

Q.1) Do Indian politicians follow and adhere to a code of ethics? Should code of ethics be enforced legally? Examine.

Background: Mahatma Gandhi recommended that politics should be a branch of ethics. While there has been considerable progress on the economic front, there has been regression of the democratic values in the politics and devaluation of the political institutions.

Approach: Such questions require clear understanding of the underlying issue; you should be well versed with Code of ethics, Start by defining code of ethics in introduction itself.

You need to examine the given issues, first write the act of politicians counted as unethical in democratic discourse. You need to provide clear examples for better presentation. You should avoid taking one side as situation is not only dark; there are brighter sides as well, mention ethical practice of few select politicians as well.

Second part of question asks for your opinion on legally enforced code of ethics. You should present a balanced argument mentioning indispensability of legally enforced code of ethics along with associated issues to be taken care of.

While answering such question do refer to Second ARC, Law commission, any committee report or any judgement in this regard.

Introduction: Code of ethics represents certain values and norms that standardise one's behaviour in different aspects of life. It leads to morality in actions and thus ensures fairness and justice to all. It is often seen that politicians do not adhere to required moral values.

There is opportunism and playing of games to fulfil their political vendetta.

1. Political promises, action agendas remain just statement of intent after coming to power.
2. They remain among poor people only before elections, and forget their concerns later.
3. Misuse of political position and power is often seen. e.g. abusive behaviour by an MLA with flight attendants.
4. Many corruption scandals unearthed such as in giving accreditation to educational institutes, coal-scam, visit to foreign countries on public funds etc
5. Horse trading, defections often show lack of integrity and organizational ethics.
6. Internal democracy lacking in parties.
7. Criminalization of politics, black money being used in elections

But this is not the case as if all the politicians' doesn't follow the code of ethics. This country have seen leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri who always adhered to ethical values even in adverse circumstance such as Tashkent agreement, Food crisis, War with Pakistan etc. Leaders like

Sardar Patel, Abul Kalam Azad, Jai Prakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Bajpayee have set a very high standards for politicians.

Indian politicians need to follow certain code of ethics like

1. National interest above party or regional interest.
2. Comply with constitutional values
3. Ensure good governance to foster socio-economic development.
4. Set high ethical standards of their behavior.
5. Create leaders instead of gulping leadership.

As recommended by 2nd ARC report, there must be a code of ethics for politicians as well. It should be enforceable to ensure that all politicians, irrespective of parties to which they belong, adhere to these values and indulge in greater public good. This will reduce corruption, money and muscle power being used in politics. This will also ensure fair functioning of all the parties at parity with each other.

Though legal enforcement has potential to resolve the crisis but fear of law is not a sustainable solution. The values should be inculcated in the persons to have a long term effect. Simultaneously there is urgent need to take complementing electoral reforms empowering election commission, providing legal backing to Model code of Conduct and providing more teeth to ethics committee in each house of legislature.

Connecting the dots:

This question can be asked from Polity perspective as well. You can be asked on related reforms necessary to decriminalize politics. This year UPSC asked similar question in Ethics paper on how to make politics attractive for Youths of our nation.

Best Answer: Cool Monk

Code of ethics are general framework which guides person/organization to follow moral values, adhere to vision and mission, values, actions based on situations etc. Code of ethics for politicians can be derived from various laws, constitutional provisions and parliamentary conventions.

Indian politics is infamous for criminalization & corruption, nexus between criminals, corporates & politicians. 14th Loksabha includes 31% of the MPs facing criminal charges. Recent example where a politician hit an airlines employee over flight delay issue. Thus on the one hand politicians frame laws which are supposed to be followed by citizens with full respect. On the other hand framers of the law indulge in violation of law & lack ethical values.

But this is not the case as if all the politicians doesn't follow the code of ethics. This country has seen leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri who always adhered to ethical values even in adverse circumstances such as Tashkent agreement, Food crisis, War with Pakistan etc. Leaders like Sardar Patel, Abul Kalam Azad, Jai Prakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee have set a very high standards for politicians.

Hence depleting ethical behavior of politicians raises a question if we should enforce the code legally. Though legal enforcement has potential to resolve the crisis but fear of law is not a sustainable solution. The values should be inculcated in the persons to have a long term effect. For example even after Rape laws, crime against women still on rise. Thus ethical & moral education since the childhood, parents role & societal values can not be neglected. These can be complemented with legal enforcement

Q.2) What do you understand by 'conflict of interest'? How do India's public institutions get affected by it? Is judiciary untouched by it? Examine.

Approach:

In introduction mention what is conflict of interest. Then move to body part. Here in 1st part mention what do you mean by public institution then mention how they are affected with example. Most of the people here go wrong in examples. Then mention how judiciary is affected by it.

Background:

Conflict of Interest has shaken the today's world in issue of governance and ethical practices. It refers to a situation in which a person while performing his official duties tries to derive personal benefits through his decision or actions.

Usually this issue arises in public and political offices but in present day conditions due to more interactions between public and private enterprises, even private are not untouched.

Body:

Public institutions are those which are backed through public funds, controlled by state and is established for public usage.

How are they affected by conflict of interest:

- Appointments: Appointment of personnel's in public offices that are related to officials.
- Nepotism: Favoring relatives and friends over others especially in terms of appointments, faster clearances of files etc.
- Contracts: Awarding of contracts to known person in exchange for personal favors. Ex: Government contracts to politician son's company or companies owned by his Benami.
- Policies formulations: Ministers or representatives involved in policy making in those areas where they have substantial interests. Ex: Person owning tobacco manufacturing company takes part in policy making related to tobacco consumption.
- Information: Leaking of information to other persons which might be of personal advantage to him later. Ex: Employee in board meeting leaks information about new contracts to purchase more shares of company for quick gains.

Judicial offices are known for their independence but even they are not untouched.

- Nepotism: Person appointed as Judge whose father or relative is part of collegium.
- Scams: Passing of verdicts in cases where they have substantial dealings. Ex: Judge being partner of company which is involved in cheating.
- NJAC: Passing of verdict on bills which are related to their accountability and conduct.
- Post-retirement: In view of post retirement jobs, favoring a party or person in verdicts. Ex: Verdict favoring a particular political party in view of future political appointments post retirement.

Conclusion:

In today's world of interconnectedness, where everybody is connected to every other thing, there will be conflict of interest. But it is the duty of individual to take the path of righteousness and function in manner which is both moral and ethical. Also transparency should be maintained for scrutiny to ensure accountability.

Connecting the dots:

- Nepotism in public offices.
- Collegium system and its dark side.
- Public and private interests of politicians.

Best Answer: No best answer.

Since there were mistakes, we have not selected a best answer for this question.

Q.3) Demonetisation is only the starting point of the drive to push black money out of the economy. What are other measures taken by the Government to curb black money? Examine. What else needs to be done? Suggest.

Approach:

- Introduction- What black money is and how demonetization helped in curbing it
- Measures taken by the government to curb black money.
- What more needs to be done?
- Conclusion

Background:

Black money is a term used in common parlance to refer to money that is not fully legitimate in the hands of the owner. On November 8, 2016, the historic step of demonetisation was taken. It was the biggest blow to black money hoarders across the country.

Measures taken by the government to curb black money:

- Constitution of SIT (Special Investigation Team) on Black Money. Many of the recommendations made by it have been accepted by government.
- Income Disclosure Scheme.
- Linking bank accounts with Aadhaar and PAN. It also made easy for Income Tax department to track big and suspicious transactions through bank accounts as well as check fake accounts.
- Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016- Government was able to trace numerous Benami properties. People used to hedge black money in Benami property while taking advantage of shortcomings in this Act.
- Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)- Tax evaders, used weak laws to stash black money in foreign accounts. Tax havens like Switzerland, Singapore, Mauritius and Panama, have agreed to share suspicious banking transactions of Indians on real time basis under the DTAA.
- Signing of Automatic Exchange of Information and tax information exchange agreements with countries like Switzerland. It was signed under the G20 framework and India is a signatory.
- Action against Shell Companies- Government cancelled registration of over two lakh companies. The shell companies were suspected of money laundering activities.
- Promotion of cashless transaction- Card based transactions or digital transactions automatically uploads transaction details under the PAN Card. Such a system will reduce the scope of black money. National Payment Corporation's Rupay Card, UPI, BHIM,

Adhaar Enabled Payment System etc. are government initiatives for cashless transaction economy.

Suggested measures:

- The agencies like enforcement directorates, IT, FIU, CBI should collaborate, sharing their database among themselves as well as any special state agencies to nab these offenders.
- Decreasing the tax and increasing the tax base.
- Increasing awareness.
- Promoting digital literacy.
- Further steps are required for financial inclusion like- Increasing the footprint of ATMs in rural areas. Financial exclusion results into creation of parallel economy (moneylenders) which contributes to black money generation.

Conclusion:

With constant efforts Government, has not only put in place a system to block corruption and black money, but has also created an environment that makes it almost impossible. However the initiatives taken till now needs to be implemented effectively and also the above suggested measures needs to be implemented.

Connecting the dots:

- Demonetisation- Objectives, Success, Failures.
- Black money- Steps taken by all stakeholders- RBI, SEBI etc.
- International cooperation on black money
- Digitization and black money.

Best answer: Sk

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Q.4) What is a GI tag? Discuss. Why was it in news recently?

Background: The Geographical Indication (GI) Registry and Intellectual Property India presented the Geographical Indication Tag status to Banglar Rasogolla of West Bengal and Mamallapuram stone sculptures of Tamil Nadu. West Bengal was involved in a lengthy battle with Odisha, which too had claimed Rasogolla as its invention.

Introduction: According to the World Intellectual Property Rights, "Geographical Indication is the sign used on the products that have specific geographical origin and possess reputation and some qualities that are due to the origin." In India Geographical Indication tag is governed by the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registry and Protection) Act of 1999.

Body: Darjeeling tea became the first product to get this tag in 2005. Till now, nearly 295 products have been accorded this tag. The Pashmina from Kashmir, Nagpur mangoes, Madhubani paintings of Bihar, are some of the examples.

1. It is a collective right unlike other IPRs (intellectual property rights) like Patent which is individual right.
2. It helps in the upliftment of local artisan, businessmen, tribal communities etc by providing business opportunity and branding.
3. Registration of the product under the GI facilitates better legal protection and the authorised user can exercise his right to use the tag effectively.

Why was it in news recently?

1. There was a bittersweet battle between the West Bengal Rasgolla and Odisha rasgolla for the Geographical Indication tag. Both of them claimed the origin of rasgolla in their own respective states. But finally, West Bengal's Banglar rasgulla was successful in getting the GI tag.
2. Many of the products like sculpture from Mamallapuram, Etikoppaka toys of Andhra Pradesh, Banganapallae mangoes of Andhra Pradesh have been accorded the GI tag recently.
3. Many north east states are not able to provide historical evidence of the origin of the product and so they are devoid of getting GI tag.
4. The GI Act does not emphasise on the quality of products, there is lack of inspection, monitoring of the products. That is the reason why we don't hear success stories of the GI tag.

Conclusion: As the GI tag can be a good way to support domestic agricultural or handicrafts goods of India in the global market the domestic law requirement for proof of origin should be relaxed so that oral history and other records can be considered for registering GI. The protection and quality assurance of GI products should also be regulated so as to maintain its brand image and value.

Connecting the dots:

Intellectual property, Geographical Indication, Compulsory licensing and new IPR policy all should be well read and understood; Question can be broader or specific to particular issue.

Best Answer: Maximus

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Q.5) What are India's views on SAARC? Also comment on the viability of BIMSTEC as an alternative forum to SAARC. Why has BIMSTEC not taken off yet? Examine.

Background:

The seven countries' grouping BIMSTEC connecting South Asia with the Southeast Asia received much attention after the last year's SAARC summit in Islamabad was postponed following tensions between India and Pakistan over terror attacks.

Approach:

- Give a brief introduction with what is SAARC and BIMSTEC
- India's views on SAARC
- Difference between BIMSTEC and SAARC and how it can help in regional development and cooperation
- Reasons for BIMSTEC slow progress

Introduction:

SAARC was formed in 1985 while BIMSTEC has been in existence in various forms since 1997. SAARC has faced problems in the past, mostly attributed to India-Pakistan hostilities. India's problems with Pakistan over Kashmir, terrorism, and nuclear issues have affected the working of SAARC since its inception. Hence SAARC doesn't allow any bilateral agenda to be discussed on its platform, but even this provision hasn't stopped the India-Pakistan rivalry from spilling over into the workings of the organization.

Historically, India has preferred to maintain relations on the bilateral level rather than pursue a regional agenda under the BIMSTEC framework. However, India has been an active member of SAARC, which is seen as a means to better relations with neighbors, one of the primary objectives of Indian foreign policy. To break out of the deadlock due to SAARC, India is now channeling its energies toward BIMSTEC. BIMSTEC offers India a chance to engage with its South and Southeast Asian neighbors without being weighed down by Pakistan's consistently unfriendly attitude.

India's view on SAARC:

For too long, India had conflated its regionalism with SAARC that was established three decades ago at the initiative of Bangladesh. While Delhi and Islamabad were both wary of the move in the mid-1980s, it was the inward economic orientation of the Subcontinent that limited possibilities for regional cooperation. As the Subcontinent launched economic reforms in the 1990s, regional integration appeared a natural consequence waiting to happen. As the South Asian states opened up to the world, it seemed sensible to connect with each other. But that was not how it turned out.

Difference between SAARC and BIMSTEC:

BIMSTEC includes India's northern, southern, and eastern neighbors, who are part of SAARC as well. But besides Pakistan, the grouping leaves out two other SAARC states: Afghanistan and the Maldives. Barring Pakistan, India is making efforts to remain engaged with Afghanistan and the Maldives. India has established a strategic partnership with Afghanistan and provides both defense and developmental assistance. India has been actively resetting its ties with the Maldives as well; India's minister of state for external affairs recently visited the island nation.

In SAARC as well as in BIMSTEC, India's demographic and economic might is a major factor. India is a rising economy and can offer large markets for trade, investment, and energy for member states of a shared regional grouping. The attractiveness of the Indian market and military capacity of India will be key factors in the future of the Bay of Bengal region given the economic and security challenges ahead.

Conclusion:

More efforts toward regional cooperation in BIMSTEC have the potential to make SAARC more and more irrelevant in Indian foreign policy discourse, although Pakistan will remain central to India's foreign policy. Unless Pakistan seriously rethinks its strategy in SAARC, it will be hard to keep India and other states interested in the grouping.

Best Answer: shivani

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Q.6) The recent outreach of the US presents India with the prospect of an enhanced India role in the Asia-Pacific balance of power system. Comment.

Approach:

- Introduction
- How US is reaching out to India?
- Opportunities made available
- Challenges involved
- Conclusion

Introduction:

The role of India in the Asia-Pacific region is growing reflected in change of terminology from Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific in the American diplomacy.

How US is reaching out to India?

- US aligning with the idea that peace in Central Asia in particular Afghanistan can be attained by help of India. So far, India was out of the frame while dealing with anti-terrorism operation in Afghanistan.
- A hard-line stance taken by US against Pakistan's support for terrorism.
- Formation of Quad grouping with Australia and Japan.

Opportunities made available:

- The outreach of democracies Japan, Australia and USA in the region provides India with prospects to play a greater role in the balance of power system in the region, to contain China.
- The Quad, if fructifies, allows India to play a greater role in providing alternative to the countries in the Asia-Pacific from neo-colonial investments of China.
- With a major defence partnership with the US, India can augment its military power to balance China in the IOR and thus promote rules based order and freedom of navigation.
- Elevation of India as 'Imp. Defence Partner' by US has paved way for India towards key and strategic collaboration on global security.
- Put a deterrent on the Chinese assertiveness in the region. Quad Navies presence may prevent any Chinese misadventure.
- Checking state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan.

Challenges involved:

- China is the major trade partner with all the countries of the Quad and with several nations of Asia Pacific. India is not yet successful in balancing China economically.
- India's project deliverance is not up to the mark of China.
- The regional countries are already wary of the India's 'Big Brother' attitude, cooperation with US may further stimulate negative feelings.
- With India coming closer to US, it seemingly is moving away from the Panchsheel policy.

- The unreliability in the US foreign policy and the US first attitude of Trump's administration.
- Side taking with US may hampers our relation with Russia as well as countries of Arabian Peninsula too.

Conclusion:

Taking support of power nation is not a bad idea but it shouldn't cost the regional interest. Ways by which India can avoid conflicting situations includes-

- Entering into the groupings after taking regional countries, including China to an extent, into confidence to avoid conflicts.
- Working towards economic integration rather than militarizing the region.
- Accepting the US overtures with caution for power balancing while retaining the regional identity and character role.

The current need is a pragmatic effort to tackle the geopolitical challenges that India as a nation need to address.

Best answer: Invincible

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Q.7) Compassion towards the weaker-sections is considered to be one of the most fundamental attributes for a civil servant. Why? Examine.

Approach:

Your answer should focus on why compassion is a fundamental attribute. Most of you have written good points in this part but very few have given an example. In ethics example is of utmost importance and should not be skipped. only by an example an examiner can understand that you have understood the concept properly.

In introduction give proper definition of Compassion. Keywords should be defined precisely. A vague definition is not appreciated.

Synopsis:

Dictionary definition of *compassion*: sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.

A civil servant is bridge between the elected executive and the people. In a welfare state like India, the aim of the government is to reach every section of the society. But despite India being one of the fastest growing economies, it has largest population below poverty line.

Following points can be mentioned in the answer to prove why compassion is a fundamental attribute of a civil servant:

- A compassionate and empathetic civil servant would understand the grievances of poor who approach him and take action accordingly.
- Compassion enables a civil servant to bridge the gap between vulnerable, deprived and bureaucrats so that they understand needs and problems of common people.
- A compassionate civil servant will be tolerant and will listen to grievances accordingly.
- He/ she will be ethically and morally more strong and take all steps thinking about their effect on weaker sections.
- Rather than being purely rational i.e. thinking about only profit and loss, a compassionate civil servant will be emotional too and think about the impact on society. You can also say that he will be using his heart and head together, rather than using just the head.
- When such civil servants reach policy making stage, they frame more realistic policies which are according to the demand of public.
- Expenditure of government will be in the right direction.
- This will help in breaking the stereotype that bureaucrats are unapproachable and it will increase people's confidence in the government.
- A bureaucrat will not work with a superiority complex rather he will work with spirit on service.

Note: More points can be added to this list. Many people are using very flowery language in the answers and in order to articulate well they are unnecessarily complicating very simple things. Many a times, in ethics, people use some terms or keywords at places where they are not required. Try not to do that. Keep a very simple approach.

Give a real life example of compassion in the answer.

Connecting the Dots:

Another concept related to compassion is Tolerance. Usually a relationship between the two or difference between the two can be asked too.

Best Answer 1 : Maximus

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Best answer 2: Aditi Dhaka

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Q.8) Genius is nothing but a greater aptitude for patience. Comment.**Introduction:**

An inspirational quote by Benjamin Disraeli says: "Patience is a necessary ingredient of genius." Genius is not only a person of exceptional intelligence, he also has a quality of being patient. No skill or Virtue can be cultivated without Perseverance, no goal can be achieved without patience. Patience is waiting, working, thinking, perfecting. That is the key element of genius. It's not a quick thing. It takes as long as it takes, and genius will take the time necessary to craft the finest results the world has seen. No short cuts, no slap-dash work. Hard work and patience.

How aptitude, patience plays a major role in making a person genius?

Thomas Alva Edison, Albert Einstein, A.P.J Abdul Kalam despite being from different fields are referred to as genius. People are inspired by them, try to emulate them. Despite this world do not see many geniuses, giving rise to a debate that geniuses are born. But, the truth is Genius is nothing but a greater aptitude for patience.

For instance: Sometimes, like Einstein's $E=mc^2$ equation, the genius is in the simplicity. Other times, like the quote's author's famous Sistine Chapel ceiling, the genius is in the incredible level of detail. In each of these extremes, the patience to refine, test, adjust, observe and try again is what was made the respective projects the height of genius.

Importance of patience to become genius:

"Most battles are won by hanging there a little bit longer than others who give up just at the right time". Two of the biggest obstacles that prevent a man from becoming a genius is failure

and fatigue. It is through patience that a person can overcome these challenges. Patience lies in being hopeful of good and success even in adverse conditions.

In the creative process, which is at the heart of the quote, patience is essential. You can only push things a little before the quality starts to drop. Patience is required both yours, and the patience of those wanting you do be done to get the best possible result.

Without patience, you may not be able to find the final detail that will change your work from good to great, or from great to genius. The trick is to recognise the difference between perfecting your work and procrastination. However, that's a very subjective call, and not something I can help you with. If you have the patience, you will eventually figure that out as well.

Conclusion:

To summarize about how the patience will help a person to raise the level of genius, we can quote the great leader of our times Mahatma Gandhi, "Sweet are the fruits of patience." Thus, Genius are the fruits of patience.

Best Answer: No best Answer

Q.9) An independent central bank augurs well for a democratic politico-economy. However, there should be a mechanism to make RBI and its governor accountable to the Parliament. Do you agree? Critically examine.

Approach:

- Introduction- Mention about central bank of India, about its powers for 2-3lines.
- First part of answer should be how independence of central bank is good for economy. Then 2nd part mention pros and cons of parliamentary control on RBI
- Conclusion.

Introduction:

Reserve Bank of India is an independent organization established under RBI Act of 1935 and nationalized in 1949 which is presently headquartered in Mumbai. In India, RBI is responsible for monetary policies, regulating banks and allied institutions.

Points to be covered:

Need for Independence:

- Technical expertise.
- Long term economic goals and affects.
- Steering of economy.
- Political interference and lobbying.
- Pressure groups.

RBI being accountable to parliamentary control has its own benefits:

Pros:

- Policies convergence: Monetary and Fiscal.
- Accountability to Nation: Public representative.
- Nepotism and corruption.
- Transparency and scrutiny in decision making.
- Lobby group interference in interest rate decisions.
- Global Practices: US, UK etc.

Cons:

- Lack of technical expertise.
- Short term political goals.
- Increased work load to MPs leading to less time for public policies.

Total answer should contain 8-10 points. Pick points accordingly and explain for a line or two not more than that.

Conclusion:

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Parliament is the temple of democratic setup and they are the representatives of people. So all public institutions established should be responsible to them. But there should also be limits in parliamentary jurisdiction so that central bank doesn't become another department under government.

Q.10) India's engagement with several nations signals a maturing of foreign policy in keeping with its changing interests in a multipolar world. Comment.

Approach:

In the above statement, there are two key words – ‘Several Nations’ and ‘Changing interest’. You have to mention how India’s engagement with other nations has changed with current interests of India.

Synopsis:

India’s international policy started with Non Aligned Movement (NAM) in a bipolar world. You need to keep in mind that Non alignment does not mean being non vocal or neutral. It means that India had an independent stand over international issues.

In today’s multipolar world, India has still got its independent stance and engaged with several countries of the world that have problems amongst themselves. This shows that India is keeping its own interests to the forefront rather than appeasing any country.

You need to enunciate your answer with the help of some examples:

- India’s friendly engagement with neighbouring countries as well as assertion of its presence through surgical strikes
- Engagement with Iran despite sanctions on Iran by USA
- India’s strategic and trade relations with Israel has improved and Israel is one of the leading exporters of arms to India but at the same time, India is keeping its stand on Palestine’s cause in UN.
- India is maintaining cordial relations with China and having its Act East policy as well, where India is improving its relations with South East Asian Countries, many of which are having conflicts with China in South China Sea.

With such a stance India is trying to emerge as a new power center in this multipolar World.

Note: You can add some more or different examples. You can also mention about several international Organizations which India is a part of.

Conclusion:

In recent times, with its large population and positive demographic dividend, India has emerged as the biggest center to provide skilled labour to the world as well as a huge market. This has made India an economic attraction for the world. Apart from this India has also emerged as an important soft power.

In such a scenario, India cannot show its inclination towards one particular center or ideology. India has to a lot to gain from the world as well as to contribute for the betterment of humankind. This is only possible with an independent stand in the world forums and asserting India’s individuality.

Q.11) Do States have unconditional sovereignty over their affairs? Does the international community have the right to intervene in a country for humanitarian purposes? Give your opinion.

Background:

Many commentators, mostly coming from the developed world, contend that the last decades have confirmed and even expanded the reach of that statement, especially in the definition of the legitimacy of the practice of humanitarian intervention. Traditional sovereignty, incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations, is characterized by the norms of non-interference and state equality. Humanitarian intervention challenges this notion, creating a tension between the norms of state sovereignty and the protection of human rights.

Approach:

- Write about sovereignty you can define it or write about the larger issue
- Write about international intervention, need and other side of international intervention to holistically cover the issue.

Body:

Do States have unconditional sovereignty over their affairs?

Sovereignty has traditionally had two, intertwined, meanings. An internal one, of 'supreme authority within a country', and an 'external' one, regarding the right of being independent and not be subjected to any interference from other countries.

In this globalised world, fate of countries is greatly interlinked. Thus it is almost impossible for countries to have unconditional sovereignty over their internal affairs as,

1. Few multinational companies have become larger in size than the GDP of many countries. As a result, they enjoy unquestionable monopoly in many countries of their operation, having scant regard for local rules and regulations.
2. With the rise of multilateral organisations like World Bank, World Trade Organisation etc.; countries have to comply by the rules set by them. Defying these results in sanctions or penalties.
3. There are cases of powerful countries dominating weaker countries with their military/ financial clout. Sri Lanka had to hand over Hambantota Port to China after it was unable to pay back its loans for the port.

4. In case of humanitarian crisis in a country, where citizens face repression at the hands of their own government, foreign governments or the United Nations interfere by either providing humanitarian aid or finding a political solution to the crisis.

Does the international community have the right to intervene in a country?

The international community has right to interfere when humanitarian crisis arise due to the following reasons

- A poor country is struck by natural disaster or epidemic.
- The citizens are facing repression at the hands of an autocratic government.

But the following issues can arise in this regard,

- Sometimes countries use the excuse of repression of democracy to replace unfavourable governments.
- Powerful countries unilaterally interfere in other countries, ignoring the voice of rest of the international community. The decision of US and UK to go to war in Iraq was widely condemned as undemocratic as it didn't have the approval of UNSC.
- International community only selectively intervenes in countries, ignoring countries which are not strategically important. The repression of East Timor by Indonesians was ignored by the world, whereas the apparent repression by the Assad regime in oil rich Syria resulted in multi country interference.

Conclusion:

Hence even though the international community should come to the aid of countries facing humanitarian crisis, it is vital to put their interests above everything else. We need to develop a mechanism to ensure that humanitarian crisis(real or projected) don't become an excuse for countries to further their strategic interests.

Best Answer 1: A J

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Q.12) What tools do administrators have in their hands to address ethical dilemmas in public life? Illustrate.

Approach:

- Introduction: Mention what do you mean by Ethical Dilemmas
- Body: Give 2-3 examples of situation where you are in ethical dilemmas and what tool can be used in such situation. 150 words is the limit in GS-4 presently so stick to that.
- Conclusion: 2-3 lines are must.

Introduction

Ethical dilemmas, also known as a moral *dilemmas*, are situations in which there is a choice to be made between two options, neither of which resolves the situation in an ethically acceptable fashion.

Body:

Examples:

- In Kurukshetra war, Arjun was in ethical dilemma between killing his own Guru Dronacharya or to follow his Raj Dharma of establishing peace by killing evil forces.
- A widow of veteran, who has given his life in kargil war, comes to collect her pension but doesn't possess Aadhaar card as required by law.
- Very poor tribal man comes to collect subsidized ratio in PDS shop but due to error his name doesn't appear in BPL list. And government has instructed not to provide subsidized ratio to anybody whose name doesn't appear in BPL register.
- Soldier returning to his hometown carrying army supplied liquor where overnight a rule was implemented to ban liquor consumption and possession.

Above are certain examples, now what tools are available to tackle these ethical dilemmas:

- Administrative discretion.
- Seniors and experienced colleagues advice.
- Utilitarian approach.
- Rule of law and code of ethics.
- Conscience and philosophical guidance of great people.
- Local culture, custom and humanitarian gestures.

Note: Examples should be used to answer this question. Minimum 2-3 examples should be used. You are required to take a stand here unlike other GS papers. Examples and administrative tools are given separate here for better understanding but you can also club and write one tool for each example.

Conclusion

Ethical dilemmas can arise at any given instances for civil servants; so they have to be guided by proper code of conduct and code of ethics to tackle these situations. They can also approach their seniors in the department who will have more experience in dealing with such circumstances and also can use their previous experiences to arrive at the solutions.

Connecting the dots:

- Code of conduct and ethics in governance.
- Conflict of interest.
- Accountability and transparency in decision making.

Best Answer: Anand

Ethical dilemma is a situation in which a civil servant is in conflict in minds between 2 moral imperatives in which accepting one would lead to transgressing other. Civil servants do face ethical dilemmas like

1-administrative discretion 2-corruption 3-administrative secrecy 4- nepotism 5-policy dilemmas.

Ways in which civil servants should address their ethical dilemmas are

1-taking decisions based on rational evidence and according to established rules and regulations thus removing arbitrariness.

2-taking advice from seniors, colleagues if in doubt regarding any decision and then deciding on best possible action based on own self-assessment.

3-giving out detailed information if there appears to be conflict of interest for eg DM auctioning mining area should inform in written note that friends or relatives of DM are also participating in auction process so allegation of corruption is not levelled.

4-ensuring proper transparency required and removing any veil of secrecy eg proactive dissemination of tender guidelines.

ethical dilemmas is big issue in governance and should be addressed by laying down proper laws, rules, regulation removing any unambiguous words along with training to administrators which focus on integrity, honesty and dedication to service to solve the problem of ethical dilemma.

Q.13) Only oversight isn't enough to curb the misuse of public money. It also requires officials to internalise the virtues of integrity and objectivity. Comment.

Body:

Oversight is one of the three primary functions of a parliament, to curb the misuse of public money. By the use of various tools a parliament has a duty to monitor the activities of the executive branch of government to ensure the laws passed and the funds allocated by the parliament are fully and accurately implemented. Corruption by government officials is a key means by which funds are diverted from the purpose intended by parliament and can also result in the unequal or ineffective application of one or more laws.

The main means by which a parliament monitors the work of the executive is through parliamentary committees. All committees should have the specific powers and authority to call evidence, demand testimony from senior government officials and subpoena documents. By conducting routine or extraordinary hearings and investigations a committee should have a strong knowledge of what is occurring in the aspects of the government under its purview.

For e.g.: Advertisements in the newspapers in favour of our politicians cost a great deal of money, may be about rupees two crores for a full page advertisement in a national newspaper. This is been paid from the public exchequer, so here it requires the officials to internalise the virtues of integrity and objectivity.

Integrity:

Integrity is soundness of moral principle which comes from character of uncorrupted virtues. It is putting the obligation of Public services above your own personal interest. The code of behavior mentioned in conduct rules of Central Services (conduct) rules 1964 expects Civil servants 'maintaining integrity and absolute devotion to duty.

Objectivity:

Ability to take decisions on sound logic and facts and must be free from any bias and emotional inclination.

In recognition that public office involves a public trust, public service agencies, public sector entities and public officials seek to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector and it also requires officials to internalize the virtues of integrity and objectivity to curb the misuse of public money, and the officer should have been:

- Committed to the highest ethical standards;
- Accept and value their duty to provide advice which is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial;
- Show respect towards all persons, including employees, clients and the general public;
- Acknowledge the primacy of the public interest and undertake that any conflict of interest issue will be resolved or appropriately managed in favour of the public interest; and
- Are committed to honest, fair and respectful engagement with the community.

Best Answer: no best answer for today.

Q.14) How does work culture in government institutions affect productivity? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach:

- Introduction- explaining the concept of work culture.
- Main body- How work culture affects productivity?
- How to ensure healthy culture in government institutions?
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Work culture in an organization is associated with beliefs, thought processes, attitudes of the employees and ideologies and principles of the organization. It is the work culture which decides the way employees interact with each other and how an organization functions. In layman's language work culture refers to the mentality of the employees which further decides the ambience of the organization.

How work culture affects productivity?

- **Poor coordination between various departments-** Fragmented solutions. The issue of environmental pollution cannot be solved single-handedly by Environment ministry, it needs mutual cooperation of other ministries like road, commerce and industry etc.
- **Lackadaisical attitude of employees, lack of punctuality-** resulting into overall delay. Regulatory clearances have been termed as a major road block in ease of doing business in the country.
- **Business-as-usual approach-** E-courts, e-governance, digitisation of work, less of paper work etc, once adopted may bring in transparency and improved efficiency. But the poor adaptability to adopt change has resulted to delay in adoption of technologies.
- **Lack of transparency-** It results into opacity, which is a major cause of corruption.
- **Work culture based on mutual-coordination, discussion and debate-** Results into dynamism, innovative and out-of-box solutions for long standing issues, improving productivity by a large extent.

Way ahead:

The work culture can be improved in a number of ways-

- Right kind of training.
- Leadership needs to play the role of building a healthy work culture.
- Encouraging those who have high ethical and moral standards when it comes to organisational tasks, citing them a role model.
- Initiatives like PRAGATI, heralded by PM himself can go a long way in bringing a change in the way government departments functions.

Conclusion:

As PM Modi has stressed its time the work culture is changed from "chalta h" to "badal sakta hai". The youth in the bureaucracy can be the torchbearer of this change.

Best answer: Vijay Prakash

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Q.15) What is an ombudsman? Discuss its efficacy as an institutional measure to curb corruption.

Approach:

- It is a two part question
- Define what an ombudsman is. Discuss it briefly in Indian context.
- Then analyze the current position in India with examples.
- Conclude accordingly (as per analysis)

Body

An ombudsman is an official who is charged with representing the interests of the public by investigating and addressing complaints of maladministration or a violation of rights. The ombudsman is appointed with a significant degree of independence to discharge his duties in an impartial manner. For e.g. RBI has appointed a banking ombudsman to look into the grievances of customers against banks under RBI jurisdiction.

In India institutions like Lokayukta, Lokpal, CVC (Central Vigilance commission) act as Ombudsman to control maladministration in governance.

Analysis: Efficacy of Ombudsman in India

- Despite recommended by the first ARC in 1969 and passed in 2013 as an Act, Lokpal is yet to take shape at the ground level. Only certain states like Karnataka and Goa have appointed Lokayukta to look into complaints of corruption by public officials
- These institutions do not have the power to punish. Their recommendations are not binding either thereby weakening their potency.
- Citizens are not made aware of these institutions and proper grievance redressal mechanisms are not put in place. For e.g. in an RBI report, less than 20% people knew about the banking ombudsman scheme
- The appointments to these positions are not done transparently and often retired bureaucrats are given bouquet posts for their loyalty towards the incumbent government
- State and central government create deliberate delays in appointing members to such offices on frivolous grounds despite repeated reprimand from the Supreme Court

Conclusion

Institutions like the CBI are routinely accused of being a “caged parrot”. They are used by respective governments to carry out vindictive politics and take out rival leaders. Therefore, to make the office of Ombudsman meaningful in India, a strong political will is required. These institutions need to be insulated from political vagaries similar to the offices of Election Commission, CAG etc. They can further be given power to punish on par with a civil court. Lastly, there is need for creating awareness among citizens and making them easily accessible to all strata of society.

Best Answer: Ali

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Q.16) External drive to strategy change is to be replaced by local commitment and ownership of reform ideas to enhance governance. Comment.

Introduction:.

External driving strategy means those kinds of programs, which India adopted from other countries by not considering the situations and their effectiveness in India. But by involving local government, in economy, political influence, technology, people's satisfaction, decentralization of power and citizens' empowerment, effective people's participation through state and non-state mechanisms, reforms and strengthening of land administration and harnessing the power of technology for governance, will help in enhancing the governance many folds in India.

In India all the programs and policies are changed by policy makers as and when they desire. Ideas are implanted from outside and above. All this leads to disarray in governance and disbelief in the masses. If the ideas are seeded, owned and pursued by local people, this scenario would change. Social audit on the other hand would become a tool to ensure accountability.

For example, India spends more on programs for the poor than most developing countries, but it has failed to eradicate poverty because of widespread corruption and faulty government administration, according to the World Bank report. However, due to lack of local government involvement in policy framework and at implementation level, the desired results are not able to achieve at its best.

Through partnerships that the Global Corporate Governance Forum has been forging in India, local institutions are leveraging their resources to build capacity, broaden awareness, and achieve progress in gaining broad acceptance by businesses for corporate governance best practices.

To enhance governance, it requires an integrated, long-term strategy built upon cooperation between government and citizens. It involves both participation and institutions. The programs, central to the local government platform, include food distribution and health insurance initiatives that are supposed to reach hundreds of millions of households, through social audits.

Social audit:

Social auditing is taken up for the purpose of enhancing local governance, particularly for strengthening accountability and transparency in local bodies. Social Audit makes it sure that in democracy, the powers of decision makers should be used as far as possible with the consent and understanding of all concerned, for example social audits in MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh.

Rule of Law, Accountability, and Transparency are technical and legal issues at some levels i.e. at local levels, but also interactive to produce government that is legitimate, effective, and widely supported by citizens, as well as a civil society that is strong, open, and capable of playing a positive role in politics and government.

Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It consists of the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. Without good governance, no amount of developmental schemes can bring in improvements in the quality of life of the citizens. On the contrary, if the power of the state is abused, or exercised in weak or improper ways, those with the least power in the society – the poor- are most likely to suffer, at the local level these effects can be seen.

Level of information shared with and involvement of stakeholders, particularly of the rural poor, women, and other marginalized sections, if the local government commitment, involvement and if it owns the reforms and if it be able to strategic change according to the demand of the local needs, then the governance and accountability will enhance in many fold.

Best Answer: Garguantun

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Q.17) Information sharing and transparency in government form the fulcrum of good governance. Elucidate.

Approach:

- Introduction- definition of good governance.
- Importance of information sharing for good governance
- Importance of transparency for good governance
- Way forward: What needs to be done to ensure that transparency and good governance is maintained.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. The concept of Governance is broader than Government. The notion of Governance focuses on institutions and processes.

Importance of information sharing for good governance:

Sharing of information means most decisions of officials, and important rules and regulations are in the public domain

- RTI is key to good governance.
- It makes consumers of public services aware about their rights and entitlements. With this awareness responsibility of bureaucracy and the government increases for delivering the same.

- An information-driven society leads to transparency and accountability. This provides drive to programmes aimed to enhance the processes and systems of public bodies thereby improving service delivery.
- Lack of information about the functioning of government agencies can make it easy for corrupt officials to cover their tracks. On the other hand, when officials recognize that their decisions will be out in the open, then they will be less motivated to act randomly or with self-interest.
- Ability to seek, receive and circulate information is crucial to secure human rights
- Availability of information enhances lives because it assists to make wise decisions in life.

Thus, the flow of information has benefits like increased transparency, accountability, public participation and empowerment

Importance of transparency for good governance:

Transparency is widely recognized as core principle of good governance. Transparency means sharing information and acting in an open manner. Free access to information is a key element in promoting transparency. Information must be timely, relevant, accurate and complete for it to be used effectively.

- It thoroughly reduces chances of corruption, nepotism, favouritism. It can be said that the least transparent Governments exist in the most corrupt countries.
- Transparency and accountability in Government are mutually reinforcing.
- Transparency in governance also has constructive impact on the efficiency of Government functioning.
- Likewise, transparency increases accountability of the Government officials. It makes it easy to fix responsibility in case of any offense.

Way forward:

- Building an information-driven society which has access to all services and facilities with minimum bureaucratic and procedural formalities. Digital India campaign aims for the same.
- Executive departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public. PRAGATI and mygov.in are initiatives taken in this direction.
- Transparency in itself is not enough to eradicate corruption. This is because, while transparency implies availability of information, it also requires an educated and

intellectual population to find out the real meaning of the available information and act on it.

- Additionally, in Indian scenario with a large population of uneducated and poor people, information has not only to be made available, but the availability of information itself has to be advertised.

Conclusion:

To summarize, Information sharing and transparency are vital components for any government to enhance the living of society. Information is valuable for every citizen to participate in the life and governance of society. The greater the access of the citizen to information, the greater would be the responsiveness of government to community needs.

Best answer: swati mittal

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Q.18) Should Codes of Ethics for civil servants and politicians be made legally enforceable? Critically examine.

Approach:

- Such questions require clear understanding of the underlying issue; you should be well versed with Code of ethics, Start by defining code of ethics in introduction itself.
- You need to examine the given issues, first write the act of politicians and civil servants counted as unethical in democratic discourse. You need to provide clear examples for better presentation.
- Second part of question asks for your opinion on legally enforced code of ethics. You should present a balanced argument mentioning indispensability of legally enforced code of ethics along with associated issues to be taken care of.
- While answering such question do refer to Second ARC, Law commission, any committee report or any judgement in this regard.

Introduction: Code of ethics represents certain values and norms that standardise one's behaviour in different aspects of life. It leads to morality in actions and thus ensures fairness

and justice to all. It is often seen that civil servants and politicians do not adhere to required moral values.

1. There is opportunism and playing of games to fulfil their personal gains.
2. Political promises, action agendas remain just statement of intent after coming to power. They remain among poor people only before elections, and forget their concerns later.
3. Misuse of political, official positions and power is often seen. e.g. abusive behaviour by an MLA with flight attendants or Senior officers making junior officials cleaning their shoes.
4. Many corruption scandals unearthed such as in giving accreditation to educational institutes, coal-scam, visit to foreign countries on public funds etc show a nexus between civil servants and politicians.
5. Horse trading, defections often show lack of integrity and organizational ethics. Officials taking prejudiced decisions or favouring a ideology while discharging official duties.
6. Internal democracy lacking in parties, Criminalization of politics, black money being used in elections, official being caught taking bribes and amassing huge properties.

Relevance of code of ethics:

1. It helps one in situations of dilemma. One may follow the code and function ethically.
2. Sets benchmark for appropriate behavior. Provides a framework for reference in case discretionary powers are to be used.
3. The relevance is more in present society where values and ethics are on decline either seemingly because of greater awareness or in reality

Limited role of code of ethics:

1. The one who has to ensure that the code isn't violated, may be corrupt or unethical.
2. A code of ethics may be defined exhaustively but its implementation may not be that effective.
3. Loopholes- Not everything can be defined by a code.
4. Code of ethics may not be updated as per the needs of the present society.
5. A code of ethics can tackle corrupt mind but not corrupt heart.

Way forward:

- Right ethical training
- Value based education at school level.

- Inducting righteous people in the system

Conclusion: Though legal enforcement has potential to resolve the crisis but fear of law is not a sustainable solution. The values should be inculcated in the persons to have a long term effect.

Best Answer: Swati Mittal

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Q.19) Evaluate the need of establishing two different time zones for India which has been a long time demand. Also elaborate on the socio-economic dimensions associated with the same.

Background: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu reiterated northeastern states' decades old demand for a separate time zone. Leaders from the region argue that a separate time zone would increase daylight savings and efficiency.

Need of establishing two different time zones for India?

India is the 7th largest country in the world in terms of its landmass. As a result, it has a large latitudinal and longitudinal spread equaling approximately 30 degrees for both. But, despite its size, India has a single time zone. This creates problems, especially for the people in North East.

There has been long time demand for two different time zones especially from north eastern states. Being limited to single time affects socio-economic dimension of the economy. It can be seen that:-

1. India longitudinal extension is near to 30 degree (68.7 E – 97.25 E) and thus an average of 2 hours difference between eastern and western states.
2. Internationally countries with such large longitudinal gap have more than one time zone eg. USA has 6 and Russia has 11 time zones.

3. Sticking to single time zones affect economy of states e.g offices closing at 5 PM IST in Assam means 9 PM technically. It increases state expenses like in power consumption, transportation costs etc.

Socio-economic dimensions

Single time zone **socio-economic dimension** can be seen like:-

1. More pocket expenditure in form of fare expenses, power utilization etc. specially affects low income earner.
2. Extra strains on government exchequer to maintain supporting infrastructure.
3. Affecting productivity of work force, if office starts at 10 AM IST it means 2 PM technically.
4. Local population popularly supported for other time zones, refusal for such in past bring desperation among people.

Challenges:

1. The two time zone will affect the airline, rail services in whole country.
2. Difficulty in dealing with governance.
3. Separate time zone will create the tendency of separate mind set.
4. The biological clock of other people working in NE region will be affected.
5. The unstated assumption is that the grant of a different time zone is only the first temporal step towards conceding spatial autonomy.

Way forward

1. Committee set up by department of science and technology in 2002 has suggested of shifting the timing of offices and schools.
2. Challenges and benefits can be studied by analyzing the time zone of various countries example- USA, Russia etc.

Conclusion:

Though the task is different, various countries like US, Russia have implemented it and shown a significant progress in adapting it. Looking at the importance of north east states for their integrated role in Indian growth, India should try it for a pilot basis and evaluate the same for better future policy.

Best Answer: Jean Grey

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Q.20) The need for transparency in electoral funding for a level playing field in elections is a fundamental requirement. How are the measures initiated in the recent budget influencing the same?

Approach:

- Introduction: Mention what is electoral funding and how it happens in India
- Body: The question has two parts. First part is why transparency is fundamental requirement and second part is Measures initiated in the budget. You should also include one more part to mention loopholes in those measures only then the answer is complete.
- Conclusion: 2-3 lines are must.

Introduction

Electoral Funding is a process of raising money by political parties and individuals for campaigning and carrying out political activities. They are of two types, one is State funding and another is public funding. India follows the public funding method.

Body

There is a need for transparency in electoral funding; it is also a fundamental requirement because:

- Prevalence of Black Money and Corruption.
- Political and Corporate nexus leading to lobbying.
- Pseudo policy and Nepotism.
- Discrimination against smaller and new parties.

Measures Initiated by recent budget:

- Electoral Bond: Introduction of electoral bonds by amending RBI Act, which will be issues by specified bank branches with validity of 15 days.
- Cash limit: Cash donation only upto 2000 per person.
- Digital: Donation via Digital or cheque mode to parties.
- Income Tax exemption: Only if they fulfill above conditions.

Shortcomings:

- Cash limit: Will not stop huge, out of account cash donations from corporates and lobbying groups.
- Limit: No limit on cash donation acceptance for political parties.
- Electoral bond: Donor will be anonymous which is against transparency.

Answer should consist of 8-10 points. All parts of answer should be given equal weightage. Each point should be explained for a line or two.

Conclusion

Transparency in political funding can be brought in only when every rupee donated is from known sources and judiciary must step in to bring political parties under ambit of RTI act. Also we can introduce “National Election Fund” for electoral funding and ban corporate funding to political party all together.

Connecting the dots:

- State funding of Elections.
- National Election Fund.
- Role of Pressure groups in India.

Q.21) Are farm loan waivers a suitable option to improve agricultural performance in economic and social sphere of lives? Critically examine.

Background:

The Maharashtra government has released a sum of Rs 4,000 crore under the first phase of the over Rs 34,000 crore farm loan waiver scheme. Disbursal, in the first phase, will cover more than 8 lakh farmers, Fadnavis said as he listed initiatives taken by his government towards increasing investment in the agriculture sector.

Approach:

- Introduce by writing about current farm loan waiver announcements or by defining farm loan waiver
- Write positive impacts of farm loan waiver

- Write negative aspects on socio economic sphere of lives
- Suggest some measures as an alternate or along with farm loan waiving practice and conclude suitably

Introduction:

In India, agrarian economy is monsoon dependent. Agriculture contributes just 15% of the national output and people dependent on them are 50%. This clearly shows an agrarian distress. Waiving the loans of farmer due to erratic monsoon, bad harvest, and pests spread etc. has often being used as a tool to minimize farmer's distress. This year alone many states like UP has waived bulky amount of loans,

Body:

Farm loan waivers are provide to farmers as they are thought to provide some temporary relief to them and is a short term measure and government justify it for suicides problem among farmers.

1. It sheds farmer's burden, seeing increased incidence of farmer suicide waiver is justified.
2. It increases agricultural performance as farmers are pre assured of govt. help and they add more resources, took loans.
3. Farmers will be attracted towards institutional credits.
4. Farmers being an important vote bank government try to portray a pro farmer image to meet its political ends.

However, other side of such waivers cannot be overlooked:-

1. It leads to moral hazard to those who are able to pay loan to the farmer.
2. It affects credit culture of the economy as said by RBI governor.
3. It is used as political tool to gain election benefits keeping banks at stake. PSU banks is going through difficult phase of NPA problem and at this juncture loan waiver cannot be afforded.
4. Loss to government exchequer, waived amount is ultimately paid from exchequer at the cost of other developmental needs.
5. With one state taking the lead the call from other state too arises, it sets bad precedent.
6. It may affect foreign investments as waivers are seen as bad financial practice worldwide.
7. Ineffective in reaching farmers: Majority small farmers have loan arraigned from local moneylenders; hence they remain untouched with the loan waiver policy, despite being the most affected ones.

8. Vicious Cycle: The economic stress of loan waiver leads to reduced spending by government in the pre-production phase of agriculture, irrigation facilities and better climate planning for crops which leads in a vicious cycle of poor crop and loan waiver.
9. Non coverage of non-farm losses: It provides a partial relief as majority of institutional borrowing by farmer is for non-farm purpose

Way forward:-

Instead of loan waiving, government should:

1. Spend the money in improving infrastructure in agriculture which could be beneficial in improving productivity.
2. Alternative policy measures should be taken for agriculture insurance.
3. Options like restructuring loans, increasing loan duration, minimizing interest rest etc. can be done.
4. Most of the farm loans are taken by those who actually do not need it. Proper analysis of loan records can be done to benefit real beneficiaries.
5. Implement Swaminathan Committee recommendations.

Conclusion:

Schemes like increasing farm produce, doubling the farmer's income, ensuring food security agriculture has taken center place in policy making. Government in recent time has come up with other ways to improve farms like soil health cards, eNAM, Mobile apps, PMKSY etc. All aspects and dimensions needs to be evaluated before applying measures.

Best Answer: Swati Mittal

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Q.22) What is lateral entry in civil services? Critically examine its effect on functioning of bureaucracy and overall governance of the country.

Approach:

- Introduction: Mention what is lateral entry with examples.
- Body: The question has two parts. First part is merits of lateral entry and second part is demerits. It is Critically Examine question so either of two parts needs to be given more concentration than other.
- Conclusion: 2-3 lines are must.

Introduction

Lateral Entry in Civil services refer to a system where in personnel's other than regular bureaucrats are hired for mid-level and above hierarchy due to various reasons like expertise, specialization in particular field etc. Raghuram Rajan, Urjit Patel, Arvind Subramaniam, Manmohan Singh are some examples.

Body:**Effects of Lateral Entry in Bureaucracy and Governance:****Merits in Bureaucracy:**

- Shortage: It will help in filling existing shortage of officers. As per reports close to more than 1000 IAS officers are in shortage for various levels. That is huge number when sanctioned strength is around 6000.
- Expertise: Certain profile requires expert knowledge like Nuclear, Defense, Medicine etc.
- Efficiency: Due to their exposure in respective field can provide out of box solutions.

Merits in Governance:

- Policy view: They can provide different side of view towards policy affecting their fields especially. Example: A doctor will have better understanding about required policy in medicine field.
- Fresh energy: In policy making and implementation with specialist knowledge.
- Competition: With regular bureaucrats and new entrants leading to better policy making and faster implementation. It will keep regular bureaucrats on their toes and encourage them to learn new things.
- Result-oriented: They can be hired for quick short term results.

Demerits of Lateral entry:

- Experience: The level of experience gained by regular bureaucrats during initial years dealing with common man problem will be absent in lateral entrants.
- Result oriented: Always the results need not be tangible especially in government service. Lateral entrants see the tangible part.

- Short-term results: Regular bureaucrats see long term results compared to lateral entrants.
- Profit loss: Lateral entrants will be everything in profit loss terms due to their previous experiences.
- Demotivation: For regular entrants and there might also be high attrition in bureaucracy.
- Political favoritism: They might be inducted due to their political ideology, political connections.
- Corruption and Nepotism: There are chances of them indulging in short term benefits and political executives might indulge in nepotism.

Note: You can get so many points for merits but be balanced and neutral. Don't start with outright criticism of existing bureaucracy. Remember you aspirants are preparing to join the existing structure. Never criticize for what you are aspiring to become.

Answer should consist of 8-10 points. Give more weightage to either Merits or demerits part. Each point should be explained for a line or two.

Conclusion

For certain positions there can be lateral entry but certain areas in government needs to maintain secrecy from outside world for which lot of experience by being insider to the system is required. So there should be balance between both. Regular bureaucrats should feel secured and specialists also needs to be given chance to serve for betterment of country.

Connecting the dots:

- Problems in Existing Bureaucracy.
- Accountability and Transparency in policy making and implementation.

Best Answer: Rinki.

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Q.23) Critically discuss the functions and powers of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). Do you think NCBC needs an overhaul? Examine.

Approach:

- Introduction- When was NCBC constituted. Legal/constitutional provisions.
- Functions and powers of NCBC.
- Why does NCBC needs an overhaul?
- What reforms are required? Recent developments.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

National Commission for Backward Classes was established in 1993 under the NCBC Act, 1993. The commission was the outcome of Indra Sawhney & Ors. Vs. Union of India, 1992.

Functions and powers of NCBC:

The commission has powers of a civil court in various matters like- summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India, requiring the discovery and production of any document. receiving evidence on affidavits etc.

Functions:

- The commission considers inclusions in and exclusions from the lists of communities notified as backward for the purpose of job reservations and tenders the needful advice to the Central Government.
- The Commission presents an annual report to the Central Government. The Government places the report before each House of Parliament, explaining the action taken on the advice tendered by the Commission. It should also mention the reasons for the non-acceptance of any such advice.

Flaws in NCBC:

- Under the NCBC Act, the Commission merely has the power to recommend inclusion or exclusion of communities in the OBC list.
- Currently, the Scheduled Castes Commission, which looks into cases of atrocities against Dalits, is also in charge of hearing grievances from OBCs.
- Adequate funds are not assigned to the commission. This hurts its effective functioning.

Overhaul needed:

In 2017, a bill seeking to grant constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes was introduced. The NCBC Bill, passed by Lok Sabha in 2017, will insert Article 338B into the Constitution after Articles 338 and 338A which deal with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (ST) respectively.

Constitutional status for the NCBC will allow it to hear the grievances of OBCs in the manner in which the NCSC and NCST do.

NCBC needs to be provided with effective powers so that the grievances of backward classes is served.

Conclusion:

NCBC needs an overhaul, in order to make it an effective body. A constitutional status would help, but the reforms should be so that the overall intention of protecting the backwards is served.

Best answer: Lone Wolf

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Q.24) What are generic drugs? Why generic drugs are essential for a developing country like India?

Background:

As India pushes for generic drugs, Jan Aushadhi stores emerge as solution to high medicine prices and unemployment.

Approach:

This is a simple question requiring information about generic drugs and its importance for developing countries. Need to write correct definition and diverse points.

Introduction:

A generic drug is identical—or bioequivalent—to a brand name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use. Although generic drugs are chemically identical to their branded counterparts, they are typically sold at substantial discounts from the branded price.

Or

A generic drug is a drug defined as “a drug product that is comparable to a brand/reference listed drug product in dosage form, strength, quality and performance characteristics, and intended use.” It has also been defined as a term referring to any drug marketed under its chemical name without advertising or to the chemical makeup of a drug rather than to the advertised brand name under which the drug is sold.

Importance of generic medicines in Indian context-

- Cost difference between branded and generic drug is so much that even well to do people cannot afford a branded drug. In India a large population falls below poverty line and also affected with health related issues, hence generic drugs helps poor in accessing the essentials drugs.
- India has the highest burden of TB, diabetes cases in the world and the antibiotics required for the treatment is very costly if brand named drugs will be taken thus pushing people into poverty.
- The study by The Lancet showed that in health expenditures about two-thirds goes to for purchasing of drugs. Hence generic drug save a lot of expense on health not only of patients but also of governments, which run the public health care system.
- Due to the blind usage of antibiotics, people tend to develop antibiotic resistance making first line of drugs ineffective so generic drugs can be the next alternative.
- Economic and employment perspective – Indian pharma companies are the largest providers of generic medicine in the world. The generic drugs industry generates impressive economic dynamism, employment, foreign exchange, FDI, medical tourism, etc.

Conclusion:

India being affected by both poverty and health related issues, hence access to essential drugs to needy section of the society is most important need. Government should do all those efforts to get easy access to the generic drugs. Also it should ensure all time availability of essential drugs in Jan Aushadhi outlets.

Best answer: Shobhit

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Q.25) The debate around definition of minorities and majorities is constitutionally settled. In this light, critically analyse the demand to grant Hindus minority status in Jammu and Kashmir and the ramifications it can have on others.

Approach:

- Introduction- Why in news?
- Constitutional status on minority- majority debate.
- Rationale behind demand of minority status for Hindus in J&K.
- Critical analysis- Issues associated with such demand.
- Ramifications
- Conclusion

Introduction:

A public interest litigation (PIL) filed in the Supreme Court has demanded that the Hindus be notified as a minority community in eight states, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Constitutional status on minority- majority debate:

The Constitution of India uses the word minority/ minorities in some Articles viz Article 20 to 30 and 350 A to 350 B, but does not define the word 'minority'. The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 in the Section 2(c) of the act defined a minority as "a community notified as such by the Central government".

In **T.M.A. Pai Foundation** case, 2002, the Supreme Court set out the principle that minority status should be determined in relation to the population of the State and not to India as a whole. Thus, religious and linguistic minorities, who have been placed on a par in Article 30, have to be considered in terms of the State concerned.

Minority status to Hindus in J&K:

- Neither central nor the state governments have notified Hindus as a 'minority' under Section 2 (c) of the NCM Act. Therefore, the Hindus are being deprived of their basic rights, guaranteed under the Articles 25 to 30
- A 1993 notification on minority communities declares Muslims as minority, but not the Hindu. Thus, communities, which are in majority in the state, are enjoying benefits meant for minority communities.

Issues:

- The recent demand for considering the Hindus as minority in Jammu and Kashmir seems to be more politically driven than by the concern to protect the interest of the remaining Hindus (left after migration of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990s).
- There is also a valid opinion that the term 'minority' refers to a power relationship. This is because numbers per se merely quantify the proportion of a group in a population; they do not tell us anything about whether a particular minority group is powerful or powerless, advantaged or disadvantaged, represented or under-represented.

Ramifications:

- It may flare up communal tensions in the state.
- Similar demands may arise from other states. According to 2011 census, Hindus are in minorities in Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Punjab apart from Jammu and Kashmir.

Way forward:

A minority commission must be established in the state to look into the matter. And given the sensitivity of the matter all stakeholders must be involved so as to arrive at the amicable solution.

Q.26) Analyse the relevance of FRBM Act for a developing economy like India. Also elaborate on the recommendations of the N K Singh panel in this regard.

Background: Government may delay implementation of N.K. Singh's FRBM report, The move gives finance minister leeway to decide fiscal deficit levels for 2017-18 and 2018-19 when he presents his last full union budget on 1 February 2018.

Approach:

- Start by writing about FRBM act
- Write why this act is relevant for a developing country like India
- Elaborate on the recommendations of N.K Singh Panel.

Introduction:

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 (FRBMA) is an Act of the Parliament of India to institutionalize financial discipline, reduce India's fiscal deficit, improve macroeconomic management and the overall management of the public funds by moving towards a balanced budget and strengthen fiscal prudence.

The main purpose was to eliminate revenue deficit of the country (building revenue surplus thereafter) and bring down the fiscal deficit to a manageable 3% of the GDP by March 2008.

However, due to the 2007 international financial crisis, the deadlines for the implementation of the targets in the act was initially postponed and subsequently suspended in 2009.

In 2011, given the process of ongoing recovery, Economic Advisory Council publicly advised the Government of India to reconsider reinstating the provisions of the FRBMA. N. K. Singh is currently the Chairman of the review committee for Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, under the Ministry of Finance (India), Government of India.

Relevance of FRBM Act for a developing economy like India

1. FRBM in India was Enacted to Check the Government borrowing , Deficit financing , Diversion of Funds /deviation of targets , encouraging Fiscal mgmt. These principles In nutshell Act was enacted in good faith to put check on executives quantitatively on politicians running popular government of freebies, subsidies and waivers .
2. Prohibits the Centre from borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India — that is, it bans 'deficit financing' through money creation.
3. Lays down fiscal management principles, making it incumbent on the Centre to reduce the fiscal deficit and, to eliminate revenue deficit – as per the targets set out thereunder.
4. Reduction of fiscal deficit and revenue deficit which will help Government in building up surplus amount of revenue which it may utilised for discharging liabilities in excess of fiscal deficit.
5. FRBM prohibits borrowing the Government from RBI , therefore making the monetary policy independent policy from fiscal policy.
6. Measures and surveillance is needed to ensure greater transparency in fiscal operation.
7. Such measures will enhance countries economic image, invite more FDI, help in maintaining a credible economic cycle.

Recommendations of the N K Singh panel

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee chaired by former Revenue Secretary N.K. Singh has recommended –

1. The committee has recommended a **debt-to-GDP ratio of 38.7% for the central government, 20% for the state governments** together and a fiscal deficit of 2.5% of GDP (gross domestic product), both by financial year 2022-23.

2. The committee has prescribed a so-called **glide path** to these targets—steady progress towards them—and also suggested that there be some flexibility in the deficit targets on both sides, downwards when growth is good and upwards when it isn't.
3. The Centre can take a pause on the fiscal consolidation front over the next three years by maintaining a **fiscal deficit to GDP ratio of 3% till 2019-20**.
4. The panel has recommended enacting a **new Debt and Fiscal Responsibility Act** after repealing the existing Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, and creating a fiscal council.
5. In 2016-17, India's debt-to-GDP ratio for the central government was 49.4% and fiscal deficit at 3.5% of GDP. The government is hoping to end 2017-18 with a fiscal deficit that is 3.2% of GDP, marginally higher than the 3% mentioned in the FRBM Act.
6. On the FRBM roadmap for future, the panel has advocated reaching a fiscal deficit to GDP ratio of 2.8% in 2020-21, 2.6% the subsequent year and **2.5% in 2022-23**.
7. Revenue deficit-to-GDP ratio has been envisaged to decline steadily by 0.25 percentage points each year **from 2.3% in 2016-17 to 0.8% in 2022-23**.
8. The Panel has recommended an **Escape Clause**.
9. The panel has recommended that the existing FRBM Act and rules be scrapped and a new Debt and Fiscal Responsibility Act be adopted and proposed the creation of a **Fiscal Council** that the government must consult before invoking escape clauses.

Conclusion

FRBM Act is a European model of fiscal responsibility. There were concerns of India adopting it as it is. The review panel has suggested relevant reforms with required contingency clauses embedded. As the Economic Survey of the year referenced it is important to remain on the path of fiscal discipline but adopt an Indianised model of the same.

Best Answer: Suman Roy

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Q.27) What is information asymmetry? How does it affect Indian farmers at the global level? How can e-technology address this problem? Analyse.

Approach:

- It is a 3-part question
- In the introduction define information asymmetry
- Then explain its impact on Indian farmers
- Lastly, using examples mention how e-technology can play an enabling role

Definition: Information Asymmetry

Information asymmetry deals with the study of decisions in transactions where one party has more or better information than the other. This asymmetry creates an imbalance of power in transactions

Information Asymmetry in Indian Agriculture and its Impact

Agriculture system in India involves many phases. The main phases are pre-harvest phase and post-harvest phase. As the sector is vast with so many operational bodies involved in it, information is never the same within different bodies in agriculture.

At every stage of agriculture right from farm to fridge, information asymmetry exists:

1. **Land Holdings** – in India the average land holding decreased from 2.5 hectares in 1970 to under 1 hectare in 2015. While the size of holdings constantly decreases with increasing sub division of land holdings, there is a need to have more precise execution of creating and storing land records. With decreasing size of land holdings, the bank's cost of financing has multiplied and providing extension services has become very difficult.
2. **Farm Inputs** – Seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production. However, due to increasing cost of high quality seeds, small farmers often fail to afford them. Lack of quality control is another major issue where even HYV seeds do not yield desired results. Seed Testing Laboratories, seed certification standards, seed inspectors and seed germination reports of the government have not helped the farmers. The results of these experiments give better results to the farmers for sure, but farmers who are unable to cross the line of education have so less information about the modern seeds in market. There is no proper medium or an information service which explains the farmers about the importance of quality and the advantages of different variety of seeds available in the market. These kind of information services come at a price a farmer cannot afford thereby leaving him in a state where he prefers traditional selection of seeds. Similar problems arouse with fertilizer usage. Modern fertilizers are prepared

according to the soil quality and the kind of crops the farmers prefer. But the diverse features of soil and climate in India make it difficult for both the farmers and fertilizer producer

3. **Irrigation** – Despite having the second largest irrigation network, only 40% of cultivated area is under irrigation. Moreover, 70% of the irrigation needs are met by groundwater. As a result, water table in many states like Punjab, Haryana has been falling at an alarming rate. For decades, Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Rajasthan, the agriculture rich states, encouraged farmers to sink tube wells to get free water for agricultural use. Electricity required for pumping out this water was supplied virtually free or at heavily subsidized rates. This led to over-exploitation of groundwater and widespread environmental damage. This demands developing of proper techniques that contribute to effective irrigation systems in farms. More importantly, the main challenge here is inculcating the idea of innovative irrigation methods in the minds of farmers.
4. **Credit Supply** – it is one of the most vulnerable sectors wrt information asymmetry in Indian agriculture. Due to lack of options or information, majority of the short- and medium-term credit requirements of the farmers is met by indigenous bankers or village moneylenders, co-operative credit societies and commercial banks. Such persons or organization charge a premium rate of interest forcing the farmers to get into a debt trap if there has been a crop failure. Secondly, small and marginal farmers are mostly left out of the institutional credit supply as the limited resources are usurped by peri-urban and rich farmers with more access to information. Farmers in rural India lack awareness regarding newly minted schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Yojana.

Role of E-Technology in Solving Information Asymmetry

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) can help boost agricultural development by improving farmers' access to vital information so that they make the best decisions and use their resources sustainably. It can help solve information asymmetry in the following ways:

1. **Information sharing** – about latest farming techniques, seed varieties, weather updates etc. through platforms like mKisan portal, Kisan Suvidha App etc.
2. **Technical and Skill Upgradation** – of farmers in more scientific ways of farming, soil assessment and interaction with agriculture scientists through the wide networks of Kisan Vikas Kendras (KVK), Kisan Call Centres and Common Service Centres
3. **Digitization of Land Records** – using Aadhaar framework. This will help farmers in securing formal credit and insurance against proper land records. Furthermore, with proper land records, land consolidation can be facilitated to achieve economies of scale like in more developed countries such as US, Canada.

4. **Use of Data Analytics and Big Data** – which can help farmers to practice agriculture in a more precise way. The Israeli model of precision agriculture is a case in point. Analytics can also help optimize resource consumption such as ground water, soil requirements etc to better suit the cropping needs of particular regions.
5. **Satellite based Sensing** – can help in mapping out ground water, aquifer reservoirs, onset of droughts, early weather updates. All of it can help reduce the risk wrt farming in India

As land and water are limiting constraints in India, the focus to improve agricultural productivity lies in adopting more optimum methods. With a stated aim of doubling farming incomes by 2022, e-technology as part of the larger Digital India drive can be a game changer for Indian farmers.

Q.28) What is national mission for sustainable agriculture (nmsa)? What are its components? How can it aid in the fight against climate change? Discuss.

Body:

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) seeks to transform Indian agriculture into a climate resilient production system through suitable adaptation and mitigation measures in domains of both crops and animal husbandry.

NMSA as a programmatic intervention focuses on promotion of location specific integrated/composite farming systems; resource conservation technologies; comprehensive soil health management; efficient on-farm water management and mainstreaming rainfed technologies.

Its components:

Rainfed Area Development (RAD):

- It will adopt an area based approach for development and conservation of natural resources along with farming systems.
- This component has been formulated in a 'watershed plus framework', i.e., to explore potential utilization of natural resources base/assets available/created through watershed development and soil conservation activities /interventions under MGNREGS, NWDPA, RVP&FPR, RKVY, IWMP etc.
- This component will introduce appropriate farming systems by integrating multiple components of agriculture such as crops, horticulture, livestock, fishery, forestry with agro based income generating activities and value addition.

- Besides, soil test/soil health card based nutrient management practices, farmland development, resource conservation and crop selection conducive to local agro climatic condition will also be promoted under this component.

Soil Health Management (SHM):

It will aim at promoting location as well as crop specific sustainable soil health management including residue management, organic farming practices by way of creating and linking soil fertility maps with macro-micro nutrient management, appropriate land use based on land capability, judicious application of fertilizers and minimizing the soil erosion/degradation.

Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN):

It will provide creation and bidirectional (land/farmers to research/scientific establishments and vice versa) dissemination of climate change related information and knowledge by way of piloting climate change adaptation/mitigation research/model projects in the domain of climate smart sustainable management practices and integrated farming system suitable to local agro-climatic conditions. The dedicated expert teams of technical personnel will be institutionalised within NMSA to rigorously monitor and evaluate the mission activities thrice in a year and will inform the National Committee.

NMSA to fight against climate change:

To achieve objective to fight against climate change, NMSA have the following multi-pronged strategy:

- Promoting integrated farming system covering crops, livestock & fishery, plantation and pasture based composite farming for enhancing livelihood opportunities, ensuring food security and minimizing risks from crop failure through supplementary/ residual production systems;
- Popularizing resource conservation technologies (both on-farm and off-farm) and introducing practices that will support mitigation efforts in times of extreme climatic events or disasters like prolonged dry spells, floods etc.
- Promoting effective management of available water resources and enhancing water use efficiency through application of technologies coupled with demand and supply side management solutions;
- Involving knowledge institutions and professionals in developing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for specific agro climatic situations and promoting them through appropriate farming systems.

Best Answer: sunayana

<https://iasbaba.com/2018/01/5-national-mission-sustainable-agriculture-nmsa-components-can-aid-fight-climate-change-discuss/>

Q.29) The existing food management and distribution framework in India is faced with many anomalies and challenges. Elucidate. What steps can be taken to address them?

Approach:

- It is a two part question
- Food management and distribution includes the entire set of activities from farm to fork, so use diverse points in elucidating the various challenges
- Lastly, give 5-6 short but authentic (already in progress) solutions

Body

India is world's leading producer of fresh fruits and vegetables, pulses, rice and wheat. Yet malnutrition is a common phenomenon in India. 60% of children in India are underweight and malnourished 200 million sleep hungry. The paradox can be attributed to the weak food management and distribution framework in India. Poor Transportation System, Inefficient chain of traders, Absence of sheltered storage and cold storage facilities, Poor Food packaging are said to be the main reasons why Food Distribution in India is so poor. Various challenges include:

Note – the detailed explanation below is only for your understanding. You are not required to write so much under each point

Poor Transport Infrastructure

Despite having the second largest road network, only 2% of it covered by highways which handles 40% of the inter-state cargo. Secondly, last-mile connectivity at village level is still not 100%. Railway network is limited in its scope of providing end to end connectivity. Trucks are stopped at every state border which leads to delay and increasing cost of transportation. All of this combined results in farmers not able to get their produce to the market quickly.

Unorganized Logistics

In India, only 6% of the logistics is organized. High dependence on manual labour and low technological presence impacts the supply chain lead time. Multiple middlemen in the supply chain lead to artificial price increase without any value addition.

Lack of Cold Storage and Adequate Warehouses

Farm to fork cold storage supply chain is still a pipe dream in India. It results in high wastage of perishables such as fruits, fisheries etc. Even for foodgrains such as wheat and rice procured by the FCI as part of the MSP program, adequate sheltered and scientific storage is unavailable leading to rotting of foodgrains due to improper packaging and storage. As per estimates, 20% of foodgrain is wasted due to lack of pest control mechanisms in FCI and other state-controlled warehouses.

Fragmented Agriculture Marketing

Agriculture is a state subject, hence each state has its own APMC framework. These APMCs are beset with corruption, red-tapism, monopoly of middlemen, and unfair price discovery for farmers among other problems. There is multiplicity of taxes and payments are often delayed to farmers by traders.

Possible Steps to Address the Problem

1. 3rd party logistics – promote companies specializing in advanced logistics
2. Warehousing with PPP mode – to ease of off burden on FCI
3. FCI Reforms as per Shanta Kumar Committee Report
4. Focus on Food Processing – SAMPADA Scheme, Mega Food Parks
5. Agriculture Market Reforms – E-National Agriculture Market
6. Strengthening of infrastructure and connectivity – PM Gram Sadak Yojana
7. Build Cold Supply Chain from Farm-to-Fork – 100% FDI in logistics

Conclusion

With India set to become the world's most populated country in the next decade, ensuring food security for its poor and hungry is of utmost importance. As land and other resources (water etc.) are limited, improving the efficiencies in the food management and supply chain is the way to go forward.

Q.30) Dairy farming is a source of income and nutrition to a large number of Indian families. What are the typical features of the dairy sector in India? What are the problems being faced by the sector? Also, suggest a roadmap for improving the performance of the dairy sector.

Introduction:

Dairy farming is a class of agriculture for long-term production of milk, which is processed either on the farm or at a dairy plant, either of which may be called a dairy, for eventual sale of a dairy product.

The country's rapidly increasing population coupled with higher incomes means more and more Indians want to consume protein and nutrition. And because a large percentage of India's citizens are vegetarian, many of them look to dairy products to meet that need. Milk-based paneer, ghee, yogurt and sauces are all staples of daily life.

Today, India's demand for milk is estimated at 155 million metric tons per year. Within eight years, that's projected to grow an additional 50 percent. The most environmentally, socially and economically sustainable solution to meeting this massive need will be to help India's small dairy farmers get more milk from every cow.

Typical features of the dairy sector in India:

- India has world's highest livestock population, and first in the total buffalo population in the world with 105.3 million buffaloes.
- India has second largest poultry market in the world with production of 63 billion eggs and 649 million ton poultry meat.
- About 20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their livelihood and it contributes 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households.
- Dairy farming provides livelihood to two-third of rural community. It also provides employment to about 8.8% of the population in India. India has vast livestock resources.
- Dairy farming sector contributes 4.11% GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP.

Problems faced by the dairy farmers:

- Shortage of feed/fodder: Shortage of green fodder and feed concentrate is the root cause of poor performance of dairy sector in general as the genetic milk production potential of crossbred cow could not be exploited fully in absence of proper nutrition.
- Lack of Marketing Facilities: Due to lack of marketing facilities and extension services, there is poor perception of the farmers towards commercial dairy enterprise as an alternative to other occupation. Insufficient Veterinary Services.
- Due to Lack of proper veterinary extension system: there is poor perception to the farmers towards dairy enterprise as a viable alternative to crop husbandry.
- Middleman eat all the profits: Unorganized fragmented market for milk and milk products involved a chain of middleman who reaps the actual benefit depriving the producers from their due share.

Suggestions to improve dairy farming:

- Cost effective and nutritionally balanced feed for animals.
- Reproductive efficiency of the herd with sound heifer management.
- Captive and entrepreneurial marketing acumen of milk and milk product
- 'Optimum usage of technology' available for herd management and genetics, the key is optimum and one should not get too much obsessive on these.

Conclusion:

Livestock farming, especially dairy farming is an occupation next to agriculture serving as a source of livelihood and a tool for economic growth. This occupation has been a part of our lives since ages and holds promise for a successful business viewing its enhanced potential. The dairy animals play an important role in agriculture and economy and have potential to enhance economy by 200% through milk and their value added products.

Best Answer: Delhi gaschamber

<https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/7f1b2a8f72476d5fe9d3b1af558c1bd199a2a08079471dd2815f32a942c544f5.jpg>

Q.31) Land reforms remain an unfinished agenda even after 70 years of independence. Do you agree? Critically analyse.

- Introduction: Give small intro about land reforms.
- Body: In body, the answer should contain two parts, one about why it still remains unfinished business and second part how to bring about a change and improve land availability.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Land Reforms refer to a government initiative started by Indira Gandhi to restrict excessive land ownership and ensure redistribution of land to landless people of the country especially agricultural fields.

Body

It remains unfinished:

- Majority of farmers are small and marginal.

- Landownership among SC, Women and other backward is very low.
- Land fragmentation.

It remains as an unfinished agenda even after 70 years because of:

- Land records: Lack of proper land records and documents.
- Political: Political leaders who are supposed to ensure are themselves landlords.
- Benami Transfers.
- Different criteria based on fertile, non-fertile and plantation fields.
- Inefficient laws to punish defaulters and lack of legal awareness.
- Non-fertile/Fallow land submission.
- Rotation of tenants.
- Commercial conversions: Agriculture land into commercial conversation.
- Land acquisition by government.

However it achieved partial success:

- Land consolidation in regions of Haryana and Punjab: Green revolution.
- Digitalization of land records.
- 9th schedule: Stopped court from interfering.
- Abolition of Zamindari system, landlords etc.

Note: Explanations are required for all points. 8-10 points are enough. Give more weightage to first part.

Conclusion

However government is trying to implement new reforms in this area in form of contract farming, Model Tenancy act etc. In globalized and capitalist world, trying to achieve socialistic principles will lead to Law and Order issues along with uprisings so government should bring in innovative laws to protect both Land owners and tenants to complete this process started during independence time.

Connecting the dots:

- Model Tenancy act.
- Contract farming.
- Co-operative farming.

Best Answer: Raging Bull

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Q.32) What are the upstream and downstream requirements of processed and packed food industry? Take at least two examples to explain.

Approach:

- Define what is upstream and downstream in general
- Explain these terms wrt food processing using examples

Body:

Food processing industry is one of the sunshine sectors with a huge potential in India, given the high production of horticulture, fisheries etc.

The supply side of a producer is considered the upstream side whereas the customers are part of the downstream side. Thus, the upstream and downstream ends are defined according to the point of reference.

For food processing industry, upstream requirements:

- - **Accessibility to raw materials** is the first upstream requirement for any industry.
 - The food processing industry also requires **modern extraction techniques**.
 - To make the food processing industry sustainable, it is important to ensure good linkages with farmers.
 - The storage facilities for raw materials like grains, meat, and fish etc. are important part of food processing upstream requirements.
 - Food processing industry also requires **good quality testing facilities**.
 - **Transport facilities** are essential part of upstream requirements of food processing industry in India.
- The food industry also requires a sizable amount of **work force**.

For Example: AMUL has tied up with several rural milk cooperatives to ensure a steady supply of milk for making its milk based products such as butter, cream, cheese etc.

Downstream Requirements:

- The downstream stage in the production process involves processing of the materials collected during the upstream stage into a finished product.
- The downstream stage also includes the actual sale of product to customers like businesses, governments or individuals.
- Since, downstream processing has direct contact with customers through the finished product, it requires a large work force.
- Similar to upstream stage, it also requires good transportation facilities, large labour force, forward linkages with retail and export centres etc.

Example: PepsiCo making the famous Lays Chips has a wide network in retail which readily supplies the sale points for its processed food stock.

Best Answer: Lone Wolf

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Q.33) What are gravitational waves? How do they get detected? What can the study of gravitational waves reveal? Discuss.

- Introduction: Define what Gravitational Waves are.
- Body: In body, the answer should contain two parts, one about how they are detected, explain the experiment conducted to identify them and second part what the study reveals.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

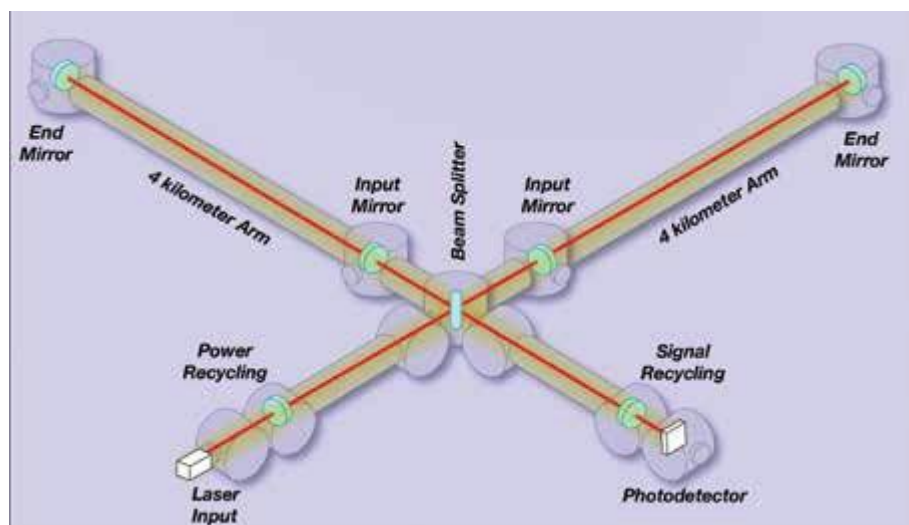
Gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of space time caused by some of the most violent and energetic process in the universe. Albert Einstein predicted the existence of such waves in 1916 in his general theory of relativity.

Body

How do they are detected:

- It was first detected at an experiment facility at US by two precise detectors one in Livingston, Louisiana and other at Washington.
- Each detector looks like a giant “L” stamped on the landscape – two four-kilometer arms at right angles to one another.
- Inside each arm is a tunnel carrying a laser beam.
- The laser bounces up and down each arm of the detector before recombining at a detector.
- Any expansion of one of the arms relative to the other will shift a mirror slightly, changing the pattern revealed on the detector.
- But with such sensitive equipment, local effects – even traffic rumbling 10 kilometers away – can create vibrations that might be confused with gravitational waves.
- That’s why LIGO needs two detectors set up far apart from one another. Any local noise will only affect one of the detectors, while a real ripple in space time will show the same signal for both.
- Meanwhile, astrophysicists have used general relativity to work out what signals of extreme events would look like.





What studies can reveal:

- Origin of universe.
- Black hole.
- Our own earth origin.
- Understanding of effects of those waves on humans.
- Effects of waves on other stars and planets.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points in 2nd part for a line or two.

Conclusion

Hingoli District in Maharashtra has been selected for a project in India to study more about these waves. The study can not only help astrophysicists but also various other disciplines like biologists, doctors, neurologists etc. which can help them in creating different forms of medicine for human welfare.

Connecting the dots:

- Voyager- The golden record

Best Answer: Krishna

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Q.34) Highlight the achievements of ISRO as a pioneer organisation in space technology.

Approach

- It's a simple one part question
- Take a timeline approach and highlight its major achievement since ISRO's inception to present date

Body

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was established in 1969. Since its beginning, ISRO has created a niche for itself in the space technology world through continuous low-cost innovations.

Major Achievements of ISRO:

1. Aryabhata 1975 – within 6 years of its establishments, ISRO developed its first satellite which was launched by Soviet Union
2. Rohini 1980 – first satellite to be placed in orbit by an Indian made launch vehicle – the SLV-3
3. INSAT 1983 – ushered a revolution in India's radio and television broadcasting, communication and meteorological sector
4. PSLV 1993 – the polar satellite launch vehicle will go on to become the most successful launch vehicle in the world with one of the lowest launch costs and unmatched success rate
5. Chandrayaan 2008 – was India's first lunar probe. The mission was a major boost to India's space program, as India researched and developed its own technology in order to explore the moon
6. Mangalyaan 2014 – ISRO became the first organization to successfully send a probe to Mars in its first attempt. It did so at 1/10th of the cost by NASA.
7. IRNSS – ISRO helped launch India's own GPS system consisting of 7 satellites. It is capable of navigating the entire Indian subcontinent
8. Reusable Launch Vehicle 2016 – demonstrated successfully. This would help reduce the cost of future launches to a fraction of present ones

9. Launch of 100+ satellites in single launch in 2017 – the PSLV created a world record by simultaneously launching 104 satellites with 101 coming from foreign countries
10. GSLV Mak III – developed by ISRO with its own cryogenic engine. The launch vehicle is capable of carrying 4 ton satellites into the geosynchronous transfer orbits.

The success of ISRO is testament to India's capability in frugal engineering and finding solutions with severe resource constraints and international non-cooperation. With the successful completion of GSLV Mak III, ISRO is well on its way in achieving space self-sufficiency. Even more, ISRO has emerged as a pioneering player in the low-cost commercial satellite launch market.

Best Answer: Gaurav Sharma

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Q.35) What are 'carbon nanotubes'? Examine its applications in the field of medicine.

- Introduction: Define what carbon nanotubes are.
- Body: In body, the answer should include applications of Nanotubes in field of medicine and also concerns about its safety.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Carbon nanotubes are allotropes of carbon, made of graphite and constructed in cylindrical tubes with nanometer in diameter and several millimeters in length. They have been successfully applied in pharmacy and medicine due to their high surface area that is capable of adsorbing or conjugating with a wide variety of therapeutic and diagnostic agents.

Body

Application of Carbon Nanotubes in field of Medicine:

Therapeutics:

- Cancer therapy: Drug delivery, immunotherapy etc.
- Infection therapy.

- Gene therapy.
- Tissue generation.
- Neurodegenerative diseases.
- Anti-Oxidants.

Diagnosis and Analysis:

- Biosensor vehicles.
- Extraction of drugs and chemicals.

Issues with carbon nanotubes:

- Toxicity: Raw materials are potentially dangerous to living system.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points.

Conclusion

The invention of nanotube technology has opened alternative to conventional drug delivery methods. The results are exceptional but despite surprising results there are many opportunities that is to be explored along with risks that needs to be addressed.

Connecting the dots:

- Vantablack.

Best Answer: Meghatandon96@gmail.com

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Q.36) Discuss the applications of robotics and automation in agriculture?

Approach

- It is direct 1-part question

- In such questions, quote real-world examples of advanced technologies already in use to fetch better marks

Body

Robotics and automation is revolutionizing every industry it touches and agriculture is no different. It can play a huge role in optimizing the various activities in the agriculture sector. Some of these are:

Crop Seeding

The traditional method for sowing seeds is to scatter them using a “broadcast spreader” attached to a tractor. It is not a very efficient method of planting as it can waste seeds.

Autonomous precision seeding combines robotics with geomapping. A map is generated which shows the soil properties (quality, density, etc) at every point in the field. The tractor, with robotic seeding attachment, then places the seeds at precise locations and depths so that each has the best chance of growing.

Crop Monitoring and Analysis

New sensor and geomapping technologies are allowing farmers to get a much higher level of data about their crops than they have in the past. Ground robots and drones provide a way to collect this data autonomously. Drone offer farmers the capability view the collected crop data in real time. Ground based robots provide even more detailed monitoring as they are able to get closer to the crops.

Fertilizing and Irrigation

Irrigating and fertilizing crops has traditionally used a lot of water is quite inefficient. Robot-Assisted Precision Irrigation can reduce wasted water by targeting specific plants. Robots can navigate between rows of crop and pour water directly at the base of each plant. Robots also have an advantage as they are able to access areas where other machines cannot.

Crop Weeding and Spraying

Spraying pesticides and weed killers onto fields is not only wasteful, it can severely harm the environment. Robots provide a much more efficient method.

The concept of micro-spraying could significantly reduce the amount of herbicide used in crop growing. Micro-spraying robots use computer vision technology to detect weeds and then spray a targeted drop of herbicide onto them

Autonomous Tractors

In large fields such as for corporate farming, manually using tractors becomes non-viable. With advancement in robotics, autonomous tractors can carry out a variety of tasks such as ploughing, sowing, watering, weeding etc.

Automation and robotics can also play a leading role in allied sectors such as dairy farming, poultry etc. Furthermore, logistics and transportation too can be radically transformed using robotics, GPS-enabled monitoring etc. which can reduce food wastage during storage and transportation.

Q.37) The line differentiating external state and non-state actors creating challenges to India's internal security has blurred in recent times. Do you agree? Illustrate.

Approach

- Introduction: Give small introduction differentiating State and Non-state actors.
- Body: In body, mention how the line between state and non-state actors are getting blurred. Examples are very important here.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

State actors are those organizations or institutions who are part of government or recognized by their government. Whereas Non-state actors are those who are not part of any government setup. External state and non-state actors are those who are foreign to host nations. Like ISI, Hizbul mujahideen etc.

Body

The line between state and non-state actors creating internal security issue for India has blurred due to link and co-operation between both of them like:

Pakistan:

- State actor like Army ISI helping Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-E-Mohammed, Taliban etc. to create trouble to India and Indian like:
- 26/11, Pathankot.
- Kashmir Militancy.
- Ceasefire violations to help infiltrate.
- Indian Airlines flight 814 Hijacking.

- Khalistan group during 1980's.
- Cyber-attacks on defence and economic installations.
- Ethnic clashes in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Drug supply in Punjab.
- Fake Currency.

China:

- Chinese army and communist parties supporting separatist groups and Naxal groups by providing
- Arms and Ammunitions.
- Money.
- Training etc.

Bangladesh:

- Since Bangladesh was then part of Pakistan, even after being independent then government supported Naxalites and separatist by providing:
- Safe haven to separatist groups.
- Training and arms support.
- Bases.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. Important points that are required in body are given. 8-10 points are enough.

Conclusion

Indian security establishments and government institutions have to build security apparatus and infrastructure to prevent any damages to internal security. Capacity building is the need of hour along with strict laws to prevent any effects to country.

Connecting the dots:

- Organized Crime and Terrorist link.

Best Answer: Gargantuan

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Q.38) What are the challenges being posed by China's Belt and Road initiative for India? Analyse.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about China's OROB.
- Body: In body, the answer should be about challenges posed by OROB to India and How India is prepared to tackle them.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

China is emerging to be a super power and contain US hegemony. In order to create its network and increase influence they have come up with an initiative called one road one Belt which is renewal of ancient silk route as 21st century Maritime Silk Road and Economic Belt.

Body

Challenges pose by OROB to India:

Strategic:

- It connects CPEC: which passes through POK.
- String of Pearl theory.
- Military bases to secure route.
- Pacific route: Malacca strait.
- Indian Ocean control.
- Afghanistan: India might lose support with increased Chinese presence.
- Myanmar, Bangladesh inclination towards China.

Economic:

- Trade deficit: Will increase Chinese trade around world.
- Market: India's market will be affected.
- Products: low cost Chinese products.
- Central Asia: India's Central Asia policy market will get affected.

How India is planning to tackle Chinese threat:

- Act East policy.
- New Central Asian Policy.
- Soft diplomacy with Afghanistan than hard power.
- Safe products: Organic products in case of Agriculture, Eco-friendly products etc. for European markets etc.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total are enough.

Conclusion

China has huge treasury backing unlike India to investment on such large scale. But we can use our rich ancient route of cultural Hegemony and soft diplomacy to win over other countries. Also many initiatives are being taken by foreign and security offices to prevent any kind of threat to India's sovereignty.

Connecting the dots:

- Sagarmala Project.
- Project Mausam.

Best Answer: Ali

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Q.39) Critically evaluate the efficacy of the existing legal, institutional and structural safeguards to protect the cyber ecosystem in India.

- Introduction: Give small introduction about need for safe cyber eco system in India.

- Body: In body, separate into two parts. In first, sub-divide each part as per demand of question and give points accordingly. In second part write how they have performed.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

With advancement in science and Technology, the threat to country has also increased. Without any presence of boots on ground huge damages can be done via cyber world. So creating safe ecosystem is very important.

Body

Legal:

- Indian Telegraph Act 1885: Surveillance and monitoring.
- National Cyber security policy, 2003.
- IT act, 2000.
- Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009.
- Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

Institutional:

- License for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).
- The Cyber Appellate Tribunal.
- CERT-IN.
- NIC.

Structural Safeguards:

- Department of Electronics and Information Technology
- Ministry of Home affairs.
- Intelligence bureau and RAW.
- Digital: Digital Signature, Encryption etc.

In spite of so many security structures in place the threat perception still exists due to:

- Lack of Expertise.
- Rules implementation.

- Judicial issues: tribunals, Aadhaar, 66A etc.
- Infrastructure: Laboratories, specialist force on lines of foot soldiers in borders.
- Finance.
- Research and Development.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. Important points that are required in body are given. 8-10 points are enough.

Conclusion

Technological advancement is both boon and bane for all countries. It used in proper way it can be a tool to build new civilizations if not it can also be a tool to destroy entire human advancement and take us back to medieval period. So government should take efforts to fix all loopholes and be innovative and think ahead of anti-social elements and create any safeguards.

Connecting the dots:

- Public Surveillance and intelligence gathering in India.

Best Answer: kaniska.

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Q.40) The last three years have seen witnessed the adoption of a slew of measures to curb and control black money in the economy. Discuss their fine prints and critically analyse their performance.

Approach

- Introduction: Give a small intro about Black Money Problem.
- Body: In body, the answer should contain two parts, one for measures adopted and second how effective they were.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Black Money refer to undisclosed money earned through legal or illegal means which is a national problem as it not only affects the growth and development of country but it creates huge disparities among people, leads to internal security problems and many more.

Body

Measures taken to curb black money:

- Demonetization.
- Income disclosure scheme.
- Prevention of money laundering act.
- Benami Transaction act.
- DTAA.
- P-Notes regulation.
- Operation clean money.
- Project Insight.
- SIT.
- Panama Papers.

How effective were they:

- 98% of money came back during Demonetization but it helped formalize economy and bring many under formal banking.
- Increase in Tax base.
- Notice issued to many individual and many shell companies identified.
- Concern regarding harassment due to Benami act.
- Proxy deposits in Jan Dhan Accounts.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total are enough.

Conclusion

In order to tackle Black money generation and circulation certain tough measures were taken and as pointed out by economic survey short benefits might have been not much but in long term it will benefits the economy due to formalization.

Connecting the dots:

- Money devaluation.

Best Answer: Prady Peter

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Q.41) Critically evaluate the emerging trends in global climate change negotiations. Is the world heading in the right direction in its fight against climate change? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Negotiations at global level regarding climate change seems to remain ambiguous despite multiple rounds of negotiations since 1970s. The recent trend, the direction in which these talks are moving has raised concerns. Also, certain developments seems to be steps in positive direction.

Emerging trends in global climate change negotiations:

Positive trends:

- Focus on renewable energy-
- Other forms of energy generation like nuclear fusion.
- Formation of groupings like International Solar Alliance.

Negative trends:

- US's ambiguity- Withdrawal of US from Paris agreement has put the effectiveness of the agreement into question.
- Focus on mitigation. Neglect of adaptation.
- With most of the technological developments related to green energy are taking place in the developed world, its affordability and accessibility by developing nations is in question.
- Funds like GCF have been created. But the contribution towards it remains meagre. Also many of such funds remains inoperational.
- Despite countries deciding on Nationally Determined Contributions in a bottom-up approach, analyst says as things are moving it is going to be impossible to meet the target of limiting the temperature rise to 2 degree celsius from pre-industrial levels.

Way forward:

- Focusing on mitigation. As many LDCs are already facing the impact of climate change resulting into climate refugees. Example- Sudan.
- Making green energy accessible to all. Developed countries like US, European countries etc must share their technological developments with countries like India on mutual basis.
- Operationalising funds like Green Climate Fund.

Conclusion:

Overall, the global divide on climate change related issues needs to be narrowed. Also, any healthy negotiations must be followed by adequate steps to enforce what is decided. It is time global leaders rise above politics and see that both adaptation and mitigation efforts are strengthened.

Best answer: Ali

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Q.42) Air pollution in the NCR region reached dangerous levels last year. Why? Examine the causative factors. What long term solutions are required to address this problem? Discuss.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about Delhi pollution.
- Body: In body, give causative factors and long term solution.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Air pollution occurs due to presence of toxic particles and biological molecules in air. With approach of winters, pollution in National Capital Region including surrounding areas reaches dangerous levels accompanied with smog. There are several factors which lead to such dangerous level.

Body

Factors:

Natural:

- Geographic location.
- Trade winds.
- Air circulation.
- Presence of Himalayas to north east.
- Pressure.

Anthropogenic:

- Stubble burning.
- Vehicular emission.
- Construction.
- Deforestation.
- Thermal plants in vicinity.

Long term solution:

- Prevent stubble burning.
- Productive use of stubble: Biomass plant, Recycling, paper industries etc.
- Infrastructures: More public vehicles, Enlarged road space, parking fee, congestion tax etc.
- Vehicle: Hybrid and electric vehicle, increased road tax, Expiry period for vehicles etc.
- Green cover.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total are enough.

Conclusion

Government has taken efforts by preponing BS-VI stage, reduction of vehicular movements during day time, odd-even etc. But more efforts are needed, vehicular emission is more due to congestion on roads, so widening of roads should be undertaken among others measures as suggested above.

Connecting the dots:

- South west monsoon winds over north India.
- Western disturbances

Best Answer: Maximus

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Q.43) With increasing policy impetus on manufacturing industries, it is imperative to create awareness about industrial disasters and also the necessary institutional mechanism to tackle such disasters. Comment.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Why is it imperative to create awareness and have institutional mechanism?
- What needs to be done?
- Conclusion

Introduction:

In recent times, with policies like Make In India, increased FDI in various sectors, Defence procurement policy etc the government is trying to provide enough impetus to the manufacturing sector.

Growth in manufacturing sector would lead to employment generation, exports and greater contribution to the national GDP.

However, there is a need to ensure greater awareness about industrial disasters and the institutional mechanism to tackle them.

Why is it imperative to create awareness and have institutional mechanism?

- Disasters in past- Bhopal gas tragedy, 1984, Jharkhand mining case etc. This shows how vulnerable Indian industries are.
- Lack of compliance with industrial standards putting the labor at risk.
- Industrial clusters in India are dominated by SME's that operate with limited capital and compliance to industrial standards is inconsistent.
- Existing laws like Factories Act, EPA, etc continue to be incomplete in coverage and are implemented poorly.
- Any industrial disaster in future would not only affect ease of doing business but would also lead to loss of lives, damage to environment, economic loss etc.

What needs to be done?

- Comprehensive law dealing with all forms of Industrial disasters with fixed liability and compensation measures. Robust and up-to-date disaster management plan.
- Incentivizing formalisation of MSME's and ensuring adherence to Industrial standards related to quality compliance and Standard Operating Procedure.

- Having an institutional mechanism for inspection in industries at regular intervals.
- Creating awareness among the labor through disaster specific training, mock-drills etc.

Conclusion:

There is immense scope for India to emerge as the next global manufacturing hub. Making our industries less vulnerable toward disasters is crucial to ensure that the objective of Make In India mission is not defeated.

Best answer: Jayanthiii

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Q.44) What makes coastal India more susceptible to tropical cyclones? Discuss. Also examine the strategies to mitigate tropical cyclones.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about cyclones.
- Body: In body, explain geographic phenomena of cyclone formation and then give strategies to mitigate their effects.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Cyclones are natural phenomena which are large scale air mass that rotates around a strong center of low atmospheric pressure. They are usually absent at equator. India is known to be one of the few countries to be adversely affected by cyclone frequently.

Body

Reason for coastal India to be susceptible:

- India has two water bodies on both sides they are Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- Bay of Bengal is more susceptible compared to Arabian Sea due to various factors like:
- High temperature difference between land and sea.
- Coriolis force.
- Topographic of eastern region: absence of mountains to block.
- Remnants of Pacific Ocean hurricane.

- Air circulation and trade winds from north east.
- Heat Island: Coastal regions are heavily industrialized.

Strategies to mitigate:

- Green cover.
- Cyclone buoys.
- Cyclone shelter.
- Coastal shelter belts.
- Coastal resistant infrastructures.
- Climate change.
- Sendai framework.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total are enough.

Conclusion

Natural phenomena's cannot be stopped they are bound to happen. But due to climate change, the occurrence of these phenomena's has increased along with damages they cause to areas they pass by. Preventive measures should be taken but more importantly global warming should be addressed.

Connecting the dots:

- North east trade winds.
- Tibet influence on Indian climate.

Best Answer: Maximus

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Q.45) Coastal regions hold immense strategic and economic value. What measures can be taken to strengthen the security ecosystem of coastal regions in India? Discuss.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Strategic value of coastal regions

- Economic value of coastal regions
- Measures that can be taken to strengthen coastal security
- Conclusion

Introduction:

India has about 7516 km long coastline, including two island groups. Nine states have sea-coast including two island territories. The coastal zone inhabits about 25% population of India.

Strategic and economic value of coastal regions:

- About 90% of our foreign trade by volume and nearly 70% of value is carried out through sea route.
- Coasts are reservoir of petroleum and sea-food items. Oil exploration facility from seabed installed at Bombay High accounts for more than 15% of nation's petroleum output.
- It also provides for economic activities like fishing, saltfarming, handicrafts based on coastal materials.
- Major industrial activities like metallurgy, ship-building, manufacturing etc. are concentrated around the coasts.
- The sea-coasts also helps India on security front. India's three sides are covered by sea. India's strategic location in sea is helpful.
- With initiatives like Sagarmala and Mausam Project (connecting several countries located along Indian Ocean Region) the strategic importance of coasts has increased.

Measures that can be taken to strengthen coastal security:

- Inter-agency coordination.
- Continuous patrolling by Navy and Coast Guard, modern technical measures have also been implemented for coastal surveillance.
- Empowering fishermen. Sensitizing them so that they can become 'eyes and ears' of coastal security mechanism.
- Checking coastal pollution caused by shipping industry, ore mining, putting in place oil spill counter-measures etc.
- Making our coasts resilient to disasters like Tsunami. Having operational Tsunami warning centres.
- A dedicated coastal police force to beef up security in coastal regions and strengthening of coast guard.

A comprehensive Coastal Security Scheme (CSS) is required to strengthen security infrastructure in coastal states.

Conclusion:

In recent times, Coastal and maritime security has been strengthened substantially by successful implementation of technical, organisational and procedural initiatives, by all maritime security agencies. Plugging gaps, where identified, is required.

Best answer: Jyoti Singh

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Q.46) Should a department of homeland security be carved out from the Ministry of Home Affairs? Critically examine.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about homeland security.
- Body: In body, mention why a new homeland security department is needed and why it is not needed.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

One of the most important ministries in Union government of India is Home affairs, which is tasked with several responsibilities and functions. So there is a growing demand to create a separate homeland security department to ensure specialized security department.

Body

Need for separate homeland security department in Ministry:

- Increasing terror attacks.
- To avoid overlapping of command.
- Bring all security related into one department.
- Changing nature of security challenges.
- Technologically advanced crimes: Pornography, piracy, cyber threat and extortion.
- Multidimensional expertise.

Why it might not help in India's cause:

- Law and Order is state subject.
- Overlapping functions.
- Financial constraints.
- Multiple agencies: CBI under DoPT, ED under Finance ministry.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total are enough.

Conclusion

Also state won't compromise on its authority over law and order issue. It might also lead to political crisis. Home land security is US based model where there is clear cut demarcation of command and authority over things along with enough budgetary support unlike in India.

Connecting the dots:

- National counter terrorism center.
- Central armed forces.

Q.47) What role does DRDO play in India's defence ecosystem? Discuss its achievements and limitations as India's premiere defence PSU.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Role in defence ecosystem
- Significant achievements of DRDO
- Limitations
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Defence Research and Development Organisation was formed in 1958 by culmination of defence Science Organisation and some other technical development establishments. A separate department of Defence Research and Development was formed in 1980 which now administers DRDO and its 51 laboratories and establishments.

Role in defence ecosystem:

- DRDO functions as the nodal agency for the execution of major development programs of relevance to defence.
- Design, develop and lead to production state-of-the-art sensors, weapon systems, platforms and allied equipment for our Defence Services.
- Provide technological solutions to the Services to optimise combat effectiveness and to promote well-being of the troops.
- Develop infrastructure and committed quality manpower and build strong indigenous technology base.

Significant achievements of DRDO:

DRDO has made great strides since 1980 towards making our armed forces self-reliant. DRDO has progressively enhanced their combat effectiveness through development of state of the art indigenous defence systems. Few of the major products/systems developed by DRDO includes- Platforms:

- Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas'
- Pilotless Target Aircraft 'Lakshya-I'

Sensors:

- Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C)
- Integrated Sonar System for EKM Submarine.

Weapon Systems:

- Prithvi Missile for Army and Air Force
- Supersonic Cruise Missile 'BrahMos'
- Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System 'Pinaka' Mk-I

Limitations:

- Delay in projects due to business as usual approach, lack of funds and lack of technical manpower.
- Cost overruns- mainly because of delay in project completion.
- Lack of indigenisation- Heavy reliance on other countries for intermediate products.
- Insufficient budgetary expenditure.

Conclusion:

Revamping of DRDO is required in a manner that it works on the lines of ISRO. Improvising the ways of doing work, checking understaffing, investing in research and development etc is required so as to make DRDO an effective and efficient organisation.

Best answer: Venkat Sai Kumar

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Q.48) Does India's Defence Procurement Policy give impetus to indigenisation? Critically examine.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about Defence procurement policy.

- Body: In body, mention how the present policy is helping in indigenization and in 2nd part mention the flaws in policy..
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Defence Procurement policy of 2016 focuses on institutionalizing, streamlining and simplifying defence procurement procedure to give a boost to “Make in India” initiative, by promoting indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment, platforms, systems and sub-systems.

Body

The policy gives importance to indigenization:

- Buy Indian: IDDM Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured.
- Buy Indian and Buy and Make India over buy global and Buy and make Global.
- Indigenous content requirement.
- Funding by government of India.
- MSME reservation.
- Technology transfer.

Major flaws in policy to indigenization:

- Presently there are only handfuls of companies manufacturing defence goods.
- No plan of establishment of defence companies.
- Lack of reforms in existing public sector companies like HAL, BHEL etc.
- Defence labs and centers lack expertise and also retention of man power is issue.
- Financial constraints.
- Lack of Research and development.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total are enough.

Conclusion

The policy is a welcome step in development of indigenous defence industries but it has to be backed by able support in terms of finance and consistency in demand from forces or else it won't be feasible to invest huge amount with limited market.

Connecting the dots:

- FDI in Defence industries.

Best Answer: Jayanthii

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Q.49) What is 'ease of doing business'? Can improving the business environment fuel overall economic growth? Will such growth be inclusive? Critically examine.

Background

For the first time, India jumped a record 30 places to 100 in the Ease of Doing Business report for 2018, which is an influential 190-country barometer of competitiveness that many businesses likely consider for investment decisions.

Approach:

This question requires clear understanding of 'Ease of doing Business'. You need to correlate ease of doing business with economic growth while exploring its various components. Your focus should be on business establishment, investment, job growth, improved manufacturing practices and other such dimensions. Subsequently you should also link this to the concept of inclusive growth. You should be able to provide sufficient arguments arguing ease of doing business does not necessarily translate into inclusive growth.

Definition

Ease of doing business refers to the conducive business environment that makes it easier for people to do business in a region. The Ease of Doing Business (EODB) index is a ranking system established by the World Bank Group. In the EODB index, 'higher rankings' indicate better, usually simpler, regulations for businesses and stronger protections of property rights.

Can improving the business environment fuel overall economic growth?

In order to boost economic growth, each state tries to improve business environment by overhauling various labor laws, single window clearance (eg. E-BIZ portal, Labor law unification), Setup of arbitration and commercial courts, being part of multilateral treaties, strong Intellectual Property protection framework. And these measures boost growth as,

1. Investment can be sourced from within the country and through foreign investors.

2. Bring about stability in capital market.
3. Helps in establishing creditworthiness
4. Creates positive environment to start new business , research and development
5. Creates opportunity for job growth
6. Helps in improving export import regime ie balance of trade and thus balance of parameters.
7. Increased productivity as the time and energy lost in bureaucratic formalities is reduced.

Though improving business climate has several advantages as have been enumerated above, Inclusive growth cannot be ensured

1. Relaxation norms in land acquisition, simplification of labor laws sometimes resulted in favoring corporates and neglecting labor welfare measures
2. Various reports such as Global Wage gap report, Gender Gap report indicates that offering low wages and exploitation have caused widening inequality
3. Environment degradation & pollution causing diseases such as asthma, cancer etc thus pushing poor towards more poverty
4. Ever greening of Patents in the garb of IPR policies thus making medicines costlier.
5. Also results in Monopolistic tendencies in the market. ex. Monsanto GM crop seeds
6. Only skilled personnel gets the job leaving behind unskilled persons,
7. Corporates involved in tax avoidance measures, various disputes such as Vodafone case

Apart from ease of doing business It is also imperative to focus on other aspects of economic growth like domestic consumption, investments, exports, employment, domestic savings, agricultural and infrastructural efficiency to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth

Note: Most of the question failed to either comprehend this part or to provide satisfactory arguments, Here critical evaluation of both parts on Growth and inclusiveness can be done separately or at one place as shown above.

Conclusion

As we can see, that improved business environment is necessary but not sufficient condition for inclusive growth. Thus Indian government should ensure that while it tries to further improve India's rank, it should not turn blind eye to other necessary measures to bring economic growth to all. The measures such as Stand Up India, focus on textiles and leather industry to create jobs, Skill India etc. are some efforts in the direction.

Connecting the dots:

Ease of doing business can be asked in correlation with specific sector of the economy like Manufacturing sector, Small and medium enterprise ,exports ,investment and Unorganized sector etc. Here one should be able to explore similar dimensions and bring about effective arguments to satisfy demand of the question.

Q.50) Has identity politics pervaded the psyche of Indian voters? Has development become a non-issue in electoral discourse? Comment.

Background/Introduction:

Identity politics, refers to political positions based on the interests and perspectives of social groups with which people identify. In Indian context, it refers to identification with religion, race, caste, community or language. It has been a part of Indian politics since historic times and as was evident in revolt of 1857 (identifying against foreign entities), formation of Muslim league, separate electorate and carving out of Pakistan (identifying on religious basis), state re-organization (identifying with language) and affirmative actions (identifying with caste and community like tribals).

Body:

It has to be divided into two main parts one for Identity politics and other for Developmental issue: (Minimum 10 points)

Points to be covered:

This kind of politics has pervaded psyche of Indian voters:

- Identity based political parties: BSP (caste based), Akali dal (religion based), AIMDK, DMK, TRS, TDP (language and ethnicity based).
- Voting patterns: Votes on Gender based, eg. Promises made based on identities like curbing alcohol in Bihar to lure women voters.
- Separatist demands: Khalistan, Gorkhaland, Tamil nadu and kerala.
- Agitations: Groups like Jats, Patidar based solely on their castes to gain political advantage.
- Pressure groups: All India Muslim Personal Law Board on various muslim related issues like triple talaq in Shah bano case.

Positives:

- Development: States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala have far more developed due to identity politics like regionalism, language etc.
- Empowerment: Marginalized sections of society have come up the economic ladder due to caste politics. Eg: Dalits, OBC, women etc.

Development has become a non-issue in electoral discourse:

- Freebies distribution: States like U.P and Tamil Nadu have directed election campaigning based on freebies instead of developmental agenda.

- Religious domination: Seen in state elections where candidates belonging to a particular religion are favored in constituency dominated by that religion.
- Merging ideologies across various left and right parties and similar manifestoes sidetrack development agenda and increase focus on identity and winning ability of candidate.

Development is favoured:

- Economic development: BJP winning 2014 Lok Sabha election based on anti-corruption and developmental agenda.
- Social development: Identity politics provides collective power to marginalized sections of society eg. Delimitation of constituencies for SC/ST.
- Voting across identities: Winning of Nitish Kumar in Bihar based on development agenda despite strong presence of identity politics.

Conclusion:

Identity politics, while providing power to marginalized sections has also furthered social stratification. Recent Supreme Court judgment declaring use of religion, race, caste, community or language in electoral process under corrupt practices, will tow the line between beneficial use of identity and vote bank politics and is thus a step long needed.

Connecting the dots:

- Evolution of Identity politics in India
- Separatist tendencies of states
- Election malpractices and RPA
- Regional party domination in certain states

Q.51) What is judicial overreach? Do you think the balance between judicial review and parliamentary supremacy has been disturbed off late? Examine with the help of suitable examples.

Background

The role of the Judiciary in India has recently come under considerable attack, particularly from the Legislative branch, which feels that the courts have been exceeding their authority in interpreting the law, and that they have become an extra constitutional lawmaking body.

Approach

This question tests student's ability to relate various aspects and issues related to Judiciary. One should be clear about the concept of judicial review, constitutional arrangement for it, judicial activism and over reach. One should be able to highlight difference between review and over reach.

Kindly do note in these type of questions do write article, judgments, committee or commission's recommendations to make answer better and more effective. Here examples should be relevant to asked theme and more contemporary because question provide "off late" disturbance.

Also need to focus on key word 'examine' while answering, you should be able to examine given statement from multiple dimensions and provide a balanced conclusion in the end, you can take any side as well provided you supplement it with good arguments.

Definition

The line between judicial activism and Judicial Overreach is very narrow. In simple terms, when judicial activism crosses its limits and becomes Judicial adventurism it is known as Judicial Overreach. When the judiciary oversteps the powers given to it, it may interfere with the proper functioning of the legislative or executive organs of government.

Body

Judicial Review refers to the power of the judiciary to interpret the constitution and to declare any such law or order of the legislature and executive void, if it finds them in conflict the Constitution of India. The power of Judicial Review is incorporated in in regard to the Supreme Court in Articles 32 and 136 of the Constitution and Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution as the High Courts are concerned, the judiciary in India has come to control by judicial review every aspect of governmental and public functions.

The intervention of judiciary in legislative and executive domain raise question on Instances where balance between judicial review and parliamentary legislative supremacy is disturbed

1. Liquor ban on highways: Legislations already present to look after the liquor issue.
2. Empowered committee on environment: series of interim orders creating a parallel executive structure.
3. Striking down of NJAC act: Prevented say of executive in appointment of judges, which was nowhere mandated by constitution.

However this balance due to judicial activity is not necessarily disturbed in all cases. On various occasions this balance between judicial review and parliamentary supremacy is maintained

1. Basic structure emerged as result of judicial review (Keshavanand bharati case): curtailed arbitrariness of legislative
2. Due process of law in Maneka Gandhi case on Right to life: justified as SC is empowered with interpretation of constitution

3. Sexual act on girl below 15 by her husband is criminalised rape: This solved contradiction in customary marriage laws and Child marriage act

Certain circumstances force judiciary to jump the ropes and encroach into of other law making bodies. The primary cause being improper action and initiative from executive side. Judicial over reach can be seen as failure of government machinery wherein judiciary has to step in and do the work supposed to be done by executive.

Also Recent denial from SC to interfere in Padmavati movie case shows judiciary does not intend to encroach into domain of other bodies until its necessary.

Conclusion

An independent judiciary is of critical and backbone in a political democracy, as it provides checks and balances vis-à-vis the executive and the legislature. But to maintain harmony there must be some institutional mechanisms that check judicial overreach or judicial under-reach to make the judiciary accountable, particularly to citizens.

Connecting the dots:

Similar topic can be asked in diverse aspects one can be asked to Differentiate between Judicial Review, Judicial Overreach and Judicial Activism simultanously to Give relevant example for each. One should be able to realize their necessity and provide arguments for and against if required.

Q.52) Creativity and popular sentiment have come in conflict many a times in India's independent history. What are your views in this regard? How a balance can be maintained? Discuss.

Approach:

In this question, there are two parts. One is your views about creativity and popular sentiments conflict. So, for this part you need to give examples from atleast 2-3 decades back because Independent History is mentioned. Then second part is how to balance both here use SC judgements, Policies, Legal framework and also your opinion which should be practical.

Background:

Creativity is use of ideas or imagination to create something new which maybe far different than originals.

Indian constitution guarantees Right of freedom of speech and expression under article 19(1)(a) to safeguard creativity, however it also imposes reasonable restrictions to it under Article 19(2)

on grounds like public order, decency and morality. Due to this we often find conflict in creativity and popular public sentiment.

Points to be covered:

The conflict has surfaced many times since independence in following fields:

- Cinema- Conflict has arisen for several films on subjects like depicting country in bad light (India's Daughter), portraying life of political leaders in unfavorable manner (Kissa Kursi Ka), communal violence (Parzania, Black Friday), hurting religious sentiments (The Da Vinci Code, Sins), obscenity (The Bandit Queen) and tabooed subjects (Fire based on lesbian relationship).
- Literature- Banning due to religious issues (Salman Rushdie's novel 'The Satanic Verses', book by Tasleema Nasreem), treason charges on political cartoonist Aseem Trivedi.
- Visual Art- Attack on M.F. Hussain paintings on issue of portraying nudity for Hindu goddesses.
- Economic: 1991 reforms.
- Political Creativity: Women reservation in Nagaland.

To maintain a balance

- Spirit of Tolerance: Ancient culture
- SC ruling in criminal case against MS Dhoni for being portrayed as Lord Vishnu on a magazine cover
- Amend Cinematograph Act and implement Shyam Benegal committee recommendations
- Internal check on artists through institutions representing them, for eg through News Broadcasters Association, literary institutions for authors.
- Confidence of concerned groups: In case of Padmavati, rather than showing it to Media and other groups, showing it directly to the concerned community leaders.

Conclusion:

Our constitution and SC provides and guarantees Freedom of expression but that shouldn't be used to hurt sentiments of public in such a diverse country like India. Creativity and popular sentiments should go hand-in-hand for betterment of society.

Connecting the dots:

- Cinematograph act and issue of censorship
- Freedom of Expression as restricted right.
- Moral Policing.
- Pressure groups and their role.

For any of above topic, this content can be used with certain additions and deletions.

Q.53) The CAG should only delve into the propriety and mathematics of a policy or decision. By being prescriptive, the CAG only exceeds its constitutional mandate. Critically comment.

Approach:

The answer must have following parts-

- A brief introduction on CAG.
- Its constitutional mandate.
- Describing the conflict between constitutional mandate and it being prescriptive.
- CAG should involve into propriety of decision or policy or not.
- What should be way ahead?

Background:

Article 148 of the constitution provides for an independent office of the CAG of India. CAG is the guardian of the public purse and audits the entire financial system of the Central as well as State governments. CAG presents three reports, audit report on appropriation account, audit report on finance account and audit report on public undertaking, which are further examine by the public account committee.

Conflict:

The role of the CAG came into question in 2011 when the then prime minister, told that the CAG was going beyond the assigned role in law by delving into policy. This was said in the background of some CAG observations on policy regarding the allocation of 2G telecom spectrum and the allotment of the Krishna-Godavari gas fields.

CAG should involve in performance audit:

- Usage of public fund for private expenditure- in public-private partnerships, for corporates. Thus, being guardian of private purse it's the duty of CAG to keep an eye on such spending.
- CAG's insights into issues like demonetization if taken positively will help government to get more informed decision.
- In **the Munimji judgement**, Supreme court observed that the CAG's function to carry out examinations into [economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which government has used its resources is inbuilt in the 1971 Act. The apex court held that the CAG was something more than an auditor of a company or corporation, and could comment on the efficacy of the government's policy decisions.

CAG should not carry out performance audit:

- Such revelations hamper the functioning of the government.
- Allegations are raised regarding the difference between actual figures and the proposed figures.
- Leads to negative image regarding government in public eyes as well as globally.

- CAG is ought to make auditor functions and not supposed to suggest policy measures.
- The role of CAG is restricted to auditing and it is not supposed to perform the functions of comptroller as is the case in UK.

Way forward:

- CAG should strive to adopt suggestive approach rather than prescriptive. It can use its reports as means to suggest future course of action.
- Government need to see CAG as a mentor and use it to strengthen itself and plug financial leakages. This approach can go a long way in improving service delivery to public which is ultimate goal of both bodies.

Conclusion:

On one hand, misappropriation or diversion of public funds shouldn't be tolerable in democracy and on the other hand constitutional bodies aren't expected to perform duties exceeding its constitutional mandate. Moving ahead what is required is central and state government complementing CAG's efforts.

Connecting the dots:

A balance answer should be written. Taking definite stand (yes/no) should be avoided in such questions as each of the dimension (CAG being prescriptive and not being so) has positive and negative aspects to it.

Q.54) The implementation of GST through consensus is a shining example of thriving federalism in India. Do you agree? Do you think the Union and the States must conduct in an atmosphere of cooperative federalism? Give your views.

Approach:

- Introduction with 1-2 lines on GST.
- How GST is a shining example of cooperative federalism.
- Utility of cooperative federalism.
- Conclusion

Background:

Though there are certain issues which remains to be resolved when it comes to GST, the central and state governments irrespective of the political party in power, have come together to bring in all the reforms required for successful enactment of GST.

The level of cooperation shown can surly help sort many other issues and challenges across different domains thereby strengthening Indian democracy.

Introduction:

Goods and Services Tax (GST) has replaced all the major indirect taxes levied by center and the states into a single tax.

GST: Shining example of cooperative federalism

The implementation of GST through consensus is an example of cooperative federalism as-

- In our Federal System both Centre and States have power to impose taxes. The division of such taxation powers is given in Union and State List under 7th Schedule. With the spirit of cooperative federalism, under GST, both Centre and States have given up taxation powers.
- Under the GST regime, the Centre & States will act on the recommendations of the GST Council. Under GST Council, 2/3rd of voting power is with the States and 1/3rd with the Centre which reflects the accommodative spirit of federalism.
- Though the Constitution provides for decisions being taken by a 3/4th majority of members present and voting, most of the decisions have been taken unanimously by consensus.
- Central government was able to convince the states and allay their fears of revenue loss post GST implementation.

Importance/Utility of cooperative federalism:

- India has multiparty system, therefore for successful delivery of finances, implementation of policies etc, cooperation is needed.
- Foreign relations and international treaties require unidirectional efforts of states and centers for implementing projects and agreements. (as seen in Teesta water agreement with Bangladesh, where co-ops were raised by the West Bengal government).
- Evolving need of security requires cooperation. Cooperative federalism helps in tackling the separatist tendencies. It helps in accommodating diverse views.
- The spirit of cooperative federalism is required to solve long standing issues like inter-state water sharing disputes.

Conclusion:

Thus, overall GST is indeed a shining example of cooperative federalism. Implementation of GST accompanied with 14th Finance committee recommendation, constituting Niti aayog etc. have marked a conducive environment for co-operative federalism. Changing needs and growing aspirations of India can only be fulfilled in the atmosphere of co-operative federalism.

Q.55) The recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and the implementation of GST have transformed centre-state relations in India. Do you agree? Examine.

Background: Both being important issues in news, fourteenth finance commission due to increased shift in funds towards states, GST for its impact on fiscal order, centre state financial relations and debates on its effectiveness.

Approach:

- Introduce by writing about fourteenth Finance commission and GST combine and their collective impact on federal relationship in the country
- Write recommendations of Fourteenth Finance commission, Examine positive and negative impact of accepted recommendations.
- Write changes due to introduction of GST, impact with similar approach taken in case of Fourteenth Finance commission
- Write contrast and similarity of both and conclude suitably

Introduction: Indian constitution envisaged center state co-operation to ensure success of our federal policy. However increase in complication of the relations between the center and states made this far from reality. Recent initiatives like implementation of Goods and Services tax (GST), recommendations of 14th Finance commission have brought the states into prominence and set them at fore-front in center state relations.

Body:

Fourteenth Finance commission recommendations transforming centre state relationship:

1. Share of 42% of the divisible pool of tax to states, hence it enhanced fiscal autonomy of states
2. Doing away with the distinction between unconditional and conditional transfers. It provided flexibility to states to use funds as per the needs.
3. Distinction between planned and unplanned expenditure has been done away with, thus suiting the practical availability of fund devolution.
4. Reducing the number of central sector enabled the states with more autonomy and decision-making power to spend on most needed initiatives.
5. No recommendations for sector specific grants which put burden on state to attract more investment hence it put a break on competitive federalism. Funds for local bodies helped in strengthening the concept of federalism.
6. Distinction between general and special category states has been done away with , but provided grants to 11 revenue deficit states. Overall it led to strengthening of cooperative federalism
7. Finance commission recommended reducing the combined fiscal deficit of both centre and the states requiring joint efforts from both.

GSTs transforming Centre state relationship:

1. GST has limited the financial powers of states in its jurisdiction in indirect taxes.
2. States now have to depend on GST council for any change in indirect taxation system.
3. Advantageous position enjoyed by some producing states like Maharashtra, Gujarat will be eroded.
4. Implementation of GST as one tax for the whole of India integrates the centre and states together.

5. Proportion of voting rights allotted to states in GST Council (2/3rd) when compared to centre (1/3rd) and other provisions ensure that every decision of the council is taken in consonance with the states.
6. Center has agreed to compensate the states with the loss in revenue for 5 years; this signifies the mutual understanding of concerns.

Conclusion:

The Finance Commission acknowledged that the Centre may have to initially bear an additional fiscal burden and higher devolution of net central taxes arising due to the GST compensation, but this should be treated as an investment that is certain to yield substantial gains to the nation in the medium and long run.

Connecting the dots:

Both issues being important from exam point of view you need to prepare them from GS Paper 2 and GS Paper 3 perspective. UPSC being in habit of asking issues from specific dimension which can be economic, fiscal, federal or empowerment of states.

Q.56) The pendency of huge number of cases in different courts of India demands a revolution in the field of alternate dispute resolution. Comment. What steps have been taken in this direction? Discuss.

Background: Addressing a gathering of lawmakers, members of the judiciary and eminent jurists, with Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Union minister of state for law and justice, PP Chaudhary, in attendance, President Kovind insisted that the alternate dispute resolution mechanisms available under the Indian judicial system “have to be looked at very seriously, including in their ability to prevent matters from coming into the courtroom at all.”

Approach:

- Question is a mix of two important issues i) Judicial Case Pendency ii) Role of Alternate dispute resolution in reducing this burden.
- Write about the no. Of pending cases in judiciary and some reasons in brief.
- Link issue with alternate dispute resolution and write ADRs utility and benefits.
- Provide how revolution in ADRs is needed, improving their effectiveness while suggesting some measures.
- Write down steps taken in this direction.

Introduction: Justice Dispensing System in India has come under great stress for various reasons of which one is huge pendency of cases in various courts. . The Indian Judiciary Annual Report 2015-2016’ and ‘Subordinate Courts of India: A Report on Access to Justice 2016’highlighted that a whopping 2.8 crore cases are pending in district courts across the

country. Judiciary needs an alternative mechanism to resolve the cases in a time bound manner.

Body:

As per the Law Ministry accumulation of first appeals, continuation of civil jurisdiction in Higher Courts, appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, rising number of appeals, frequent adjournments, indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction constitutes majorly the pending graph. In order to resolve these pending cases a revolution is needed in ADRs.

Arbitration and mediation: These include arbitrators/ Mediators who help the two opposing parties reach an amicable solution out of court.

Lok Adalat: To provide settlement of disputes in an informal atmosphere. Both parties are present but without a counselor in front of the judge to reach a solution.

Gram Panchayat: To solve petty cases at village level. Instead of dragging cases in the court year after year, cases are resolved quickly.

Family Court: Especially for the purpose of marital disputes, divorce cases, guardianship of wards, etc

Mahila/Bal Nyayalaya: Made for the purpose of settlement of cases which are specific to problems such as eve teasing, acid attacks, etc or juvenile cases in Bal Nyayalaya.

Though these are of great help certain problems are still in place,

Lok Adalat cannot decide case on merit.

Certain cases go for appeal in higher court, etc

Many gram nyayalays lack in proper infrastructure.

Steps taken to make ADRs an effective mechanism in delivering justice

1. Power has been conferred upon the courts so that it can intervene in different stages of proceedings. But these goals cannot be achieved unless requisite infrastructure is provided and institutional frame work is put to place.
2. A Scheme of Holding of Lok Adalats as an “Alternative Grievance Redressal Mechanism” for speedy disposal of industrial disputes has been made indispensable part of the adjudication system.

3. Several legislative and administrative initiatives have been taken including separate benches for Trade disputes, Tribunals and Lok Adalats etc
4. In order to bring revolution in effective justice delivery mechanism. The institutional framework must be brought about at three stages, which are:
5. Awareness: ADR literacy program is being done for mass awareness and awareness camp is being organised to change the mindset of concerned disputants, the lawyers and judges.
6. Acceptance: In this regard training of the ADR practitioners is being made by some University together with other institutions. Imparting training is being made a part of continuing education on different facets of ADR as far as judicial officers and judges are concerned.
7. Implementation: For this purpose, judicial officers are to be trained to identify cases which would be suitable for taking recourse to a particular form of ADR.
8. Setting up of Mediation Centres in all districts of each state with a view to mediate all disputes have brought about a profound change in the Indian Legal system. These Mediation centres have started functioning with an efficient team of mediators who are selected from the local community itself.
9. Not many Indians can afford litigation. This kind of state of affairs makes common people, especially rural people, cynical about judicial process. The ADR mechanism has bridged the trust deficit. Gram Nyayalayas have been empowered to process 60 to 70 percent of rural litigation leaving the regular courts to devote their time to complex civil and criminal matters.
10. More and more ADR centres are being created for settling disputes out-of-court. ADR methods have the potential to achieve the objective of rendering social justice to the people, which is the goal of a successful judicial system.

Conclusion: With the increase in population and advancement of technology, new complexities have stemmed up which will only increase the pendency rate in judiciary. Thus it is very important to promote ADR mechanism, which will help in providing justice in the quick time and thus will help in achieving one of the objectives of our preamble i.e Equality in justice.

Connecting the dots:

Both the issues focussed are important and can be asked separately. Many voices being raised in this direction by President and CJI etc, You can be asked to relate this issue with the need for national litigation policy.

Q.57) Holding the General and State Assembly Elections simultaneously will ensure smooth functioning of the Parliament and the government would be able to focus more on governance than electoral campaigns. Critically analyse.

Approach:

It is straight forward question, analyse the simultaneous elections will ensure smooth functioning of parliament and will it be able government to focus more on governance than electoral campaigns.

Introduction:

Former deputy Prime Minister of India LK Advani long back floated the idea of simultaneous elections. In Recent times, the idea got support from President and Prime Minister. President Pranab Mukherjee has endorsed the idea by mentioning it in his address to the joint session of the parliament ahead of the budget session. Reports of Law commission and the Parliamentary standing committee have also favored simultaneous elections.

What is simultaneous elections:

- It refers to holding elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously, once in a five year.
- At present, elections to Lok Sabha and to all State Legislative Assemblies are not being held simultaneously.

Arguments against of holding simultaneous elections:

- Continuous elections will keep political parties and leaders in continuous scrutiny.
- The concept of federalism might affect, Center and States are equal and sovereign within their jurisdiction. Simultaneous elections may reduce the importance of state elections.
- Simultaneous elections with fixed tenure of five years curtail people's right to express their confidence or displeasure on the government, as elections is a part of their electoral democracy.
- Simultaneous elections will demote local issues or issues of state importance to the background. This completely ignores the diversity of the country.
- Simultaneous elections may negate the concept of no-confidence motion, which only works for those parties who can stay in power for continuously and minority government may face problems.

Arguments for holding simultaneous elections:

- It will reduce the election expenditure drastically due to elimination of duplication process.
- It will reduce the diversion of government machinery and human resources, as large number of government employees and public buildings are diverted from their regular responsibilities for election duties.
- MCC is an obstacle to the government service delivery mechanism, as MCC comes into operation during the elections. Simultaneous elections may reduce such disruption.
- To lure voters, political parties will do undue promises during election campaign without considering public interest.

- The simultaneous election once in five years provides stability to the governments. It allows the government to take difficult and harsh decision in larger public interest.

Some issues for holding simultaneous elections, constitutional impediments are there:

Article 83(2) and Article 172 of the Constitution requires that the Lok Sabha and State legislatures be in existence for five years from the date of its first meeting, “unless dissolved earlier”. This makes it clear that constitution does not guarantee fixed terms to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Simultaneous elections are not possible without fixed tenure.

To address this problem, former vice-president B S Shekhawat suggested that no-confidence motion must mandatorily be accompanied by an alternative government formation plan. This prevents premature dissolution of Lok Sabha on account of political instability.

Conclusion:

India need to prepare the ground to formulate a Constitutional Amendment to face the issues emanating from such a decision. Moreover, such an Amendment would not require the consent of half the state legislatures in terms of the proviso to Article 368(2) of the Constitution of India. There will, of course, be other constitutional issues and administrative problems, which need to be sorted out, in consultation with the stakeholders – political parties and all others.

Q.58) Women in India haven't got a fair deal from either the government or the judiciary as far as protection of their individual liberties are concerned. Comment. Also examine the ways in which women are changing the traditional gender discourse in India by taking suitable examples.

Approach:

- Background
- Poor protection of individual liberties of women- this section will have two parts- how legislative has failed to protect women rights and how judiciary has done the same.
- Ways in which women are changing their traditional discourse- This should be substantiated with enough examples.

Background:

India's ranking at 108 in Global Gender Gap Index, rising crime against women as per NCRB data 2016, women feeling unsafe when outside home, prevalence of glass ceiling effect even after twenty-seven years of economic reforms reflects the fact that women haven't got a fair deal when it comes to their individual rights in our country.

Poor protection of individual liberties of women:

Legislative:

- Partial usage of Nirbhaya fund.
- Poor political participation of women. The Women reservation bill guaranteeing 33% reservation to women in Parliament is long pending.
- Rising rates of crimes against women reflects the lack of sensitivity of our government towards women issues.
- Marital rape still not considered a crime in India.

Judiciary:

- Low conviction rates for those committing crimes against women. Lack of speedy justice.
- Controversial judgments like that on Section 498a (domestic violence) which diluted its provisions.
- A single women judge (out of 25 judges) in the Supreme Court.

Ways in which women are changing their traditional discourse:

- SHGs
- Usage of social media to highlight harassment. #MeToo campaign is an example.
- Greater participation in sports, events etc. With women like Sashi Mallik, Mary Kom, P. Sindhu in sports and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chandra Kochhar, Indra Nooyi in corporate world, bring lauds to India from across the globe.
- Rise in literacy rate.
- Women asserting their rights as seen in BHU molestation case.

Conclusion:

Various steps have been taken by the government as well as the judiciary in recent past- StandUp India scheme, Government budgeting, National Housing Mission and Ujjwala yojana providing assets in the name of women, Induction of women in army, Triple talaq verdict by the Supreme court, the Bombay HC upheld women's temple entry rights. etc to give women their fair due.

However, there is much more that needs to be done and in this light, the way women themselves are asserting their rights is a welcome change.

Q.59) India's reticence on the Rohingya crisis undermines its democracy and global standing. Do you agree? Critically analyse.

Background:

The government of Myanmar, a predominately Buddhist country, claims the Rohingya people are illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh and has denied them citizenship, leaving them stateless. The systematic discrimination against the Rohingya people has left them living in deplorable conditions and segregated, with limited access to schools, healthcare and jobs, according to Amnesty. Tensions between the minority group and the mainly Buddhist Rakhine

population erupted into rioting in 2012, driving tens of thousands from their homes and into displacement camps.

Approach:

- Introduce with what is crisis in one or two lines
- India's stand on refugees and its historical development
- Describe why India is slow on this issue despite being largest democracy of the world
- Relationship between Myanmar and India and its important in NE development
- Mention the steps taken by the government

Introduction:

The UN has described the latest mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar as “the world's fastest growing refugee crisis” and “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing”. But in India the situation in Northeast is perhaps much less threatening today than it has been at any point since independence. India is already connected to ASEAN markets via sea-routes even if land-routes promise a fillip in trade and connectivity; and threats of Islamist radicalization are equally correlated to communal harmony within India and Bangladesh, as much in Myanmar.

India's historical stand on refugees:

- India holds a strong history of welcoming refugees from Srilanka, Tibet, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and still they enjoy the freedom and rights here. The Rohingya's are now the most genocided community in recent past in South Asia, they are stateless and no place got to go.
- Since India is not a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Refugees, refugee status granted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Rohingya was irrelevant to their deportation.
- Now the situation has changed in ground reality due to security as well as sensitivity of this issue. Domestically, protests against Rohingyas, who are viewed as ‘criminals’ and/or ‘potential terrorists’. Though many support the presence of Rohingyas in Jammu, and the issue is less pronounced in Delhi and Hyderabad, the volatile security situation in Kashmir adds fuel to such anxieties.

Reasons for India's reticence on the Rohingya's issue:

- India considers the issue as an internal affair of Myanmar and don't want to pressure too much on it.
- Indian believes that ASEAN has an undeniable responsibility to resolve this crisis.
- India does not want a conflict of interests with the new regime in Myanmar-Myanmar has a key role in India's Look East Policy, and also key for the development of NE India.
- India already has several issues like poverty, unemployment etc., for her own people.
- Adding to this, recently an insurgent group – Haraqah Al-Yaqin formed in Saudi Arabia commanded by Rohingyas on the ground with tactical training and guerrilla operation

skills. India had a history of Lankan refugee issue which eventually ended up in the Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

India's response to the crisis:

- India has started Operation Insaniyat, in response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of refugees into Bangladesh, Government of India has decided to extend assistance to Bangladesh.
- India have agreed with Myanmar to provide financial and technical assistance for identified projects to be undertaken in Rakhine State in conjunction with the local authorities.

Conclusion:

It is apparent that the only long-term solution to the situation in Rakhine State is socio-economic and infrastructure development of the State. Such development would generate employment opportunities and economic activity that should have a positive impact on all the communities living in the State.

Q.60) The dawn of the information age has opened up great opportunities for the beneficial use of data. However, it has also enhanced the perils of unregulated and arbitrary use of personal data. Discuss. Also examine the need of framing a robust law to protect individual data.

Approach:

The answer will have following parts.

- Introduction- How data has become the new gold in this information age?
- Beneficial use of data.
- The perils of unregulated and arbitrary use of personal data.
- Need of framing a robust law to protect individual data.

Background:

How data has become the new gold in this information age?

Data is the new currency. It is considered as the oil of 21st century. With the dawn of information age and mass digitalization there has been generation of huge data.

Beneficial use of data:

- Evidence based policy making- Use of data in planning and policy making through collections as social economic census, big data analytics etc.
- Promoting effective service delivery- availability of comprehensive database makes duplications impossible. Thereby, giving a push to direct benefit transfer.

- To review programmes like polio eradication and to monitor effectiveness of various schemes.
- Decision based on data can help remove prejudices and biasness towards a particular section of the community.
- Robust data law can help keep in check radicalisation and prevent terror recruitment by keeping a track on movement of people, monitoring the pattern through usage of data etc.

The perils of unregulated and arbitrary use of personal data:

- Personal data like bank info, credit card, debit card info can be used by cyber criminals for financial fraud by hacking, phishing.
- Data can be used for influencing elections as seen by US election, BREXIT etc.
- Leakage of personal data may result into violation of somebody's right to privacy.
- Recent incidences of data breach and data hack like HDFC case, Yahoo email leak possess a serious concern.
- Countries with less technically educated citizens find it hard to aware the users of such hacks

Need of framing a robust law to protect individual data:

- It will be in tune to Right to privacy as a constitutional right, recent SC ruling too favors such laws.
- A law is needed to strike balance between right to privacy on one hand and national security and/or effective governance on the other.
- Low digital literacy in India means more people are vulnerable towards data leakage and misuse.
- As India exports data on large scale to tech giants globally, it is necessary to make companies responsible for any breach of violation of data.
- In view of recent ransomware attacks, hacking of databases as Aadhar could prove disastrous.

Overall, as India is on path of digitisation, a robust data protection law is needed so as to ensure that advantage of information does not become bane for country

Conclusion:

India lacks a coherent data protection law which makes us more vulnerable. The government should thus frame a robust law to gain confidence of people that their private data will not be misused and used without their permission. The B.N srikrishna committee set to look into the law is much appreciated step in this direction.

Connecting the dots:

- Big data analytics- What it is and its application.
- Right to privacy on one hand and good governance based on data on the other.

Q.61) Don't you think politicians must also have certain minimum educational qualification? Discuss. In absence of such criteria, examine the need to have 'political eligibility test' for politicians in India.

Approach:

The question has got two parts. In first part you need to justify the need for a minimum educational qualification (only if you think so.) And in the second part you need to write about a possibility of a political eligibility test.

This answer can have two aspects – for and against. Since most of you have written an answer in favour of minimum educational qualification, in the synopsis we are covering the points, why it should not be there.

Body

When India got independence, hardly 13% of India was literate. Majority of them were just literates i.e. they knew how to read and write atleast one language. This was the biggest reason why the entire world questioned the feasibility of a democracy and direct election based on Adult franchise. But the constitution makers and leaders of India knew, that maturity comes with experience too and not just with a college degree. The experiment was successful and India is now the biggest democracy of the world.

Same is the case with political leadership. A leader is not made, it becomes. Many of the leaders of our freedom struggle were illiterate but that does not mean that they lacked leadership skills or they were not aware of the problems faced by the people. The biggest quality of a leader is to understand the need of the public and take actions accordingly. And for this one needs to be close to ground realities and people he/she is serving. Many a times it is seen that highly educated people did not turn out to be good policy makers because they were too theoretical and far from ground realities.

This doesn't mean that education is not important. Educated leaders can analyse a situation and understand matters of economy and polity in a much better way. But it cannot be a mandatory condition in country as large as India. The true power in India is with the people. If they don't want an uneducated person to represent them, they shouldn't vote for such people. But everyone should have a right to contest in election.

Political Eligibility Test:

Political acumen is inculcated with experience and education. But there are no specific guidelines as to what should be a curriculum to make a good political leader. It cannot be

tested by an eligibility test. A leader is not made, a leader becomes. Political leadership is different from bureaucracy. A bureaucrat has to see the workability, law and constitutional technicalities of policy that is to be design. But what type of policy is required by the public is told by a political leader. He is the one who is accountable by the people for all decisions of the government. He/she is elected not selected. And if people don't think a candidate is suitable, they should not elect him/her.

Conclusion:

All said and done, it is a right of a person to contest into election but education should be promoted and appreciated. People should be united to elect educated political leaders.

Note: You can have your opinion about this issue but do not completely go against the idea of uneducated leaders. We have had many brilliant leaders who did not have formal education but worked for the development of the country. So your answer should be balanced.

Q.62) Electronic voting machines have come into news with certain parties alleging that EVM's can be rigged. Certain quarters have even suggested to introduce the old system of voting that took place with ballot papers. What are your views on this issue? Discuss.

Approach:

- Issues with EVM's and ECI reaction for that allegation
- How far EVM's can be tampered
- Way forward

Introduction:

The most precious gift the Indian democracy gave us is universal suffrage. On the one hand 'equality of voting right' gave us freedom to choose a party to govern the nation, states and local bodies, on the other, and more importantly, made us equal citizens, in an utterly unequal society. In the past, there have been many efforts to subvert the right to vote freely. Physical intimidation and Booth Capturing were the most common methods that were used during the paper ballot era.

Issues with EVM's:

EVM rigging concept is sparking because in recent election certain parties are getting maximum or minimum seats. One series criticism of EVM is that it does not impart transparency in conducting elections and It cannot be denied that EVM is technologically vulnerable. Ireland, Netherlands, Venezuela, US and many European countries in the past had controversies regarding rigging of EVM. The IEEE journal published an article suggesting 9 safeguards for protecting the outcome of EVM. None of these 9 safeguard, is in place in Indian EVM.

Therefore, uncertainty has been raised among voters and political parties but old ballot system is not a solution.

Though as written above there could be faults in EVM as well but that doesn't mean we should go back to the ballot box election procedure as:

- They are very time-consuming
- A lot of man power required for conducting elections
- More Security forces required to safe and transfer ballot boxes
- Booth capturing and violence
- Lot of cancellation and re-elections
- Mal-practice during counting

The real issue behind the allegations of tampering is that though the machine's behaviour can be altered with if perpetrators get their hands on an authentic machine, and even if it is done so by the near impossible way of getting one without the help of those involved in the electoral process, there is absolute no way that after the machines are returned back to the commission, it would not know about such a tampering.

ECI reaction for those allegations:

Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold an exercise termed as an ***EVM hackathon***, where it challenged political parties to try and prove allegations that the machine could be tampered with to get the votes cast for one party to be registered to another.

Solutions for those elections:

A combination of safeguards ensures that these machines are fully tamper-proof. Broadly, these can be summed up in four categories: Software and technical, administrative, independent technical watchdog oversight, and judicial scrutiny.

The EC's biggest challenge is to conduct the 2019 general election with VVPAT. It must speed up the production of the requisite number of machines. Funds must not be a constraint. Remember, it's the "direction" of the Supreme Court.

Conclusion:

Public faith and trust in the electoral system is of paramount importance. It must not be allowed to be shaken. The people and political parties have a right to question and the EC a duty to give convincing answers. It must become more vocal.

Q.63) Examine the significance of social security in India. Also discuss the social security schemes and initiatives launched by the government recently.

Approach: The question has got two parts with almost equal importance. You need to check that question is asking about the ‘Significance’ of Social Security. Many of you have written a very long introduction explaining what social security is. Try to stick to the line of the question and answer what is being asked.

Synopsis:

Social Security is a system of welfare government where Government provides financial and other assistance to dependents like Old Age, unemployed, widows etc. Theoretically, it is a system of providing economic security and social welfare for the individual through government programs maintained by moneys from public taxation.

Significance of Social Security in India:

- India, according to population, is a huge country with one of the largest population of dependents including senior citizens, women, unemployed and under – employed. Due to lack of employment opportunities or personal barriers to get occupation, many people find it hard to sustain their life.
- These people live in miserable conditions and are not properly taken care off. Since Right to life is a fundamental Right, they deserve social security to live an honourable life.
- Many of these people become fodder for recruitment by anti social elements. For money they are willing to indulge themselves in crimes like murders, smugglings, kidnappings, rioting etc.
- Many of these people face nutritional challenges and have prolonged health problems. Because of this government has to invest a lot of money in healthcare. This is a negative expenditure instead this can be avoided with social security.
- Social security will also help in securing the future of people working in unorganized sector.
- Also, the ranking of India in HDI will improve.
- Tax payers money will be distributed to narrow the gap between haves and have nots.

Note: More points can be added to this list.

Latest Schemes Launched by the Government:

Social security schemes and initiatives launched by government

PENSION

- New Pension Scheme: targets organised sector and encourages voluntary contribution for retirement.
- Swavalamban yojana/ NPS lite: targetted at unorganised sector. It is co- contributory pension scheme.

- Atal Pension Yojana: old age income security for working poor. Targets age group 18-40 years. Contribution can be made in the range Rs 42-210 with monthly retirement income in range 1000-5000. Low premium encourages saving by LIG.

INSURANCE

- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana: 1 year term life insurance with premium Rs 330/ providing return of 2L.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana: 1 year term accident cum death cover with low premium of Rs 12/ . It extends coverage to LIG.
- Pradhan Mantri fasal Bima yojana: provide income security to farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pest or disease. It includes technology based assessment of loss and uniform premium for kharif(2%), rabi(1.5%) and horticulture crops(5%) needs to be paid.
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana for BPL families: health insurance scheme which provides assistance for medical treatment . However It lacks coverage of expenditure on drugs and diagnostics due to which Out Of pocket expenditure on health has been high.
- National social Assistance Programme for BPL: it includes old age pension, widow pension, disability pension and national family benefit insurance in case of death of bread winner.

Other programmes for old age group include Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana to provide physical aids and assisted living devices.

Note: More old schemes can be written. You need to remember that there is a difference between schemes for social security and schemes for livelihood and empowerment.

Connecting the dots:

- How is social Security in India different from SS in USA?
- Should India start a Universal Social Security scheme?

Q.64) What is futures market? Examine the factors that led to the near collapse of agri-futures in India. Should it be revived? Examine.

Introduction:

In India in all the seasons, mostly whenever bumper harvest happens most crops crashed below their respective minimum support prices (MSPs), triggering farm distress. One of the many reasons behind this situation is that planting decisions of our farmers were based on last year's prices, rather than the prices expected at the time of harvest. Signals indicating future prices are largely absent as agri-futures have been decimated by excessive controls and regulation. It is time to think afresh and resurrect agri-futures in India.

Future exchange:

A futures exchange, traditionally, is a term referring to a central marketplace where futures contracts and options on futures contracts are traded. More recently, with the growth in electronic trading, it is also used to describe the activity of futures trading itself.

In 2003, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government's decisions to allow futures markets in India after a long gap was hailed as a big and bold step towards better price discovery for farmers.

- This, in turn, was supposed to help farmers take informed planting decisions.
- In the initial years 2003-2007 agri-futures did show promising growth.
- But around 2007-2008, they were hit by the global food price crisis.
- Agri-futures picked up momentum again and peaked in 2011-2012.

However, since then, there has been heavy government intervention in agri-futures with higher margin requirements as well as absolute suspensions, resulting in their near collapse.

Factors responsible for the collapse of agri-futures:

- Disruption by stop – go suspension policy of government. Eg. In 2008 agriculture – futures were suspended, no continuity in the agri-futures.
- CTT 2013, a distinction was made between futures on pure agricultural commodities, such as wheat, cotton and soybean, and futures on processed farm commodities, such as soy oil, guar gum and sugar. The former were exempted from CTT while the latter were not.
- Low trading volumes due to uncertainty of policy.
- Trust issues between government and market participants, as there is no consistent policy regarding the agri-futures.

There has been heavy government intervention in agri-futures with higher margin requirements as well as absolute suspensions, resulting in near collapse of agri-futures,

Government steps to revive agri-futures:

If one has to develop agri-futures in India, the first step is

- To stay away from sensitive commodities (e.g., common rice, wheat, most pulses, and even sugar), at least for some time till futures gain momentum and some depth.
- It is better to focus on and develop less sensitive commodities such as oilseed complex (oilseeds, meals, and oils), feed (maize), cotton, basmati rice, spices, etc.
- Once markets are developed and the regulator has a higher degree of comfort, then India can diversify its agri-futures portfolio to cover other commodities.
- It is for the government to be reasonably assured that speculators are not rigging markets, it may be useful if the regulator allows only delivery based contracts, at least till the futures markets deepen.

- The government can also encourage its state trading enterprises (STEs) to trade on the agri-futures platform. This will boost the government's confidence in agri-futures as it will have ample information from its STEs.

Conclusion:

It has to be recognised that developing agri-futures is as much the responsibility of the regulator as that of the commodity exchanges, and both need to work in harmony for the benefit of various stakeholders, especially peasants who need useful information about future prices for their products while they are planting those crops. If the government can take bold decisions to revive the legacy of the Vajpayee government and it is not impossible to scale new heights in agri-futures, say, 200 million contracts by 2022.

Q.65) Elderly population in India is one of the most vulnerable sections of the society in an age of changing social dynamics. Comment. What measures have been taken by the government to ensure their welfare? Are they enough? Examine.

Approach:

Broadly there are three parts of this question. In first part you need to explain how elderly population is vulnerable keeping the 'changing social Dynamics' in mind.

Second part is straight forward where you need to mention some of the welfare measures of Government taken for elderly population.

In the last part you need to examine if the efforts are good enough to bring them out of that vulnerability status.

Body:

Some of the important points that should be present in your answer are:

- The culture of Joint family is decreasing and more and more nuclear families are found. Because employment opportunities children are living separately from their parents and there is no one left to take care of them.
- The isolation of elderly people cause physiological and psychological problems.
- Elderly people are easy targets for thieves and robbers. In many cases household helpers have murdered the old residents for money.
- Their dietary needs are different and they are prone to epidemics, diseases and natural disasters.
- Social security is lacking in India causing financial dependence of senior citizens.
- In many cases the elderly are exploited by their own family members. There have been cases of violence or children forcefully sending their parents out of their own house.

Following are the important Government initiatives:

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the welfare of senior citizens.
- The Ageing Division in the Social Defence Bureau of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment develops and implements programmes and policies for the senior citizens in collaboration with State Governments, Non- Governmental Organizations PRIs and civil society.
- An “Integrated Programme for Older Persons” (IPOP) was launched in 1992, and was revised in 2008 and 2015 with new innovative projects for the welfare of Senior Citizens. Several initiatives including the creation of Old Age Homes, awareness initiatives etc. were made as part of the programme.
- A National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in January 1999 to ensure the well-being of the older persons.
- The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was enacted in December 2007. Following are the main features of the Act.

Maintenance of Parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals

Revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by relatives

iii. Penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens

1. Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens
2. Protection of life and property of senior citizens
3. Adequate medical facilities for Senior Citizens
 - National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC) was established in 2012.
 - Elderly pension under NSAP: Under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) by Ministry of Rural Development
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has implemented the National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE) from the year 2010-11.
 - Ministry of Finance: The Ministry has allowed health insurance programmes up to the age of 65 years.
 - Several tax incentives for senior citizens and very senior citizens were provided by the Ministry of Finance. These include Higher income tax exemption for both senior citizens and very senior citizens.
 - Deductions under Section 80DD: Higher interest payments for Senior Citizen Saving Schemes.

- Deduction for medical treatment of a dependent senior citizen suffering from specified diseases.
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Chapter V of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 provides for protection of life and property of senior citizens.
- Ministry of Railways and Civil Aviation: have introduced concessions fare concessions for senior citizens.
- “Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana”, a ‘Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category’
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojna is a pension scheme launched for the senior citizens over the age of 60.

Effectiveness:

All the initiatives taken by the government are with good intent. But the harsh ground reality is that, these amazing schemes have not penetrated to a large elderly population. Many of the people are either not aware or not in a position to avail the benefits of these schemes.

P.S. You can add some measures for effective implementation of these schemes.

Note: While answering this part, take a lot of care of the words that you use. These policies are made by people who have been in the system for past 20 – 25 years. You are just trying to get into the system right now. By reading some books and newspapers, you are not exactly in a right position to take a harsh stand.

Q.66) The rise in juvenile delinquency bears testimony to the increasing vulnerability of the young minds towards violence and crime. Comment. What measures must be taken to ensure that the young in India have a constructive and colourful future? Also examine the role of society at large.

Introduction:

The number of juveniles or minors, legally those under 18 years of age, taking up crime has seen an alarming high over the past decade. This should be a particular reason to worry about for a country where 47.21 crore i.e. almost 39% of the population is under 18.

According to latest NCRB data, 33,526 cases against juveniles – majority of them in the age group of 16 to 18 years – were recorded for various offences during 2014. A cause for concern is that the highest share of cases registered against juveniles were reported for theft (20%), rape (5.9%) and grievous hurt and assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (4.7% each).

Reasons behind the increasing vulnerability of the young minds towards violence and crime:

Poverty has always bred resentment, a root-cause of many crimes. But over the years, a fast-changing and developing society has introduced other insecurities, they are:

- Across socio-economic and educational groups children are affected by parents not spending quality time with them, and by an increasingly competitive world,
- In lower middle class families, for instance, where both parents are working, children grow up in a vacuum.
- In middle class families, parents have multiple expectations from the child, including high grades in school.
- This often makes the school environment a threatening one for the child. When children fail to cope, depression may lead to substance abuse, and then crime.
- In high-income families, almost every amenity is provided to the child either from a desire by parents to maintain their own status in society or to satisfy the ego of the child.
- The child finds refuge in the virtual world where there is an information overdose.

Children are also quick to pick up on friction between adults. “In cases of marital discord or domestic violence, kids do not reach out to their parents. They consult their friends who may not give the best advice.”

Measures to be taken to counter the juvenile crimes:

- The onus to ensure that children do not stray is with adults. At home and at educational institutions, they need to monitor the behaviour of children and behave like role models for youngsters.
- One solution to avoid juvenile crime is for parents to be held legally responsible when their teenaged children break the law.
- Early detection and counselling for those with criminal tendencies is important so that they do not end up as offenders, and also so that they don't influence others to do the same.
- This is possible only when parents are cognizant of what is wrong in the child's behavior and alert to correcting him/her.
- Prevention of juvenile crime is also an important part of the juvenile justice system. But the Indian state has completely neglected this aspect
- There is little involvement of psychological counselling during the reform procedure.

Without getting into the debate of punishment and the age of criminality, it is important to instil respect for the law. By and large in India, we do not have rule of law. And youngsters are finding out that it is easy to get away with breaking the law.

Role of society in large to prevent juvenile crimes:

The burden of delinquency prevention is widely distributed between parents, schools, non-profits, and governmental agencies at the federal, state and local levels. With so many diverse

stakeholders, it is difficult to come to solid conclusions about who is responsible for protecting at-risk youth. While much of the research indicates that parents are the first line of defense in identifying and preventing delinquent behavior, parents tend to look to government agencies to create better delinquency prevention programs.

Q.67) What is digital divide? Why is it an impediment to e-governance initiatives? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples. Also suggest measures to bridge the digital divide.

Approach

The question is direct with four parts. The problem with such answers is that, most of the candidates know the correct answer but they are not able to keep their answer under the word limit. In short, it is a trap. Try to finish such answers in 200 words.

Synopsis:

The Digital Divide, or the digital split, is a social issue referring to the differing amount of information between those who have access to the Internet (specially broadband access) and those who do not have access. The term became popular among concerned parties, such as scholars, policy makers, and advocacy groups, in the late 1990s.

Dimensions of the Divide

Broadly speaking, the difference is not necessarily determined by the access to the Internet, but by access to ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) and to Media that the different segments of society can use. With regards to the Internet, the access is only one aspect, other factors such as the quality of connection and related services should be considered. Today the most discussed issue is the availability of the access at an affordable cost and quality.

The problem is often discussed in an international context, indicating certain countries are far more equipped than other developing countries to exploit the benefits from the rapidly expanding Internet.

The digital divide is not indeed a clear single gap which divides a society into two groups. Researchers report that disadvantage can take such forms as lower-performance computers, lower-quality or high price connections (i.e. narrowband or dialup connection), difficulty of obtaining technical assistance, and lower access to subscription-based contents.

Note: Following section is not required in the answer. It is there for your information.

There are a variety of arguments regarding why closing the digital divide is important. The major arguments are the following:

1. Economic equality

Some think that the access to the Internet is a basic component of civil life that some developed countries aim to guarantee for their citizens. Telephone is often considered important for security reasons. Health, criminal, and other types of emergencies might indeed be handled better if the person in trouble has an access to the telephone. Another important fact seems to be that much vital information for people's career, civic life, safety, etc. are increasingly provided via the Internet. Even social welfare services are sometimes administered and offered electronically.

2. Social mobility

Some believe that computer and computer networks play an increasingly important role in their learning and career, so that education should include that of computing and use of the Internet. Without such offerings, the existing digital divide works unfairly to the children in the lower socioeconomic status. In order to provide equal opportunities, governments might offer some form of support.

3. Democracy

Some think that the use of the Internet would lead to a healthier democracy in one way or another. Among the most ambitious visions are that of increased public participation in elections and decision making processes.

4. Economic growth

Some think that the development of information infrastructure and active use of it would be a shortcut to economic growth for less developed nations. Information technologies in general tend to be associated with productivity improvements. The exploitation of the latest technologies may give industries of certain countries a competitive advantage.

Challenges of e – governance

1. **Trust:** It is the emerging challenges of e – governance. Trust can be defined regarding users of new software and trust of the govt. former aspect implies that users of any type of software or technology must be confident, comfortable and trusting of it. Another very important aspect related to trust of govt. Nowadays, citizens using e – governance services, trusting the innovations of e – governance to some extent. Furthermore, there might be some fraudulent activities done by any other entity for the sake of finance, valuable info and even about personal information, etc. Besides, in govt. offices, dept. valuable info sometimes left out or missed; it definitely erodes trust about e – governance among all classes citizens of the economy

2. **Digital divide:** Even in the era of science and technology, there is still huge gap exists between users and nonusers of e – govt. services. In fact, in India, majority of the masses, who living below poverty line and they deprived of govt. services. In contrast, some portion of people is immensely using the e – services of government. However, this gap needs to be made narrow, then only, the benefits of e – governance would be utilized equally.
3. **Cost:** One of the difficult tasks of the govt. is to spend on implementation of e – governance initiatives to which govt. has to bear huge cost. Few other developed countries UK and Singapore spending 1% of GDP and 0.8% of GDP respectively. India spending only 3% of GDP, indeed, govt. should motivate the officials, administrators and common people using services of e – governance subject to conscious use of public finance on these types of projects.
4. **Privacy and Security:** It is one of the critical challenges of e – governance. Financial services, medical services and personal information are to be protected with security, and then only, there will be number of people trusting of it. Therefore, implementation of e – governance projects must have security standard and protocols for safeguarding the interest of all classes of masses; otherwise, citizens will lose trust and confidentiality of e – governance.
5. **Infrastructure:** It is essentially required for implementation of e – governance as much as possible in India.
Electricity, internet and poor adaptability of technology will retard the progress of e – governance. In the context of developing countries, there should be enough basic facilities in order to give impetus to e – governance.

Note: The above points are general challenges of e – governance. Following points are the challenges because of Digital divide:

- Development won't be inclusive as only 10% population is digitally literate.
- Gender divide as very less number of women are digitally literate as compared to men.
- Reluctance to get adapted to new technology is making it difficult for a large population is avail the government services.
- Most of the jobs created from digital revolution are in the service sector. These jobs are not tapped by people living in rural areas.
- e – governance as an idea is very good, but its practicality is curtailed because of digital divide.
- Most of the people, especially in rural areas, are literate in their vernacular language, while most of the content available on internet is in English.

You can add more relevant points to this.

Measures to bridge digital divide:

- Schemes to instill confidence in people and create awareness about use of new technology
- Workshops to train people in rural areas you use ICT.
- Creating proper infrastructure like communication towers, digital networks as well as providing low cost equipments to economically weaker sections.
- Benefits should be provided by the government to attract people to use ICT.
- Instructions should be provided in local languages so that it becomes easier for the people to adapt to new technology.

To implement above measures several government schemes are going on like DISHA, Digital India, CPGRAMS, Bharatnet, BHIM, UPI etc.

Q.68) Innovative models for tracking government programs and disseminating this information to citizens is imperative to strengthen public accountability. Discuss.

Introduction:

Addressing governance issues is important because whichever silo you look in, be it education, sanitation, food or health, you would eventually hit the governance deficit. Good governance holds transparency, accountability, accessibility and public participation as its pillars. Though many policies are initiated to promote socio economic and political development of citizens, the reachability and response to those policies determine the citizen centricity and public accountability.

Aim of innovative models in governance:

An innovative models should be aimed at strengthening transparency in India's public management system and fostering greater engagement between citizens and government. Using government reported data, the people should be able to analyse trends in allocations, expenditures, outputs and outcomes of key social sector programmes. The focus is on making government data more accessible to citizens and advocating with the government to create citizen friendly data portals.

Social accountability is aimed at strengthening public accountability:

- There has been a profound shift in the accountability discourse, both in terms of who demands accountability and the mechanisms through which it is demanded, in the last decade.
- Non-state actors – social movements, non-governmental organizations and the media – have emerged as a powerful force.

- Also known as social accountability, this body of research aims at understanding social accountability by studying the dynamics of citizen-state engagement – the chief instruments, conditions for successes and challenges, and lessons in the Indian context.

These are some of the government programs to make governance not only to make more public centric but also to make communication two way with ease, they are:

- Use of ICT tools like video conferencing, tele-messaging, web portals etc. has been widely used. Ex- PM Interaction with bureaucrats under PRAGATI.
- Food Corporation of India has implemented online monitoring tools which have led to minimize wastage and corruption.
- Capitalizing on mobile penetration and affordable data price government has come up with number of mobile apps for disseminating information; apps like GARV, My Gov, Online RTI and others.
- Under e-governance number of websites has been developed like e-passport seva, Ministries websites, INAM Pro, e-NAM.

Conclusion:

Governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Government is one of the actors in governance. Good governance must be responsive to administration and has fair legal system to provide protection to societal members.

Q.69) What is an ombudsman? Discuss its efficacy as an institutional measure to curb corruption.

Approach:

- It is a two part question
- Define what an ombudsman is. Discuss it briefly in Indian context.
- Then analyze the current position in India with examples.
- Conclude accordingly (as per analysis)

Body

An ombudsman is an official who is charged with representing the interests of the public by investigating and addressing complaints of maladministration or a violation of rights. The ombudsman is appointed with a significant degree of independence to discharge his duties in an impartial manner. For e.g. RBI has appointed a banking ombudsman to look into the grievances of customers against banks under RBI jurisdiction.

In India institutions like Lokayukta, Lokpal, CVC (Central Vigilance commission) act as Ombudsman to control maladministration in governance.

Analysis: Efficacy of Ombudsman in India

- Despite recommended by the first ARC in 1969 and passed in 2013 as an Act, Lokpal is yet to take shape at the ground level. Only certain states like Karnataka and Goa have appointed Lokayukta to look into complaints of corruption by public officials
- These institutions do not have the power to punish. Their recommendations are not binding either thereby weakening their potency.
- Citizens are not made aware of these institutions and proper grievance redressal mechanisms are not put in place. For e.g. in an RBI report, less than 20% people knew about the banking ombudsman scheme
- The appointments to these positions are not done transparently and often retired bureaucrats are given bouquet posts for their loyalty towards the incumbent government
- State and central government create deliberate delays in appointing members to such offices on frivolous grounds despite repeated reprimand from the Supreme Court

Conclusion

Institutions like the CBI are routinely accused of being a “caged parrot”. They are used by respective governments to carry out vindictive politics and take out rival leaders. Therefore, to make the office of Ombudsman meaningful in India, a strong political will is required. These institutions need to be insulated from political vagaries similar to the offices of Election Commission, CAG etc. They can further be given power to punish on par with a civil court. Lastly, there is need for creating awareness among citizens and making them easily accessible to all strata of society.

Q.70) External drive to strategy change is to be replaced by local commitment and ownership of reform ideas to enhance governance. Comment.

Introduction:

External driving strategy means those kinds of programs, which India adopted from other countries by not considering the situations and their effectiveness in India. But by involving local government, in economy, political influence, technology, people’s satisfaction, decentralization of power and citizens’ empowerment, effective people’s participation through state and non-state mechanisms, reforms and strengthening of land administration and harnessing the power of technology for governance, will help in enhancing the governance many folds in India.

In India all the programs and policies are changed by policy makers as and when they desire. Ideas are implanted from outside and above. All this leads to disarray in governance and disbelief in the masses. If the ideas are seeded, owned and pursued by local people, this scenario would change. Social audit on the other hand would become a tool to ensure accountability.

For example, India spends more on programs for the poor than most developing countries, but it has failed to eradicate poverty because of widespread corruption and faulty government administration, according to the World Bank report. However, due to lack of local government involvement in policy framework and at implementation level, the desired results are not able to achieve at its best.

Through partnerships that the Global Corporate Governance Forum has been forging in India, local institutions are leveraging their resources to build capacity, broaden awareness, and achieve progress in gaining broad acceptance by businesses for corporate governance best practices.

To enhance governance, it requires an integrated, long-term strategy built upon cooperation between government and citizens. It involves both participation and institutions. The programs, central to the local government platform, include food distribution and health insurance initiatives that are supposed to reach hundreds of millions of households, through social audits.

Social audit:

Social auditing is taken up for the purpose of enhancing local governance, particularly for strengthening accountability and transparency in local bodies. Social Audit makes it sure that in democracy, the powers of decision makers should be used as far as possible with the consent and understanding of all concerned, for example social audits in MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh. Rule of Law, Accountability, and Transparency are technical and legal issues at some levels i.e. at local levels, but also interactive to produce government that is legitimate, effective, and widely supported by citizens, as well as a civil society that is strong, open, and capable of playing a positive role in politics and government.

Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It consists of the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. Without good governance, no amount of developmental schemes can bring in improvements in the quality of life of the citizens. On the contrary, if the power of the state is abused, or exercised in weak or improper ways, those with the least power in the society – the poor- are most likely to suffer, at the local level these effects can be seen.

Level of information shared with and involvement of stakeholders, particularly of the rural poor, women, and other marginalized sections, if the local government commitment,

involvement and if it owns the reforms and if it be able to strategic change according to the demand of the local needs, then the governance and accountability will enhance in many fold.

Q.71) A stable Afghanistan is key to India's policy towards Central Asian countries. Comment. Also examine the associated challenges.

- Introduction: Give small intro about the present condition of Afghanistan
- Body: In body, the answer should contain two parts, one about how stable afghan is needed for India's policy towards CAC. Second part what are the challenges for stable Afghanistan.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Afghanistan was an ancient treasure where many civilizations flourished, it was cultural and traditional capital to the region and it was the route for many ancient empires to come and conquer India. Such a country is now in ruins because of terrorism and ideological battles.

Body

How stable afghan is key to India's Policy towards central Asian countries:

- Trade route: Afghan will be trade route to CAC. Industrial goods, Capital goods, agricultural goods.
- Energy Security: Access to energy rich countries of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan etc. TAPI, Uranium Deposit.
- Strategic needs: India's Airforce base in Tajikistan.
- Soft power: Education, Service sector etc.
- Social Sector: Diaspora, culture.
- Projects: International North south corridor, tackling string of pearl.
- Chinese influence: countering growing Chinese influence.

Challenges:

- Pakistan: ISI, Army.
- Local militants: Taliban, AL-qaeda etc.
- Chieftains: Battle for regional control.
- Defence: Ill-trained defence forces to tackle.
- Golden crescent.
- Radicalization and religious conflicts: Minorities and caste conflicts.

Note: Explanations are required for all points. 8-10 points are enough. Give more weightage to first part.

Conclusion

India is playing a key role in bringing stability in Pakistan especially after US decided to pull out troops. We have contributed in training its defence forces, building of parliament, Salma Dam and providing training in various capacities. It is high time western countries also come together to establish stability in the region.

Connecting the dots:

- Pakistan's role in Afghanistan.
- Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan.

Q.72) Connectivity is the most vital component of Indo-Bangladesh bilateral ties. Comment. Also discuss the ongoing initiatives on this front and their potential in ensuring better regional trade and investment.

Approach

- It is two part question
- First you have to show how connectivity is a vital aspect of Indo Bangladesh relations
- In the second part, mention the ongoing project
- Conclude optimistically

Body

Amongst its neighbours, India shares her longest border with Bangladesh. Furthermore, the geographic location of Bangladesh and the recent trends in Indian foreign policy make connectivity the central piece of India-Bangladesh bilateral ties.

- As part of India's Act East Policy, Bangladesh can play an important in improving the connectivity to India's north-east.
- Strategically, it can help reduce India's dependence on the narrow "chicken neck" corridor near Siliguri which is vulnerable to Chinese aggression such as the recent Doklam issue
- Neighbourhood First – growing connectivity (physical and people-to-people) between the two countries will increase bilateral trade and help counter increasing Chinese influence in South Asia through OBOR
- Regional Connectivity is the main focus area of various south Asian forums as SASEC, BIMSTEC, BCIM, BBIN etc.

Also, people to people connectivity is important to bring the nations together which share a common history and culture. Ongoing initiatives in this regard:

1. Kolkata Dhaka Agartala bus service

2. In 2017 Bandhan Express railway line started between Kolkata and the Khulna – a major industrial town in Bangladesh
3. Motor Vehicle Agreement signed between India Bangladesh and Nepal for cross-border transportation of goods and people
4. MOU signed for linking Krishnapatnam port with Chittagong port
5. Border Haats opened on India-Bangladesh border for people-to-people contact and small trade

Robust regional connectivity, increasing bilateral cooperation and trade can further lay the foundation for resolving long standing issues such as the Teesta Water Sharing Agreement between the two countries.

Q.73) Latin America remains a vastly under-explored avenue in India's foreign policy. Do you agree? How can India benefit by deepening its ties with the Latin American countries? Discuss.

- Introduction: Give small intro about Latin America and India's relationship.
- Body: In body, the answer should contain two parts, one about why Latin America remains under-explored avenue and second part how exploring will benefit India.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

Until now India's presence in Latin America is limited to Brazil and trade relationship with that part of world is also very limited. Even the bilateral relationship is non-existent except with Brazil. Presently we have relationship only through MERCOSUR which is a trade bloc comprising 4 latin American countries.

Body

Why Latin America is under explored:

- Distance.
- Trade routes: Lack of access to sea route and also time.
- Language.
- Lack of Historical ties.
- Cultural differences.

How India can benefit:

- Energy Security.
- Investment destination: IT, Pharma etc.
- Trade growth.
- Foreign exchange through tourists.
- Agriculture.
- Service sector.
- China: China also has less presence in region, so India can be pioneer and help gain influence.

- UNSC: Voting and pressure.
- Global soft power.

Note: Explanations are required for all points. 8-10 points are enough. Give more weightage to first part.

Conclusion

Separate policy is required under foreign policy for that region. India can explore the region starting by Bilateral Visits, Cultural exchange and organizing trade shows by diplomatic offices. Then eventually private sector will follow when they identify opportunity for growth and development. By foundation has to be set by government.

Connecting the dots:

- India- New Zealand.
- India-Scandinavian countries.

Q.74) The gulf region is central to india's 'look energy policy', and is also indispensable for India's security concerns. Analyse.

Approach

- It is a two part question, but inter-related
- First answer how Gulf region is important for India's energy needs (use diagram)
- Then devote the second half for security part of the question

Body

India is an energy-deficit country. It imports 80% of its crude oil and 40% of its natural gas needs. Yet 300 million in India are still without electricity. As the population further increases, the need for rapid economic development will hinge on availability of energy resources. The resource-rich Gulf region can play an important role in fulfilling India's future energy needs:

Importance for India's Energy Needs

- 60% of the world's explorable crude oil is concentrated in the Gulf region. Countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Iraq have the largest oil fields.
- Abundant availability combined with geographic proximity to India (via the Arabian Sea) makes import of oil relatively cheaper due to lower transportation cost. Already India imports 65-70% of its oil from the Gulf region.



- India is a leading country in terms of petroleum refinery capability and there is great demands for Indian refinery products in the Gulf countries. Hence, there is great potential for mutual trade.
- Qatar is a major exporter of natural gas to India – required to sustain the domestic fertilizer industry which is critical for Indian agriculture
- India and UAE have signed an MOU where UAE agreed to provide strategic oil reserves to India

Importance for Security Concerns

Moreover, India shares close relations with almost all Gulf nations which employ the largest Indian diaspora of 7 million sending huge remittances. Stability in the region is important to ensure the security of Indian diaspora.

Furthermore, countries like Saudi Arabia and UAE share close relations with Pakistan and can play a huge role in putting pressure on the latter regarding its alleged support to terrorism. India can leverage her deepening relations with the Gulf countries to isolate Pakistan on the international platform. Therefore, the Gulf region is not only important for India's energy needs but also her security concerns, too.

Q.75) USA's recognition of Jerusalem as the sole capital of Israel has drawn flack from the Arab League and the international community. It has created a dilemma for India's foreign policy keeping in view the recent tilt in India's stance towards the Israel-Palestine issue. What is your opinion in this regard? Should India vocally reiterate its earlier support for the Palestinian cause? Discuss.

- Introduction: Give small introduction about Jerusalem issue.
- Body: In body, start answer with agreeing or disagreeing and give points to validity your stand but also give other side to make it a balanced answer. Don't take any stands or use harsh lines to prove your points. You are writing as a bureaucrat not politician.

- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

The bone of contention between Israel and Palestine is Jerusalem and recently US recognized Jerusalem as sole capital of Israel drawing criticism around the world. This issue dates back to formation of Israel state and India's recent vote has caused dilemma in the foreign policy circles.

Body

India's vote against Jerusalem move by US was a step in right direction:

- Historical stand.
- Muslim community: India has sizable population.
- Arab countries: Diaspora, energy security.
- Stability of region.

Rather India could have abstained from voting because:

- Kashmir issue.
- Arunachal Pradesh.
- Respect for sovereignty.
- Non-interference in neighbor's territorial issues.
- Israel importance for India.
- US importance for India.
- UNSC veto.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. Important points that are required in body are given.

Conclusion

Foreign policy in present scenario is based on Realpolitik, for India Palestine is important but Israel is equally important. For a developing country which has many issues to deal with and also dreams, going against US might affects its prospects in Globalized world. We are no more in Isolation phase. So any step taken will have its effects.

Connecting the dots:

- Balfour Declaration

Q.76) To view the diaspora only through the looking glass of remittances and financial flows is to take a myopic view. Not all expatriates need to be investors and their development impact measured only in terms of financial contributions to the home country is to miss the larger picture. Comment.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about India's Diaspora.
- Body: In body, the answer should include how they are useful to India's and its growth.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

India has a very strong diaspora presence around the world which amounts to millions. Their contribution to homeland is immense which cannot be measured only in physical units. But they are viewed as source of foreign earning in form of remittance and bringing investment to country which needs to be changed.

Body

Indian Diaspora's contribution to their homeland:

- Soft Diplomacy: Track – II diplomacy. Ex: US civil agreement.
- Cultural Ambassadors: BKS Iyengar who taught Queen of England Yoga.
- Pressure groups and lobbying group: Merit based Visas.
- HRD ambassadors: Raghuram Rajan, Satyanadella, Vishwananthan Anand.
- Brand India: they are marketers of Brand India.
- Political diplomacy: Bobby Jindal, Nikki Haley, Rishi Sunak.
- Technology help: They can help in transferring high end technology.
- Make in India: Influence companies to set base.
- Education: Visiting professors, Help in increasing educational standards. Ex: Amartya sen, Venkataraman etc.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. Examples are also very important.

Conclusion

India's Diaspora has helped their homeland immensely in various capacities. For instance, they are the largest fundraisers in US politics which helped US renew its ties with India after Operation Shakti. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a very important initiative to recognize their efforts and show that they are not just about financial importance but true ambassadors of India.

Connecting the dots:

- Roma community.

Q.77) An increasing impetus has been put on reforming the Bretton Woods institutions. Do you agree with this demand? Substantiate your response.

- Introduction: Give small introduction about Bretton woods institutions.
- Body: In body, start answer with why reforms are needed in those institutions, then what type of reforms can be brought in with examples. Also recent changes that has been initiated.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

To regulate post world war financial order at a conference in Bretton woods, two institutions were established namely World Bank and IMF Headquartered at Washington known as Bretton woods institutions.

Body

The post war era institution has been forced to undertake reforms due to various reasons:

- Western Domination: US and Europe.
- Quota system: Biased voting rights based on quotas.
- Emerging Economies: Negligible presence of African countries and Asian except Japan.
- Bipolar to multi-polar world.
- Emerging economies: India, China, Brazil etc.
- Lack of Transparency: In functioning and selection of heads.

Failures:

- Global Financial crisis.
- European debt crisis.

Measures:

- One member one vote: On lines of AIIB.
- Chiefs: Selection of heads on rotation basis.
- Loans: more loans to developing countries and African countries.
- Increasing quota limit: Recently India and China quota were increased.

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. Important points that are required in body are given.

Conclusion

The twin institutions is not able to address the emerging global problems and its failure is visible to all, also the world has shifted from bipolar to multipolar with emerging global powers. So it has to undertake reforms or else it will become redundant with emerging parallel institutions like AIIB, New Development bank etc.

Connecting the dots:

- Uruguay round

Q.78) The growing differences between its two biggest members, India and China, has made the realisation of the potential of BRICS even more challenging. Comment.

- Introduction: Give a small intro about BRICS and India-China tensions.
- Body: In body, the answer should include what are the issues between both countries, then how it is affecting BRICS.
- Conclusion: 2-3 line conclusion.

Introduction

BRICS is association consisting of 5 emerging global economic powers of world namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It was formed to challenge western domination but due to growing difference between India and China the association is stuck in realizing its potentials.

Body

Issues between India and China dates back to Independence Era beginning from 1962 war and presently there are newer issues arising with passing time:

India's concerns:

- Doklam issues: Standoff might have ended but issue is still going on.
- Border issue: Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin.
- String of Pearl theory.
- CPEC.
- South China Sea.
- OROB.
- Border transgression: Ladakh and Uttarkhand.
- Colombo Submarine docking.
- Pakistan: Terrorist sanction.
- NSG entry.

China's concerns:

- Dalai Lama.
- Quad.
- Japan-India relationship.
- Pakistan entry to BRICS.

How it is affecting BRICS:

- Not able to create economic union like EURO zone.
- BRICS meet has been confined to listing out issues.
- No redressal or action on any issues concerning all parties.
- Rest countries are forced to take sides.
- Only New development Bank was success till date

Note: Explanation is needed for all points. 8-10 points in total is enough.

Conclusion

Certain issues take time to get solved and certain issues are beyond the two countries arena of control, so both countries should try to leave those issues outside the ambit of BRICS, try to achieve the objectives of the association and solve their differences bilaterally.

Connecting the dots:

- G4 countries.
- Coffee club.

Q.79) North India gets covered by a blanket of smog every year during winters. Why? How do climatic conditions aid pollution? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Background: The government is constantly issuing health advisory after parts of North India, including the National Capital Region, came under the grip of a dense smog because of poor air quality.

Approach: This question test Students ability to understand issues of wider concerns and come out with important causes and contributors for such phenomenon. Smog being a recurring

phenomenon requires deeper understanding not only from environmental but geographical perspective as well.

Here one should start with defining smog, as this is the primary theme around which whole issues resolve. You need to come out with anthropogenic (manmade) as well as natural factors. You should try to draw diagram for better clarity and impactful presentation in such questions.

Here climatic conditions aiding pollution should connect to theme provided in first part of the question. No need to write general points, better stick to the smog phenomenon and factors aiding smog formation. You should come out with simple and relevant examples.

Conclusion should be suggestive, providing measures to tackle this recurring issue

Introduction:

Every year during winter's north India gets covered by smog which results in loss of life and property. Smog is result of smoke and fog which diminishes visibility and reduces air quality. The causes for this are many and interlinked to each other.

Body:

The present condition prevailing in north India can be attributed to following reasons:

Weather conditions: During winter North India witnesses calm and cool weather conditions with very little wind speed or no wind at all, along with low temperatures. This results in suspension of emissions from vehicles containing heavier particulate matter in the lower layers of atmosphere and is unable to escape upwards or move away due to low speed of wind that may drive it away.

Stubble burning: The possible inflow of emissions from agriculture residues burning in nearby states like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is decided by the wind patterns. With the direction of winds (from these states) towards Delhi and an increase in its speed, the smog build-up aggravates.

Cyclonic pattern: Further, the cyclonic pattern of Nilofar may have induced a change in the flow and direction of the wind towards Northern states, especially Delhi.

The climatic conditions also play part in aiding the pollution

Wind speed: Wind carries air contaminants away from their source, causing them to disperse. In general, the higher the wind speed, the more contaminants are dispersed and the lower their concentration. However, high wind can also generate dust – a problem in dry windy rural areas.

Atmospheric turbulence/stability: As the ground heats during the day the air becomes more turbulent which causes polluted air to disperse as it moves away from its source. In contrast, under stable air conditions at night when the air is cooler, air contaminants released in urban areas such as from home fires, are not easily dispersed causing localised air pollution.

Inversion layers: Inversions are important because the upper warmer layer acts like a lid which traps air contaminants underneath. They are usually dispersed by wind or by warm air rising as the ground heats up. But if the inversion layer stays in place for a long time pollutants can build up to high levels.

Sunshine: It makes some pollutants undergo chemical reactions, producing smog.

Conclusion: Smog causes a lot of health, environment and economic problems. It is required that alternative is provided to farmers for machinery clearing of their fields rather than burning them. Graded response to pollution, SAFAR app for real-time pollution levels etc are right steps. Right to clean environment is a part of Art 21. Environment is an essential condition for coming good in health indicators; It thus, becomes imperative to address the issue immediately.

Connecting the dots:

This topic can be asked from geographical, environmental, medical or health related angles. One can also be asked why north India chokes on bad air as south breathes easy. You should be able to answer all these possible aspects.

Best Answer: Nazia

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Q.80) The months of July and August witnessed catastrophic floods in North India. Many states got severely affected by it. What causes frequent floods in India? Can river interlinking address this problem? Examine.

Approach:

Since it is easy question and most of the people will have very similar content. Try to categorize and write. Two parts, one is causes and the other Interlinking. First part divide into Natural and Anthropogenic. 2nd part divide into advantages and disadvantages.

Background:

The 2017 monsoon resulted in flooding in several north indian states like Gujarat, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and parts of West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.

These areas coincide with actual flood prone areas of India, which stands at total 40 million hectare out of 329 mha of total land area. As Identified by Government of India, chronic flood prone areas include the Indo-gangetic plains , the Brahmaputra plains, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Seemandhra and Telangana.

Body:**Points to be covered:**

Several factors cause floods in India:

- Natural factors:
- Meteorological- Heavy rainfall, storm surge, tsunami, cloud burst
- Geomorphic- Glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF), landslides, seismic activity, large catchment area of river, poor drainage, low gradient of river course
- Anthropogenic factors:

Deforestation, Encroachment for agriculture, shifting cultivation, unscientific rotation of crops, bursting of dams and embankments, urbanization, excess water release from dams during heavy rainfall

Factors that make their occurrence frequent:

Climate change, unscientific urban planning (use of storm channels, watershed encroachment) and increasing human interference.

River interlinking:

It is an ambitious project of central government to link surplus river basin with deficient river basin to solve surplus and shortage problems of various regions of the country.

YES:

- Water from surplus to deficit basins (ken to Betwa).
- Reduce excess water which results in flooding . Especially regions like Bihar, UP etc.
- Also helps in keeping flow yearlong useful for water transportation and year round agriculture.

No:

- If water stored: Big dams brought avoidable flood disasters eg. Damodar, Farakka; Problem in water storage in flood prone regions(N-E India terrain, high density in N India)
- If water transferred: Flooding occurs at same time across rivers(Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, godavari etc)

Conclusion:

River interlinking has two sides, where at one side it does solve the problem to some extent but at other end it creates new problems and also it needs enormous funds and diversion of pristine forest areas as many rivers flow through them. If advantages outweigh disadvantages then it can be a transformation in the country.

Connecting the dots:

- Urban flooding
- Flood mitigation
- Disaster planning
- Climate change and coastal inundation

Best Answer: disha

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Q.81) Gender gaps come in the way of business competitiveness. India should take its slide in The Global Gender Gap rating seriously. Comment.

Background:

India slipped 21 places on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap index to 108, behind neighbours China and Bangladesh, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages.

Introduction:

‘Gender’ is a socio-cultural term referring socially defined roles and behaviors assigned to ‘males’ and ‘females’ in a given society; whereas, the term ‘sex’ is a biological and physiological phenomenon which defines man and woman.

In its social, historical and cultural aspects, gender is a function of power relationship between men and women where men are considered superior to women. Therefore, gender may be understood as a man-made concept, while ‘sex’ is natural or biological characteristics of human beings.

India’s present position in gender Index:

According to the WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2017, India has closed 67% of its gender gap, less than many of its international peers, and some of its neighbours like Bangladesh ranked 47th while China was placed at 100th.

- India’s greatest challenges lie in the economic participation and opportunity pillar where the country is ranked 139.
- The scale of India’s gender gap in women’s share among legislators, senior officials and managers as well as professional and technical workers highlights that continued efforts will be needed to achieve parity in economic opportunity and participation.
- In India, the workplace gender gap is reinforced by extremely low participation of women in the economy 136 out of the total 144 countries covered and low wages for those who work 136th ranking for estimated earned income,
- According to WEF on average, 66% of women’s work in India is unpaid, compared to 12% of men’s.

WEF began measuring the gap across four pillars —

- Health,
- Education,
- The workplace and
- Political representation

Reasons behind gender gap come in business competitiveness is:

- Socio-economic conditions like girl child is still seen as a bad investment because she is bound to get married and leave her paternal home one day.
- Thus, without having good education women are found lacking in present day’s demanding job skills;
- whereas, each year’s High School and 10+2 standard results show that girls are always doing better than boys.

- This shows that parents are not spending much after 10+2 standard on girl child and that's why they lack in job market.

Women entrepreneurship has been recognized as an important source of economic growth. Women entrepreneurs create new jobs for themselves and others and also provide society with different solutions to management, organisation and business problems.

Here is a list of various government schemes and steps, to provide some loans exclusively for women that aim at promoting and easing out the process for them and to make them entrepreneurs:

- Annapurna Scheme
- Mudra loans
- Stand up India
- Mahila bank
- Promoting SHG's
- Stree shakthi project
- STEP

Conclusion:

Competitiveness on a national and on a business level will be decided more than ever before by the innovative capacity of a country or a company. Those will succeed best who understand to integrate women as an important force into their talent pool.

Best answer: gargi

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Q.82) The problem of jurisdictional conflicts between Delhi's elected government and the lieutenant governor (LG) is attributable to the conundrum called Article 239 AA of the Indian Constitution. Comment. Should this be amended? Examine.

Approach:

The answer will have following parts.

- Background- A brief on Article 239AA
- Issue- Jurisdictional issues between Delhi's government and LG has to be explained. One should not just mention the provisions of Article 239AA but discuss the related issues.
- Need of amendment- Yes but how.

- Conclusion

Background:

Delhi, although a union territory, is administered under Article 239 AA, incorporated in the Constitution by the 69th Amendment, 1992. Article 239AA creates a “special” constitutional set up for Delhi. It has provisions for popularly elected assembly, a council of ministers responsible to the assembly and a certain demarcation of responsibilities between the LG and the council of ministers.

The public order, police and land are reserved for the LG.

Issue:

- Clause (4) deals with the exercise of power by the LG on the aid and advice of the council of ministers as well as the exercise of discretionary powers without such aid and advice. When these powers are exercised, there is a likelihood of conflicts between the council of ministers and the LG on the scope of the matters in the discretionary list and the other list.
- The LG was considered the final authority as per Delhi HC, but if he is the final authority then how can we hold the Delhi govt accountable.
- A LG, motivated by political considerations, could disagree with many decisions of elected government and refer them to the president.
- On one side is the democratically elected Delhi government and on the other side a constitutional post which more or less is under the control of the central government.

Presently, SC is looking into two main issues:

- Whether the elected government is the final authority in respect of matters assigned to it by the constitution.
- Whether the LG has primacy when a difference of opinion arises between him and his council of ministers on matters of governance.

Need of amendment:

- The purpose of the 69th constitutional amendment was to provide a democratic government for Delhi and not to enhance the powers of the LG.
- It is reasonable to refer discretionary matters to a higher authority like the president. But in regard to other matters of governance, the council of ministers should be left free to exercise the executive power as contemplated in Clause (4) of Article 239 AA.
- To remove the confusion in the text of Article 239 AA (4) it may be a fit case for the Supreme Court to read down the proviso to mean that the LG would refer to the

president only matters concerning conflict of opinion on items reserved for the LG and those assigned to the assembly.

Conclusion:

Supreme court is looking into the issues related to Article 239 AA. The matter should be put at rest so that a cordial atmosphere is created for administration to be run effectively in Delhi. Rising crimes in Delhi is at time attributed to this conflict, thus, fixing accountability along with responsibility is the need of the hour.

Connecting the dots:

- Statehood for Delhi
- Rising crimes in Delhi and Article 239AA

Best answer: Anupam Acharya

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Q.83) A recent research finding has suggested that the Arctic sea ice may be thinning faster than predicted. That means Arctic Ocean could be ice free much sooner than predicted. What would be the harmful consequences of ice-free summers in the Arctic Ocean? Examine.

Back ground:

Arctic sea ice is declining rapidly, with the seasonal low in summer shrinking particularly quickly. Scientists have different ways to predict Arctic sea ice decline. If melting continues as it has in recent years, it could be as soon as 2020, but climate models suggest it won't happen until 2040 or later.

Approach:

- Introduce with the reasons and the present situation in arctic sea
- Please mention about the studies
- Then mention the harmful consequences of it.

Introduction:

A stunning decline in the sea ice covering the northern polar regions — a more than 50 percent drop in extent in summer, and an even steeper reduction in ice volume. Just a few decades ago, ice 10 to 12 feet thick covered the North Pole, with sub-surface ice ridges in some parts of the Arctic extending down to 150 feet. In 2017, that ice is long gone, while the total volume of Arctic sea ice in late summer has declined, according to two estimates, by 75 percent in half a century.

Consequences of Arctic sea ice melt:

- Few scientists understand that the Arctic sea ice “death spiral” represents more than just a major ecological upheaval in the world’s Far North.
- The decline of Arctic sea ice also has profound global climatic effects, or feedbacks, that are already intensifying global warming and have the potential to destabilize the climate system.
- Sea ice, in summer, reflects roughly 50 percent of incoming radiation back into space.
- Its replacement with open water — which reflects roughly 10 percent of incoming solar radiation — is causing a high albedo-driven warming across the Arctic.
- As ocean and air temperatures in the Arctic rise, this adds more water vapor to the atmosphere, since warmer air holds more moisture. Water vapor is itself a greenhouse gas, trapping outgoing long-wave radiation and holding heat closer to the surface of the earth.
- Melting Greenland ice sheet raises sea levels- In fact, the loss of reflective sea ice is part of the reason Arctic temperature has risen three times faster than the global average in recent decades.
- Thawing permafrost amplifies warming- Scientists are concerned carbon dioxide and methane released from the carbon-rich permafrost could cause additional warming by adding to greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.
- Ocean circulations could change- Another impact of Arctic and Greenland ice melt could be that the freshwater runoff into the ocean disrupts part of a major circulation system known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). The AMOC carries warm surface water northward, giving Europe its mild climate.
- Melting sea ice can influence winter weather- As temperatures rise faster in the Arctic than at lower latitudes, this changes large-scale temperature and pressure gradients.
- Sea-level rise is projected to have serious implications for coastal communities and industries, islands, river deltas, harbors, and the large fraction of humanity living in coastal areas worldwide.
- Sea-level rise will increase the salinity of bays and estuaries. It will increase coastal erosion, especially where coastal lands are soft rather than rocky.
- In Southeast Asia, many very large cities including Bangkok, Bombay, Calcutta, Dhaka, and Manila are located on coastal lowlands or on river deltas.

Conclusion:

The top of the world is turning from white to blue in summer as the ice that has long covered the north polar seas melts away. This monumental change is triggering a cascade of effects that will amplify global warming and could destabilize the global climate system.

Q.84) What is Bitcoin? Why has Bitcoin's value risen so high? Are concerns about its volatility justified? Discuss.

Approach:

- Introduction- Explaining what bitcoin is, how it originated etc.
- Reasons behind rise in its value
- Concerns about volatility
- Are the concerns justified or not?
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency or digital currency based on Block Chain technology. It was first started by an anonymous person Sakoshi Nakamoto in 2006. Other crypto currencies are Ethereum, IOTA etc. They all are 'mined' using complex algorithms in high speed computers.

Reasons behind rise in its value:

The value of Bitcoin has risen by about 900% in 2017 alone. The reasons for it's this are-

- Demand-supply mismatch: Limited supply of currency but increasing demand.
- Fear of Missing out: Investors feel they are being left out of golden opportunity so they started investing in Bitcoins.
- Speculation by investors.
- Fast-growing user base. Significant rise in the number of people using Bitcoin grows with each passing day.
- Can be used for money laundering and tax Evasion as it records only digital addresses of and not the individuals involved.
- There is growing acceptance of Bitcoins as some central banks like the Japanese legalising it. Growing number of businesses are accepting Bitcoins also as mode of payment.
- Theoretically it can't be stolen

Concerns about volatility:

All these risks involved make the cryptocurrency highly susceptible to volatility the RBI has also warned investor about investing in virtual currencies

- Volatility is because Bitcoin's price today is not based on any fundamental value.
- These are not backed by any statutory body unlike fiat currencies, these are less trust worthy and thus prone to volatility. It is not Legal Tender. Not printed by government or traditional banks.
- No tracing mechanism to check the pathway of money.
- Massive Crypto Currency theft could mark a new security threat.
- Misuse of Crypto Currency by Cyber Criminals-FBI hunt on Dark Net.
- Virtual currency denominated IPOs have been launched by many dubious startups who seek to bypass market regulation.
- The concerns have been raised by stalwarts like the CEO of JP Morgan, that Bitcoin is in a bubble. No value stability i.e. can go down sharply with any unexpected event.

The volatility can erode people's hard earned savings and governments should thus bring up regulations.

Even as the price of Bitcoins rise higher, opinion on Crypto Currency remains divided, for some it seems to be a boon and for rest it is fraud.

Conclusion:

Despite its concerns, Bitcoins have a potential place in the digital economy. IT is high time that governments clarify its position on Bitcoins. This will end the policy uncertainty which is in part responsible for the bubble in Bitcoin. The recent RBI study on blockchain technology is a step in the right direction.

Connecting the dots:

- Blockchain technology
- Bitcoins regulation in India

Best answer: Shobhit

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Q.85) What is National Anti-profiteering Authority? What is its mandate? Also examine its need in post GST India.

Approach:

- Introduction- Define what is National Anti-profiteering Authority.
- Write what is its mandate in first part and need for NAA in post GST India.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

National Anti-profiteering Authority is an apex body which is mandated to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services are passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices.

Just for additional information: It is headed by Secretary level officer to GOI and 4 technical members from state and/or Center.

Points to be covered:

Mandates:

- Anti-profiteering measures.
- Pass reduction benefits to consumers.
- Consumer welfare fund.
- Penalty
- Cancellation of registration.

Explain each point for a line or two.

Need for NAA in post GST India.

1. Monitoring:

- Profiteering: Firms in order to derive quick profits may not pass on benefits to consumers. Ex: One fast food MNC chain had not passed on reduction benefit to consumers.
- GST: Without passing, the objectives of reducing GST won't be fulfilled.

2. Past experiences: Have shown the benefits have not been passed on.

3. Rate changes: There are provisions for revision of rates even further.

Conclusion:

Protecting the interests of both consumers and Business houses is the responsibility of government. Even if one is compromised then economic prosperity is compromised in long run. Thus constitution of the NAA shall bolster confidence of consumers as they reap the benefits of the recent reduction in GST rates, in particular, and of GST, in general.

Best answer: Aditi

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Q.86) Examine the factors that prompted recapitalisation of public sector banks. Will it be able to revive India's banking sector? Critically analyse?

Approach:

The question has got two parts in first part you need to write why this step is taken and in second part you need to write whether it will revive banking sector.

In introduction, mention what is recapitalization.

Recapitalisation program of 2017: (This much detail is not required. Given only for your information.)

There are three things that will happen:

- Through budgetary allocations, the government will **buy Rs.18,000 cr. worth shares** of Public Sector Banks
- And then, Public Sector Banks will need to go **raise Rs. 58,000 cr.** from the market
- The government will issue a vaguely worded thing called **"Bank Recapitalization Bonds" for Rs. 135,000 cr.** which will be used to buy more shares in Public Sector Banks.

The time frame: 2 years.

The government will buy Rs. 153,000 cr. worth shares in banks. They will raise 58,000 cr. themselves, so there's a 75-25 government-private infusion of new money into banks.

Factors that prompted recapitalization of Public Sector Banks:

There are two basic reasons –

- Towering NPAs in the bank: A loan becomes a non-performing asset when the borrower defaults on the repayment for more than nine months. When a bank writes off NPAs, its capital is likely to be eroded and limits its ability to lend further. Since amount of NPAs had increased in the recent time, the Government decided to recapitalize.
- To push India's Growth: In order to promote growth lending in the market is very important. Banks won't be able to lend if they don't have enough money.

Several other reasons are:

- To confirm to BASEL III norms and maintain Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)
- To solve the problem of twin balance sheet
- To bail out some indebted corporate

Revival of India's Banking Sector:

It is a very good step to boost Indian economy and revive Indian banking sector but there are several issues associated with it.

- It is a short term measure to cure the symptom but it is not a permanent solution. Government can't keep on feeding money in the market.
- It won't ensure a proper mechanism to recover bad loans.
- This will create a bad example in front of corporate who are paying loans on time as bad loans are bailed out and they are getting no positive incentive.
- Banks are facing NPAs over 10 lakh crore so just 2.11 lakh crore is a minuscule entity as compared to that.

Note: People have mentioned that it will create inflation in the market, it will have load on exchequer etc. But the question specifically asks whether it will be able to revive the banking sector or not. So try to write the points which are in sync with the question. If an open ended question is asked on the effects of recapitalization than all other points can be mentioned.

Best Answer: Akash

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Q.87) The decision to set up special courts to try MPs and MLAs facing criminal charges is a welcome step. Comment. What other measures can be taken to decriminalise politics in India? Suggest.

Approach:

- Introduction- Mention about Center agreeing to set up special court as recommended by SC
- Write how special court will help and second part mention what measures can be taken to decriminalize politics. It should be practical examples as per Indian scenario.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

As on 2014, a record 1581 lawmakers were facing criminal cases against them. In order to FastTrack the cases, center has agreed to Supreme Court recommendation on setting up of 12 special courts to deal with cases against elected representatives.

Points to be covered:

The special courts are going to help in following ways:

- Faster verdicts and punishment: To citizens and politicians who face inter-political rivalry.
- Reduced burden: On Judiciary who are already facing huge backlogs.
- Decriminalization: Of politics due to fear of faster trails and convictions.
- Faith in justice system: To citizens, who believe rich and powerful can get away with any crime.
- Judicial corruption: Can be reduced.
- Clean politics: Representative with clean image and capabilities will come to forefront.

Measures for decriminalizing politics:

- Life Ban: On politician convicted of criminal offense.
- Powers to EC: More and real powers to EC to ban politicians involved in illegal activities.
- RTI: political parties under RTI.
- State funding of elections
- Scanning during nominations: By retired judges, public organizations, retired politicians.
- Right to recall: Those convicted or accused with proper evidence.

Conclusion:

It has been 70 years since independence and if still we are not able to decriminalize politics then it is a matter of shame to each and every citizen of country who are responsible for electing such people. Steps have to be taken on war footing to eliminate criminal elements from politics and clean the system for better and healthy democratic system to prevail.

Best answer: Jupiter

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Q.88) Gain in productivity, reduction in cost of cultivation and remunerative prices can help in doubling farmers' income (DFI) by 2022. Analyse.

Approach:

You have to analyse the statement i.e. in the answer you need to write how can increase in productivity, reduction in input cost and remunerative prices help in DFI.

Synopsis:

You need to mention that these three aspects have been recommended by Ashok Dalwai committee. This will create an impression that you are aware why this specific question is asked in the exam.

Increase in Productivity:

As percentage India has one of the largest land under agriculture. So increase in land is not possible. A marginal increase can be there if waste land is cured. So production can only increase if productivity of the current land is increased. Currently India has one of the lowest productivities per unit area.

Productivity can be increased through following means:

- Sowing of crops according to the quality of soil. Soil health card scheme will be beneficial in this.
- Procuring better quality of seeds
- Providing optimum water during growth of crops so that dependence on monsoon is reduced. Modern methods of irrigation like drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation etc should be used in water deficit areas.

- Providing optimum fertilizer and pesticides at the right time.
- Crop rotation to maintain the soil fertility for a longer time.
- Cooperative farming, so that area to grow crops may increase and scientific methods can be used profitably.

Reduction in cost:

- Cooperative farming will also help in reducing production cost.
- Subsidies should be targeted and checked to supply water, electricity, fertilizers etc.
- Crops should be grown according to the climate.
- Low interest loans should be provided by the government.

Remunerative prices:

- MSP should be set higher.
- All APMCs should be connected and market price should be shared with farmers. Farmers should get freedom to sell their produce in the mandi of their choice where ever they are getting highest price.
- Corporate farming can fetch better price for farmers.
- Middlemen between farmers and market should be minimized so that they can reap the maximum benefit.

Note: More points can be included under each of the above heads.

In any sector profit can be maximized if cost of production is low and price in market is high. This is what we are trying to do here. But with such a huge population and complex and unique conditions for every region, this is going to be humongous task.

Best Answer : The Imp

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Q.89) Is Aadhar proving to be a boon or bane for citizens? Discuss in light of new methodology of government to give benefits only through Aadhar.

Background: It seems that Aadhaar has become the most important social identification document with the government insisting on it for availing of not just welfare schemes but also

every crucial service. Aadhaar linkage has now been demanded for bank accounts, ration cards, death certification and filing income tax returns, and the Centre is also pushing to even link it with driving licences.

Approach:

- You can start by defining Aadhaar or writing about the statement given in the question
- Write how Aadhaar is proving to be a boon as well as bane for citizens
- Write few suggestions or alternatives and conclude suitably.

Introduction:

Aadhaar is a 12 digit individual identification number issued by UIDAI (Unique identification authority of India) on behalf of Government of India. It serves as identity and address proof anywhere in India. It was originally created to allot a unique identification to each citizen. The DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) scheme is linked to AADHAR to remove the middle man corruption in various government benefits. Slowly, government has made it mandatory for getting any government benefit for most of the government schemes.

Main Body:

How Aadhaar is proving to be a boon for citizens?

- Easy hassle free access to services (banking, LPG, phone number, etc).
- Migrants: Provides identification to large number of migrant labors to avail services.
- Financial inclusion: The identification enables easy opening of bank account leading to financial inclusion of rural folks and ease of operations for banks through Banking Correspondent.
- Online cost effective verification of beneficiaries leads to Good Governance (minimum government maximum Governance).
- Unique and robust platform to check duplication and ghost cards.
- Subsidy costs can be hugely reduced by cutting down intermediaries and eliminating ghost cards.
- As only one identity card is provided to a person (linked to individual biometrics), there is incentive to be genuine.

How Aadhaar is proving to be a bane for citizens?

Unfortunately, many people are not able to link all the services to Aadhaar and hence, they were refused to given the benefits. We have heard the news of death of a girl, where the PDS (Public Distribution System) shop did not provide rice to BPL family.

Privacy is another very important concern specially when we have heard more than 200 cases of Aadhar's data privacy breach. Also, linking Aadhar to bank account, passport, mobile number and PAN card is indirectly giving government access to each citizen's private life. By just deactivating any Aadhar, any person cannot use his Passport, PAN, mobile number and bank accounts in future. This is going to be a case of state's over interference in each citizen's life. These concerns should be taken care as well.

The concerns relating to lack of awareness towards benefits of Aadhar enrolment, poor digital knowledge has led to duping of innocents by the intermediaries involved.

The concept of AADHAR is for the benefit of citizens but linking it to each and everything (and making it mandatory!) will not give us required results. The services can be faster and with more benefits with AADHAR but the ultimate decision to link your Aadhar to most of the things should be left with each individual.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Aadhar brings with it a platform for social revolution and economic growth. It can be fuelled with better public participation and better awareness amongst the citizenry regarding Aadhar and its benefits. In tandem with this, efforts by government to formulate an effective regulatory framework for Aadhar, ensuring the security of biometric information and plugging loopholes through dynamic implementation will help achieve optimum resource utilization and effective service delivery.

Best Answer: Nazia

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Q.90) What is Zero Defect – Zero Effect (ZED) scheme? Examine its significance for India's MSME sector.

Approach

- Introduction: Define what ZED scheme is about.
- Body: You need to write its significance. First write a line or two about the objectives of scheme then significance.

- Conclusion: 2-3 lines conclusion is must.

Introduction

Zero Defect- Zero effect (ZED) scheme was launched to address the quality and ecological needs of all stakeholders namely, consumers, society, manufacturers, regulators and investors. It is focused on Micro, Small & Medium enterprises (MSME).

Body

ZED is based on the principle of:

- Zero Defect – Production mechanisms wherein products have no defects
- Zero Effect –Production processes which have no adverse environmental and ecological effects.

Significance for MSME Sector

- Export Competitiveness – Through better quality products, and also due to manufacturing space created by China owing to huge increase in its factory wages.
- Domestic consumer base –Better quality products will attract more customers.
- Improved profits –Through technological upgradation, use of Intellectual Property Rights, reduced wastage and increased productivity.
- Reduced costs –Energy efficiency, waste recycling and better production processes.
- Increased investments –With a more environmentally aware world, it's easy to access credit for green initiatives.
- Awards and Recognition –Help build a brand image for the MSMEs through the “ZED Mark” and showcase them globally.
- Environmental responsibility –Make them ‘Responsible Manufacturers’ and in long run make them sustainable businesses.
- Boost to Startup Culture –Governmental handholding, innovative solutions, and newer technology.

Not only MSMEs, the initiative will help the Indian economy as a whole by turning India as a global manufacturing hub, generating employment, lifting incomes and boosting growth.

Additional information: It is being implemented by Quality Council of India, where on one hand it ensures capacity building and handholding of MSMEs and on the other hand, it takes care of assessment and rating of MSMEs in line with the global best practices and benchmarking.

Conclusion

ZED scheme is highly relevant for achieving India's ambitious targets of raising share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 percent and Emission commitments of Paris summit. It is also corner stone of Make in India. Along with other reforms this scheme will make Indian MSME sector to compete globally.

Connecting the dots:

- MSME sector and its relevance.
- Sustainable Development practices in manufacturing sector.

Best Answer: Madhu

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Q.91) India can fill its vacuum of unemployment by developing a multimodal logistics network. Do you agree? Explain.

Background: The government has granted infrastructure status to the logistics sector, including multi-modal logistics parks and cold chains.

Approach:

- Write about multimodal logistics network in introduction
- Write about issue of unemployment in the country
- Write how this MMLN can fill the vacuum of unemployment and conclude suitably

Introduction:

India is moving forward with ambitious multi-modal programme which aims for effective transportation grid by integrating major transportation mode (roadways, airways, ports & railways). It has vision to provide better connectivity, reduce cost, improve logistic infrastructure & ensure track ability and traceability of freight movement. India can fill its vacuum of unemployment by developing a multimodal logistics network.

Every month, a million Indians become age-eligible to join the workforce, but the growth in jobs has not kept pace with the rising number of aspirants. The result: unemployment has been on the rise, despite India supposedly being one of the brighter spots in a slowing global economy.

What Is Multimodal Logistics network?

The Multi Modal Programme is being development GOI to meet the above objective through the following drawn out plan –

- Location Planing- to be conducted to set up logistics park based on need and requirement as per objectives in semi urban localities
- Construction – of Hubs/ Parks to be undertaken by SPV between Government and Private Parties.
- Land Acquisition and clearance to be spearheaded by the GOI.
- Financing to be undertaken through selling of the acquired land. GOI is also trying to get infrastrcture status for these projects to attract further investment.
- Key projects would include – cold storage, warehouses, truck maintenance, agriculture storage etc. at the logistics park.

The programme has adopted a hub and spoke model under which 35 multi-modal logistics parks will be set in semi urban localities on railways, highways, inland waterways and airports transportation grid. The logistic parks act as hubs for freight movement enabling freight aggregation and distribution with modern mechanized warehousing space. Fifteen such logistics parks will be constructed in the next five years, and 20 more over the next 10 years.

How India can fill its vacuum of unemployment by developing a multimodal logistics network?

- It is vital to enhance trade and commerce with improved multi modal infrastructure.
- It will help in encouraging exports and provide ample employment opportunities to the youth.
- Transportation will be made more cost effective and goods will become cheaper hence more demand and creation of jobs.
- Improving logistic network will help attract FDI and enhance Ease of doing business.
- Efficient transportation and logistics are important for boosting India's competitiveness. They reduce transport time and costs, of course—but they also reduce cost of production by minimizing the need for large inventories. This means less capital required for warehouses, insurance and the like.
- While the conventional view of demand in the logistics sector states that it is derived demand, growth in transport and logistics enterprises can create markets for other goods.
- Efficient logistics networks can reduce divergence in regional growth.
- As the last Economic Survey points out, inter-state trade flows in India stand at a healthy 54% of GDP. Reducing friction via improved logistics could boost this.

- While the demand for transport grew at around 10% annually in the 1990s, it has accelerated since. Failing to keep pace will hamstring everything from the manufacturing push and attempts to boost farmer earnings to the benefits of urban agglomeration economies.

Conclusion:

So successful implementation of programme will not only help India to achieve a double digital GDP growth, but also generate employment opportunities & reduce pollution due to traffic congestion etc which offers a route to sustainable development & inclusive growth.

Best Answer: Aditi Dhaka

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Q.92) Is intolerance also a right to freedom of expression? Analyse. How can tolerance prevail over intolerance?**Approach:**

- Introduction: Mention what is intolerance and a line or two about prevailing situation in the country.
- Body: Here most of the people will go wrong. You need to mention both side of story not just a single view of intolerance not being part of freedom of expression. Give examples. Then mention how tolerance can prevail.
- Conclusion: 2-3 lines are must.

Introduction

Intolerance is person's unwillingness to accept the belief and behavior of others. Even a moderate expression of a different point of view is viewed with resentment and hostility. India today is witnessing an alarming increase of intolerance in society spanning across regions, religions and castes.

Body

Intolerance always need not be in form of physical violence it can also be in form of verbal insults, mental and psychological harms.

Intolerance is not a right to freedom of expression:

- Not absolute: The right is not absolute and under Article 19(2) is subjected to 'reasonable restrictions', public order being one of them.
- It curtails other people's right of freedom of expression. Ex: Hussain Paintings, Padmavat movie.
- Violence: Intolerance when expressed in form of violence. Ex: Cow protection related killings, Rajasthan Youth killing etc.

However Intolerance when expressed in non-violent way can also be a tool for social revolutions:

- Corruption: Intolerance to corruption should be inculcated. Ex: Anna Hazare movement.
- Abuse of Power: By Politicians and bureaucrats. Ex: CAG report, Whistle blowers.
- Right to dissent: Is provided and protected under constitution.

Tolerance can prevail over intolerance

- Role of government –Stricter laws,
- Role of press –Not distort the truth, promote all kinds of views with their rationale
- Role of political parties –Avoid vote bank politics over dividing issues
- Role of civil society –Awareness campaigns, accommodation of differing views, finding solution through talks, inculcating tolerance through schools
- Role of religious institutions –Preaching brotherhood and true essence of the religion

Answer should consist of 8-10 points. Both part of answer should be given equal weightage.

Conclusion

So intolerance (Dissent) can also be a form of Right to "Freedom of Expression" depending on the form it takes. For the democracy to survive, it is for the government and institutions to create awareness between right and wrong form of intolerance so that a culture of right to accept and dissent prevails.

Connecting the dots:

- Article 19 of Indian constitution and its importance.
- Ideologies of Radicalism, Extremism, Pluralism and Xenophobia.

Best Answer: No Best answer.

Q.93) Internet access should be a basic human right. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.

Approach:

- Introduction- What internet access is?
- Internet access should be made a basic human right- arguments in favour.
- Cannot be made absolute.
- Conclusion

Introduction:

The right to Internet access, also known as the right to broadband or freedom to connect, is the view that all people must be able to access the Internet in order to exercise and enjoy their rights to freedom of expression and opinion and other fundamental human rights, that states have a responsibility to ensure that Internet access is broadly available, and that states may not unreasonably restrict an individual's access to the Internet.

Rationale behind making internet access a basic human right:

- It acts as enabler in improving socio-economic conditions of millions through telemedicine, tele-education, digital library, connecting rural markets with international and urban customers etc.
- Helps enforce other fundamental rights. It aids in exercise of rights like freedom of speech and expression.
- Good governance becomes possible through usage of ICT, for this access to internet is quintessential. DBT of subsidies is one such example.
- Internet makes the flow of information between the government and citizens easy.
- Rapid dissemination of information especially in an event of disaster.

The right to internet access cannot be absolute:

- Burden on government. The digital infrastructure is still poor. Although Digital India mission is a step in right direction, the progress is slow especially in regards to the Bharat Net Project.
- Enough room should be there for government to regulate it. Given the misuse of internet- usage by non-state actors, radicalisation, spread of hate messages during disturbances like riots, child pornography etc.
- Over-reliance on any technology may prove disastrous in an event of cyber attack.

Conclusion:

United Nations has declared internet access has human right. Kerala government too has declared it a basic right. In this light there is need to create an enabling environment for internet to be accessible by everyone. Right education, digital literacy, cyber security etc should thus be provided by the government. Also, it should be assured that benefit of its access reaches to every human being regardless of their economic status, gender, location etc.

Best answer: Deadpool

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Q.94) Even though science and technology has been in focus since the first five year plan, India has failed to gather momentum in the field of core research. Elaborate.

Introduction: India's commitment to the use of science & technology as a key instrument in national development has been clearly articulated time and again in various policy documents right from the early years of independence.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Steps since first five year plan
- Reasons for low momentum in the field of core research
- Few achievements
- Initiatives and conclusion

Science and technology in focus since the first five year plan

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India initiated reforms to promote higher education, science, and technology in India. The Indian Institutes of Technology was inaugurated on 18 August 1951 at Kharagpur in West Bengal by the minister of education Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. More IITs were soon opened in Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Delhi as well in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Planning Commission (1950) fixed investment levels, prescribed priorities, divided funds between agriculture and industry and scientific research.

Beginning in the 1960s, close ties with the Soviet Union enabled the Indian Space Research Organisation to rapidly develop the Indian space program and advance nuclear power in India even after the first nuclear test explosion by India in 1974 at Pokhran.

Failure to gather momentum in the field of core research

Reasons:

- Certainly, one problem is the comparatively low level of overall research investment — the present 0.9% in GDP is notably less than China's 1.5% or the 2.6% of the US.
- Insufficient scientific research in India's private sector seems to be part of the problem. The large pharmaceutical sector, for example, remains dominated by the fabrication of generic products rather than original formulations.
- At present, a large section of the country's public research is concentrated in national research centres such as the S. N. Bose Center, the Raman Research Institute and organizations such as the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. In comparison, research at universities has been neglected.
- It is not only in terms of research where India's universities are left behind. Its multifaceted higher education structure includes thirteen elite Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), and their more recent spin-offs, the Institutes of Information Technology. However, to be able to lift a population of 450 million out of poverty and to have them participate in the country's economic development, higher education needs to be a priority.
- One study argued that Indian science did not suffer from lack of funds but from unethical practices, the urge to make illegal money, immense misuse of power, frivolous publications and patents, faulty promotion policies, victimisation for speaking against wrong or corrupt practices in the management, sycophancy, and brain drain.

Few Developments in Scientific research:

However, the progress made by our country since then in attainment of the stated goals in policy and plan documents has been substantial in some areas.

In the past five decades 200 universities affiliating around 3000 colleges have been established to serve as an incubation ground for producing lakhs of technically qualified professionals. The pioneering Indian spirit has manifested itself in many fields; many frontiers have been won over.

1. Agricultural Research and Development

2. Green revolution
3. Defence Research and Development: Kaveri Engine, Sonars, Missiles etc
4. Space Research: Indian Satellite Systems, INSAT & development of India's intellectual capital
5. Computing: PARAM supercomputer
6. Neutrino Observatory, LIGO and CERN collaborations

Recent Initiatives to promote Core scientific research

- Science, Technology & Innovation Policy 2013
- National Intellectual Property Rights Policy
- Technology Vision Document 2035
- Space Vision India 2025

Conclusion:

Science in India still has significant potential for further development. Although scientists from the subcontinent excel on an international level, the huge potential offered by the country's young population is far from being fully leveraged. Yet, India has a long and proud tradition of scientific excellence. As economic development advances and a broader section of society benefits from high-quality education, science in India will be able to fully capitalize on this unique heritage.

Best Answer: Sandhya

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Q.95) Critically analyse the reasons behind justice delivery being delayed in India and the associated effects on livelihood and polity.

Approach:

- Introduction
- Reasons behind delayed justice delivery.
- Effects on livelihood
- Effects on polity
- Measures taken

- Conclusion

Introduction:

The problem of delay in Indian judicial system is too grim. Various factors are responsible for the same.

Reasons behind delayed justice delivery:

- Pending cases- More than 30 million court cases are pending in India.
- Acute shortage of judges. A brief study says we have 13 Judges per 1 million people in our country, where as the need is of 50 Judges per 1 million people.
- Poor infrastructure- Low number of courts
- Large number of cases- Government being the biggest litigant. Frivolous PILs being filed for self-interest. Too many laws make the judicial process cumbersome resulting into large number of cases being filed.
- Poor investigation mechanism, forensic mechanism etc.
- Lack of awareness among poor and backwards regarding their rights lead to their exploitation without any justice.

Effects on livelihood:

- Long pendency of cases takes a toll on the livelihood of poor- man days lost in attending court, expenditure incurred on traveling.
- Disputes related to property, forgery when not solved on time results into mental trauma apart from loss of revenue.
- Trust deficit between the common man and government increases.
- Rise in number of cases of rape, dacoity etc can be attributed to delayed justice as there is no deterrent.

Effects on polity:

- Criminalization of politics
- Legal disputes between the governments go on for long disturbing governance.

Way ahead:

- The police reforms suggested by Supreme Court in 2006 must be implemented. Given law and order comes under state list, the state governments must take the lead.
- The political impasses between executive and the judiciary regarding judicial appointments needs to be resolved. An amicable solution can emerge only after a healthy discussion.

- The National Judicial Service Commission as highlighted by PM can be seen as a solution.
- The Lok Adalats, Fast track courts and other ADRs needs to be promoted.
- Frivolous cases under PIL should be penalised. The judiciary should avoid admitting not that important cases under special leave petition under Article 136.
- The governments- both central and states needs to resolve matter through mediation and conciliation rather than filing cases against each other. Inter-state council and similar platforms should be used to resolve long standing matters of dispute.

Conclusion:

Justice delayed is justice denied truly. Reforming judicial mechanism is the need of the hour in this light.

Best answer: Maximus

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Q.96) To solve the growing water crisis, the solution that is proposed and pushed by world bodies such as WTO and IMF through international agreements is privatisation of water. Do you think India should also privatise its water? Critically analyze.

Approach:

- Introduce by writing about given statement in the question and define water privatization
- Write about need for such step
- Write disadvantages or other issues involved
- Write Indian experience and various alternates
- Conclude suitably

Introduction: Access to safe drinking water has been recognized as a human right by UN. But due to increasing consumption patterns, water is becoming scarce and this scarcity is an emerging threat to the global population. Thus to overcome this issue, the solution proposed by world bodies such as World Bank, IMF is privatization of water.

Privatisation of water involves transferring of water control and/or water management services to private companies. The water management service may include collection, purification, distribution of water and waste water treatment in a community.

Need for privatization:

- Water is a basic need of life and even the United Nations (UN) has recognized this need as a human right. The UN World Water Report of 2006 notes that “there is enough water for everyone” and “water insufficiency is often due to mismanagement, corruption, lack of appropriate institutions, bureaucratic inertia and a shortage of investment in both human capacity and physical infrastructure”.
- The process whereby all resources not limited to water are transformed from a public good to a tradable commodity is due to economic processes at work.
- Fears over water scarcity and the need to manage water efficiently by giving it an economic value is the starting point from where privatization is pushed.
- Critics of public supply of water insisted on the state’s inability to operate efficiently and created a case for a shift towards market-based water governance.
- Privatization always focuses on Quality hence Water Upgrading Water quality will lessen the water prone diseases.
- It will reduce waste of water as Privatization will make the use of water as per need. Also it will reduce the delay in water supply.
- It will also help in reducing Government expenditure on Water officials, Water infrastructure etc.
- Additional source of govt. revenue which can be used in developmental schemes in a cyclic manner

Why privatization of water is not a good idea?

- By privatizing water and sewer systems, local government officials abdicate control over a vital public resource.
- Privatization limits public accountability. Multinational water corporations are primarily accountable to their stockholders, not to the people they serve.
- Loss of transparency. Private operators usually restrict public access to information and do not have the same level of openness as the public sector.
- The objectives of a profit-extracting water company can conflict with the public interest. Because a water corporation has different goals than a city does, it will make its decisions using a different set of criteria, often one that emphasizes profitability. This can create conflict.
- Private water companies are unlikely to adopt the same criteria as municipalities when deciding where to extend services. They are prone to cherry-picking service areas to avoid

serving low-income communities where low water use and frequent bill collection problems could hurt corporate profits.

- As a result of price hikes, service disconnections, inadequate investment and other detrimental economic consequences, water privatization often interferes with the human right to water.
- Empirical evidence indicates that there is no significant difference in efficiency between public and private water provision. In theory, competition would lead to cheaper contracts, but in practice, researchers have found that the water market is “rarely competitive.” The only competition that can exist is the competition for the contract, and there are only a few private water companies that bid to take over municipal water systems. Once a contract is awarded, the winning company enjoys a monopoly. A lack of competition can lead to excess profits and corruption in private operations.
- A survey of 10 privatization contracts found that after taking over a system, water companies reduce the workforce by 34% on average. Other surveys have found similar results.

India’s experience:

Nagpur was the first large city in India to hand over its entire water service to a private firm. Smaller experiments in privatisation in Khandwa, Mysore, and Aurangabad, among others, have followed similar trajectories. Social mobilisation against the introduction of PPP (Public-Private Partnership) projects in metros such as Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore have led to the plans being aborted.

Water services Latur were handed over to a private operator — but within a few years, the Maharashtra water supply department had to take back control after high tariffs without any improvement in water quality triggered strong protests.

What can be done?

Instead of privatizing water systems, municipalities can partner together through public-public partnerships. Public partners are more responsive, reliable and cost-effective than private water companies. Intermunicipal cooperation, interlocal agreements and bulk purchasing consortiums can improve public services and reduce costs, while allowing communities to retain local control.

Conclusion:

Because private sector focuses on profit it is important that Government’s restructure Water Utilities to reverse the infrastructural decay and improve their performance. There is a need to

have greater engagement with the public and make Water Utilities accountable and capable of delivering water services.

Best Answer: Lucifer

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