shares for states from the divisive pool of taxes as well as 2.87 lakh crores for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

It has solved the long persistent demand of states to let them control the funds allocated to them. The "one size fits all" mindset was being pursued through the centrally sponsored schemes. The eventual decrease of CSS from about 150 to less than 50 is a big step in these directions. Moreover when centre is left with less money after the FFC recommendations, it makes sense to cut on CSS.

But these CSS were providing funds into crucial socio-economic sectors like health, education and food. Trusting states to manage these with funds as per FCC will be wrong as all states are not at equal footing. States like Gujrat and Maharashtra will far better manage it as compared to Bihar and Jharkhand. This will eventually lead to uneven development which already has costed India in problems of militancy and Naxalism.

It is in this context that the indices for measuring development need to be relooked and some regulation framework is required to bring parity to development of states without harming their autonomy.

Q.41) In recent years, the fourth estate of the Indian democratic polity has been alleged to have indulged in paid news, news trading and performing the role of ideological mouthpiece. Do you think media ethics is at it's all time low in India? Is there a need to have a more effective regulatory framework to curb unfair practices in media? Critically analyse.

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

Ans) Free media is considered a necessary component in functioning democracy. Autonomous media is an effective means of expression and showing dissent. However in recent times the blame on media has been that it has been indulged in pursuing some vested interests. Some of the instances which reveal the lowered ethical standards of media are :-

- 1) Reporting the disaster hit areas with political agenda and filing words in miuth of victims without empathizing with them.
- 2) Seeking statements of controversial figures to further fuel the controversy.
- 3) Skewed Exit polls to favour a particular party.
- 4) Unnecessarily twisting the statements of individuals to make them BREAKING NEWS.

However the regulation of media is a very contentious issue. Any regulation should be internal so that the independence of media is maintained at all cost. The Press Council of India is an institution that electronic media should be inspired from to regulate themselves. Also the ethical courses in journalism courses be introduced to better sensitize the reporters. Exemplary punishments should be set by speedily processing the cases against media to provide enough deterrence.

Q.42) The land boundary agreement concluded between India and Bangladesh will go a long way in addressing the issues of border security, illegal migration and drugs and arms trafficking. Do you agree? Also discuss the significance of this agreement in bringing about development to the states adjoining Bangladesh.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal

Ans) Indian parliament had recently ratified the landmark land boundary agreement which have paved the way for swap of adversely located enclaves on either side of India-Bangladesh border. It is tipped to be of great significance as:

- A. It would help in checking illegal migration, with easy identification of nationalities of people.
- B. With the exchange of enclaves, Indian government can now put fencing on its side of borders to check infiltration of unscrupulous elements and strengthen its security.
- C. This would also help in providing political, social and economic rights to the inhabitants of enclaves who were virtually rendered stateless.

But, Still there are several challenges in fool-proofing of India-Bangladesh Border:

- A. Poor demarcation, with rivers and forests , makes patrolling extremely difficult in border areas.
- B. Similar ethnicity of people across the border, makes it hard to differentiate among the people.

C. Rackets of drug smuggling, cattle smuggling work in cohorts to secure illegal entry into Indian Territory.

D. There is also flux of refugee escaping religious persecution across the border.

Therefore, Land boundary agreement is positive step in strengthening our border, but still high vigilance need to be shown at the border.

Land boundary agreement would also enable states to extend state services of education, healthcare and other welfare activities to people of these enclaves, which they were restricted to provide due to nationality issue. Also, this agreement paves the way of land acquisition, installation of industries etc, which would result in growth and development of these states. Therefore, Land boundary agreement is supposed to usher new growth and developmental activities in border areas.

Q.43) The present draft of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill has seen intense public and parliamentary debate. What are the contentious provisions of this bill? Discuss the ways in which consumer protection and welfare can be promoted in the real estate sector.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal

Ans) With the increasing incidents of irregularities in real estate sector, like duping people of money, faulty and delayed construction, change in the housing plan, government is looking towards bring a real estate regulator through, Real estate (regulations and development) bill. Some of the provisions of bill are:

A. Builder has to publish the details of plans, approvals, list of promoter in his website prior to floating of project

B. All the approvals should be in place, before commencing the sale of residential blocks

C. For major alterations in construction plan, approval of 2/3rd of customers would be required

D. 50% of the money would be kept in escrow account with banks, as a security for time bound construction and possession of houses.

E. Setting up of regulatory and appellate body for settling disputes.

But, there are many contentions placed against the provisions of bill:

A. The earlier 70% amount in escrow account has been watered down to 50%

B. Housing plans have been defined in terms of carpet area, rather than the built up area, which may lead to confusion

C. Builders are allowed to do minor alterations without need of approval. A major alteration in design plan could be brought by series of minor alterations.

With rising property costs, many people tend to invest their life time savings in purchasing houses, and thus consumer protection and welfare is paramount in the sector. The bill needs to be strengthened by:

A. Proper definition of carpet area, minor and major alteration etc.

B. Reducing chances of conflict of interest in regulator by disallowing his further employment.

C. Statutory provision for customer's body to oversee the construction and designing of project.

D. Fast and speedier resolution of grievances.

Q.44) The demand for criminalizing marital rape has come from various social quarters, notably women activists. It is often argued however, that the institution of marriage is so sacred and sacrosanct to the Indian society that the decision to criminalize marital rape can be counterproductive and it won't make much of a difference. What do you think? Discuss.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Sepoy No 1446

Ans) Marital rape is demonstration of inhumanity, insensitivity and lack of trust, belief and respect in a marriage, foundation of which are based on understanding and mutual respect. Indian society being patriarchal and male dominated is the biggest reason for this silent crime. A marriage doesn't give licence to brutality and there has been demand from various quarters to recognise marital rape as a criminal offence.

However, like all other issues this has also been criticized by some.

Major arguments are:

1. It will foster distrust in married couple, further creating separation and emotional disconnect.
2. Will weaken marriage as an institution.
3. Can be misused by disgruntling wives against their husband
4. Even if it is given legal recognition, it is very hard to implement due to established social pattern and norms of expected behaviour.

These arguments are a camouflage to hide the hidden demons.

1. Marital rape itself creates emotional disconnect
2. It is brutal and goes against Article 21: right to live a dignified life. Even preamble of constitution mentions dignity of individual as a basic right.
3. Established patterns act as a discouragement is the basic reason why we need such a legislation.

"Mental trauma" has rightly been recognised as a form of violence in prevention of domestic violence act, 2005. Criminalizing marital rape will be an extension of that act and will go a long way in bringing gender equality and women empowerment.

Q.45) 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.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal

Ans) India is witnessing rapid urbanization, and about 40% of population and 2/3rd of Indian GDP is expected to come from urban areas in coming decade. In this context, Union government has initiated an ambitious scheme of creating 100 smart cities within 5 Years. Though novel in approach, there are certain challenges in its implementation:

A. Funding: Central government has designed the scheme as a centrally sponsored scheme, with committing 20000 crores for 5 years. State governments are expected to provide matching contributions, while municipal and local authorities are also to raise funds by raising bonds etc. The money committed by government is paltry, and there are doubts about states capacity to borrow. Obtaining funding from multilateral institutions would be a challenge.

B. Governance: Smart cities are envisaged to be implemented by creation of special purpose vehicle (SPV) between public and private sector. With, poor prognosis of PPP projects and controversies in land acquisition, labor laws etc, governance would prove to be a challenge for implementation.

C. Sustainability: Smart cities should be self-sustainable both financially and institutionally for their sustenance. But given the general reluctance of public to pay for public services and populist political measures, Sustainability of project is also in doubt.

Also, there is no clear definition about the nature of smartness of a city. Broadly, it should reflect the developmental nature of society, willingness of people to change and reform and level of aspirations. Some of the contours of smartness could be:

A. Physical Infrastructure: Sanitation, public transport, waste disposal

B. Social Infrastructure: Inclusiveness, affordable housing, green belts and parks

C. Governance Infrastructure: e-delivery of services, energy efficient construction and processes

Q.46) There are several irritants in Indo-China relations that include the ongoing border dispute, China's role in Pakistan, Indian role in the Pacific etc. However, the evolution of Indo-China relations in the past few years has shown how economy can deal with politics. What do you understand by this statement? Elucidate.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal

Ans) India and china share a unique contrasting relationship of political hostility and economic integration. 1962 war casts a historical shadow over relations:

A. Border skirmishes are still prevalent in western Ladakh sector and Eastern Arunachal Pradesh sector, with both countries claiming their territories.

B. China has always shared a warm relationship with Pakistan by supporting it on international forums and by supply of weapons, technologies and investment. Recent proposal to build china Pakistan economic corridor, passes through Pak-occupied Kashmir, to which India has raised its concerns.

C. South China sea and western pacific ocean is becoming a global theatre of geo-political strategies. India's investments in Vietnam through ONGC, its partnership with US and Japan has irked china.

But, keeping political hostilities aside, the economic engagements between the countries are strong more than ever:

A. China is the largest trading partner of India

B. Chinese companies have been investing in electronics and infrastructure in India

C. Development of cities on sister cities concept (eg Kolkata –Kunming)

D. Development of BCIM corridor for convenient vehicular movement.

E. Launching of BRICS bank and AIIB, by close collaboration between two countries

F. Presence of India's MNCs in China in services sector eg IT firms.

In-fact, it could be said that the strength of economic ties have played a key role in preventing the escalation of political conflicts between the two regions. Both countries are seen as engines of world growth. The frequent meetings of top most leadership in last year or so, has redefined the strength of relationship between two countries.

Q.47) Sentiments and perception have replaced performance and ideas in the politics of India. Sentiments can be driven through innovative marketing strategies and perception can be manufactured. In a situation like this, how far the attribute of 'attitude' plays it's role? Examine.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by - Cosviny

Ans) Sentiments and perception have replaced performance and ideas in the politics of India. Sentiments can be driven through innovative marketing strategies and perception can be manufactured. In a situation like this, how far the attribute of 'attitude' plays it's role? Examine.

Ans. In politics, what government do is not important when people's emotions are highly charged by propagandist ideas. This is more about vote bank politics when people's emotions and sentiments are exploited for narrow political gain. let us examine the role of attitude under this background:-

1. Attitude of people about politics have been largely negative and indifferent. But now Many social movements like India against corruption making the citizen active in politics or atleast aware about it. this attitudinal change came from innovative use of media, social media over Internet and use of cap and captions. This has been positive side of rousing sentiments through marketing strategy.

2. But some times, in Politics, few fringe groups aided by political party are diverting the attention of people away from government functioning and its evaluation. The media is used to manufacture people's perception of Nationalist Idea along Communal and religious line. Recently , We saw issue of Beef eating is not at all significant issue in Democracy with lot of grave problems but lot of intellectual and political investment are wasted upon it for cheap politics.

Thus, attitude of people about politics or political culture is manipulated and frames by marketing strategy with planned propaganda which is most of the time for narrow political interest. the political awareness and judgement among people would stop this malpractices. Government, civil society and social-political activists can educate citizens on such practices and a desired attitude can be built by discussion, debate and deliberations.

Q.48) Despite improvements on the macroeconomic front, some of the crucial indicators including savings, investment, capital formation and exports are not picking up. It has been pointed out that lack of public investment and inadequate growth in private demand have been the principal factors behind this. What do understand by this argument? Elucidate.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Rahul Agarwal

Ans) India has been said to be in “sweet spot” due to favourable macroeconomic conditions. Current account deficit has reduced significantly, Inflation is at moderate level, our forex reserves are record high and our demographic advantage provides us a huge domestic market. In fact, currently India is viewed as the prime engine of world growth with slowdown in china.

But these macroeconomic pluses are yet to be reflected in real sector. Currently:

- A. Our savings ratio has dipped below 30%.
- B. Our exports are in red for last 10 consecutive months.
- C. Index of Industrial production is showing tepid growth of 2-3%
- D. There is not enough capital formation in country, displayed by low investments by corporate.

There are various factors attributed to this phenomenon:

- A. Private sector in India is sitting on huge debt pile, as reported by credit Suisse report “House of Debt”, and have little resources for investment and capital augmentation.
- B. Economic survey exhorted government to increase public investment, but with impending implementation of OROP, 7th Pay commission etc. the fiscal space has been reduced with government.
- C. Although, RBI has considerably decreased key policy rates, but the effective monetary transmission has not taken place.
- D. There is also global slowdown, resulting in tepid demand and cyclical slowdown in commodities.
- E. Policies like inverted duty structure, Infrastructure bottlenecks , ease of doing business etc are proving to be show spoilers.

Thus, merely having favorable macroeconomic indicators would not result in growth in real terms. Government need to put in concerted efforts, by passing key legislations like GST, by sound policies like export promotion, labor laws ,bankruptcy code etc to usher in tangible growth in India.

Q.49) Soft power can't be underestimated in pursuing India's foreign policy. In fact the proper branding and packaging of Indian culture and civilization complimented by the huge Indian diaspora living in different parts of the world can add considerable weight and momentum to India's engagement with the world. Critically comment.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Mumtaz Ahmad

Ans) During the past decade, the attempts to leverage India's soft power in strengthening diplomatic ties is on a rise. The hard power diplomacy of capital surplus and military power economies such as China, US, Saudi Arabia could be matched from the soft front:

1. The uniqueness of our ancient culture and heritage has been an attractive spot in the global platform.
2. India has focussed on cultural and historical ties to strengthen diplomatic relations as the case with Buddhism followings in Myanmar, Vietnam.
3. India's 'Look West' policy for economic ties with West Asian economies is based on people-to-people contacts. This region has a huge presence of Indian diaspora.
4. The successful portrayal of Yoga, AYUSH and eco-tourism has given significant vantage points to attract tourism and global acknowledgement.
5. The India's democratic values, pluralistic culture and global peace has been significant leverages on soft power.
6. The ever-increasing Indo-Africa diplomatic affinities on account of similar issues of poverty, health, demography and growth potential has been initiated through soft ties.

The philosophy of 'Vashudhev Kutumbakam' is the bulwark of India's soft power on global platform which needs to be strengthened through greater people-to-people ties, cultural contacts. The recent instances of bitter relations with China needs to be tactfully handled to keep pace with this policy.

Q.50) Civil society and voluntary sector occupy a prominent place in the democratic landscape of India. Their contribution in helping the state reaching out to the poor and giving voice to the common citizens can't be overstated. However, rule of law must govern their functioning in matters of financing and objectives. In light of the controversy and debates surrounding the voluntary sector, analyse the statements given above.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by - Cosviny

Ans) Civil society and voluntary sector offers an alternative , innovative and people-centric and people participation approach to development comprising service delivery, advocacy and empowerment.

Recently, this sector alleged to be taking fund from government for leading a luxurious life to few. NGO's blamed for running as frontal face for organisations which have ulterior motive specifically ,those getting foreign funding. Other problems attached are lack of transparency, tax evasion, misappropriation of funds, and lack of a regulatory mechanism.

In this background , government resorted to action and cancelled the permissions of 9000 NGO's under FCRA. Thus, this has became larger debate of rule of law and governing of voluntary sector considering following points:-

1. Government is ultimately responsible to maintain law and order and financial security. The manipulated protests of development projects and foreign funding linkages revealed by IB. A government response is necessary.

2. Due to lack of substantive evidence, lack of proper guidelines for regulation and absence of any credit rating survey of such NGO's could not justify Government prompt action of registration cancellation.

3. The large scale action of gagging may discourage and stop functioning of many voluntary organisation which are doing wonderful jobs of people welfare. The right of civil society of free and fearless working should find space in government regulatory framework.

The need of the hour is to frame elaborated guidelines under National policy of Voluntary sector and establishment of National Accreditation council of India with representation of all stakeholders.

Q.51) Although the unpredictable monsoon often exacerbates the agrarian distress, the reasons more fundamental to the problems of agricultural sector lie in the structural and institutional factors. All this is compounded by a political class for which the rural farmers matters the most only during elections. Critically examine.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Sepoy No 1446

Ans) 1. NGO and VO need to work within existing framework. There are rules regarding financing (FERA act), account maintenance, periodic reporting etc which must be fulfilled to act hassle free. Nevertheless despite taking all precautions and fulfilling all legal, legislative and fiscal requirements the obstruction by state in functioning of NGOs are not a remote possibility. Hence there is a need to develop understanding b/w these two. All claims must be processed in spirit of law. At the same time a clear framework needs to be provided to different type of NGOs. This will bring clarity of expectations.

2. Monsoon is biggest friend and foe for Indian farmers. But more than that the structural and institutional inadequacy in farm sector can be held responsible for penury of Indian farmers. Both these factors are human made and unlike monsoon they can be turned in favor to Indian farmers. The responsibility for same lies majorly on Political willpower. That in turn depends on the strength of client groups being served. Farmers as a community are marginalized in this process, being used as a vote bank and theme of political agenda without any major actions. This way poor politics perpetuates the agrarian distress.

Few examples include:

Structural faults:

-MSP regime favours few particular crops, creates market distortion. As a results oversupply of MSP crops reduce its price thus reducing the potential benefits that farmers could have got. A distortion should be replaced by a balance in MSP regime which is again a legislative prerogative.

-Lack of sufficient credit facilities

-Insurance schemes exist but implementation is farce, political interest can Change this scenario but no significant action so far.

-Farm subsidies, especially urea subsidy under new NPS scheme actually promotes excessive use of urea

-Farmer suicide is a matter which needs active political intervention by way of psychiatric help and clinical support. This particular aspects is less developed.

Institutional inadequacy:

-Requisite infrastructure missing, cold storages, freezer vans need to be promoted. MPs under MPLAD scheme can direct District collectors to undertake such works on priority.

-The demand for a uniform agricultural market is still in doldrum. This can be a great help for farmers as well as for country (uniform price, controlled inflation)

All these reforms need active politics and a sustained interest by political leaders. Same is missing.

Q.52) Perhaps, nothing is more fundamental in a democracy than a person's right to vote. However, in India, large constituencies of voters that include the NRIs and domestic migrant labourers have been denied of this right due to practical difficulties in ensuring their participation in the democratic exercise. How do you view this issue? Is there a way out to address this fundamental problem? Discuss.

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

Ans) Political justice is an important part of Indian democracy and the right to vote has been enshrined as a constitutional right under article 326. Though the right to vote extends it to all citizens but large scale migration internally and externally has meant this right to not accessible to many.

NRIs and migrant labours in search of better employment opportunities have migrated outside their constituencies where they have not been able to vote. Also traveling to their homes exclusively for voting does not seems economical or desirable.

To solve this problem Election Commision of India has come up with a number of innovative methods which are already available to military personnel and can be possibly extended to NRIs and migrant labours. Some of them are:-

- 1) Proxy voting i.e allowing a person to vote in name of another.
- 2) e-Voting i.e. using internet
- 3) postal method i.e. transferring votes via posts

But still a lot of deliberations need to be done as each one of the above have some pertinent issues to them. Like proxy voting reveals secrecy, e-voting is vulnerable to hacking and postal method is time consuming. The Indian government must take a decision quickly as this population constitutes a large chunk and has the potential to totally change electoral results.

Q.53) The incidents of cheating and fake certificates are symptomatic of the bigger rot that has set into the education system of India. The deeper problems lie in the absence of a robust regulatory framework, lack of institutional autonomy and neglect of mass education at all levels. Critically examine the issue.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by – Amruth Kumar

Ans)

Image

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Q.54) While India strives to better it's record on the front of indigenization of technology, the domestic ecosystem is not conducive for measures like joint development and transfer of technology. Critically comment.

The Top Answer for this Question is written by - SBT57

Ans)

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