Approach:
Introduction – You can write about the relevant articles mentioned in the Indian Constitution and how Judiciary has safeguarded them with various pronouncements.
Body –
- Mention the cases wherein the Judiciary has played a significant role regarding protection of Right to Freedom of Religion.
- Also, you can write a few lines on the challenges that are lying ahead.
Conclusion – give a balanced conclusion

Introduction:
Right to freedom of religion is mentioned in article 25,26,27 and 28 of the constitution of the India. It comes under the fundamental rights in part three. Supreme court, being the guarantor and protector of fundamental rights, has the duty to address the concern for freedom of religion.

Body:
How the supreme court has addressed the concern for freedom of religion –
1. Supreme court in Hadiya case said that freedom to choose one's religion or life partner in central to Indian plurality
2. Supreme court in Indian Young Lawyer's association vs state of Kerala allowed women of age between 10 and 50 in Sabari Mala temple
3. Supreme court upheld right to convert only on the basis of individual freedom to give consent in Stanislaus vs State of MP case.
4. Supreme court held that Parsi women who married outside their community should be allowed to participate in fire temple and others
5. Inter religious marriages annulled by various non- constitutional bodies like Khappanchayat have been criticised by judiciary and upholds the Hindu marriage act for inter caste marriage.
6. Supreme court declared the practise of the triple talaq as null and void to save women from empowerment of women.
7. Supreme court allowed women to enter Haji Ali and ShaniShingnapur.
8. Supreme court regulated the use of crackers. It also banned loudspeaker in mosque and temples.
9. Supreme court also banned the practise of female genital mutilation prevalent in DawoodiBohra community.
However, many times, supreme court fails to address the concern of freedom of religion
- Supreme court could not prevent anti – Sikh riots in 1984, Anti-Hindu riots in 1990, Muzzafarpur riots and Godhra riots in 2002
- There was discontent among Muslim community when supreme court gave the verdict that mosque is not the essential part of Islam.

- In Sabarimala case also, judge InduMalhotra has dissenting verdict that court should not intervene is religious practises which are prevalent from many years.

Conclusion:

Thus through its various judgements supreme court has tried to address the concern for right to freedom of religion. Also, every decision should be taken keeping in mind the preference for constitutional morality over social morality. Only then we can achieve the truth sense of secularism as mentioned in the preamble.

Best answer – statesman 101

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Q.2) **The Supreme Court has played an important role in reinventing the Directive Principles of State Policy. Examine.**

Approach:
- Explain a line or two about what are DPSP
- In body –give examples of how SC has helped in reinventing role of DPSP
- Conclude the answer on positive note on how the reinvention has been positive

Note: The answer is not asking history of how harmony was established between DPSP and FR –so don't concentrate entire answer on this point

Introduction:

Directive principles of state policy are enumerated in part 4 of Indian constitution. DPSP along with FR contain the philosophy of the constitution and is the soul of the constitution.

Body:

The SC through its various judgements spread across years have helped in realising these directives

1. In Hindustan Machine tools case: SC said that the casual workers who were rendering services similar to regular employees of government company for a decade on daily wages should be absorbed –Advocating Art 38,39e,43

2. In MC Mehta Vs Tamil Nadu: The SC issued directions to state to see that an adult member of family whose child is in employment in a factory, mine or hazardous employment gets employment –Thereby advocating for realisation of article 39e,39f,41 and 47

3. In Unni Krishnan vs State of Andhra Pradesh: The SC held that right of education is implied by Art 21 when read in conjunction with Art 41 –There by paving path to Article 21A

4. State of Gujarat vs. MirzapurMoti: Ban on slaughter of cow was not illegal as the cow progeny was needed in interest of national economy –Art48

5. Centre for Environment law, WWF India vs Union of India- SC emphasized State as a custodian of natural resources has duty to maintain them not merely for public interest but for interest of flora and fauna –Emphasis on Art 48 A

6. Taj Trapezium Case: SC emphasised on protecting TajMahal from pollution and emphasised on its protection –This is in accordance of article 49

7. Supreme Court Advocates on record: SC emphasized on the opinion of CJI having a Primacy-Stressing on importance of Article 50

Conclusion:

Thus Supreme court has played a very important role in reinventing DPSP and working for the benefit of common man.

Note: These are just few examples of cases, there are other cases which can be added, also model answer has few unique points, please go through them.

Best answer: Aspirant123

Directive Principles of State policy (DPSPs) are the non-enforceable part of Indian Constitution, which are meant to improve overall governance in the country. Since Independence, there has been a quest to implement these principles by all pillars of government. Out of which, role of Supreme Court in re-inventing the DPSPs is commendable.

Role of Supreme Court in re-inventing DPSPs:

1. Setting harmonious relation between FRs and DPSPs: in Minerva Mills vsUoI, SC held that there is a need of balance between FRs and DPSP, neither of two can be disregarding in quest of implementing other.

2. Enforcing environmental safety: SC has played an important role in enforcing the environmental safety rules. For Example: banning crackers, setting up EPCA for controlling pollution, setting up of CAMPA.

3. Protection of monuments: SC, time and again has enforced the protection of monuments and safety of the place of national importance. For Example: taking cognisance of TAJ degradation and summoning governments.

4. Prohibiting illegal cow slaughtering across India, which in a way is enforcement of Article 48 of the Constitution.

5. Promotion of rights of people from weaker section: in Pavement Dwellers case, Sc held that alternate rehabilitations is mandatory for the slum dwellers in case of eviction of dwellings.

So, Supreme Court has played an important role in enforcing the DPSPs, which are otherwise neglected by the other two pillars of the government. However, in some case, SC has also not followed the spirit of the DPSPs.

1. Violation of principle of separation of power: under Article 50 of the Constitution, principle of SOP is mentioned. however, it has not been respected by SC in several instances. For example: Setting up parallel executive wing of CPCB in form of EPCA etc.

Thus, DPSPs have been playing important role in Indian democratic republic. After 70 years of Independence, we are striving to fulfil the dreams of our forefathers in form

of implementation of DPSPs. Thus, it becomes important that all pillars of government i.e. Executive, Legislative and judiciary should act in tandem.

PSR:

The Directive principles of state policy(DPSPs), the non-justiciable part of the constitution are guidelines for the government to maintain its welfare nature. The government in its acts, schemes and policies implement the spirit of DPSPs. The Supreme court through verdicts and directions has also re-invented the utility of DPSPs.

Role of the supreme court:

1. Evolution in the stand of supreme court from the Golaknath case (1967) to the Minerva Mills case (1980), where it set a harmony between FRs and DPSPs. This ensures that DPSPs can be implemented by amending FRs but should not change the basic structure.

2. In Unni Krishnan case (1993), supreme court held that right to education is part of article 21 and must be interpreted in light of DPSPs contained in Articles 41,45 and 46. consequently 86th amendment Act was passed.

3. Enforcing article 48 of DPSP to protect the environment by setting up EPCA to control pollution, banning crackers during festive season and string up compulsory afforestation fund (CAMPA).

4. IN THE AADHAR CASE, the Supreme Court maintained that Aadhaar can be used for minimising inequalities in income as directed by article 38.

5. In RajooRamakantvs state of MP case, Supreme Court held that free legal aid to poor's is provided as mentioned in Article 39A.

6. Protection of monuments of national importance as given in Article49: recently supreme court has taken the issue of TajMahal protection and has summoned state government to protect the very monument.

7. In occupational health vs UOI case (2014) and mcd vs female workers case the supreme court held that health of workers humane conditions be maintained as mandated by article39 and 42.

In this way, supreme court from time to time has explored the possibility of implementing DPSPs as part of its decision and verdict.

Q.3) Examine the economic implications of soil erosion in India. Also discuss the ways that can address soil erosion.

Approach:

Introduction – You can write about mentioning what is soil and what is soil erosion. You can also mention about any data of soil erosion in India.

Body –

• Write about economic implication of soil erosion in India

• Write the methods to check soil erosion.

Conclusion – write suitable conclusion.

Introduction:
Soil is the top layer of earth surface made up of organic and inorganic materials. Soil erosion is movement of soil from one place to another due to wind, water or some other erosion agents. According to a 2015 report of Indian institute of remote sensing, the estimated amount of soil erosion that occurred in India was 147 million hectares.

Body
Economic effects of soil erosion
- More budget allocation – Due to soil erosion, there is more budget allocation by focussing on soil health card scheme.
- GDP losses due to reduced productivity – Every year India loses 68 billion rupees due to soil erosion.
- Hike in food prices commodity – This happens because of less yield
- Decrease in farmer income – soil erosion leads to less yield which in turn leads to decrease in farmer's income
- Imbalance in fiscal deficit – Decrease in farmer's income yield to loan waiver for them which in turn create fiscal deficit for government.
- Soil erosion reduces fertility of soil so agriculture production reduced. It will increase hunger and poverty . With increased hunger and poverty government spending on health need to be increased. Otherwise fund can be utilised somewhere else.
- Large scale soil erosion may lead to ravine topography like Chambal river and land becomes waste land.
- Due to soil erosion top layer organic matter is lost so water holding capacity of soil is reduced. It may lead to reduced water table.

Ways to address the soil erosion
- Careful tilling – Since tilling destroys the top soil, so less tilling will preserve this
- Mulching – It increases humus in the soil, which preserve the soil erosion
- Contour bunding and tillage – Terrace farming with contour bunding is useful for marginal sloping lands.
- Proper irrigation technique- sprinkling etc. Can save the soil erosion
- Shelter belts – these reduce wind speed and prevent soil erosion.
- Afforestation – Tree roots bind with the soil which in turn reduces soil erosion.
- Check over grazing – since due to over – grazing normally top soil is lost. Thus this will help in preventing soil erosion.
- Increasing mangrove cover to prevent soil erosion in coastal regions.

Conclusion
According to report of national centre for coastal research, India lost one – third of its coastline due to soil erosion. Various government initiative like Vanotsva, soil health card are steps in right direction to save the gift of nature

Best Answer – Ram

Soil is top layer of earth surface made of organic and inorganic materials. Soil erosion is movement of soil from one place to another due to wind, water or some other erosion agents.

Economic effect of soil erosion:-

1. Soil erosion reduces fertility of soil so agriculture production reduced. It will increase hunger and poverty one of the SDG to be achieved by 2030 will be missed.

   2. With increased hunger and poverty govt spending on health need to be increased. Otherwise fund can be utilised somewhere else.

2. Around 50% of population engaged in agriculture related activities so will have negative effect on other economic activities like farm related machinery, seed industries etc.

3. spending capacity of farmers reduced so may lead to unemployment in other sectors.

   5.large scale soil erosion may lead to ravine topography like Chambal river and land becomes waste land.

6.Due to soil erosion top layer organic matter is lost so water holding capacity of soil is reduced. It may lead to reduced water table.

Methods to address soil erosion.

1.To stop man made soil erosion: –

1.1 stop deforestation and increase forest cover.

1.2 stop over grazing

1.3 stop illegal activities like mining in eco-sensitive regions.

1.4 planned urbanisation so that water drained through proper channels instead of eroding soil of surrounding fields.

2. To stop natural soil erosion: –

2.1 control floods in hilly regions by building check dams.

2.2 adopting step farming in sloppy areas.

2.3 increasing mangrove cover to prevent soil erosion in coastal regions.

2.4 after harvesting cover top layer by grass to avoid erosion by wind.

As India is still a developing country with huge dependence on agriculture. According to multi poverty index one third of its population is still below poverty line. So to ensure food security and raise living standard soil must be conserved.

Q.4) What are gene-pool centres? Why is it important to preserve the gene pool? Discuss.

The combination of all the genes present in a given population is called the gene pool of that population. It represents the complete genetic diversity found within a population or species.

Gene pool centres refers to areas on the earth where important crop plants and domestic animals originated. They have an extraordinary range of the wild counterparts of cultivated plant species and useful tropical plants. Gene pool centres also contain different sub-tropical and temperate region species

Major Gene Centres:

1) Mediterranean Gene Centre: Existed around 4000BC

2) South American Gene Centre: Domestication of Plants seems to have taken place around 7000-3000BC

3) South West and Middle East: Evidence show plant domestication to have taken place during 8000-6000 BC

4) African Gene Centre: Primarily around Nile River –Plants and Animals were domesticated around 5000 BC

5) South American and Central American –Developed around 3500 BC

6) Indian Gene centre:

1.   A) Indus

2.   B) South Asian: Includes Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

7) Central Asian Gene centre: Developed around 4000BC-3000BC

8) East Asia Gene centres: Develop around 6000-5000 BC

Importance of preserving Gene Pool:

- Gene pool represents the total number of genes found within a population, those populations with larger gene pools tend to have more genes, and hence, more genetic diversity. Each gene has a specific purpose, such as giving the plant/animal a particular characteristic, resistance to a disease, tolerance to harsh climate, and so on. Therefore, a population with a larger genetic diversity will be better prepared to deal with disease outbreaks or extreme environmental changes, because they will, most likely, have those genes that protect them from such adverse changes. On the other hand, populations with a lesser number of genes in their gene pool will be susceptible to such problems, which may cause them to become endangered or even perish altogether, i.e., become extinct. Therefore, populations with a large gene pool will have more chances of survival, while those with small gene pools are in danger of acquiring genetic diseases, deformities, and infertility.

- FAO estimates that in the last century, about 75 percent of crop genetic diversity was lost as farmers worldwide switched to genetically uniform, high-yielding varieties and abandoned multiple local varieties.

Having recourse to genetic material is however essential to adapt and improve agriculture in the face of threats, such as diseases or warming climate that can alter growing conditions. For example, a variety of Turkish wheat, collected and stored in a seed gene bank in 1948, was rediscovered in the 1980s, when it was found to carry genes resistant to many types of disease-causing fungi. Plant breeders now use those genes to develop wheat varieties that are resistant to a range of diseases.

Medicine: Many medicines are obtained from plants/animal sources like Neem oil, Quinine from Cinchona tress to prevent Malaria.

Thus gene pool conservation is important for sustainable development.

Best Answer: ShravyaByri

Q.5) What is environmental ethics. Is it possible for a common man to adhere to its principles? Examine.

Introduction

Environmental Ethics is the applied branch of ethics. It incorporates environmental concerns in ethical behavior. It extends the realm of ethics from purely anthropocentric view to a more comprehensive view comprising of holistic care of the nature.

BODY

It is important that the responsibility of using the ethical behavior is not just at the level of the government. It does not remain in theory but common people as well shoulder the responsibility towards the environment.

Environmental Ethics believes that humans are a part of the society as well as other living creatures, which includes different plants, animals. With the changing dynamics of the world, with increasing brunt of the environmental hazards on the humans, it becomes very important for the humans to pay heed to the Environment and deal ethically with the issues of the environment.

However, in the neoliberal society a delinking has been seen between the Environment and humans. Humans have potentially abused and degraded the environment due to the following reasons-

• For developmental activities like –construction of roads, building of factories, For building large dams, expanding area of human habitation.

• For basic needs- such as food, clothing and shelter

• To make the economy sustain, to compete better with the world by exploring the national resources of the particular country.

It is imperative the common people are in sync with the efforts at the global and at the level of Central and state government and contribute to the preservation of the environment, for the following reasons-

• Increasing levels of Pollution.

• Degrading Standard of Life.

• Increasing dangers related to global warming and climate change.

• New dynamic issues like Environmental Refugees.

Though, it is of utmost importance and it is considered to be the need of the hour, it may not be possible for a common man to comply & adhere to the principles of Environmental Ethics due to the following issues-

• Poor people have no other option than burning fossil fuel for cooking, as it is vital for their survival.

• Most of the poor people are dependent on the forest resources for their survival like wood, food etc.

- Still many tribes are dependent on hunting and gathering, that is their only mode of survival.
- Natural Resources of the environment are the only sources of income for the people who otherwise don't have enough employable skills.

Conclusion

Thus, it is imperative that education about Environmental Ethics is spread to the common people. They are made to understand the importance of the Environment, the degrading nature of the environment and the effect of the same on the humans . Also, it is important to balance with the essentials of the ones who are most vulnerable.

Best answer: Aaditya

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Q.6) Is it ethical to build a statue costing the exchequer millions of dollars in a country where more than 20% of the population lives below the poverty line? Critically comment.

Answer:

Sardar Patel statue was recently inaugurated on Oct 31st by Prime Minister of India. The expenditure on the statue has ignited a debate among critics whether India needs to spend such amounts for construction of statue when more than 20%of its population is below poverty line

Arguments in favour of statue construction

1. It will help boost tourism as people learn more about leaders who have contributed immensely in the development of nation.
2. Help in development of area in and around the statue and will generate employment for people and promote local culture too.
3. Develop a sense of pride among Indians.

However, the construction of statues has been in for criticism too

1) Environmental Concerns: Sardar statue is built on a remote island and environmentalist have criticised its sustainability.

2) Displacement of tribes: Many tribes were displaced and they have been vehemently opposing the construction.

3) India has been ranked abysmally low in Global Hunger Index –there is an urgent need to provide food and health care to people over expenditure on statues.

The need is to balance spending in statue construction which will have long term benefits over challenges faced continuously like Hunger and poverty.

Q.7)Can you suggest few measures that would help local governing bodies mobilise finances to supplement the grants received by the state governments?

Introduction:
73rd and 74th constitutional amendments acts gave constitutional status to Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI's) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB's). Aim of these acts was to devolve powers and responsibilities to PRIs with respect to preparation and implementation of plans and schemes for socio-economic development and social justice.

Body:
Financial resources play vital role in steering local government activities. Local bodies in our country receive funds in the following ways:

• Grants from the Union Government based on the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission as per Article 280 of the Constitution.

• Devolution from the State Government based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission as per Article 243I.

• Loans/grants from the State Government.

• Programme-specific allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional Central Assistance.

• Internal Resource Generation (tax and non-tax).

Across the country, States have not given adequate attention to fiscal empowerment of the Panchayats.

• Panchayats are heavily dependent on government grants. Economic survey 2018 points out that rural local government reliance on their own resources is just 6%.

• Internal resource generation at the Panchayat level is weak. This is partly due to a thin tax domain, low capacity for mobilization of existing resources and partly due to Panchayat's own reluctance in collecting revenue.

• A major portion of the grants both from Union as well as the State Governments is scheme specific hence, in the nature of 'tied' resources.

• States not even constituting state finance commission at the end of 5years.

Following are few of the measures to help local bodies mobilise additional financial resources.

• Devolving more taxation powers.

• Encouraging municipal bonds. Credit rating of cities and towns is a step in the right direction for issuing Municipal Bonds for mobilization of resources.

- Review of property tax system which suffers from undervaluation; non-availability of database of properties; low rates; low collection efficiency and lack of indexation of property values. Use of Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Improve efficiency and transparency in collection and mobilization of resources. Use of ICT system.
- There is also a need to explore alternative sources of revenue generation by the municipalities such as entertainment tax, mobile towers, user charges for solid waste, water, parking, value capture financing and monetization of infrastructural facilities like parks, roads.
- Laying down rules for sharing GST revenue between states and local bodies.
- Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in infrastructural projects.

Conclusion:
It is necessary to reduce local bodies from being at the mercy of the upper two tiers for finances to effectively discharge their responsibilities to achieve socio-economic development at the grass root level.

Best answer: Abhiroop
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Q.8) How does devolution of administrative and financial powers give democracy its true meaning? Illustrate by taking suitable examples.

Approach
Introduction – You can write about the meaning of devolution and also link democracy to it.
Body – Divide it in two parts. In first part write about how administrative devolution of power gives democracy it true meaning. In second part, write the same about financial devolution of power.
Conclusion – Give a suitable and apt conclusion.

Introduction
Devolution is the decentralisation of the powers, authorities which are concentrated in the hands of central authority. Indian constitution not only supports devolution of power but also promotes it. Democracy, which is the basic feature of preamble, also reflect by the devolution of power.

Body
Devolution of administrative powers

- Self-governing rights to religious denominations show the true meaning of democracy as it provides them with freedom to religion.

- With the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, there can be enhanced participatory democracy. This is because more administrative powers are given to panchayats and municipalities
- As we have seen that devolution of powers brings better participation, it also gives better results.

For example, Nagaland communitization scheme where locals monitor schools, hospital etc.

The success of this is unprecedented.

1. Social audit increases transparency and accountability, thus promotes democracy.

For eg: Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, where social audit is prevalent in every scheme, it provides better well–being to people living there.

Devolution of financial powers

- With inclusion as the aim, participation of people in the financial sector need power to be given in their hands regarding their own resources.

For eg: PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana created a true democracy by opening everyone's account and in turn, it provided financial inclusion.

- In self-help groups, financial powers are devolved to each member. It brings efficiency which brings democracy at grassroots
- The grants provided to panchayats also shows democracy because it is spent according to the local needs
- The collaboration of post and bank in form of IPPB which is also type of financial devolution from banks (which are mostly in cities) to villages

Conclusion

Thus we find that devolution of power brings democracy from top-down to bottom-up. Devolution brings application of democracy thus giving democracy its true meaning.

Best answer – Rahul

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Q.9) What significance does alternative dispute resolution hold in India? Explain by taking suitable examples.

Introduction:

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) encompasses a range of means like Mediation, Arbitration, Conciliation to resolve conflicts outside formal court system.

Body:

Experiment with ADR's was initiated with the passing of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 which provided for establishing LokAdalats. In 2002, Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code was modified to incorporate conciliation, mediation and pre-trial settlement methodologies for prompt and inexpensive resolution of disputes.

The different mechanisms formed in India are Gram Sabha, NyayaPanchayat, LokAdalat, Family Court, Commission of Inquiry, Tribunals, Consumer Court, Indian Legislation on ADR, etc.

Significance of ADR's:
- Reduce workload on the courts given that today about 3.3 crore cases are pending in Indian courts (National Judicial Data Grid data).
- Speedy disposal of cases thus timely justice by avoiding procedural delays associated with formal court system and thus fulfil fundamental right of speedy trial part of Article 21.
- Access to justice is improved as cost and time of litigation comes down thus duty of providing free legal aid to poor is met (39A).
- Saves common man from complex and adverse judicial process.
- ADR process offers confidentiality. Help preserve important social relationships for disputants especially in civil matters like divorce.
- To promote governance. Ex: Administrative Tribunals, National Company Law Tribunal, National Green Tribunal and others.

Example:
LokAdalats is one of the Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in India, it is a forum where cases pending or at pre litigation stage in a court of law are settled.
Advantages:
- Speedy justice as it can be conducted at suitable places, arranged very fast, in local language too, even for the illiterates.
- Saves from lengthy court procedure. The procedural laws and evidence act are not strictly followed.
- Parties do not have to bear any expenses.
- Helps in solving problems of backlog cases.
Issues related to ADR's: lack of manpower, lack of experts, arbitrary procedure, appeals to regular courts.

Conclusion:
Today it has become an international phenomenon to resolve commercial disputes through arbitration and not through normal judicial system. Majority of the persons do not want to become involved in lawsuits due to delays, high costs, unwanted publicity. ADR's provide best solution to these concerns. Hence, there is strong case to further strengthen ADR mechanisms in India (B.N.Srikrishna Committee recommendations).

Q.10) How do constitutional bodies help in ensuring accountability of the Government? Discuss.

Approach –
Introduction – you can write about the what are the constitutional bodies
Body – you can divide how various constitutional bodies help in maintaining various type of accountability like financial accountability social accountability etc.
Conclusion – write an apt conclusion

Introduction –
Constitutional bodies are those bodies which are mentioned in the constitution and receive their power and authority from the constitution. For eg. UPSC, CAG etc.
They are vested with such important responsibility and function which helps them in ensuring the accountability.

Body –
They help in ensuring accountability in following ways:
1. Financial accountability –
   o The finance commission (article 280) takes control of distribution of finance between centre and the states.
   o Comptroller and auditor general, CAG (article 148) is the "guardian of the public purse" and controls the entire financial system of the country.
2. Bureaucratic accountability –
   o UPSC and State PSC is responsible for selecting and conducting exams for top bureaucrat of the country.
3. Administrative accountability – It is upheld by setting up tribunals under article 323 A and article 323 B.
4. Political accountability – This is ensured by bodies such as election commission under article 324 by ensuring free and fair election.
5. Social accountability – This is ensured by bodies such as national commission on schedule class and schedule tribe through social empowerment of backward section under article 338 and article 338 A.
6. Judicial accountability – To ensure that the government performs their duties under ambit of law of the country, Attorney general of India (article 76) has been advising the government for smooth governance.

However, there are some challenges also associated with these bodies:

1. Some bodies are pure advisory in nature such as national commission on schedule caste and tribe which makes them toothless tiger.
2. Poor human resource management
3. Government interference
4. Politicization of these bodies
5. Vacancy of the posts

Conclusion –
Constitutional bodies are said to be of utmost importance in maintaining accountability but due to certain issues as mentioned previously, they are not able to function to their fullest potential. If these issues are addressed on war footing, then they can achieve their goal as stipulated.

Best answer- Aspirant 123
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Q.11) What are various resource management strategies? Discuss.

Introduction:
With increasing population pressure, climate change, development that is based on intensive use of resources, there is threat of resource scarcity in the world. In such scenario, resource management which aims at optimum utilization of resources keeping in mind needs of present and future generation assumes significance.

Body:
Resources:
• Natural: Land, water, air, forests, wildlife, mineral resources.
• Human resource.
• Financial resource.
Following are few of the strategies employed in resource management.
Technology:
• To Map available resources.
• Enhancing productivity of available agricultural land.
Ex: Green revolution- High Yielding Variety (HYV) of seeds and chemical fertilizers.
• Judicious utilization of resources.
Ex: drip and sprinkler irrigation methods, precision farming.
• Diversify energy resources. Ex: solar energy, waste to energy.
• Food processing technology to minimize loss of agricultural produce.
Decentralized approach:
• Today when construction of multipurpose dams is scientifically discredited, decentralized water conservation strategies are gaining currency.

- Focus on the development of MSME's, which are well distributed throughout the country-decentralised approach to development.
- Social forestry through involvement of common people.

Regional planning:
- Establishment of industries where raw materials are available. Ex: steel plants in Jharkhand. This would help to better channelize limited economic resources.
- Agro- climatic classification to ensure optimum return from agriculture. Ex: emphasis to grow fodder crops in arid regions.

Conservation:
- Conservation of ecosystems and wildlife through protected areas. Ex: Wildlife Protection Act, Biological Diversity Act.
- International efforts to protect environment. Ex: Various conventions of UN on climate change (UNFCC), biodiversity (UNCBD), MAB program and others.
- Conservation of soil through afforestation, organic farming.

(NOTE: you can also list conservation methods for various natural resources)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:
- Switching to need based lifestyle to avoid excess consumption of finite resources.
- Recycling and re-usage would also help.

Human resource:
- Regulating population growth. Ex: family planning programmes.
- Development of human capital by broadening access and opportunities in education, health and skills.

Conclusion:
Thus, overall thrust of strategies is to conserve available resources; their efficient usage; finding alternatives and involving communities in their management so as to ensure sustainable development.

Best answer: Rahul
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Q.12) What is social forestry? Examine its potential as a measure of sustainable rural development.

Approach –
Introduction – you can mention what is social forestry.
Body – write about different potential like ecological potential , environment potential , social potential etc.
Conclusion – write a suitable futuristic conclusion.

Introduction –

Social forestry means the management and protection of forest and afforestation of barren and deforested lands with the purpose of helping environmental, social and rural development. The term, social forestry, was first used in 1976 by The National Commission on Agriculture, government of India.

Body –

Social forestry is one of the effective techniques to achieve sustainable rural development in following ways –

1. Environment development –
    o   It uses waste land and degraded land thus helps in reducing the pressure on natural forests.
    o   Increases recreational beauty of rural areas
    o   Also make the agricultural land more resilient to climate change
    o   This also act as carbon – sink.
2. Economic development –
    o   The local needs of timber, firewood and fodders are met.
    o   These forests also provide employment opportunities and increased productivity of agriculture.
    o   Practises like horticulture and organic farming can be also undertaken which are quite prevalent these days
3. Social development – Since social forestry is done on rural lands, the whole village is involved. Women, children and villagers participate in planting trees and farmers provide with technical know–how. Thus participation of different rural communities provides social cohesion.
4. Behavioural development – Through various programmes rural people are made aware about the importance of trees. The mindless use of forests will lead to change in quality of life. For eg: Van mahotsav.
5. Energy security – Biofuel, biogas and other sources of renewable energy can be extracted out of social forestry

Conclusion –

Thus social forestry not only helps rural people socially but also help in achieving the vision of PM to double the income of farmer by 2022. This not only makes village prosperous but also helps in achieving sustainable development for future generation.

Best answer – mogambo31
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Examine the locational pattern of heavy industries in India. Take suitable examples.

Introduction:

Industries, which use heavy and bulky raw materials and produce products of the same category, are called heavy industries. Heavy industries include Oil, mining, shipbuilding, steel, chemicals, machinery manufacturing and others.

They are very capital-intensive and often sell their products to other industries rather than to end users and consumers.

Body:

Locational pattern of heavy industries in India are influenced by number of factors
Geographical: availability of raw materials, power resources, water, labour, markets and the transport facilities.

Non-Geographical: Government Policies, Industrial Inertia, presence of facilities like Banking and Insurance.

Examples:

1. a) Iron and steel industries:

The iron and steel industry uses large quantity of heavy and weight-losing raw materials, such as iron ore, coking coal and limestone. On the basis of the minimum cost of transportation, the steel plants can be located at three possible places, viz.,

*   Near the coalfields
*   Near iron-ore mining areas and
*   At places between coal and iron ore producing areas.

Taking these factors into account, most of the steel plants in India are located in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. All these states are rich in coal and iron ore reserves. Ex: TISCO, Durgapur steel plant.

The other raw materials like manganese, limestone, dolomite, chromite, silica, scrap iron, are needed in small quantities and can be transported easily from other places.

b) Ship building industry:

Availability of steel and coastal land play important role in the location of ship building industry. In India, Four major ship building centres are located at Vishakhapatnam, Kolkata, Kochi and Mumbai.

*   Vishakhapatnam itself has steel industry and Kolkata is well connected with steel industries of Jharkhand and WB.
*   flat/level coastal land is available.
*   Rich hinterland with excellent railroad connectivity for transport of labor and ancillary components
*   Indigenous demand from ONGC, for offshore platforms, drilling rigs and steel jackets and from Indian Navy and Coast guards.

c)Petrochemical industries: are located at coastal regions. Ports help in import of crude oil and export of end products.

*   Mumbai is the hub of the petrochemical industries.
*   Jamnagar, Gandhinagar and Hajira in Gujarat.

In most cases locational pattern of heavy industries depends on combination of above factors. With most factors varying in time and space, industries are unevenly distributed.

Best answer: NKY
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Q.14) Why are so many start up companies located in the Silicon Valley? Examine.

Approach
Introduction – you can write about the location of Silicon Valley.
Body –write about what makes Silicon Valley a destination choice for tech start – ups like skilled labours like the preferable laws, better chances of getting funding etc.
Conclusion – write a suitable conclusion

Introduction
Silicon Valley is the nick name for northern California area in US. It derives its name from large number of software and hardware companies based there primarily working on silicon chips. Indian Silicon Valley is also known as Bengaluru.

Body
The reason being so many start-ups companies located in Silicon Valley is as follows –

1. **Closer relationship between academia, the private sector, and government**
These 3 powerful sectors converge together to create an environment that's unlike any other in the world. With Stanford University and Berkeley at the epicentre of the valley, there's a permanent flow of new entrepreneurs and talented tech specialists being minted each year. When one takes into account all of these factors – and then integrate them with the fact that launching a business is fairly easy under California law, including the fact that non-compete agreements are void in the state – one can see why businesses get started and thrive in Silicon Valley.

2. **Great number of wealthy investors and funding institutions**
The amount of both personal and institutional wealth in the valley makes it the best location for business growth. There are thousands of reach investors in the area who organize as angel investors and venture capitalists, looking to invest their money to work instead of paying hefty taxes on earnings to the U.S. government annually. As a result, they want to pour funds into a variety of different businesses, with the hope that a handful will return high dividends in the following years.

3. **Availability of amenities**
The amazing access to attractive business amenities in the area is also worth mentioning. The valley itself and nearby San Francisco (where many young techies

make their homes) have tons of amenities that make the Bay Area an attractive destination for investors, conventions, and more. These amenities include world-class hotels at surprisingly fair prices, large conference centres, some of the world's most highly-rated restaurants, famous sports teams and lots of entertainment options.

4. **Encouragement from past success stories**

Much of Silicon Valley's present success is rooted in the incredible past success stories. As both an entrepreneur or investor, there's something about being surrounded by success stories that contribute to imagining future victories for beginners. It's as if the accomplishments of past entrepreneurs makes the thought of obtaining great results further down the road, that much more palpable.

5. **Joint industry strength –** presence of various types of industries in close proximity give a combined support .

6. Climate – climate is very pleasant which always attract the capital and work force. For eg – it is never sub-zero like New York, Chicago , same thing with the Bangalore.

Challenges of silicon valley

1. Immigration
2. Various security threats
3. Environmental degradation
4. Loss of local culture and identity

Conclusion

In present era, though innovation is no longer geographically centred, start-ups are still concentrated in limited pockets. A free and slightly supporting environment can create more no of Silicon Valley's across globe.

Best answer – Mahismati

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Q.15)Have schools these days become mechanical and imparting knowledge sans morality?

Introduction:

School is a place that provides education and education is the key to life. Schools prepare us for life through exposure to activities, ideas, and fields of knowledge that one might never encounter otherwise.

Body:

Today it is criticised that schools have become mechanical and impart knowledge that lacks morality, which is illustrated below.

Mechanical:
- Children's education has been reduced to mere numbers. Race for marks leading to malpractices in exams.
- No actual teacher-student bondage. While teachers are busy completing syllabus, students are busy completing assignments. In such scenario, potential of children is hardly recognized.
- Curriculum that hardly promotes holistic development. Students are emotionally too weak to deal with the realities of life. Ex: suicides due to lower grades, falling prey to online games.
- Education is just seen as a means to earn (students-job, institutes-business).

Knowledge without morality:

Mere accumulation of knowledge is not enough. One has to be inculcated values that contribute positively to the growth of individual and society as a whole. As the saying goes, ''To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society" without value based education, education is only going to create a clever devil. Today, number of examples show moral foundation of students is not strong enough like

- Increasing crimes by Juveniles (lack of ability to comprehend consequences).
- Student attacking teacher (lack of respect) and student attacking other student just to postpone exams (least value to 'life').

Events like Private schools' reluctance to admit students from economically weaker sections (EWS) and Incidents of sexual harassment further send wrong message to children.

Conclusion:
As swami Vivekananda says "We want the education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet". Schools have significant role to play to realise this end.

Best answer: treadmill7
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21ea2ecb2bdcb6a0900f674f29e2.jpg
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7cd0ab5f8e9c7bdec2cde3abefe.jpg

Q.16) The #metoo campaign is a reflection moral decline of Indian society. Comment.

Introduction
#MeToo is a movement which was initiated in 2006 by a social activist Tarana Burke against the dire concern of the masses on the matter of sexual abuse and harassment in America. It gain momentum in 2017 with twitter hashtag. Now it is global phenomena.

Body

India is experiencing second wave of #metoo movement. In it, several high profile people like journalist turned politician M.J. Akbar, actor Nana Patekar are facing harassment charges, also with the retrospective effect. By looking such scenario, it can be said that it reflects moral decline of society in following ways

1. Patriarchy – it shows patriarchal nature of the society where women took so long to come out and confront about abuse
2. Inequality – It shows the level of inequality present in society everywhere be it home or workplace.
3. Intolerance – Man dominated society cannot tolerate women to move forward. So men harass women to make them feel down.
4. Negligence attitude – Societal acceptance of laws such as Harassment of women at workplace is still negligible which in turn culminates into administrative failures.

Although, there are the contradiction to it also in following ways –

1. Support of men – Not only women but men also came forward to show solidarity. For eg actor Amir Khan exiting from SubhashGhai's film following molestation charges against him.
2. Attitudinal change of women – Now next generation of women will not grow up with the belief that sexual harassment is the price that they have to pay for becoming a part of work force.
3. Coverage limited to upper strata – Since lower strata of women was not covered so giving such a statement would be quite far-fetched.

Conclusion

Gone are the days when social reformer like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Ram Mohan Rai fought for the women rights. Now women herself taking charges and coming forward to overcome patriarchy and societal attitude through their firm stand on these issues. Even government's stand like dedicated e-mail id in this regard is highly commendable. This will also help us achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 of women participation in workforce.

Best answer : shilpi

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Q.17)With the help of suitable examples, illustrate the system of various committees in the Parliament.

Approach:

- Keywords in this question are "illustrate" and "Examples". Here in this question, we simply have to write about parliamentary committees and their function. It should be written in a way that system of their functioning with respect to parliament should be clear from our answer.
- In introduction, we can introduce why parliamentary committees are required.
- In conclusion we can mention the significance of this system.
- No need of criticism, because demand of question is to simply illustrate with example.

Introduction
- The Parliament is a massive body to deliberate effectively all the issues that come up before it.
- It has neither the adequate time nor necessary expertise to make a detailed scrutiny of all legislative measures and other matters.
- Therefore, there are a number of committees that help in complex functions of the Parliament.

Body
- In the Constitution of India, there is mention of committees but any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc are not given in constitution.
- All these matters are dealt by the rules of two Houses.

A parliamentary committee means a committee that:
1. Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker / Chairman
2. Works under the direction of the Speaker / Chairman
3. Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker / Chairman
4. Has a secretariat provided by the LokSabha / RajyaSabha

Method of appointment:
- The members of almost all standing committees are elected by the Parliament (respective house) every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Thus, all parties get due representation in it.
- A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee.
- The chairman of the committee is appointed from amongst its members by the Speaker.

Classification
Parliamentary committees are of two kinds—Standing Committees (Permanent; constituted every year or periodically) and Ad Hoc Committees (temporary; cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them).
Public Accounts Committee

- It is an example of standing committee, currently consisting of 22 members (15 from the LokSabha and 7 from the RajyaSabha).
- The function of the committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- The committee examines public expenditure not only from legal and formal point of view to discover technical irregularities but also from the point of view of economy, prudence, wisdom and propriety to bring out the cases of waste, loss, corruption, extravagance, inefficiency and nugatory expenses.

Estimates Committee
- It is also an example of standing committee.
- All the thirty members are from LokSabha only. The RajyaSabha has no representation in this committee.
- The function of the committee is to examine the estimates included in the budget and suggest 'economies' in public expenditure.

Committee on Public Undertakings
- It is a standing committee; consist of 22 members (15 from the LokSabha and 7 from the RajyaSabha).
- The function of the committee is to examine the reports, accounts and all other matters of public undertakings.

Other than these, there are many departmental standing committees (such as Committee on Labour, Committee on Railways, etc.) and committees to inquire (such as Committee on Petitions, Ethics Committee, etc.)

Conclusion:
- In parliamentary committees all the parties get representation. The procedure of formation of parliamentary committee and its functions make this set up more democratic.
- Those members who cannot express their views and concerns in massive body of the house, can perform effectively in smaller committees.
- This system of parliamentary committees makes the legislative process speedy and unbiased.

Best Answer: Sakshi
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Q.18) What reasons would you attribute to the decline of parliamentary standards? Can you suggest some remedies?

Introduction:

In recent times, as highlighted by studies of ADR and PRS, the efficiency of parliament has declined. Parliament is meeting of as little as 70-80 days a year. Its sessions are crippled with disrupt, noise and fruitless discussions. Parliamentary committees have become susceptible to party based politics. Passive parliament has given way to Judicial activism.

Body:
Some reasons for this decline are:
- The ethical standards of legislators have declined. Concern for the country and the sense of responsibility is declining day by day.
- Reduced number of days of sitting often causes insufficient time allocation for many sensitive and worthy issues.
- Controversial actions by ruling party – ordinances, redefining bills as money bills –too invoke ire of opposition.
- 31% of MPs in current LokSabha are from criminal background such leaders erodes the moral authority of the parliament.
- Frequent elections motivate parties to do unjustified criticism on the floor.
- Lack of subject expertise to parliamentarians resulting in delegated legislation and bureaucratization.
- Anti-defection and order of whip are preventing from free discussions.
- Misuse of parliamentary privileges.

Remedial measures:
- Number of days of sittings should be increased. NCRWC has recommended fixing number of working days to Loksabha-120 and Rajyasabha-100.
- Monetary penalties for indiscipline.
- Powers of ethics committees should be increased.
- Speaker and Chairman should be given more teeth to curb indiscipline.
- Need to evolve Code of conduct for parliamentarians.
- Codification of parliamentary privileges.
- As recommended by 2nd ARC, power to disqualify members of parliament for defection should be vested with President guided by the advice of Election Commission.

Conclusion:
With number of issues plaguing parliament, implementing above measures is necessary to protect its dignity.

Best answer: Mugiwara
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92e43437bd8835d5459c082783a.jpg
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b808d30b8854c3a27b09fe2296.jpg

Approach:

- In this question, a statement about "judiciary" as a system is given. Recently, with various incidents and judgments, judiciary became a hot topic in political debates. The question is very wide; it will include all those events and incidents which tangled the judiciary into political narrative. Ranging from, judicial appointments, judicial activism, overreach, to politicization of judgments such as Sabrimala or forthcoming Ram Mandir verdict.

- Answer should be balanced, try to include maximum dimensions to show the tangled judiciary. One sided answer, such as focus on judicial activism, or such other one aspect won't be sufficient. Conclude with your opinion.

Introduction

- Judiciary, particularly Supreme Court of India, is one of the bulwarks of Indian democracy.

- Article 142 of the constitution gives widest powers to SC, due to which SC has taken many important matters in its hands.

- But recently, there occurred some incidences which tangled the judiciary into political narrative.

Body

Judicial appointments:

- As per the appointment procedure mentioned in the constitution (Article 124), consultation with Supreme Court and High Court judges is required for appointment of judges to Supreme Court.

- But recently, in an appointment of a Supreme Court judge, there was political rejection to the suggested names given by judiciary.

Judicial activism or overreach OR judicial legislation:

- Liquor ban on highways, pronouncements related to fire crackers, amendment to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 etc. are some of the examples of judicial legislation, which created political debates over role of judiciary.

Judgments on cultural and religious customs and practices:

- Sabrimala judgment is classic example of political narration of judiciary. Even though judgment is in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, it has been politicized unnecessarily.

- Another such example is of forthcoming Babri masjid- Ram mandir case hearing. By discussing the ongoing case in public, politicians are making the situation complex for judiciary.

Judges versus judges:

- Administrative issues of the court, which should be resolved between themselves was politicised by bringing them to media.
- Another example is; selection of the bench for hearing of the cases and master of the roaster issue.

These mentioned examples are related to Supreme Court, similarly there are such many and varied examples (including from High Courts and lower courts) which unnecessarily entangled the Indian judiciary in political narrative. But there is other side of the coin too, where judiciary handled critical cases with minimum political uproar. Some of them are;

- Struck down controversial and discriminatory provisions of IPC such as Section 377, and Section 497, etc.
- Privacy, a fundamental right
- Aadhaar judgment
- Declared sexual relations with minor wife as Rape
- Reservation in promotions for Sc/St
- And many other

Conclusion

Judiciary is most prestigious institution of India, in which people of India trusts the most. Its judgments such as Sabrimala and triple talaq etc. are perfectly in line with Article 25 and Article 142 etc. of the constitution. Political narration of these judgments may hamper the trust of the people in institution.

Similarly, judiciary as a complete system is cogwheel of democracy in India, where people of India enjoy freedom and justice. External political interferences and internal political complexities may make leave this cogwheel with broken teeth.

Best Answer: Jean Grey

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Q.20) How do you see the evolution of caste based pressure groups in India's democratic polity? Is it a positive development? Critically examine.

Introduction:

A caste based pressure group (PG) is a group where people of same castes are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. They try to influence government policies to secure socio-economic benefits.

Body:

With Caste system being main feature of Indian society, caste based PG's have evolved in India. Their evolution can be traced back to socio-religious reform

movements of pre-independent India. After independence, various caste based PG's have evolved to seek affirmative actions, whose position got strengthened in democratic polity where political mobilization of groups takes place for votes. OBC reservation has further fuelled the process.

Positive development in the following way:
- They provide vital link between the government and the governed.
- Influence policy decision. Pre-independence PG's highlighted social issues which led to constitutional provision of securing equality and justice for downtrodden. Towards this pursuit, state came out with affirmative measures like reservation in education and employment.
- Achieve constitutional ideals- equality, justice and dignity.
- Strengthen democracy as these PG's encourage people's political participation.
- Voice to marginalised sections as they cannot be ignored in the first-past-the-post electoral system.
- Help educating group on their rights and form public opinion on important issues.
- Regional politics origin is also traced to caste based PG's which entered into political domain. Ex: AIDMK, BSP. This has made national political landscape more accommodative of regional aspirations.

Negative fall outs:
- Identity politics- caste based politics. Likelihood of minority castes being left out.
- Fragmented society- reinforcing caste consciousness. Ex: Lingayats in Karnataka.
- Increased social unrest where people fight each other. Ex: caste based violence bhima-koregaon.
- Law and order issue with their agitation turning violent. Ex: Jats for reservation, karnisena (padmavat).
- Violent protests obstructing development through protests.
- Political class agreeing to illegitimate demands. Ex: reservation for Marathas when they do not meet the criteria of socially-educationally backward class.

Conclusion:
Democracy wants people to express their views and interests. Pressure groups provide means to this. In diverse country like ours with multi-caste system, caste based PG's have so far had both positive and negative fallouts.

Best answer: seema
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Approach
- This is a simple direct question of geography. Start with a short introduction to 'Tropical Cyclones', and mention about increasing frequency of these cyclones.
- In body of the answer, mention various factors such as rising temperatures, changing weather conditions and such other factors are leading to increasing frequency.
- Since question asked to 'examine', simply enlisting the factors will not be sufficient, elaborate them and end the answer with way forward.

Introduction
- Tropical cyclones form over oceans with surface temperatures above 26°C as strong low pressure systems that can reach diameters of more than 500 km.
- Evaporation of immense amounts of water vapour under these high temperature conditions and the related condensation aloft provide ample energy for the cyclone dynamics, leading to high wind speed and extreme precipitation.
- These usual natural phenomena are occurring more frequently than usual due to various anthropogenic and changing natural factors.

Body
We had Ockhi cyclone last year and now Gaja, both of them originated in Bay of Bengal, but travelled all along till western coast of peninsular India.
Similar events of increased frequency as well as intensity are observed throughout the topical oceans.

The factors leading to increased frequency of tropical cyclones
- Increase in frequency of tropical cyclones is specifically observed in Arabian Sea. Here winter monsoon circulations, plays an important role.
- The interplay of global warming, climate variability and weather changes, the winter northeast monsoon circulation has been weakening over the years.
- One important factor is the wind shear, or the change in direction and speed of the winds from bottom to the top of the atmosphere.
- Generally, this wind shear is relatively strong in the Arabian Sea compared to the Bay of Bengal.
- Opposing winds prevent cyclones from developing vertically, this wind shear is weakening in the Arabian Sea with increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Important contributors to rise in global temperatures, such as manmade black carbon particles and sulphate emissions might have increased the intensity of these cyclones in almost all oceans of tropics.

- On the other hand burning of fossil fuels such as petrol, diesel, etc. was the main reason for climate change as it had affected the greenhouse gas cover around the earth, leading to a rise in atmospheric temperature.
- Similarly, aerosols, greenhouse gases, volcanic activity, solar variability, and internal climate variability also add degrees to sea surface temperature, making the conducive weather conditions for tropical cyclones.
- A La Niña (a weather pattern in the Pacific Ocean that is less damaging than El Niño) event is unfolding over the Pacific. Studies have shown that La Niña conditions change the atmospheric circulation over the north Indian Ocean and make them favourable for cyclogenesis.

Way forward
- The most important factors responsible for increase in frequency of tropical cyclones are global warming and climate change.
- According to recent IPCC report, the world is already 1°C hotter than what it was 150 years ago.
- It could witness greater frequency of droughts and floods, tropical cyclones, etc. if the planet heats by a further 0.5°C. That could happen anytime between 2030 and 2050.
- The need of the hour is to implement the conventions like Paris Accord and INDCs in letter and spirit to control the rising global temperatures.
- Conserving the existing ecosystem is the best way to counter climate change.

Best Answer: Ravi Kishore Boddu
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Q.22) How do temperate cyclones affect weather conditions? Illustrate.

Introduction:
Temperate cyclones are atmospheric disturbances with low-pressure centres occurring in the in the middle latitudes. The polar fronts created due to contrasting air masses (warm tropical air mass & cold, dense polar air mass) are responsible for the origin and development of temperate cyclones.
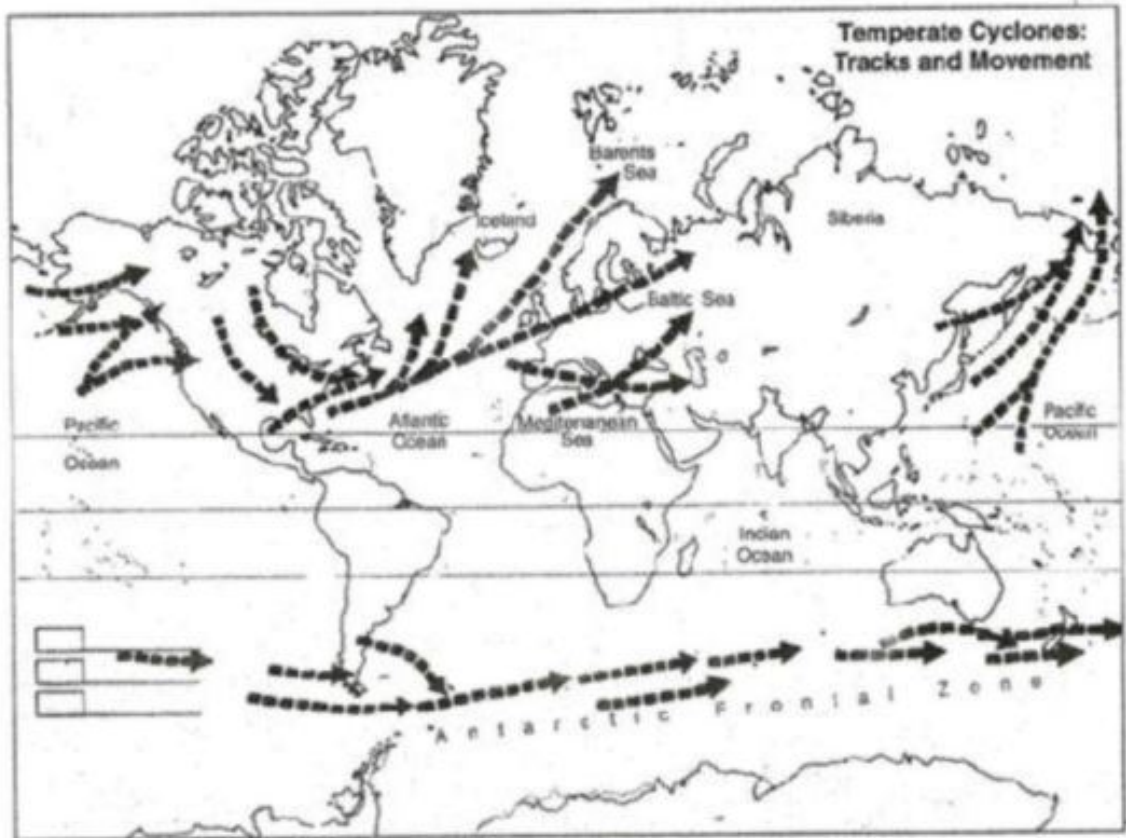
Body:

Fig. 2.26 Principal areas and tracks of temperate cyclones.

Different parts of temperate cyclones are associated with varying weather conditions because of different types of air masses and varying temperature conditions.

Warm Frontal Precipitation:

• With the arrival of warm front of the cyclone heavy showers begin with nimbostratus clouds.

• Warm air rises slowly along the front. Hence the precipitation is slow, gradual but of long duration.

Warm sector:

• Sky becomes cloudless and clear but there may be some occasional drizzles.

• There is sudden rise in air temperature and increase in the specific humidity of the air but air pressure decreases remarkably.

Cold front:

• With the arrival of cold front temperature decreases.

• As cold air pushes the warm air upward, sky is again covered with clouds which soon start precipitation.

Cold frontal precipitation:

• Since warm air is forcibly lifted upwards sky becomes overcast with cumulonimbus clouds.

• Heavy downpour with thunder and lightning.

• Precipitation is of short duration.

Cold sector:

- Sharp fall in temperature.
- Sky becomes cloudless and hence clear.

Conclusion:
Temperate cyclones are associated with blizzards in North America and western disturbances in India. They are usually distributed over USA, Canada, belt extending from Iceland to Barents Sea continuing over Russia and Siberia, Mediterranean basin extending even up to India in winters. Thus, in a way temperate cyclones play an important role in global heat transfer.

Best answer: cosmos
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https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/b0266b97e5e125612dea5e41d018fb54cabf5edfc6463b4498dd85a35d35a0ff.jpg

Q.23)Bureaucrats entering politics isn't a new phenomenon in India. Do you consider this practice healthy for a democracy? Substantiate.

Introduction:
Bureaucrats entering politics is not a new phenomenon but off late there has been increasing in this trend. Recent in this list of Raipur district collector, O.P Chaudhary. There are mixed views on bureaucrats entering the political arena and critics have pointed it out that it is not a healthy practice in the democracy.

Body:
It is a healthy practice due to following reasons:
- Fundamental Rights: Every citizen in India is entitled to stand for any public office including the President of India office without any discrimination.
- Educated people: Indian politics were never considered an option for the educated class. But with the entry of bureaucrats, this might gain attraction as a new career option.
- Experience: They will have vast experience in the implementation of policies which will help them frame better policies.
- Ground realities: They have a better experience with ground realities, bottlenecks during the implementation of policies, so this will come in handy when they occupy the chair of policy initiators/framers.
- Connect with people: Since they are available in district 24/7, they have a direct connection with local people and know their problems better. This will help solve many problems and also make them approachable to people.
- Track record: Majority of bureaucrats have good track records and expertise in administration and also bring with them many innovative ideas, which will help delivery of service easier.

- Clean politics: Bureaucrats entering will create competition in politics and help weed out non-performing people. This will also put pressure on political parties to nominate people with clean image and profile.

It might not be a healthy practice due to following reasons:

- Politicisation of bureaucracy: Permanent executives should be politically neutral, if this is allowed then it will lead to the politicisation of bureaucracy.
- Partisanship: Bureaucrats might start favouring certain people/group over others with a long-term plan.
- Politics: They might start favouring/help particular political party in exchange for the ticket in future.
- Nexus: It might create an illegal and unethical nexus between elected and permanent executives and affect democratic principles in the longer run.

Note: More points can be added. Try to include examples in the answer. But do not include examples of only those persons belonging to one political party. Try to include diverse examples like Hardeep singh puri, Alphons Joseph, MeiraKumari, Mani Shankar Aiyer, ArvindKejriwal etc.

Conclusion:
Write a brief conclusion.

Best Answer: Timber.
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Q.24) Illustrate the contribution of Election Commission in strengthening democracy in India.

Approach:
- This is a direct question, where you have write about Election Commission's contribution to strengthen the democracy in India.
- Write introduction in accordance with the question, with mention of Election Commission and democracy.
- In body of the answer, since "illustrate" is given, give examples and evidences to show that Election Commission played its role perfectly in strengthening the democracy.
- In illustrate, critical part is not necessary. Directly conclude the answer on a positive note.

Introduction
- There are four bulwarks of Indian democracy; one of them is Election Commission.
- Election commission is a constitutional body empowered to conduct free and fair elections under Article 324 of the Indian constitution.

Body

- Elections are fundamental to democracy. In the long journey of seven decades, election commission of India never failed to serve its purpose of facilitating the democracy in the best possible way.

- In first elections of independent India, election commission successfully handled the mostly illiterate but enthusiastic citizens of India.

- It also survived the free and fair elections immediately after the end of Emergency in 1970s.

- Election commission of India is empowered to cancel the elections or call for re-elections if any kind corruption or malpractices are found; this is the most powerful tool in the hands of election commission to make democracy possible in letter and spirit.

- To further improve the transparency in elections, election commission of India introduced Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in 1999.

- In 2010, election commission of India accepted the recommendations of Indiresan committee to introduce Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) for further transparency.

- In the same line, the Election Commission of India is currently considering the use of Totaliser Machines during elections to mask booth-wise voting patterns.

- Internet major Google and social media giants Twitter and Facebook have assured the Election Commission that they will not allow their platforms to be used for anything which effects the purity of polls during campaign period. It is another laudable effort of Election Commission of India to strengthen democracy.

- The last 48 hours before the elections come to a close is called 'silence period' so that voter can calmly decide on as to whom to vote.

- Google, facebook, etc. also assured the EC that political advertisements will be flagged, including the amount spent, so that expenditure can also be accounted for during campaign period.

- Similarly, some other efforts taken by Election Commission of India to strengthen the democracy by elections in India are, Model Code of Conduct, awareness campaigns, national voters (day 25 Jan), electoral bonds, cVIGIL app etc.

Conclusion

All the above examples and steps taken by the election commission of India a sufficient to prove that Election Commission of India plays the vital role in strengthening the democracy in India, verily, India is the largest democracy of the world.

Best Answer: Ravi Kishore Boddu

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Q.25) What measures have been taken by the government to promote tourism sector in India? Elaborate.

Introduction:
India's diverse geographical features as well as distinct cultural norms provide for a great tourism opportunity. This tourism potential is being tapped through a wide range of tourism products like medical, spiritual, eco-tourism, wildlife, pilgrimage and cultural tourism.

Body:
Certain measures have been taken by the government to promote tourism
- Dedicated sites- Cities are being developed under PRASAD and HRIDAY schemes to attract tourists.
- Theme based circuits- Swadeshdarshan scheme, Golden triangle connecting Delhi, Jaipur and Agra help in providing a complete tourism package based on similar themes.
- Infrastructure development- Sagarmala project, UDAN initiative, smart cities, Accessible India, help in creating necessary infrastructure and connectivity.
- Reforms regarding tourism industry- Ease of doing business, startup India, tax concessions make it easier to expand the tourism sector as well as provide employment opportunity.
- Skill development- Inducing youth in hospitality sector under 'Hunar se rojgartak' as well as improving service standards in the sector.
- Eased accessibility- E-visa, visa on arrival, relaxed norms for tourists in North-east and Andaman Islands.
- Preservation- Hamaridharohar, Adopt a Heritage will help preserve monuments.
- Expanding horizon- Emphasis on new tourism products like Adventure, Rural, Sustainable, Domestic, Culinary tourism etc.
- Use of technology- Launching of mobile app like swachhparyatan, use of social media.
- Promotion- AtithiDevoBhava Campaign, ParyatanaParv, frequent advertisements by states help in promoting tourism.

Despite these measures, the sector has not grown to its full potential due to challenges like-
- Safety concerns- Crime against tourists, especially women need to be dealt with strictly.
- Infrastructure and connectivity problems in remote areas.
- Cleanliness and habitable hotels

Q.26) What do you understand by the concept of 'tax holiday'? How does it help in the promotion of specific socio-economic sectors?

Introduction
A tax holiday is a government incentive program that offers a tax reduction or elimination to businesses. Tax holidays are often used to reduce sales taxes by local governments, but they are also commonly used by governments in developing countries to help stimulate foreign investment.

Body
The tax holiday can help in promotion of socio-economic sectors
1) Growth of MSME: Provide requisite time for MSME to invest more of their profit.
2)Startups: Many startups which focus on sectors like education, health care when given tax holiday get requisite support which would help them in expansion of business.
3) Development of notified areas: The tax holidays granted if development is taken up in notified areas encourage the industries to develop those areas.
4) Generation of employment: Tax holidays when are given help employers to employee number of people.
5) Growth of Agriculture: Will encourage innovation and new ways to increase growth if Agritech is supported through tax holidays
6) Development of tribal products: Support to innovative arts of tribes could help them move out of poverty and showcase the talent to world

Conclusion:
Tax holiday can help to   increase growth and encourage new ventures which can act as a catalyst to economic growth.

Q.27) Disability is a matter of perspective. Comment. What measures have been taken by the government to create a conducive ecosystem for the disabled community.

Introduction:
Disability is an impairment that can be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, or some combination of these. It may be present from the birth or occur during a person's lifetime. It hampers or reduces a person's ability to carry out his day-to-day activities.

Body:
Disability can be seen through various perspectives-
- It can be social, which means people are disabled by the barriers in society rather than by their own impairment or differences. For example, not having accessible toilets in buildings, assumptions that disabled people cannot do certain things.
- It can be medical, where medically a person lacks in something as compared to a healthy individual. It categorizes disability into physical and mental.
- It can also be seen as enhancement of one particular sense in a person and lack of another. It is often seen in people disabled from birth, where lack of one sense is compensated by very powerful another sense, like a blind person has a very powerful sense of hearing.
- It also varies due to attitude of the person. Certain people because of their will power and positive attitudes have converted their disability into an opportunity. For example, Stephen Hawking despite being suffering from ALS turned out to be a great scientist and Deepa Malik worked on her strengths to win a medal in Paralympics.
- It also changes over time. What used to be a disability in the past, might be cured or rectified through a simple procedure now.

Measures taken by government to create a conducive ecosystem for the disabled community-
1. Legal measures:
    o Rights of persons with disabilities act- Increased number of disabilities from 7 to 21, reservation in higher education and government jobs, free education for children between 6 to 18 years.
    o RashtriyaVayoshriYojana- For providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category
    o Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities act (SIPDA)- To provide financial assistance to the states for implementation of act
2. Institutional measures:

- o Dedicate department- A separate Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
  - o Accessible India Campaign- To help make buildings and other infrastructure disabled friendly.
  - o SugamyaPustakalya- Online library for persons with disabilities.
  - o Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme- provides for distribution of aids and assistive devices
  - o Establishment of National fund for Person with disabilities.
3. Educational measures:
  - o Scholarships- Various scholarship schemes have been introduced for disabled students at different educational levels.
  - o Reservation- 5% reservation is provided to disabled in higher education.
4. Social measures:
  - o Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme- Promote Voluntary Action by releasing grant-in aid to NGOs.
  - o Corporate Social responsibility- For enabling and empowering disabled persons.
5. Research:
  - o Research- Setting up of Indian Sign language research and training center to benefit persons with hearing disabilities.

Conclusion:

Launching schemes is not enough, we need to ensure that the schemes are implemented in their true spirit, and the society must be made aware so as to remove the social barriers present and convert disability into an opportunity.

Best Answer: John Nash

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Q.28) Examine the role played by the judiciary in protecting and promoting the rights of the LGBT community.

Approach

- Key words in this question are, "Judiciary", "Rights" and "Examine".
- In Introduction, either define LGBT or start with the recent Supreme Court judgment. Write in short. In body of the answer, examine the various courts' judgments regarding LGBT. Give it proper sequence. You can write earlier negative judgments, which were against LGBT, and then later progressive judgments which are in favor of LGBT rights.

- Keep in mind that "judiciary" includes all courts, not only Supreme Court. You can conclude answer with some suggestions.

Introduction

LGBT Community is one of the most prosecuted and discriminated minorities of the world. Though historically discriminated in India too, recently various courts gave progressive judgments upholding the rights of LGBT community.

Body

Right to life: Sexual identity

- In 2009, the Delhi High Court decision in Naz Foundation v. Govt. of NCT of Delhi found Section 377 and other legal prohibitions against private, adult, consensual, and non-commercial same-sex conduct to be in direct violation of fundamental rights provided by the Indian Constitution.
- In 2013, the Supreme Court overturned the Delhi HC's decision, after finding it "legally unsustainable".
- The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgment in August 2017, held Right to Privacy as a fundamental right.
- SC also observed that right to privacy and the protection of sexual orientation lie at the core of the fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution.
- Going further, in September 2018, the Supreme Court of India decriminalised homosexuality by declaring Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code unconstitutional.
- The Court ruled that individual autonomy, intimacy, and identity are protected fundamental rights.
- The judgment also included an inbuilt safeguard to ensure that it cannot be revoked again under the "Doctrine of Progressive Realisation of Rights".
- This was the journey of Delhi HC and SC in one aspect of LGBT community that is their sexuality.
- There are issues related their right to education, livelihood and right against discrimination.

Other rights

- Various courts throughout India played an active role in upholding rights of LGBT community. Some of them are as follows.
- In 2011, a Haryana court granted legal recognition to a same-sex marriage, involving two women. Similarly, Kerala HC also supported same sex marriage.
- Similarly, The Supreme Court has ruled that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is prohibited by the Indian Constitution.
- In 2014 (NALSA vs Union of India), the Supreme Court of India declared transgender people a socially and economically backward class entitled to

reservations in education and jobs, and also directed union and state governments to frame welfare schemes for them.

- The Supreme Court ruled that transgender people have a fundamental constitutional right to change their gender without any sort of surgery, and called on the Government to ensure equal treatment for transgender people.
- In light of the ruling, government documents, such as voter ID cards, passports and bank forms, have started providing a third gender option alongside male (M) and female (F), usually designated "other" (O), "third gender" (TG) or "transgender" (T).
- In case of public employment, Madras High Court in 2013 gave permission to write the TNPSC Group II exam to a transgender as a female candidate.
- Now, LGBT community themselves are being represented in judiciary. Two transgender people were appointed by the Kolhapur District Legal Services Authority (KDLSA) in Maharashtra as panel members for the local LokAdalat. We also find similar examples from Assam LokAdalats also.

Conclusion

- Though there are many judgments to mention the role of judiciary in upholding the rights of LGBT community, there are challenges to implement these judgments in letter and spirit.
- Supreme Court directed the Government to take all measures to properly broadcast the fact that homosexuality is not a criminal offence, to create public awareness and eliminate the stigma members of the LGBT community face, and to give the police force periodic training to sensitise them about the issue.
- Judiciary played its role, now government and society has to play their role by giving rights to LGBT community.

Best Answer: P29
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Q.29) Illustrate the contributions of Aadhar in promoting digital governance in India.

Introduction:

Aadhar is a 12-digit unique identification number that provides digital identity to the residents of India and ensure authentication. Under the Aadhar Act, 2016, The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is responsible for the management of entire Aadhar lifecycle. The number uses demographic and biometric information of a person for enrolment and has become a strategic policy tool for people-centric governance.

Body:
Contribution of Aadhar in promoting digital governance:
- JAM Trinity- Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile Trinity has been instrumental in linking crores of bank accounts with aadhar and helped in financial inclusion.
- Direct Benefit Transfers- Aadhar Payment Bridge has been successful in disbursing monetary transfers directly to the bank account of beneficiary. IT has been used for programs like MGNREGA, LPG subsidy, food and fertilizer subsidies etc.
- Government eMarketplace- Linkage through Aadhar has helped in transparent online procurements in government.
- Digital Locker- Enabled through Aadhar, it helps in storing personal documents on government's server, thus removing the requirement of producing hard copy for every service.
- Monthly Pension- Linkage with Aadhar has helped remove fraud beneficiaries and allowed the needy to avail the benefit.
- JeevanPraman- Aadhar linked digital life certificates helps the pensioners to avail pension benefits without being physically present.
- Proof of identity- Aadhar is accepted as a valid proof in opening bank accounts, investing in stock market, claiming provident fund etc., thus citizens need not go through the hassle of providing multiple identity proofs.
- Linkage with financial instruments- Aadhar linkage with PAN, bank accounts, mutual funds etc. helps in curbing black money by bringing transparency in the system.
- Voter card linkage- It prevents bogus voters, thus ensuring fair elections.
- Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System- Helps in bringing efficiency in the government.

Conclusion:
Despite the huge contribution, several issues like right to privacy, denial of service and misuse of data do exist. However, being a matured society we should take measures to mitigate those risks and not abandon the technology as such.

Best answer: Sreelakshmy
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Q.30) Examine the factors that are imperative for the success of e-governance.
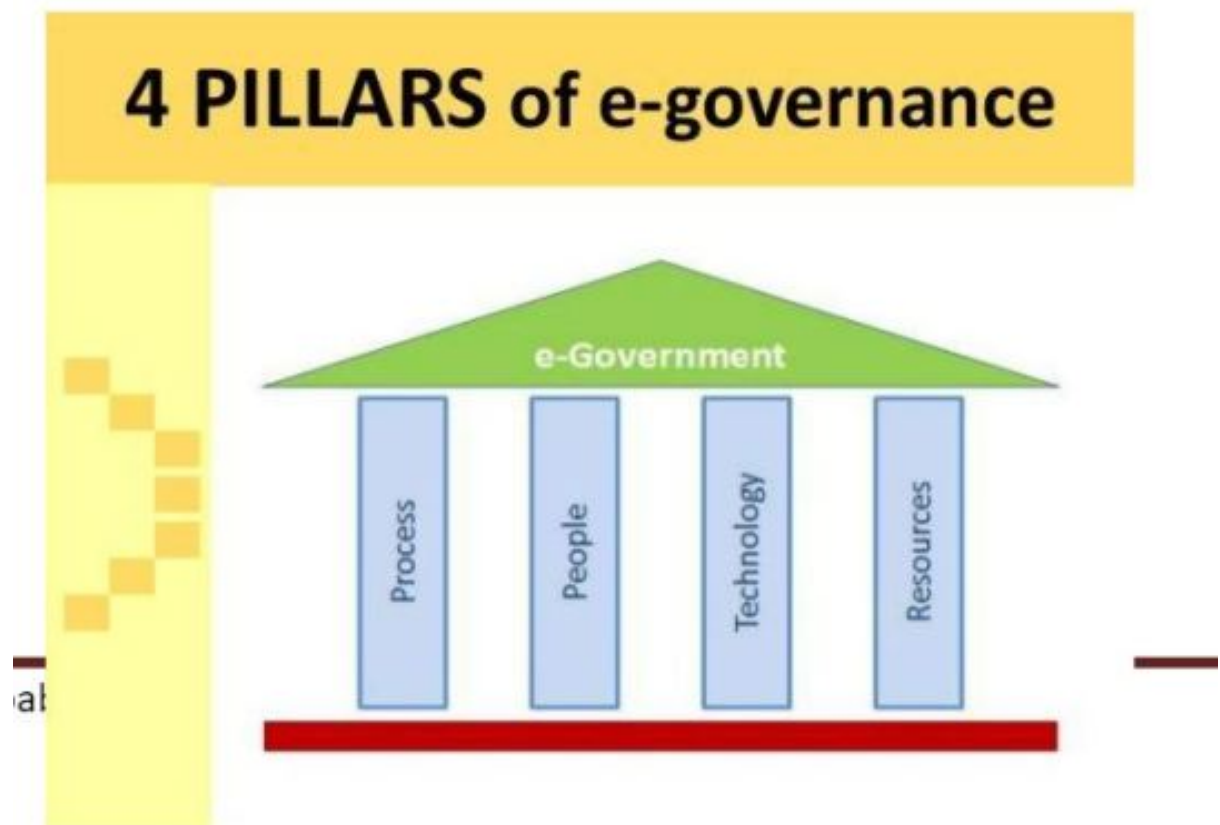
Approach:
- Key words in this question are "factors" and "examine". We have to examine the factors which are necessary for the success of e-Governance.
- In introduction, you can introduce e-Governance. In body of the answer mention the factors required for success of e-Governance. Simply enlisting won't be sufficient, examine them. Conclude on an optimistic note.

Introduction
- Governance using information and communication technology is known as e-Governance. India's first National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was launched in 2006. India entered into new phase of e-Governance via e-Kranti or NeGP 2.0.
- There are many factors necessary for success of e-Governance in India, which can be analysed in respect of four pillars of the e-Governance.

Body
Process

- Well defined and well managed process of e-governance. It includes apps like UMANG, grievance redressal mechanisms and convergence and coordination between various stakeholders (departments, ministries, citizen, etc.).

- Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) is a multi-utility app and integrates with other core government services of Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Rapid Assessment System, and Bharat Bill Payment System etc. and supports 13 Indian languages.

People
- To strengthen the second pillar of governance factors such as Digital literacy, Affordability, Accessibility are very important.
- Though with the introduction of JIO and such other affordable service providers, internet in India became quite affordable, more needs to be done. According to a report of World Wide Web foundation, in India, there is a rise in affordability, but the lowest rates are found in other Asian countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- Similarly on the front of digital literacy, PMGDISHA and such other digital literacy campaigns are started, but they are yet to bear fruits.

Technology
- For a successful e-governance, state of the art technology is prerequisite. India is one of the technological hubs in the world, but also one of the most vulnerable countries for cyber attacks.
- We need continuous and most modern technology as an important pillar of governance.
- For technological support we can take benefit from private sector expertise such as Google and facebook, with precautions.

Resources
- For successful e-governance, 'resources' is fourth pillar, and strength of this pillar is determined by factors such as infrastructure, electricity, Knowledge Resources, IT Policies, and Institutions working on e-Governance.
- We have Bharat Net for and such other programmes for infrastructure development. Various institutions and departments such as NeGD (National e-Governance Division) are working to achieve e-Kranti, and of course there is no dearth of technological knowledge in India.
- There are problems related to policies, we are yet to frame our data protection policy.

Conclusion
- India is suffering from digital divide. Without building all the four pillars of the e-governance efficiently, e-kranti will remain a distant dream.
- To establish a national e-governance system, and to compete with the global data protection regimes, India must evaluate the recommendations of Srikrishna committee report and take some constructive measure.
- Lastly, success of e-governance depends on Political and administrative will.

Best Answer: P29

Shilpi

Q.31) What are donor associations and charities? What roles do they play? Discuss.

Introduction
A charitable organization or charity is a non-profit organization (NPO) whose primary objectives are philanthropy and social well-being (e.g. charitable, educational, religious, or other activities serving the public interest or common good).

Body
Role of Charities

1. Charities provide essential services that positively impact the lives of citizens, such as building hospitals, schools, orphanages.
2. Are a vital partner to the government in many aspects, including personal empowerment and training, fighting poverty, combating social diseases such as drug abuse, and attempting to narrow the deep divide between the rich and poor.
3. Charitable and volunteer work is also the safety valve and supporting pillar for a country's security due to the preventive roles it plays, especially in fighting extremism, radicalism and criminal acts against humanity.

Challenges with respect to Charities

1. Some charities may not adhere to the goals of promoting social and economic benefits and may engage in wrongful activities.
2. Incidence of bad management and financial and administrative corruption in some charities. This has caused many to question the credibility of charitable work and its management.
3. The western media have exposed this corruption where leaders of certain charities siphon off 80 percent of the contributions received from donors.

Suggestion to make charities more transparent
1) Charities must view their donors and volunteers as a company views its stockholders. Ethical codes, professionalism, and corporate governance should govern charitable activities.

2) Charitable work should fulfil its obligation within the framework of transparency, compliance with society, the economy, and government.
3) Inform the government of the sectors initiatives.

Conclusion
Charities in India have been successful in bringing reforms in wide ranging sectors .It is necessary that they become more accountable and government provide them right environment to carry their activities .

Best Answer: Ankur
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Q.32) What is stakeholder approach towards development? Examine its significance in the Indian context.

Introduction:
Stakeholder approach refers to the concept of involving everyone who is directly or indirectly affected along with those who may have an impact in the developmental process. Various stakeholders are Central and state governments, state institutions, civil society, citizens, vulnerable groups, media, corporations, environment etc.

Body:
This approach involves taking into account aspirations and needs of all stakeholders and designing the process so as to achieve optimum satisfaction among all at minimum cost.
Significance in Indian context:
• Inclusive growth- Involvement of all stakeholders will ensure growth in every sector and every class of people.
• Self-governance- The lowermost tier will be involved in decision making, thus aiding the self-governance institutions.
• Deliberative democracy- With everyone's involvement, all decisions will be involve consensus decision-making, thus ensuring development for the majority of the society.
• Sustainable development- Having environment as a stakeholder, will minimize the environment v/s development conflict, and there will be a demand for sustainable solutions for the development process.
• Poverty alleviation- Participation of all will ensure equitable distribution of resources, and helping in poverty alleviation.

- Efficiency- Involvement of people in governance will bring out accountability and transparency in the procedures, thus minimizing the overall cost of governance.

Though at a slow pace, India is moving towards this approach, as can be seen in various initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Forest Rights Act, 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, Corporate Social Responsibility, CAMPA funds, e-governance etc.

Despite the achievements, there remain several lacunae in moving towards this approach in India
- Unprepared masses- Most of the population lacks literacy, especially financial and governance related. It becomes difficult to give equal weightage to the opinion of an ignorant minority.
- Diversity- Needs and aspirations varies from region to region, hence it is extremely difficult to reach a common point.
- Lack of political will- The model of this approach required delegation of power and authority, which is difficult considering the political aspirations of those in power.

Conclusion:
Stakeholder approach towards development is undoubtedly one of the best solutions to address the present issues in development. However, given the problems that exist in its implementation, it is better to have a balanced approach that involves mass participation in most areas and centralized decision-making where necessary.

Best answer: Harry
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Q.33) While the role of social media as a powerful tool for empowerment can't be denied, it has also distorted the perception and priorities of the youth in India. Comment.

Introduction
Social media are interactive computer-mediated technologies that facilitate the creation and sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks.

Body
Social Media and its benefits for youth
Education:

- Teachers are able to easily collaborate and communicate with students and one another.
- Students have easy, free access to resources online to help them learn.
- Grades improve and absenteeism is reduced.

Politics:
- Social media facilitates political change: Online networks give social movements a quick, cheap method of disseminating information and mobilizing people.

Awareness/Being Informed:
- Information spreads faster online than any other media. More than 50% learn about breaking news on social media.
- Social networking provides academic research to everyone with online access, allowing people access to previously unavailable resources.
- Social media sites inform and empower individuals to change themselves and their communities.

Social Benefits:
- Social media allow people to communicate with friends and this increased online communication strengthens those relationships. 52% of online teens say social media have helped their friendships. 88% say being online helps them stay in touch with friends they don't see regularly.
- People make new friends. 57% online teens report making new friends online.

Job Opportunities:
- Great for professionals for marketing, connecting, and finding business opportunities.
- Employers find employees and unemployed find work. 89% of job recruiters have hired via LinkedIn, 26% via Facebook, and 15% via Twitter.
- Social media sites have created thousands of jobs and new avenues of income

However, there have been few pitfalls of social media as well
The negatives of social media:

Lack of Privacy:
- People, especially the young, are often too open and public with personal information when online. Most don't read privacy policies and may be unaware that their information may be used by third parties, like advertisers, insurance companies…
- Exposure to corporate and governmental intrusions…
- Insurance companies use information gleaned from social media, as well. If you have "liked" a medical-related page or a post about a health condition, that information is sometimes used by insurance companies to determine eligibility and raise rates.
- Online advertising policies are an invasion of privacy. If you "like" a brand, you're giving that company access to your personal information.

Users Vulnerable to Crime:

- Social networking sites allow hate groups to recruit and distribute propaganda online.
- Unauthorized sharing and copyright infringement threatens intellectual property and causes loss of income.
- Security attacks such as hacking, identity theft, and phishing scams, and viruses are common online. 68% of users share their real birth date, 63% share the name of their high school, 18% share their phone number, 12% share a pet's name: This information might be used in identity theft.
- Criminals use social media to commit crimes. Robbers know when you're away from your home on vacation and stalkers get information about your whereabouts via social media.
- Sexual predators find, stalk, and assault victims through social media.
- Sexting (texting sexual content) can be a big problem.
- Security attacks such as hacking, identity theft, and viruses and exposure to phishing scams are common via social media.

Social Detriments:
- Cyber-bullying (the use of electronic communication to bully someone, usually by sending intimidating or threatening messages) is commonplace online, causes emotional trauma, and sometimes even leads to suicide. 49.5% of students reported victimization by bullying online and 33.7% admitted to online bullying.
- Extensive online engagement is correlated with personality and brain disorders like poor social skills, ADHD, narcissistic tendencies, a need for instant gratification, and addictive behaviours and other emotional distress like depression, anxiety, and loneliness.
- Less time for face-to-face interaction with loved ones. 47% of 18-34-year-old users reported using social media or texting during meals. 10% of people younger than 25 reported checking their phones and social media during sex.
- Children at higher risk for depression, low self-esteem, and eating disorders and more prone to feeling isolated and disconnected (especially youth with disabilities).

Misinformation:
- Enables the spread of false rumours and unreliable information: 49.1% of users have read false news on social media.
- Encourages amateur medical advice and self-diagnosis of health problems, which can be dangerous and life-threatening.

Advertising:
- Studies have shown that sites such as Facebook influence you, via advertisements, to spend more money.
- Advertisers gain all kinds of personal information about you via your social media, information they use to persuade you to buy their product.

A Waste of Time:

- When alerted to a new post or tweet, it takes about 20 to 25 minutes for the average user to return to their original task. 30% of the time it takes two hours for the user to return to their original task

Conclusion
Social media is an enabler to share information but should be used with caution. It is time that pitfalls of social media and ways to protect oneself are taught in schools.

Best Answer: Christina
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Q.34) Examine the status of insurance coverage in India. What is your assessment of the potential of Ayushman Bharat in this regard?

Introduction:
Insurance coverage is the amount of risk or liability that is covered for an individual by insurance services. With increased incidences of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and increasing out-of pocket health expenditure, insurance has become a must to live a stable life.

Body:
Status of insurance coverage in India:
- Insurance- As per the latest NSSO reports over 80% of India's population remains uncovered by any health insurance scheme.
- Insurance gap- The total value of assets not covered by an insurance policy is one of the highest in the world, standing at 1% of the GDP as per Lloyd's report.
- Insurance penetration- Total value of premium underwritten in a year in case of non-life insurance is rising on the back of government schemes to 0.9% of GDP.
- Unequal distribution- Most of the insurance products cater to the urban areas, and rural areas lag behind.
- Disparity among classes- While the rich have a higher coverage, mostly from private players, poor are dependent on meager government provided insurance sums.
- Quality of coverage- Most of the insurance plans cover only in-patient expenses, leaving out-patient and other expenses on the insured.
- Vulnerable citizens- Women and senior citizens, that require more healthcare intervention, have much less coverage compared to the adult males.

To fight this dismal state of coverage, government has launched PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana under Ayushman Bharat. It aims to provide financial protection up to

Rs.5 lakh per family per year to approx. 10 crore families, selected through SECC data.

Potential in improving insurance coverage:

- Increased numbers- Increases number of people under insurance coverage by approx. 50 crores.
- Reduces insurance gap- Providing Rs.5 lakhs per family will result in better coverage.
- Reduced out of pocket expenditure- The insurance packages will cover costs of surgery, day care treatments, medicines and diagnostics.
- Reduce disparity among classes and regions- Most of the beneficiaries will be poor and will be provided with a good insurance cap, thus reducing the gaps present.
- Wider coverage- Coverage of pre-existing diseases and provision that the hospitals cannot deny treatment will bring such people also under the insurance net.
- Helping vulnerable citizens- Priority will be given to girls, women and senior citizens, ensuring for them proper healthcare.

Conclusion:
Ayushman Bharat can bring a positive change in the status of insurance coverage in India. However, it alone is not sufficient, we do need to increase awareness about insurance and as well increase public health expenditure to sustain the overall insurance ecosystem in healthcare.

Q.35) Should India's deteriorating monuments be restored artificially? Won't it take away their antiquity? Give your views.

Introduction
According to UNESCO, monuments are any form of structures with historical significance used for reconstruction and understanding of the past. Though India is blessed with many such monuments across the nation, according to report of INTACH , 60 percent face serious restoration threats.

Body
Reason for deterioration
1. Pollution like yellow colour of Tajmahal due to acid rain
2. Poor maintenance
3. Excessive encroachment
4. Apathy of people and government

Need for conservation of monuments artificially
1. Using modern scientific technique, these monuments can be brought to original position.

2. Will bring large tourist inflow to India
3. Large scale employment will be generated
4. Greater revenue for the government
5. Can be restored for long time and without artificial restoring can't be restored for e.g. Sarai at Nizamuddin, Delhi was restored by Aga Khan Foundation
6. Monuments help connectedness with past and if not restored the future generation may lose this connected with history

Whether it would take the antiquity
1. People visit these monuments to get attached to their heritage, which won't be after artificially restoring them.
2. Chemical might react with original and destroy their antiquity
3. There won't be much difference between new one and old heritage.

Way forward
1. The government scheme of Adopt a heritage is a positive step in this regard
2. Take help of international methods and technology for restoration
3. Avoid painting over panels and carving to preserve antiquity
4. Enforce strict restoration through amendment to monument and preservation act, 2016
5. Use of organic colours

Conclusion
'History is the insights of our soul'. As monuments represent our history, we should holistically protect and preserve them as entailed in the fundamental duty of our constitution in form of article 51(A).

Best answer: P29
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Q.36) Discuss the status, challenges and potential of regional cinema in India.

Introduction:
With recent box office successes like Sairat and Bahubali, and winning of national award by Village Rockstars, limelight has again come on regional cinema. Most of the major Indian languages have their own regional cinemas that strive on the local populace of the region like Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Punjabi, bhojpuri etc.

Body:
Status:

- Market: Regional Cinema has its own niche market. Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam speakers are spread across continent which has helped regional cinema increase its foot print.
- Foreign acceptance: Tamil and Telugu movies have huge acceptance in countries like Japan, China, UAE etc. Especially the recent Bahubali gained huge response from China. Rajinikanth movies have wide fan base in Korea and japan.
- Talent: Regional Cinema have high talented actors and actress compared to international cinemas like Rajinikanth, Kamal Hassan, Prabhas, Chiranjeevi, Anushka, Tapsee etc.

Challenges:
- Financial power of Hollywood and Bollywood movies: The Budget and Financial earnings of them are very huge and no way reachable to regional movies.
- Story and Script of Hollywood: The stories are easily relatable towards modern day youths and current lifestyle. They are very realistic than idealistic themes of other regional movies.
- Global coverage of Hollywood and Bollywood movies: Hollywood movies have global coverage due to its language. And Bollywood also has global coverage due to its artists coming from various parts of world, Hindi Native speakers and popularity even in far of places like Russia, Ukraine etc.
- Technology and Effects: Usage of technology, Visual effects, location etc. of Hollywood are far more impressive than regional cinemas.
- Promotion: The amount of Promotion undertaken by international cinema industries sometimes exceed the actual budget of regional movies.

Potential:
- Scripts and Story: Regional Cinema has specific themes or regional issues related scripts or based on Mythological stories which has high acceptance from old generation or above 40 years.
- Digital Media: With boom of digital media like Netflix, Amazon prime, Youtube etc. regional cinema have huge chances of occupying these spaces before entry to big players.
- Migration: Due to globalization, there is wide spread migration of people and inter-mixing of people in metro cities like Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai etc. This opportunity can be utilized by promoting regional movies to migrated population and slowly gain huge popularity over period of time.

Conclusion:
Regional movies today are giving stiff competition to Bollywood, showing immense potential in its growth. Need is to tap this potential, through state support, alternate media, financial aspects and a good deal of promotion.

Best answer: Dazy rani

Q.37) Innovation is the key to economic growth. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction
Innovation isn't invention. It's the act of refinement and recalibration to achieve particular goals. And when the goal is economic growth, innovation is the single most important factor that distinguishes a prosperous economy from an impoverish one.

Body
Fundamentally there are two way of increasing output of economy; first, increase the number of input which go through the productive process, second, think new ways in which we can get more output from the same number of inputs and this can be possible through innovation
(1) Agriculture: only 20% of land is cultivable in Israel after that also they contribute 2.5% of GDP and produced 95% of its own food requirement, this is because of innovation like drip agriculture, soil conditioner etc.
(2) manufacturing: according to oxford business group, Thailand is the rising manufacturing hub which contributes 9.3 million of job, in Indonesia manufacturing contribute a quarter of GDP etc. all these are possible because of the employment of innovation.
(3) tourism: Internet, information technology, world wide web etc. revolutionized the tourism sector, across the world contributes to economic growth.
(4) e-commerce: this is itself an innovation a "new idea" which resulted in Amazon, Flipkart, Walmartetc and now in India it contributes 4% of GDP etc.
(5) education and skill:Innovation in education and skilling can create demographic dividend by festering culture of demographic temperament.
(6) safety: New reliable safety features in public offices, schools can ensure women to participate in economic growth.
(7) administration: New innovative ways of public service delivery like video conferencing with gram sabha etc. can reduce time lag in delivery of services and ensure growth of region

But innovation is alone cannot lead to economic growth
(1) Acceptance by society: GM crops were innovated since a decades ago but still, lots of country including India has not accepted it.
(2) investment: investment and innovation both are a parallel to each other, for economic growth innovation is needed and for innovation investment is needed.
(3)skill: countries like china, America are thinking to employ the new innovation like IOT, AI etc. India and many countries of South Asia does not have the required skill for this, at large.

Conclusion

It is often said that Americans built roads and the roads built the America. At the time, roads didn't offer much economic returns and so even an idea as basic as connecting every place with asphalt roads was truly innovative. Ultimately it delivered unimaginative economic growth and drives home the point that even the smallest of innovations carry the potential to deliver massive economic dividends.

Best answer Ranjana Singh Rathore
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Q.38) Examine the sectors where, in your opinion, real potential for employment generation lies.

Introduction

India's journey on the path of economic reforms has transformed it to one of the world's fastest growing economies. Its large and growing population is its best asset and can quadruple GDP and catapult India to the league of developed economies over the next decade. All this if a billion could be transformed into a productive workforce.

Body

Potential for employment in India:

1) Infrastructure:

The "Make in India" initiative, a multi-pillar development push launched by Indian Prime Minister NarendraModi in September 2014, has helped spur a building boom. The government's ambitious plans to develop "industrial corridors and smart cities" — and its practical intentions to repair, or build new, airports, highways, schools and hospitals. This will require huge workforce and provide employment.

2)Service sector:

The domestic IT market in India has a high growth potential driven by Digital India initiatives of the Government. There are also significant opportunities for the sector in terms of regional global expansion, given that Japan and China are the largest technology spenders in the Asia Pacific region.

The various scheme of government like training North East students and improving the education curriculum to make them industry ready will help create more jobs.

3) Professional Services:

The Indian professional services sector lends support to businesses across the world by offering a variety of services including audit and accounting, management consulting, architectural, engineering and legal services.Various initiatives by the Government such as Make in India, liberalization of FDI and trade policies, and government's push to ease of doing business as well as a large domestic market with growing number of start-ups have given significant push to this sector. These

initiatives have attracted a large number of foreign investors to start businesses in India which will in turn create a huge demand for consulting services.

4)Automotive sector:

Make in India" has boosted interest in automotive manufacturing. The government's 10-year Automotive Mission Plan, released in 2016, would like the Indian car industry to jump from $74 billion in size to more than $260 billion, becoming one the world's top three automotive industries. This will create new job opportunities

5) Healthcare: Caring For An Aging Population:

The share of its population aged 60 and older is projected to climb to 19 percent by 2050, up from 8 percent today, according to the United Nations Population Division. That could be a boon for the healthcare industry.

Meanwhile, more spending on hospitals will also help to improve services, both public and private.

By 2020 the Indian healthcare market is expected to increase by a compound annual growth rate of about 16 percent to $280 billion, up from $74 billion in 2011.This will provide huge opportunity to health care provider

Conclusion

Thus there are many opportunities available to provide gainful employment to youth and to herald the country towards development.

Note: Many other sectors can be added

Best Answer: P29

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Q.39)Can a digitally backward India ensure financial inclusion? Examine.

Introduction

- Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost (The Committee on Financial Inclusion, Chairman: Dr. C. Rangarajan).

- Financial Inclusion, broadly defined, refers to universal access to a wide range of financial services at a reasonable cost. These include not only banking products but also other financial services such as insurance and equity products (The Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, Chairman: Dr.Raghuram G. Rajan).

- India's commitment to financial inclusion goes back several decades and has been led by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian government through broad initiatives. Digitisation is one of the such initiatives and one of the most important tools to achieve 100% financial inclusion.

Digitisation in India:

- Though a substantial number of people have mobile phone in India but internet penetration is still low around approx. 60% in Urban and less than approx 40% in rural India.
- Another important requirement for digitisation is Digital literacy which is, even though we have programs like Digital SakshartaAbhiyan, quite low in India.
- Electricity is one another important factor in digital penetration, though we have one going and successful programmes like Saubhagya.
- On infrastructure front, we have Bharat Net scheme to connect all panchayats with optical fibre network, which is being delayed by years to complete.
- All the above mentioned programmes are working on to increase digital penetration in India, still due to huge population, poverty and red-tapism, India is categorized as digitally backward, though coming out of rapidly.

Financial inclusion in digitally backward India:

- Though, digitisation is one of the important requirements, but not panacea for financial inclusion.
- JAM trinity already brought substantial number of Indians under banking network.
- We also have banking correspondent agents, working as Bank Mitras. These individuals take the banking services to last person of the rural area.
- Mobile banking, banking through post offices and using existing infrastructure and manpower India is achieving 100% financial inclusion rapidly and in a unique way.

Way forward:

- Despite the low digital literacy and penetration, initiatives taken by the government for financial inclusion are not in vain. We have achieved laudable success.
- To achieve further more and inclusive targets, infrastructure such as digital infrastructure and 24by7 electricity are some of the important areas needed to be focused more.
- Poverty is both cause and effect of financial deprivations, so it needed to deal in both ways.

Best Answer: Shri

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Q.40) Loan waivers for the farms isn't a good strategy to address the rural distress. Comment.

Introduction:

Monsoon dependent Indian agriculture is showing signs of distress reflected in events like increasing number of farmer protests, suicide of farmers, unable to secure enough price and resulting roadside dumping of farm produce.

Body:

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. Farm loan waivers are provided to farmers as

- It sheds farmer's burden, given increasing incidence of farmer suicides waiver is justified.
- It increases investment in the agriculture by encouraging farmers to take loans.
- Increased rural demand in turn will give fillip to other sectors of the economy.

It is being criticized as not a good strategy due to following reasons: –

- It leads to moral hazard to those who are able to pay loan to the farmer.
- It affects credit culture of the economy as said by RBI governor.
- It is used as political tool to gain election benefits keeping banks at stake. PSU banks is going through difficult phase with NPA problem and at this juncture loan waiver cannot be afforded.
- Loss to government exchequer, waived amount is ultimately paid from exchequer at the cost of other developmental needs.
- Domino effect: With states taking the lead from one another.
- It may affect foreign investments as waivers are seen as bad financial practice worldwide.
- Ineffective in reaching farmers: Majority small farmers still take loan from local moneylenders; hence they remain untouched with the loan waiver policy, despite being the most affected ones.
- Vicious Cycle: The economic stress of loan waiver leads to reduced spending by government in the pre-production phase of agriculture, irrigation facilites and better climate planning for crops which leads in a vicious cycle of poor crop and loan waiver.
- Non coverage of non-farm losses: It provides a partial relief as majority of institutional borrowing by farmer is for non-farm purpose.

Instead of loan waiver which is short term remedy, Government should focus on making farming remunerative and sustainable in the long run.

- Spend the money in improving infrastructure in agriculture which could be beneficial in improving productivity.
- Alternative policy measures should be taken for agriculture insurance.
- Options like restructuring loans, increasing loan duration, minimizing interest rest etc. can be done.

- 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.
- Implement Swaminathan Committee recommendations.

Conclusion:
Schemes aimed at increasing farm produce, doubling the farmer's income, ensuring food security have taken central place in policy making. Government in recent time has come up with other ways to improve farms like soil heath cards, eNAM, Mobile apps, PMKSY etc. All aspects and dimensions needs to be evaluated before applying measures of loan waiver.

Best answer: Anubhav
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Q.41) Comment upon the status of India's twin deficits. How do they affect India's monetary policy?

Introduction:
Twin deficit economy is one that has both fiscal and current account deficits.
Fiscal deficit means government expenditure is more than its revenues. While Current Account Deficit (CAD) means imports are higher than exports and hence foreign funds are needed to manage the deficit. These two deficits are expressed as a percentage of GDP.

Body
Status of Twin Deficit
1. Finance Minister while announcing the Budget on February 1, had set the target for fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent for the current fiscal. India's fiscal deficit touched 94.7% of the budgeted target during the April-August period
2. India's current account deficit widened sharply to USD 19.1 billion, or 2.9 percent of GDP, in July-September 2018-19 from USD 6.9 billion, or 1.1 percent of GDP, in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Reasons for high Fiscal deficits and CAD
1. Higher oil prices add to short-term fiscal pressures, the reduction in the goods and services tax on some items and relatively high increase in the minimum support prices for some crops. According to Moody's analysis
2. Higher oil prices will also contribute to a wider current account deficit

Impact of fiscal deficit
1. High fiscal deficit means government is not able to earn as much as it is spending. So often it raises taxes in some form or the other. The government, in

order to repay its debt, is likely to levy more taxes in the future. It could be either higher inflation or higher taxes. Or, worse, it could be both.

2. Higher government expenditure will push up demand and generate more money in the economy. This may lead to higher inflation.

3. In an emerging economy like India, a higher fiscal deficit leaves little room for interest rate cuts. A higher interest rate may affect private investments from taking off in a growing economy like India. Banks have already witnessed a slowdown in credit take-off. Borrowing costs may remain high for consumers (vehicle and house purchases or personal loans) and industry/companies

4. More than average borrowing by the government from the market leaves that much less pool for private sector to borrow, stalling its growth plans.

Impact of high CAD

1. Higher CAD will put the rupee under pressure and may raise the cost of overseas borrowing. Depleting forex reserves could raise CAD further.

Effect of Fiscal deficit and CAD on Monetary policy and solutions:

1)To control inflation: Monetary Policy committee has been given mandate to maintain inflation.

2) The government has announced five measures to rein in CAD. These include: a review of the mandatory currency hedging requirement for infrastructure loans, permitting manufacturing sector entities to avail of external commercial borrowings up to $50 million with a minimum maturity of one year, a review of the debt investment limits for Foreign portfolio investors, exempting the withholding tax for masala bonds and removal of restrictions on Indian banks' market making of masala bonds.

3)Not just curb imports but also to increase exports.

Twin deficit problem can be solved if India sets out a well-planned roadmap to meet targets. It is better to get as close as possible to a difficult target than merely lowering the target.

Best Answer: AniketSachan
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Q.42) Does having profit maximisation as the sole objective lead to unethical practices in the corporate world? Critically examine.

Introduction
Corporate world functions on capitalistic principles which require profit maximization and hence was criticized during early times of Industrial revolution for being exploitative etc.

Body

However, this is the best model till date where efficiency, innovation and effectiveness is key ingredients. Consequently, per worker productivity is highest and hence profit to company and hence better salary for the employees'. Thus corporate world brings happiness for all employees.

However, it can lead to slippery slope. In the quest of profit maximization often it turns exploitative. Workers are forced to work long beyond duty hours while bosses take the chunk. On the other hand, company under license for industry will try to pollute more and more.

For example: Volkswagen quoted wrong emission standards. Ranbaxy quoted wrong drug ingredients. Johnson sold wrongs prescription of hip replacement therapy affecting millions of consumers. Union Carbide undermined gas leakage safety regulations only leading to death of thousands in Bhopal.

Profit maximization as the sole objective of corporate world would be detrimental for the society and the nation through several ways-
1.It leads to crony capitalism, and nefarious act of colluding with the government machinery in which country's political, and economic directions are dictated by the few.
2.Basic civic human rights of the subjects are being infringed upon. For instance, corporate operating in some informal sector pay no due rights to the interest and well-being of the workers.
3.When the haves pay no regards to the law of natural and re-distributive justice, inequalities bloom which hinders country's socio-economic growth and development.
4.If such unfortunate system left unchecked, it could possibly leads to an eventual collapse of the economy, and even open doors to violent revolution and turmoil. In order to realign profit maximization in tune with ethical standards. several steps can be taken.
5.Corporate social responsibility should be strictly enforced and efforts should be taken to increase the amount of taxation so that commercial responsibility towards the society could be channelized effectively.
6.Corporate governance should be emphasized so that there is scope for accountability and transparency in companies' engagement with various stakeholders.

Suggestions for corporate and Government:
1.Strictly following laws.
2.Environment priority over materialistic gains.
3.Profit maximisation through credibility building.
4.Profit sharing and rewarding labours through eligible rights.
5.Charity works through cess.
6.Gains through healthy competition and innovation.

Conclusion

In this context profit maximization has led to sever unethical practices. Gandhi ji wanted for Corporate Citizenship and Policy based upon Trusteeship for corporate entities. Today many of corporate like TATAs are actively engaged into CSR and philanthropic activities

Best answer SAM

Q.43) What should be of greater concern for a statesman- national prestige or human development? Substantiate with the help of suitable illustrations. *(Hint: Should the President of a Sub-Saharan African state receive international aid for its hungry and poor populace from an enemy country?)*

Introduction
Statesman is an experienced politician who is appreciated for taking good judgements for the benefit of his people, however even he is faced with dilemma many times when he has to make a decision either based on national prestige or human development.

Body
National interest need to be of greater concern for statesman because
1) Aids come with caveat and can be withdrawn by the country which provides them at will.
2) The statesman act of accepting aid would not be appreciated by his own country and create issues for him.

Human development is more important for statesman
- A nation which has good Human development can work harder for its national prestige
Ex: Japan after the attack by USA in 1945 accepted their aid for reconstruction
A wise statesman is the one who works for both improving human development and also national prestige simultaneously without compromising on any of them.
Best Answer: Jay
Human development may refer to population's educational, health and well-being levels. National prestige is the perception of a country based on its hard and soft powers, economic growth etc.

National prestige achieved by bypassing human development is unsustainable as seen by resource rich but poor human development economies such as Nigeria, Brazil etc.
1) Problem with accepting aid
International aid is applied with caveats. The donor country asks for preferential treatment including access to mineral rights, political influence etc. that are worth more than the actual aid.
It is for this reason India refuses foreign aid. (Kerala Floods)

The aid might feed a few people, but then what? Also local corruption consumes foreign aid.

The core issues of illiteracy, poverty, disease etc. remain and the country is back to seeking aid in short order.

3) Better approaches

A better approach would be for the statesman to ask other countries to invest in roads, schools, hospitals, etc. These have long term benefits to both the donor and the done.

For example: China develops Africa's infrastructure and in return gets access to resources.

Conclusion

The wise statesman would seek to create national prestige by pursuing human development. If he can achieve this in a mutually beneficial way, his 'enemies' become allies.

Q.44) Comment upon the efforts of the United Nations (UN) in peace keeping post Word War II.

Introduction:

The United Nations was established in 1945 "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace and security.

The Charter of the United Nations gives the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Body:

Security Council to fulfil its responsibility has made following efforts

1. Peacekeeping:
- UN peacekeeping operations are deployed to support the implementation of inter-state ceasefires or peace agreements. Example: first peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), set up in 1945 to monitor an Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.
- Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law.

2. Peacebuilding:
- The United Nations established the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 to better anticipate and respond to the challenges of peacebuilding to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

- The United Nations uses the political tools of preventive diplomacy and mediation to help nations prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Since the 1990s, many conflicts have been brought to an end either through UN mediation or the action of third parties acting with UN support. Recent examples include Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burundi, the north-south conflict in the Sudan and Nepal. Currently channelizing efforts to bring peace in war torn Afghanistan.

3. Disarmament:
- In a world that is heavily militarised sustaining peace calls for disarmament.
- Thus there is need for reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons, destroying chemical weapons and strengthening the prohibition against biological weapons, to halting the proliferation of landmines, small arms and light weapons.
- These efforts are supported by a number of key UN instruments. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the most universal of all multilateral disarmament treaties, came into force in 1970. The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force in 1997, the Biological Weapons Convention in 1975. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted in 1996, however it has not yet entered into force. The 1997 Mine-Ban Convention came into force in 1999.
- IAEA experts work to verify that safeguarded nuclear material is used only for peaceful purposes. To date, the Agency has safeguards agreements with more than 180 States.

4. Counter terrorism:
- Countering the scourge of terrorism is in the interest of all nations and the issue has been on the agenda of the United Nations for decades.
- Member States of the United Nations have agreed to a global strategy to counter terrorism in September 2006 common strategic and operational framework to fight terrorism.
- Fourteen global agreements have been negotiated under UN auspices, including treaties against hostage-taking, aircraft hijacking, terrorist bombings, terrorism financing and nuclear terrorism.

5. Organized crime:
- Transnational organized crime takes many forms from trafficking in drugs, firearms and even people to money laundering and corruption. Today organized crime has diversified, gone global and reached macro-economic proportions, so that it constitutes a threat to peace and security.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Organized Crime Convention) and the three supplementary Protocols -on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking of Firearms.

6. The Council may also decide on sanctions, such as trade embargoes, to enforce its decisions. Example: sanctions on Russia when it annexed crimea.

UNSC issues: western tilt, lack of funds, Human rights violations in peace keeping missions.

Though it had mixed success and shortcomings, still UN provides platform for countries to come together on important global issues. Hence need of the hour is structural and functional reforms of UNSC to meet the challenges of 21st century.

Q.45) What led to the rise of the Islamic State in the Middle East? Explain.

Introduction
Islamic state refers to the terrorist organization prevalent in middle state aiming to implement Shariat law all over the world and make one Islamic state for all Muslims spread all over the world

Body
Various reasons for rise of Islamic state in the Middle East are as follows

1. Spread of wahabism ideology – it is an ideology which act as guide for islamic state. It acts against the liberal ideology of western countries.
2. Funding – Some experts alleged that super powers like US provided it funds which led to emergence of Islamic state.
3. Social media – led to their presence all over the world like Indonesia , France etc. as it assists in carrying out lone wolf attacks.
4. Military administration of Iraqi army took an unprecedented task of dissolving of Iraqi army. Thus a large no. of youth with military training lost their jobs creating band of robbers around Iraq.
5. American actions of training of proxy warriors and use in policing functions increased prestige of militants in keeping the security in the eyes of people.

Measure to address Islamic state problem

1. National security – especially on digital platforms which convert civilians into radicalistic.
2. Control terror funding – FATF can play effective role here.
3. Increasing awareness of youth on radicalisation
4. Global effort to deal with terrorism with heavy head through convention like CCIT (comprehensive convention on terrorism) and regional grouping like SCO – RATS.

5. Collaboration and coordination of intelligence agency all over the world like Mossad and RAW

Conclusion
Write a suitable and apt conclusion

Best answer: Ankur

Q.46) What measures can be taken to make India the global manufacturing hub like China? Suggest.

Introduction:
In 1990 China produced less than 3% of global manufacturing output. China now produces almost half of the world's goods. The low cost of manufacturing in China played a huge role in making it the second largest economy. Now China is rapidly moving into medium to high-tech manufacturing as its labour costs have risen.
In such scenario, favourable demographic dividend over next 2-3 decades, availability of low cost labour and strong domestic market provides an opportunity for India to turn as a global manufacturing hub.

Body:
Measures India can take to achieve this
Factor cost reforms
• Land reforms making it easier and affordable to acquire land.
• Capital: allowing greater flow of FDI to reduce cost of borrowing.
• Moving from over-protective to Flexible labour laws.
• Predictable tax regime.

Investment in infrastructure
• Well connected means of transport (road, rail, inland-waterway) to keep transportation cost minimum.
• Development of industrial corridors would attract setting up new industries.
• Adequate focus to ensure availability of hard and soft infrastructure (Power supply, credit flow, man power and other).

Business friendly ecosystem
• Doing away with obsolete and obstructing framework and bringing transparent and user friendly business environment.

- This involves comprehensive overhaul of outdated processes and policies. Examples: use of ICT in taxation system would reduce human interface; rent seeking behaviour; make process simpler thus reduce compliance cost.

Innovation:
- Innovation is necessary to come up with new technology, new products and new brands.
- Therefore Research and development needs to be given focus by bringing together scientists-research institutes-industries.
- Strengthening patent regime.

Technology adoption:
- Need to support technology upgradation in MSME's.
- Harnessing new technologies like Artificial intelligence and making country part industrial revolution 4.0.

Policy support:
- Adequate measures to boost growth of MSME's.
- Strengthening traditional industries.
- Focus on food processing industries.
- Setting up Special Economic Zones and Coastal Economic Zones.
- Simplifying tax system.

Conclusion:
Given the potential of manufacturing sector and the need to shift workforce from primary sector, Government of India has come out with 'Make in India' initiative to make India global hub of manufacturing, research and innovation and integrate with global supply chain. Initiative should be followed with adequate policy measures to realise its objectives.

Best answer: shri
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Q.47) Examine the implications of non-performing assets (NPAs) for India's industrial sector.

Introduction
Non-performing assets (NPA) is a loan for which interest or principal is overdue for 90 days. Gross NPA ratio in India stands at 12%, which is one of worst among major economies of the world. This rising NPA has major impacts on some industries of the country:

Body

1. POWER SECTOR: Power sector, especially one dependant on coal, has largely contributed to NPA in India. Low capacity utilization, difficulty in coal imports, land and environment clearances have led to debt ridden distribution companies. The government aim of 24×7 electricity supply, scaling up to cleaner fuel based electricity or to improve health of DISCOMs is halted due to credit constraint.
2. Infrastructure Sector: Connectivity is the backbone of any country. With the surmounting loans and the non-availability of fresh credit along with liquidity crunch had put this on backtrack. Growing NPA in this sector have led to stalled projects, reluctance of private sector towards PPP projects.
3. Real estate: A sector, which is second largest employment generator in India after agriculture, has seen decline in bank lending due to rising number of defaulting developers
4. Telecommunication: politicisation of sector, Sudden boom had led to indiscriminate lending to the sector. Economic slowdown slowly piled up bad loans in the sector leading to reduced competition among telecom providers and decrease in service efficiency
5. Financial SECTOR: Financial institutes were reluctant to lend having learnt the lesson, less capital available for investors and the institutes themselves had to bear with low profits
6. Banking Sector: Banks works as oxygen for an economy. The deteriorating health of banking sector had undesirable spill over effect on all sectors.
7. MSMEs: The MSMEs are the small establishment with periodic need of credit to continue their operation. The unavailability of loans forces them to shut down and hence leave large population unemployed.

Government over the period came up with a slew of measures to deal with NPA including legislative/executive/judicial reforms such as
1. IBC 2016,
2. Bank recapitalisation under Indradhanush.
3. Increased oversight by RBI through amending banking regulation act and Prompt corrective action,
4. Bad banks, bank mergers, ARC,
5. FRDI bill, SARFAESI act,
6. Capital infusion in PSBs worth 2.11 lakh crores ,
7. SEBI guidelines to credit agencies after IL&FS failure,
8. Recommendation of committees such as P J Nayak , Mehta committee etc.

Conclusion

If India aims to increase its growth rate to double figure, resolving NPA problem should be a preference. Sticking to healthy banking principles , more autonomy to

banks coupled by effective oversight by RBI and reduced political interference is a way to go

Q.48) Examine the potential of inland water transportation in India.

Introduction:
Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) is a method of transporting cargo over rivers, backwaters, canals, and creeks.
It provides a cost-effective, logistically efficient and environment-friendly mode of transport and whose development as a supplementary mode would enable diversion of traffic from over-congested roads and railways.

Body:
India has nearly 14,500 km of navigable waterways. However, IWT accounts for less than 1% of its freight traffic. Developing IWT will lead to following Potential benefits
1. Industries:
   - Bring down logistics cost thus increasing competitiveness of industries.
   - Dispersal of industries along waterways leading to employment generation thus promoting balanced regional development.
   - Fillip to ship building industry.
   - Boost to Tourism sector.
2. Enhanced connectivity with neighbouring countries like Bangladesh will boost trade and commerce between nations. Within India, it will boost the maritime trade of the Indian states and augment their economies.
3. Towards Green economy:
   - Comparatively less polluting: CO_2 emissions are from container vessels range much lesser than road transport vehicles.
   - Diversion of traffic from road and rail.
4. Their development will lead to the development of integrated transportation sector (rail, road, water) thus connecting ports, major cities with remote areas.
5. Their economic importance will lead to better management of inland water resources.
6. As the acquisition of land for national and State highways becomes scarce and the cost of construction of roads, flyovers and bridges goes up, inland waterways provide better alternative to the government as a means of public transportation.

However, following challenges exist in their development.

- There is seasonal fall in water levels particularly rain-fed rivers of peninsular India which are almost dry during summer.
- Less flow of water due to diversion of water for irrigation. Hard for even steamboats to sail. Example: Ganga.
- Reduced navigability due to siltation, waterfalls and cataracts in rivers and salinity in coastal rivers.
- Dredging carried out to maintain minimum depth of water may negatively affect aquatic ecosystem, entry of saline water into creeks in coastal areas.
- Lack of Public Funds: The financing requirement for NWs is huge and open-ended. Heavy investment will be needed to procure equipment, including dredgers, shipping vessels, and barges of different sizes.
- Disinterest by Private Players: Even after liberalisation and economic reforms, there has been very less active participation from private players in this sector.

Conclusion:

Given such benefits IWT brings, Government of India Under the National Waterways Act, 2016, 111 inland waterways have been declared as National Waterways (NWs)in addition to the five existing NWs, across 24 States for utilizing them as an environment friendly and sustainable mode of transport. The JalMargVikas Project has been commissioned for capacity augmentation of NW–1 (river Ganga) from Haldia to Varanasi with an objective to facilitate movement of 1,500 – 2,000tonne vessels.

Such a holistic and concerted effort can change India's transportation landscape, have multiplier effect on economy, de-congest arterial roads, and even improve quality of life across geographies.

Best answer: SharathYerrapothu

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Q.49) Discuss the significance of ports in India's trade promotion.

Introduction

With around 7500km long coastline and constrain of overland movement in other side, the port led trading become more significant in India's case. India coastline supports 13 major and 200 minor ports. According to ministry of shipping, the waterway trade covers 95% of India's total trade by volume and 70% by volume, making it way forward than other mode of transport. The ports open the India's channel across the globe and counteract the numerous barriers it face in land based trading.

Body

Major significance of ports in trade promotion

1. Acts as important link to hinterland and overseas.
2. It also facilitates goods movement through export and import thus leads to increased consumer choice and provision of goods at competitive price.
3. Reduction in cost of transportation i.e. almost one tenth of air
4. Enhancement to blue economy through fishing, tourism and passenger transport
5. It is also significant for internal trade by providing livelihood to local community, multi modal connectivity by rail, roads and waterways and faster and inclusive approach in goods movement
6. Less ecological impact

However, to completely utilise the potential of ports, the government need to overcome few challenges like;
1) Inadequate infrastructure and poor connectivity with hinterland.
2) Slow turn-around time.
3) Red-tapism and excessive interference from authority.
4) Huge environmental cost and affecting coastal population.
5) Lack of proper man power and training expertise.
6) Poor maintenance of port infrastructure.
7)Outdated navigation and IT tools.

The government, in order to overcome the challenges has taken few steps such as:
1) Sagarmala project- The objective of this project are port modernisation and new port development, port connectivity enhancement, port-linked industrialisation and coastal community development.
2) Central port authority act, 2016- to provide more autonomy to port and professionalise the governance structure.
3) Revised Model concession agreement- to provide private sector participation in port development and management.
4) Allowing 100% FDI under automatic route in port development.

Conclusion

The waterway is the cheapest mode of transport, harnessing it to the utmost level will gradually lower the operational cost of trade. It will make Indian trade more competitive and hence indirectly promote employment and growth

Best answer Dazy Rani

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Q.50) In what ways did partition shape India's post independence society? Analyse.

Introduction:

India was partitioned at Independence on 15th August 1947 into two distinct nations: Pakistan and India. The partition had serious social, political and economic impacts which had complicated the bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan.

Body:

Post-partition unspeakable atrocities were perpetrated on the minorities in both India and Pakistan. In the span of a few months, nearly 500,000 people were killed and property worth thousands of millions of rupees was looted and destroyed. Influx of migrants caused demographic changes in the border states, people were deprived of access to pilgrim centres. Thus experience of Partition and its immediate effect shaped post-independence society in the following way

- Communal consciousness of people was aroused with the formation of Pakistan-principally Muslim state and India as Hindu dominated country. Dominance of Hindu community led to insecurity among Muslims in India.
- Social segregation: clearly visible in the agglomeration of Muslim communities within a particular locality in cities.
- Assertion by dominant communities: Positive discrimination by State to protect the interest of minorities had unintended consequences of further widening the gulf between Majority and Minority communities. Majority community feel they are discriminated in their own land and are increasingly assertive today.
- Thus communal divide and riots became a distinctive feature of Indian social life.
- Starting from partition, the country has witnessed a number of severe riots: dramatic events occurred in Calcutta, Rourkela, and Jamshedpur, Kashmir, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Moradabad, Nellie and Gujarat.
- The controversy over the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya is a matter of national concern and there is a bone of contention between the two communities in each and every Indian city.

Conclusion:

Thus, post-partition fragmented identities strengthened and much celebrated value of tolerance and acceptance appears to have weakened disturbing social harmony in the country. Exploitation of religious sentiments for political gains has further polarized the society.

Best answer: SID

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Introduction

Currently, India's nearly 30% population lives in urban areas and it is expected to rise upto 50% by 2050. Being a developing country with a huge population pressure India is facing many challenges due to rural to urban migration. To contain these challanges and to make a proper trajectory towards new India, Sustainable urban planning is an important aspect.

Body

Significance:

- **Safe drinking water:** According to a report by NITI Ayog, 21 cities will run out of groundwater by 2020. To avoid further worsening of such crisis we need careful urban planning.
- **Affordable housing:** One of the largest government programmes is to provide affordable housing to citizens. Sustainable urban planning will help to manage land resources in equitable way.
- **Urban sewage and solid waste management** In India less than quarter of the waste generated gets proper treatment. For rapidly growing urban agglomerations we need planning to manage this rising challenge.
- Transportation and communication: Sustainable urban planning will provide efficient and eco-friendly public transport facilities to overpopulated urban cities of India.
- Sustainable urban planning will also help in equitable **resources distribution and affordable service delivery**.
- It will also help in creating **sustainable environment and disaster management.**

In absence of sustainable urban planning India is facing manifold challenges:

- **Rise in Slums:** Few of the Asia's largest slums are in Delhi and Mumbai where unplanned urbanisation led to polluted water, health issues and rising rate of crimes.
- **Urban flooding:** Floods in Mumbai and Chennai are examples of urban flooding. These are results of unsustainable urbanisation.
- **Rising number of accidents:** Fires in buildings and deaths in various urban accidents are daily routine in Indian cities.
- **Degrading environment:** According to WHO report, out of 20 most polluted cities, 14 are in India.

Way forward

- India needs to work on achieving the goals set by United Nations under SDG-11 to be achieved by 2030.

- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums, transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport.
- Give special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women and children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses caused by disasters.
- Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.
- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.
- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Best Answer: Sid
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Q.52) Examine the implications of adverse sex ratio for India's future.

Introduction:
Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 men. It is a useful indicator to understand women's health and position in a society. India, along with china and few other South Asian countries, has a deficit of females for a long period. Sex ratio in India has declined over the past century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991. According to 2011 census there are 940 females per 1000 of males.

Body:
A number of reasons like poverty, illiteracy, culture and preference for male child are held accountable for the continuous decline in the sex ratio.

According to a Youth in India report brought out by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation, the sex ratio is declining steadily. It is projected to fall to 898 by 2031. This could have serious repercussions.

- The shortage of women has led to a sharp rise in violence against them. Likely increase in crimes like trafficking and forced marriages.
- This will lead to a situation where, apart from the ingrained son preference, people don't want girls all the more as they feel that it is difficult to keep them safe. In a study done by the Centre for Social Research in Haryana, fear of violence is a cause for female foeticide.
- Male dominated society will lead to reinforcement of patriarchy.
- The economic consequences are grave for this means that a huge proportion of the productive population is missing (effect on agricultural sector) and also the lack of women impairs the ability of men to work.
- Further lowers political representation of women making it difficult to address their concerns.
- At global stage nation will be portrayed in bad light.

To address the issue Government of India has come out with initiatives to save girl childlike BetiBachao, BetiPadhao, meant for uplifting women in the sphere of women's education; SukanyaSamriddhi Account, meant to help families' save for their daughters. However, still lot needs to be done on this front as declining sex ratio will have destabilizing effect socially, economically and politically.

Conclusion:
Ways to address the issue:

- More effective implementation of PCPNDT Act.
- Active monitoring of birth ratios.
- Detailed medical audits of all ultra sound examination carried out by registered clinics including sale-purchase records of ultra sound machines and to make these record public;
- Sustained social campaigns, financial incentives to parents giving birth to female child, free educational scholarships, reservation for females in educational institutions and jobs; and
- Active involvement of community, NGOs and other voluntary organisations and SHGs with support from government are needed.

Best answer: UtkarshSaxena
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Q.53) Why does communalism remain a potent political tool in 21st century India? Why haven't forces of development overcome communal factors? Analyse.

Background

In everyday language, the word 'communalism' refers to aggressive chauvinism based on religious identity. Chauvinism itself is an attitude that sees one's own group as the only legitimate or worthy group, with other groups being seen – by definition – as inferior, illegitimate and opposed. Thus, to simplify further, Communalism is an aggressive political ideology linked to religion.

This is a peculiarly Indian or South Asian, meaning that is different from the sense of the ordinary English word.

In the English language, "communal" means something related to a community or collectively as different from an individual.
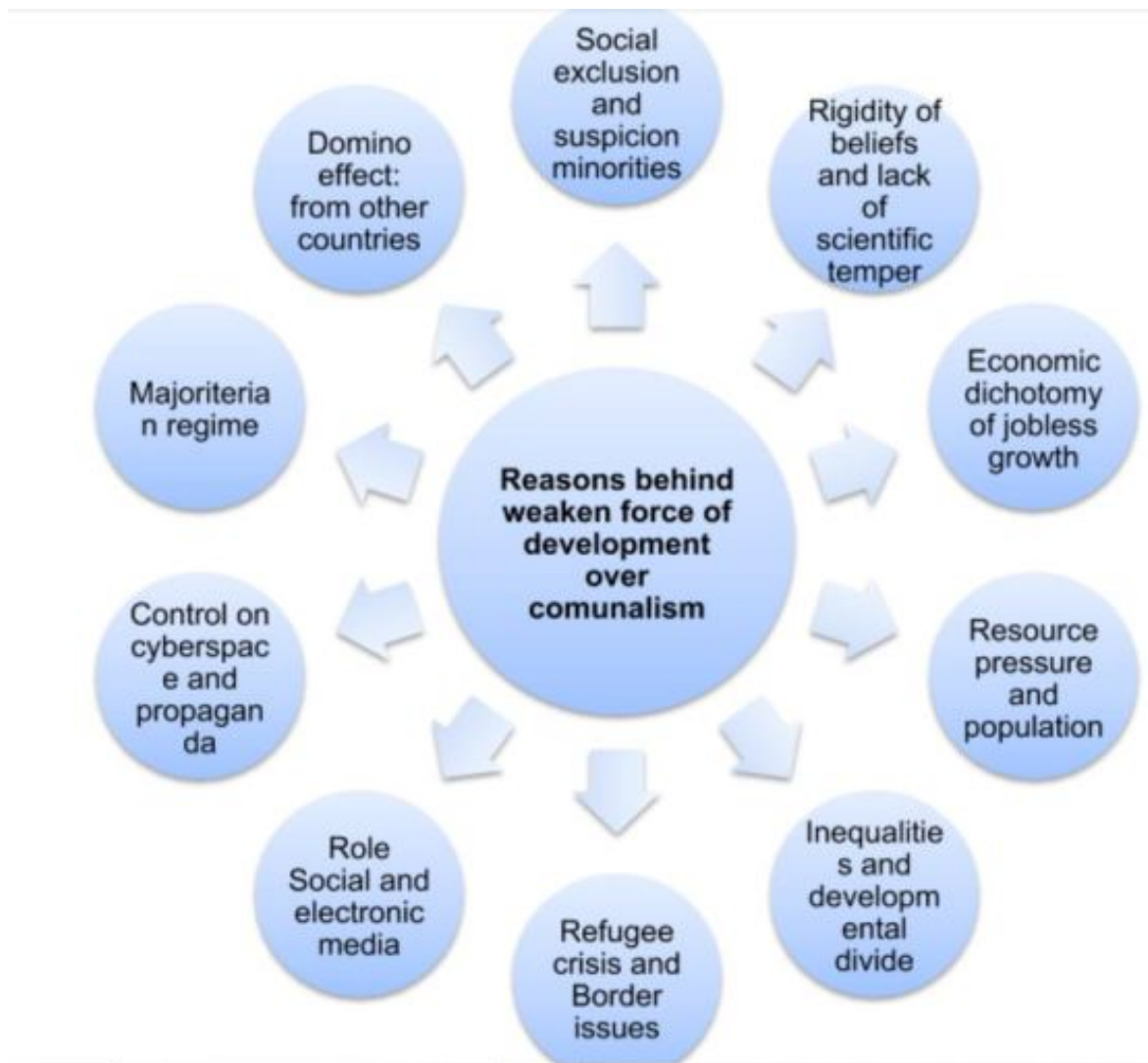
Communalism in India

- Communalism is an especially important issue in India because it has been a recurrent source of tension and violence.
- India has had a history of communal riots from pre-Independence times, often as a result of the divide-and-rule policy adopted by the colonial rulers.
- But colonialism did not invent inter-community conflicts – there is also a long history of pre-colonial conflicts – and it certainly cannot be blamed for post-Independence riots and killings.

Communalism remains a political tool

- Politicians have played a villainous role in creating serious communal situations in India. There was politics at the root of painful division of India in 1947 in the name of a particular religious' community.
- But even after paying a heavy price in the form of partition, in many riots provoked thereafter, we can find the involvement directly or indirectly, of political parties or their supporters.
- Along with this for the sake of vote bank, the policy of appeasement, selection of candidates on the basis of community, sect, sub-sect and caste, and flaring up religious sentiments at the time of elections, led to the rise of communalism.

Why haven't forces of development overcome communal factors?

- Even though Socio economic conditions of India have improved but still there are many challenges in front of Indian society, which are becoming threat for its diversity.
- Population, Poverty, illiteracy and unemployment create a lot of compulsions, especially before younger generation.
- Many from younger generation who are unemployed and are in a state of poverty, get involved in the evil like communalism.
- External elements (including non-state actors) also have a role in worsening the problem of communalism, and making it serious.

Reasons behind weaken force of development over comunalism

- Social exclusion and suspicion minorities
- Rigidity of beliefs and lack of scientific temper
- Economic dichotomy of jobless growth
- Resource pressure and population
- Inequalities and developmental divide
- Refugee crisis and Border issues
- Role Social and electronic media
- Control on cyberspace and propaganda
- Majoriterian regime
- Domino effect: from other countries

Conclusion:

We had instances of religious, cultural, regional or ethnic conflict they can be found in almost every phase of our history. But we should not forget that we also have a long tradition of religious pluralism, ranging from peaceful co-existence to actual inter-mixing or syncretism. This syncretic heritage is clearly evident in the devotional songs and poetry of the Bhakti and Sufi movements.

Best Answer: SID

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6891da179e6d67558ccbf86e7bf.jpg

Q.54) What have been the strategies of the government to address regionalism in India? Illustrate.

Introduction:

Regionalism is a sub-nationalism and political concept. It is a movement which seeks to politicize the territorial predicaments of its regions with the aim of protecting its regional interest. Generally, regionalism evolves on the basis of some social and cultural characteristics like ethnicity, caste, creed, language, color or culture.

Body:

Regionalism may help in solving some socio-political and economic problems at local level, but it is one of the big obstacles in national integration. In India, trends of regionalism are being observed in states like Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Punjab, Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, etc. Such kind of sub-nationalism has already posed some serious problems for India, especially in form of Punjabiat and Kashmiriat.

After independence Indian government adapted various strategies to overcome the issue of regionalism.

- Provision of autonomy within 5th Schedule and 6th Schedule.
- Linguistic reorganization of states with passage of States Reorganization Act of 1956.
- Three language formula, special grants to backward states.
- Federal institutions like Inter-State Council, NITI Aayog, GST Council.
- Creation of new states like Telangana and Uttarakhand.
- Initiatives like 'Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat' to promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States.
- Incentives for Promoting Investment in Backward Regions like Income Tax Concession and tax Holiday in order to give stimulus to new industries in backward regions.

Conclusion:

While regionalism highlights regional issues and provides an opportunity address them, it also has negative impacts like instability, internal security challenge, affects national politics. Uniform development of all regions should be taken up so that no region feel isolated and left behind. Government needs to come with innovative solutions so that problems of regionalism are meaningfully solved.

Best answer: Ankur

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Q.55) Technology and innovation are the keys to effective utilisation of public funds. Elucidate.

Introduction

Effective utilisation of public funds is an important aspect of governance ethics. Technology and innovation can help to maintain effective, transparent and accountable utilisation of public funds in various ways. There are any examples of technology and innovative ideas already being implemented in India and the world.

Body

Minimum government maximum governance: Is the motto of current government. It is nothing but to make shrewd investments and expenditures from public funds with broader motives of transparency, accountability and swift service delivery.

Effective and efficient service delivery

There are various apps and online platforms for various public services which help in not only reducing the shoe-leather cost and time of citizen but also save ample amount of public money by reducing the physical infrastructure and manpower.

Transparency in functions and processes of governance:

An example to understand the role of tech and innovation is cVIGIL app; It is a mobile app launched by Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure free and fair elections. Through it citizen can directly complain to ECI if they find any election malpractices.

Accountability

To understand relationship between Tech & innovation and accountability, best examples is of a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation). The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government.

Timely implementation of projects with accountability at every level will help in effective and efficient utilisation of public funds.

Welfare of all sections of the society:

Since welfare measures are taken with the help of public money, it is important to take scientific and innovative approach for it.

DBT, e-Education, tele-medicine and such other innovative ideas are nothing but with intent to use every penny of public fund in welfare of all sections of the society.

Curbed corruption and leakages

Corruption and leakages in the service delivery system that were the biggest roadblocks to inclusive growth and sustainable development have been tackled effectively by using the trinity of JanDhan Bank accounts-Aadhaar digital identity and Mobile phones or JAM trinity.

Direct Benefit Transfers of financial entitlements into the bank accounts of the poor have benefited 515 million people and has curbed corruption and leakages in the system.

Eco-friendly utilisation of public funds:

Renewable energy mission, innovative public transport system etc are again steps towards sustainable and effective utilisation of public funds. Development with none or minimum environmental externalities is moral and ethical duty of all.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from above observations that preferring technology and innovation over conventional methods of service delivery and governance will not only help in effective and efficient utilisation of resources but also establish corruption free and sustainable New India.

Q.56)What are the institutional/ structural factors behind corruption in India? How can those be addressed? Examine.

Introduction:
Corruption is the deliberate and intentional exploitation of one's position, status or reserves, directly or indirectly, for personal aggrandizement, whether it is in terms of material gain, enhancement of power, prestige, or influence beyond what is legitimate, to the detriment, or, the interest of other persons, or the community, as a whole.

Body:
Corruption in India is all pervasive. There are very few activities in the nation that are perceived to be free from this malaise. This is reflected in India's poor ranking in corruption perception index place of 81st among 180 countries.
Institutional/structural factors behind corruption in India
- Cumbersome administrative process leads to delay which encourages the growth of dishonest practices such as giving speed money to dishonest officials.
- The system of governance which lacks transparency; accountability; grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Weak institutions. Example: CBI suffers from lack of autonomy and is termed as 'Caged Parrot' by Supreme Court.
- Discretionary powers available to public servants.
- Lack of proper education and training of civil servants.
- Low salaries.
- Inadequate and insufficient supervision.
- Political patronage of officials.
- Poor public opinion.
- Unwillingness of people to complain against the corrupt.

Measures to address:
- Instil values: best way to nip corruption in the bud.
- Electoral reforms: clean electoral sys = clean governance.
- Tax reforms: a reasonable and transparent tax structure will minimise evasion.

- Pay public officials well: most public servants are overworked and underpaid.
- Police and Judicial reforms.
- A faster and more efficient justice delivery system.

2nd ARC recommendations:
- Strengthen PCA, 1988 : Sanction for prosecution automatic for those caught red-handed expedite for other cases; Recognize and punish collusive bribery.
- Liability of corrupt officials: they must make good the loss caused and, in addition, be liable for damages
- Protection of Whistle-blowers: criminalize harassment, victimization of, or retaliation against whistle-blowers.
- Appointment of independent ombudsman.
- E-governance.
- Strengthen Right to Information Act.

Conclusion:
There is ample evidence to show that corruption has slowed down economic progress and poverty alleviation initiatives in India. It has adversely affected the national security system, too. The most affected by corruption are the poorest and the most vulnerable groups. We need sustained efforts to address this menace by strengthening institutions, laws, improving governance.

Best answer: AbhishekNaik
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Q.57) Under what circumstances was the war of 1965 with Pakistan fought? How did it affect India? Discuss.

Introduction:
The 1965 war between India and Pakistan was the second conflict between the two countries over the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The clash did not resolve this dispute, but it did engage the United States and the Soviet Union in ways that would have important implications for subsequent superpower involvement in the region.

Body:
- Issue of Kashmir- Since Partition, Kashmir problem has been central to the dispute between India and Pakistan.
- Skirmishes over Rann of Kutch- Pakistan's army's performance during the limited conflict in the Rann of Kutch in April 1965 boosted its morale.

- Image of a weak India- The Indian Army had lost badly to the Chinese in 1962, which created a sense of false superiority in the Pakistan army. Also, India was still in the process of modernizing its armed forces, which seemed like an opportune moment for Pakistan.
- Other factors- Death of Nehru, India's struggle with food crisis and support of China to Pakistan also influenced its strategy to challenge India.
- Operation Gibraltar- Strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir, and start a rebellion against Indian rule.

The war was fought at two fronts and culminated in a ceasefire where India was believed to have an upper hand.

Effect on India:
- Tashkent Declaration- It was a peace agreement signed between India and Pakistan to give effect to ceasefire.
- Establishment of RAW- India established Research and Analysis Wing for external espionage and intelligence to avoid such incidents in future.
- Enhanced tri-service co-ordination- India focused on enhancing communication and coordination within and among the tri-services of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Modernization of army- Post war, India took it upon itself to re-organize its armed forces as well as modernize its weaponry, the effect of which can be clearly seen in the 1971 victory.
- Changed foreign policy- United States and United Kingdom refused to supply India with sophisticated weaponry which strained the relations between the West and India. It distanced itself from Western powers and developed close relations with the Soviet Union.

Conclusion:
The war could not resolve the Kashmir resolve, which continues till date and is a major factor behind strained Indi-Pakistan relations.

Best answer: John Nash
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Q.58) Do you think India's democratic institutions got further strengthened post emergency? Analyse.

Introduction

- India alone among the post-colonial countries has sustained democracy since its inception. Paradoxically, even the experience of the Emergency underlined the strength of democracy in India.
- Emergency was a test of democracy, and India cleared this test with ever growing success as the largest democracy in the world.

Body

There were many historical events that occurred in India since after Emergency of 1970s. These historical developments further strengthened the democratic institutions in India. To mention few, these events are as follows:

- **Constitution:** The most basic unit of democracy, Indian Constitution got its strength with enactment of 44th and subsequent constitutional amendment acts. These amendments further strengthened the fabric of democracy in India.
- **Parliament:** Being an assembly of elected representatives, Parliament should be more important than any autocratic leader. Powers of Parliament were further strengthened by 44th amendment act and subsequent measures.
- **Judiciary:** By the end of 1970 and in the beginning of 1980s Public Interest Litigation (PIL), a new instrument of justice got developed in Indian judicial system, making it easier for people to fight for their common rights and interests. And such many other measures strengthened one of the most important the democratic institution of India, i.e. Judiciary.
- **Election commission:** It was made a multi-member body with more powers to conduct free and fair elections. State Election Commissions were also established on the similar lines to conduct elections for local bodies.
- **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):** PRIs are one of the milestones in history of Indian democracy. 73rd and 74th amendment acts in early 1990s, with its provision for reservation of one third seats for women, gave constitutional status to these most important institutions of grass-root democracy.
- **Expansion of fundaments rights and Press:** Fundamental Rights under Article 19 and Article 21 expanded into much bigger set of rights. With expansion of Right to Speech, Press or Media became an important pillar of democracy. Similarly, Right to information Act of 2005 became an important instrument of democracy.

With all the above developments and strengthening of regional parties, formation of coalition governments led to strengthening of democratic institutions in India. But recent developments in India are cause of concern.

Threats to democratic fabric of India

- Populist appeals or appeals on grounds of caste, region or religious community
- Role of caste in electoral politics has increased in recent years
- Communalisation of politics
- Growing intolerance and hatred
- Restricted powers to PRIs

- Insufficient representation of women in Parliament and Judiciary
- Use of governor to dictate states
- So on…

Conclusion
- It can be concluded that in the post-emergency period, there has been the steadily growing political awareness among the people and their greater direct and indirect participation in the democratic processes.
- The disadvantaged—women, agricultural labourers, small peasants, the urban poor—have increasingly come to believe that the desired change can be brought about by the assertion of their democratic rights.
- Though democratic institutions are strengthened but communalism and caste-ism are some of the gravest threats to India's fabric of democracy.

Best Answer: Chetan R
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Q.59) The nuclear tests conducted in Pokhran gave India a strategic upper hand and a stronger voice at global forums? Examine.

Introduction:
On May 11, 1998, India conducted a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions known as Pokhran II under the code name Operation Shakti. The tests gave India a strategic upper hand and a stronger voice at global forums.

Body:
Global impact:
- India entered the club of elite nuclear powers.
- Opened up the global nuclear market for development of nuclear power without signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
- India secured rights to receive uninterrupted nuclear fuel supplies as a trade-off against safeguards on its civilian nuclear facilities.
- India occupied a special position as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology due to its no-first use policy and commitment to disarmament with advanced nuclear technology.
- After the tests, there has been a growing engagement of India with global players on the high-tech sectors of defence, space and atomic energy.

- India became full partner in the mega ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) project and other mega-science projects like LIGO, and Thirty Metre Telescope.

Domestic impact:

- Raised national pride
- It has helped in commerce and economy.
- The nuclear tests played a big role in technology integration, which can help us take advantage of our demographic dividend.

Fallouts:

- U.S. imposed sanctions on India.
- The tests were criticized by almost all global players.
- Pakistan too entered the nuclear race.

Conclusion:

India did suffer international repercussions for a while, but at the end the impact on Indian economy was positive. Technological barriers were brought down; India got established as a responsible nuclear power and raised its stature in the world.

Best answer: Gargi Gupta

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Q.60) How did the Kargil war of 1999 affect the geopolitics of South Asia? Discuss.

Introduction

After nuclear tests of two rival countries of South Asia, India and Pakistan in 1998, Kargil was the first major conflict in 1999 which almost took the shape of bloody war with heavy losses of life and economy. This event, also known as Operation Vijay changed the course of South Asian geopolitics forever.

Body

Immediate geopolitical effects of Kargil war:

- International community including China, nearly unanimously convicted that Pakistan was culpable.
- India Confirms Its Worst Beliefs about Pakistan are true.
- Pakistan realised that Kargil-like operations are not viable in the current international environment.
- With a coup d'état, Pakistan came under military rule

Long term effects on South Asian geopolitics

- It was beginning of international isolation of Pakistan.
- Aftermath of war decreased the legitimacy of Pakistan on international platforms.

- Close watch of international community increased over two Nuclear powers India and Pakistan to avoid any major war.
- Pakistan realised that Kargil-like operations are not viable in the current global environment, so it adopted other tactics such as Proxy war or terrorist activities and increased militancy.
- These tactics are to "calibrate" the heat of the insurgency in Kashmir and possibly pressure India through the expansion of violence in other portions of India's territory, for example 2008 Mumbai Terror Attack.
- On one hand proximity between China and Pakistan increased, on the other hand relations between India and Afghanistan also reached to another level.
- India Strengthened its Determination to Marginalize Pakistan on Kashmir
- One of the major impacts of Kargil war is decline of SAARC and subsequent rise of BIMSTEC.
- Moral victory of India in Kargil strengthened the position of India as idol of democracy and net security provider amongst South Asian countries such as Nepal, Bhutan

Conclusion

- Kargil was India's first televised war. India made use of the media to shape domestic and international response in its favor.
- The international reaction to the Kargil intrusion, particularly from the United States, G-8, UN, and China, demonstrated to India the power of world opinion to restrict Pakistan's options at all levels of diplomacy and war.
- Though the war brought heavy losses to India but a moral victory in this war helped India to establish its leading position within South Asian countries.

Best Answer: Ankur
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bc6280161700583f335ea0d09a.jpg

Q.61) What are the problems being faced by the sugarcane farmers in India? How are these problems being tackled by the government? Discuss.

Introduction:
India is second largest producer of sugarcane after Brazil and Sugarcane accounts for 6.0 percent of the total value of agriculture output in India. Over the years production has continuously increased. However, sugarcane farmers still face many problems.

Body:
Problems faced by sugarcane farmers

- Monoculture of sugarcane i.e. lack of crop rotation in some areas, leads to deletion of nutrients in soil and adversely affect cane productivity.
- Post-harvest deterioration in cane quality on account of staling and delayed crushing contributes to low sugar recovery.
- An irregularity in availability of water is other major issue in cultivation of sugarcane crop.
- Inadequate availability of quality seed of new sugarcane varieties and poor seed replacement rate adversely affect the realization of potential cane yield of varieties.
- The average yield of sugarcane is around 50 tons/hectare only which is much lesser when compared to other nations such as 70 tons/hectare in Brazil or 100 tons/hectare in Hawaii.
- Further reduction in yield of sugarcane due to rise in temperature.
- The technology used by sugar mills is obsolete and old which make sugar mills economically unviable and due to this farmers benefit get affected.

Recent issue:
Sugarcane farmers in India are facing a payments crisis running into thousands of crores.
- Emergence of alternative sweeteners replacing sugar and increasing health consciousness, slowdown in the pace of demand growth while continuous increase in overall production (crossed 30 million tonnes in recent years) has led to demand-supply mismatch.
- While sugarcane is procured at minimum prices declared by Government (Fair and Remunerative Price- Central Government, State Advised Price- State Government), market forces determine the price of sugar. Demand-Supply mismatch has caused fall in sugar prices which makes it difficult for Sugar Mills to clear payments of farmers.

Recent Government measures to address the issue:
- The Centre announced a relief package of Rs 8000 crore between May-June 2018. It attempts to push ethanol production and increase sugar prices by creating shortage through mandating artificial sales quotas.
- To tackle price crash, the government has now fixed minimum selling price of white/refined sugar at Rs 29 per kg.
- To curb import of sugar, the government has increased custom duty from 50 per cent to 100 per cent. Similarly, to boost export, it has withdrawn the custom duty.
- Build a 3 million tonne stockpile of sugar to soak up excess supply from the domestic market.

Conclusion:

Though recent measures are welcome, long term solution would be to deregulate sugar sector as recommended by Rangarajan Committee with equal focus on improving infrastructure, credit facility and extension services.

Q.62) Critically evaluate the recent initiatives taken by the government in the field of agricultural marketing.

Introduction

Agricultural marketing is the involvement of assembling, storing, processing, packaging, grading, transportation, and distribution of agricultural commodities from the farmers to the end consumers.

Body

To strengthen the farmers and ensure the consumers get the lowest price the government of Centre and State are taking initiatives to ensure appropriate price to the farmers

Initiatives taken by Government

• **Development and Strengthening of Grading and Standardization System:**

Assigning 'AGMARK' to graded products which ensure good quality and also command a better price in the market. Agmark online system will be made available 24/7. It will make the process of application simple , quick and transparent . The online system will make processes easy, reliable and cost effective.

Strengthening Agricultural Marketing System:

• **eNAM:** Integration of APMCs across the country through a common online market platform to facilitate pan-India trade in agriculture commodities, providing better price discovery through transparent auction process based on quality of produce along with timely online payment.

• **Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure**: The objective is to create market infrastructure including Storage Infrastructure and Integrated Value Chain Projects (IVC)

The organization of Farmer Producer Organisation:

SFAC has been promoting Agri-Business by encouraging institutional and private sector investments and linkages to ensure the empowerment of all farmers in the country.

Encouragement to contract farming: Model contract farming act 2018 by government to integrate farmers with bulk purchasers including exporters, agro-industries etc. for better price realization through mitigation of market and price risks to the farmers and ensuring smooth agro raw material supply to the agro industries.

SAMPADA scheme : PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed food

Challenges faced in Agriculture Marketing:
1)Lack of infrastructure: open auction platforms exist only in two-thirds of the regulated markets; one-fourth have common drying yards. Cold storage units exist in less than one-tenth of the markets and grading facilities in less than one-third; electronic weigh-bridges are available only in a few markets.
2)Existence of Middlemen: There are as many as 22,000 commission agents and innumerable middlemen in each market. According to Ashok Gulati, former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, commission agents in Delhi charge exorbitant fees ranging from 6 per cent to 15 per cent.
3)Presence of 'Agriculture' in state list: Many states fail to implement the guidelines of centreEg: Model APMC act , eNAM are still not adopted by all states

Conclusion :
The country will achieve food security only when the income of farmers is secured and doubled ,which will be achieved only when farmers get right price for their produce and hence Agriculture marketing is of extreme importance.

Best Answer: Dazy Rani
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Q.63) Innovations in the field of infotech and biotech hold the potential to transform the agricultural landscape. Comment.

Introduction:
Agriculture employs almost half of the population but cannot guarantee a sustainable livelihood. Technological innovations in information and biology can help alter the above scenario and transform the agricultural landscape.

Body:
Potential of Infotech:
- Artificial Intelligence- Use of automated agricultural vehicles will maximize their efficiency and capacity.

- Automated equipment- automatic watering and irrigation systems, precision agriculture etc. can help ease the way of practicing agriculture and reduce the labour input for the same.
- Blockchain technology- Blockchain can be used for agricultural trading and selling, decentralized transactions and self-executing smart contracts as well as for resource management, like tracking machinery maintenance records or for tracking other sensors and equipment.
- Cloud based solutions- help companies remotely monitor farms, interact with farmers and make every crop transparent and traceable. It also aids farmers in adopting global agricultural practices and improves productivity by offering productivity insights and harvest forecasts.
- IT based network integrators- These technological platforms offer a range of services to farmers in rural areas including financial, agricultural inputs and government assistance.
- Mobile technology- Apps like Trringo have brought revolution in farm equipment renting process in India.
- Virtual aggregators- Farmers can use the mobile platform for aggregation, and then leverage the volume to negotiate better prices with suppliers.

Potential of Biotech:
- Genetic editing- Engineering crops that require less water and that grow more food, and use of CRISPR/CAS9 to change a cow's gut microbes to try and reduce the amount of methane they are producing as well as how large they get are few examples of gene modification.
- High yielding crops- Use of biotechnology can result in high yielding varieties of crops thus improving crop productivity.
- Tissue Culture- It is the science of cultivating animal/ plant tissue in a prepared medium. Technologies based on this can be harnessed to achieve crop improvement objectives.
- Biofertilisers- micro-organisms and minute plants which can absorb gaseous nitrogen and phosphorous directly from the atmosphere and make it available to the plants can be identified, multiplied in the laboratories and introduced into the root zone of crop plants to supply nitrogen and phosphorous.
- Improved value- Biotechnology can help enhance flavor and nutritional value of the crop while also increasing its shelf life.

Conclusion:
Write a brief conclusion

Best answer: Gargigupta
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929a8ed20eebb83946e8ac24832.jpg

Q.64) What is precision agriculture? What are its advantages? Discuss.

Introduction

Precision agriculture seeks to use new technologies to increase crop yields and profitability while lowering the levels of traditional inputs needed to grow crops (land, water, fertilizer, herbicides and insecticides). In other words, farmers utilizing precision agriculture are using less to grow more.

Precision Agriculture is a concept which needs implementation through ICTs, Wireless Sensor Networks, Geospatial methods and automated positioning systems.

Body

Need of precision agriculture in India

- There is a need to increase output per hectare in India as it is low compared to other countries. One of the reasons for the low output is lack of access to modern technology.
- There is a need for judicious use of water, energy and efficient use of various inputs like seeds to enhance productivity.
- As India takes rapid strides to enhance access to digital tools, it is an opportune moment to think of ways in which the rural areas and farmers can benefit from the digital revolution.
- The next big step we have to take is to link the leap forward in agricultural productivity with digital applications and technological innovations.

Advantages of Precision agriculture

- Precision agriculture seeks to make agriculture remunerative even to small and marginal farmers by reducing the cost of cultivation and enhancing yields.
- Precision Agriculture or site specific crop management is the key to optimally manage the resources for a better yield, reducing pollution and saving environment.
- This capability could be used for the benefit of farming sector for assessing land and crop health; extent, type and severity of damage besides issuing forewarning, post-event management and settlement of compensation under crop insurance schemes.
- Research by an organization involved in precision agriculture has showed that mobile-based agricultural extension system among farmers in Gujarat had resulted in increase in each farmer getting Rs. 7,000 more per year, while the yields went up by 8.6 per cent for cotton and 28 per cent for cumin.
- Technologies facilitate to give each plant exactly what it needs to grow optimally, with the aim to improve the agronomic output while reducing the input.

- This means producing 'more with less', which coincides with our 2nd Green Revolution concept of 'more crop per drop'.

Precision farming in India
- Some of the schemes like PMKSY's (Per Drop More Crop) involve Precision Agriculture practices.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has formulated a project entitled "SENSAGRI: SENsor based Smart AGRIculture".
- The major objective is to develop indigenous prototype for drone based crop and soil health monitoring system using hyperspectral remote sensing (HRS) sensors.
- Drone technology is also being used. It has ability for smooth scouting over farm fields, gathering precise information and transmitting the data on real time basis.
- Mobile apps are being used to provide farmers with weather information and provide early warning.

A pilot project
KISAN+ (C (K)rop Insurance using Space technology geoiNformatics); The programme envisages use of high resolution remote sensing data (from Indian and International Satellites), sophisticated modelling activity and other geospatial technology (smart phone, Global Positioning System (GPS), Bhuvan Server) for improving the accuracy of crop yield estimation through more efficient Crop Cutting Experiments.

Conclusion
- The need of the hour is to adopt state of the art technology to make agriculture sustainable and profitable.
- Agricultural renaissance can take shape on a strong digital foundation.
- Adoption of technology will help in sustaining food security and enhanced livelihood opportunities.
- In addition, the farming community needs to diversify and take up allied activities like fisheries, dairy and poultry as well to double the on-farm incomes.

Best Answer:SID
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473632e960db3a01748f251d6184.jpg
Dazy Rani
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84205f589cb81ead92afbd732697.jpg

Q.65)What are technology missions? What do these missions try to achieve? Explain.

Introduction:
Technology Mission generally implies that projects have clearly defined objectives, scopes, and implementation timelines. They have measurable outcomes and service levels with the help of technology advancements in particular assigned sector. The "Technology Missions" are the brainchild of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, started in 1987.

Body:
The mission was started as an offshoot of the Seventh Plan in the fields of literacy, immunization, oilseeds, drinking water, dairy products and telecommunication. Subsequently, pulses, oil palm and maize were also brought within the purview of the Mission in 1990-91, 1992 and 1995-96 respectively. These missions are funded jointly by Centre and State Govt. and other allied institutions.

Objectives of the mission:
- Drinking water- Improve the availability and quality of drinking water in rural areas. There has been substantive efforts like using geohydrological mapping, to determine where to drill new wells, increasing water sources and making accessible clean water to villages.
- Literacy- Make substantial improvement in the functional literacy of the population. The mission had the dual focus of motivating people (adults in particular) to learn, and providing materials and teachers. The Digital SakshartaAbhiyan (DISHA) or National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) Scheme has been formulated to impart IT training.
- Immunization- Immunize all infants against six diseases and women against tetanus. With consistent efforts over years India was declared polio-free in 2013.
- Dairy production- The goal of the dairy mission was to develop and implement technologies to improve breeding, animal health, and fodder and milk production. Today, India is the number one producer of milk in the world.
- Telecommunication- Extend and improve the telecommunication network especially in rural areas. BharatNet has been laid down and other efforts are also yielding results through indigenous development, local young talent, rural telecom, digital switching networks, local manufacturing and privatization.
- Agriculture and Horticulture- To improve overall agricultural production and holistic development of agriculture. National Mission on Sustainable agriculture, National Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States have been launched for the same.

Other technology missions like on Railways, nano technology, technical textiles etc. have also been launched.

These missions have transformed the socio-economic parameters of India, but there are still challenges like slow pace of implementation, bureaucratic hurdles, lack of clarity about missions on stakeholders etc., which need to be addressed soon.

Conclusion:
Write a brief conclusion

Best answer: ArvindSenta
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Q.66) What significance do livestock hold for an average distressed farmer in India? Illustrate.

Introduction
Agriculture is one of the important sectors of Indian economy with about 50% of population depending on it for their source of income. Also it is one of the most suffering sector in terms of crop loss and market turbulences.

Body
Cry of Distress:
- The NSSO Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households (2013) shows that 52% of farming households are indebted, with rates as high as 89-92% in some States.
- The distress is mainly due to lack of compensation during drought and disasters, the failures of the crop insurance scheme, and the deficit due to prices falling below the announced Minimum Support Prices.

Diversification of sources of income for farmers is one of the few suggested solutions. Here, livestock plays an important role for a distress farmer.

Significance of livestock:
Livestock are domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce labor and commodities such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, leather, and wool. The term is sometimes used to refer solely to those that are bred for consumption, while other times it refers only to farmed ruminants, such as cattle and goats.

Labour:
A distress farmer cannot afford mechanised farming. For him cattle provide the service of labour. They help in very crude form of mechanised farming for small and marginal farmers.

Reliable source of income:
Unlike farm crops, livestock do not easily suffer from monsoon failure or such other natural calamity. They continue to provide milk, eggs, etc. in almost all weather conditions. Every part of livestock carries economic importance such as leather, wool, meat, etc.

Reduces input cost:

Dung and other remnants of livestock act as green manure, a substitute to fertilisers. They also help in weed control without using chemicals or others costly and hazardous methods.

An asset:

Livestock are important asset for a distress farmer which can be encashed at any moment and may help him to come out of debt trap.

Nutritional security:

For a distressed farmer's family, food provided by livestock is the only source of nutrition required for survival.

The livestock sector can offer significant opportunities for bolstering non-farm income. Though there are many steps taken by government such as bovine dairy development programs and GOBARDHAN program etc., but there are challenges which need to be addressed to make it more productive.

Way forward

- A national breeding policy is needed to upgrade the best performing indigenous breeds.
- Buffalo breeding ought to be given more attention, while poultry breeding should be focused on conservation.
- State governments should be encouraged to participate in national breeding policy implementation. Geographical information system-based analysis must be utilised to map production systems.
- Animal health care should become a priority, with greater investment in preventive health care.
- Private investment must also be encouraged. The government needs to create better incentive structures for investment in livestock.
- State governments should sponsor research and assessment of the market, along with highlighting investment potential.

Best Answer: Sreelakshmyvijayanuma

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Q.67) In an age of rapid technological advancements, the role of bureaucracy must be reinvented. Comment.

Introduction:

Bureaucracy or the Civil Service constitutes the permanent and professional part of the executive organ of government. It is responsible for implementation of policies and serves as a link between the government and the people. However, due to rapid technological advancements, its role is undergoing transformation.

Body:

Changes in role of bureaucracy:

- Service provider to service enabler- Due to digital technologies it has become a facilitator of services ensuring their hassle free operation.
- Recordkeeping to database management- From keeping big logs of paperwork, it has shifted to maintain online database.
- Increased scrutiny in administration- Advent of social media and a hyper active media have increased scrutiny in bureaucratic functioning.
- Changed public relations- Direct benefits, use of social media platforms like twitter are connecting government and public directly, minimizing the role of bureaucracy in this sphere.
- Online administration- Online grievance redressal, financial benefits to bank, public advisory over internet etc. have modified the way administration used to run.
- Cybercrimes- Increased incidence of cybercrimes has made it a necessity for bureaucracy to be vigilant.

Ways to reinvent the role of bureaucracy:

- Technical knowhow- Technical trainings need to be imparted to help bureaucrats deal with the existing tech challenges.
- Active social presence- Instead of being unapproachable to public, civil servants should try to address concerns and build public opinion about issues through social media.

Despite the requirement of changed role, there are certain crucial aspects that still require a traditional bureaucracy:

- Human element cannot be replaced by technology; the latter can only enhance it.
- Digital illiteracy prevents new bureaucratic role to reach entire population.

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion

Best answer: Krishnakant

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Q.68) What role do civil servants play in strengthening democracy? Illustrate.

Introduction

The makers of our Constitution designed the institutions of our democracy with great care and attention to detail. They were designed to endure and it was expected that these institutions will strengthen the democracy in India.

Various factors and governments tried to weaken and diminish these institutions. The one institution that has received the maximum battering is that of the civil services. Yet they remain central to the working of the Government.

Body

In following ways civil servants strengthens the democracy

- Rule of Law
- Making Institutions Vibrant, Responsive and Accountable
- Active Citizens' Participation – Decentralization and Delegation
- Transparency
- Civil Service Reforms
- Ethics in Governance
- Process Reforms
- Periodic & Independent Evaluation of the Quality of Governance
- Innovations in governance and constitutionalism

Some examples:

- Since Independence of India, framing all sorts of democratic policies such as free and fair elections, establishment of heavy industries etc. are the works of civil servants for strengthening of newly formed democracy in India.
- K.C. Sivaramakrishnan, a civil servant, was the architect of 73rd and 74th amendment acts. Local governance institutions created by these acts led to strengthening of democracy to new level.
- Ashok Khemka is another renowned example of civil servant holding democratic values dear to him.
- The most recent "collector bro" of Kerala, Prasanth Nair, is known for his citizen centric approach.
- Similarly, Prime minister gave "Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration" to those civil servants who adopt innovative ideas and try to take public policies to every citizen of India.

Concerns remains

- Lack of professionalism and poor capacity building; especially in lower strata of services.
- Inefficient incentive systems that do not appreciate upright and outstanding civil servants
- Outmoded rules and procedures that restrict the civil servant from performing effectively
- Lack of adequate transparency and accountability procedures – there is also no safety for whistle blowers

- Arbitrary and whimsical transfers and promotions, insecurity in tenures impedes institutionalization.
- Political interference and administrative acquiescence
- Gradual erosion in values and ethics
- Patrimonialism

Conclusion
At a time when politics almost everywhere is leaning dangerously towards a centralised, authoritarian, national security state with a strong leader committed to the ideology of cultural nationalism, role of permanent arm of governance that is 'civil services' becomes important in India.
By virtue of its allegiance to the Constitution civil servants can keep strengthening democracy in India.

Best Answer: P29
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Q.69) Have you witnessed a transformation in India's China strategy in recent years? Analyse.

Introduction
India-China relations have gone through a tumultuous phase in the last few years. There have been disputes like Doklam standoff, China's opposition to India's entry in NSG . Though these incidents have cast a long shadow on bilateral relations, both New Delhi and Beijing took some steps to stabilize the relationship.

Body
There has been a recent change in India-China strategy
1)Military cooperation: Hand in Hand exercise of India and China to improve capabilities of the armies to improve mutual cooperation and strongly fighting terrorism is a step to improve relations
2)Diplomatic cooperation: The Doklam stand-off was effectively handled by diplomats and resolved without a single bullet fired. China agreed about placing Pakistan on FATF terror finance list.
3)Economic activities: Chinese companies have been effectively investing in India E.g.; Opening up of a manufacturing plants in Chennai for mobile phones.
Sister city agreement with Chinese cities to improve commercial and cultural ties
4)Culture relations: To enhance people to people contact India has signed agreements for movie collaborations.
5) Joining of groups like SCO: India has successfully entered SCO which will result in more cooperation with China and better access to Central Asian countries
6) Cooperation in creation of institution like NDB, AIIB which will help developing countries of Asia, Africa

There has also been a lot of divergence between India –China policy

1. Chinese expansionist policy in South China sea and pending boundary dispute in Arunachal Pradesh , constructing of dams on upper reach of Brahmaputra without consulting India .
2. China 's continuous support to Pakistan and CPEC which challenges India sovereignty is matter of conflict .
3. Skewed trade balance which is in favour of China.
4. India is now trying to expand influence in Africa by training African students in various fields, establishing industries in Africa and improving Internet connectivity
5. India is also cooperating with Australia, US and Japan to contain china's influence and also to sustain principle of free maritime trade.
6. Neighbourhood first policy: While China is trying to encircle India, India is now focussing on resolving issues with neighbouring countries and increase its influence

Eg: Though India –Nepal relation hit rock bottom and China gained advantage India is now trying to resolve tensions with Nepal.

Conclusion
Thus India is trying to balance its interests with China along with its own aspirations and desires of being a balancing power to China .

Best Answer: AniketSachan
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066eef056e73bbbfdbf4555095d.jpg

Q.70) What are the strategic implications of the increasing proximity of some of India's neighbours with China? How can it be addressed?

Introduction:
Increasing presence of China in India's neighbourhood and their proximity has created a tensions across the strategic circles about India's sovereignty and India's position in South Asia.

Body:
There have been instances where countries like Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal have shown increase in proximity with China.
Strategic Implications of this proximity:

- Increase in border conflicts- In long term, there can be border issues with neighbouring countries. For instance, India-Nepal, India-Myanmar has open border, it might get affected

- Internal security- Already there are intelligence report of China providing funding and arms and ammunitions to the separatist groups like NSCN, in future it might affect India's unity and integrity.
- Anti-India stand- Maldives has asked India to take back the two Dhruv helicopters which were gifted by India. During the economic blockade, Nepal's citizens, government and institutions took an anti-India stand.
- Export earnings- There might be drop in demand for products from India due to increased Chinese products which are comparatively cheaper.
- Investment in infrastructure- Projects in Maldives airport, Sri lanka'sHambantotta port, were taken from Indian companies and given to Chinese firms.
- Military presence- Increased strategic infrastructure by China in these countries can lead to increased Chinese presence in the region encircling India.

Addressed:
- Increase the line of credit: Increase the facilities like Line of Credit, Zero-interest loans etc.
- Currency swap facilities- Recently, Nepal has asked India (RBI) to make currency higher than 500 legal tender in their country.
- Increased trade- Improving border infrastructure, better regional/bilateral trade agreements, easing border restrictions on trade etc. can ensure a healthy relation among countries.
- Cultural ties- India has an ancient history of people-to-people ties in these region. Initiatives like Sagarmala can be extended to the immediate neighbours as well to improve such ties.
- Nature of aid- Unlike debt-entrapment by China, India can help in capacity building in the small nations thus helping their economy which will strengthen relations in the long run.
- Restructuring SAARC- Restructuring of SAARC on lines of Euro zone or ASEAN can address some issues and bring the neighbors closer to India.

Conclusion:
Provide a Brief conclusion.

Best answer: Vamshi
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Q.71) Has the dynamics of Indo-US relations changed after the election of Donald Trump as the President? Critically evaluate.

Introduction:
Policies and Politics are greatly influenced by the people in power. The change in head of states is followed by both continuities in policies and changes which influence the bilateral and multilateral relation

Body
Positive changes with Trump   in power
1) Defence Relations
- Indo Pacific Moniker: Trump administration that encouraged the adoption of the 'Indo-Pacific' moniker, which links the fate of the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean region. The Trump administration also rechristened the US Pacific Command (PACOM) in Hawaii to the 'US Indo-Pacific Command'. The renaming of the command, albeit largely symbolic, signifies India's elevated role in the US security calculus.
- On matters of defence interoperability, New Delhi and Washington recently inked the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
- The U.S. has become India's second largest supplier
2) Trade relations: In 2017, the Indo-US bilateral trade of goods and services reached US$140 billion from US$118 billion in 2016, inching towards the Obama-era goal of US$500 billion.
3) Diplomatic relations: The Indo-US synergy at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to grey-list Pakistan was notable.
4) Respite from Iran sanctions: India has been allowed to temporarily engage with Iran without negative consequences.
5) India's role in Afghanistan: The role of India has been appreciated and India is been encouraged to take more steps for stability in Afghanistan

Negative impact of trumps policy:
1. Climate policy: India has been accused of seeking billions in exchange for commitment to Paris accords.
2. Issue with immigrants: The protectionist stance by America, tend to effect many immigrants from India as Indians are highest seekers of visas
3. Trade wars: US has accused India of high tariffs on Harley Davidson motorcycles –India has reduced tariffs since, also USA has increased tariffs on steel and aluminium products from India. India has toyed with idea of retaliatory tariffs but has refrained till now
4. Stance on issues like Afghanistan: USA announced the removal of troops from Afghanistan and want greater efforts to be taken by Asian neighbours but have not outlined a road map.

Conclusion:
India   and USA need to set differences aside and work together to handle challenges like terrorism and increasing China's influence. The need of hour is strong and structured relations between India and USA.

Q.72) Has India's soft power been instrumental in her engagement with the African Union? Analyse.

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

Body:
India's soft power in African Union:
- Development partner- India has been focused on building alliances and differentiating India from China, which has made countries in Africa fall into a debt trap.
- Role of private sector- India is engaging with its diaspora and private sector links to build development partnerships, where India has a comparative advantage in English-language training and research. Several companies like Airtel, Mahindra, Tata, Apollo hospitals etc. are increasing their presence on the continent.
- Line of credit- India has committed about 150 credit lines worth $10 billion as development fund but with lower disbursement rates than China.
- Military co-operation- India extended cooperation on training between Uganda's military and the Indian Army
- Anti-China sentiment- India is exploiting the anti China stance in several countries to build its economic ties like Sudan and Nigeria giving India a share in oil field which was controlled largely by China because they didn't want China to have 100% share in oil field.
- High level visits- Visits by President, Vice-President and Prime Minister to various African countries.
- India-Africa forum summit, biggest foreign policy event hosted by India in more than three decades.
- Social sector- Development of Pan Africa e-network, training to doctors and nurses, Solar Mamas etc have helped improve the social indicators in Africa.
- People-to-people ties- Student exchange programs, increase in scholarships, medical tourism and research scholars have resulted in a vibrant democracy.
- Asia Africa Growth Corridor in collaboration with Japan

The success of soft power initiatives can be seen in
- Increased Maritime co-operation between Asia and Africa
- Pro-India stance of several countries like Sudan and Nigeria
- Support to India on global forums like in bid for permanent seat in UNSC
- Improved people-to-people ties

Challenges that prevent the engagement:
- India's development partnerships are notorious for their low disbursement rates and slow delivery. Only 4% of Indian grants in 2017-18 were committed to Africa.
- India's new concessional financing scheme, which subsidises private Indian companies bidding on African infrastructure projects, shows no signs of functioning a year after its announcement.
- Chinese money and muscle power outweighs India
- Incidents of racial attacks on Africans jeopardizes the efforts India is making to improve relations.
- Lack of a pan-African policy makes the efforts fragmented.

Conclusion:
Sustaining the complex and multifaceted India-Africa relationship requires multiple and more frequent processes of engagement involving not only government-to-government interaction but also the private sector, state governments as well as civil society. Also, as India seeks to implement its new strategic partnership with Africa and the is need to convince countries that it cannot only commit but also deliver.

Best answer: Ankur
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Q.73) What are the challenges of supply chain management of food products in India? Analyse.

Introduction
An agriculture supply chain system comprises organizations/cooperatives that are responsible for the production and distribution of vegetable/Fruits/Cereals/Pulses or animal-based products.

Body
Challenges of Supply Chain Management
- Connectivity: There is lack of connectivity from villages to markets
- Sorting and Grading technology: Farmers lack the knowledge about the process

- Numerous stake holders working in isolation: The food supply chain is complex with perishable goods and numerous small stake holders. In India, the infrastructure connecting these partners is very weak.
- Lack of demand estimation: Demand forecasting is totally absent and the farmers try to push whatever they produce into the market.
- Lack of technology applications: Cold chain logistic supply chains should take advantage of technology improvements in data capture and processing, product tracking and tracing, synchronized freight transport transmit times for time compression along the supply chain and supply-demand matching.
- Lack of system integration: The supply chain needs to be designed and built as a whole in an integrated manner. The process of new product development, procurement and order to delivery processes should be well designed and well supported with the help of IT tools and software.
- Presence of large number of unorganized retailers: At present the unorganized retailers are linked with farmers through wholesalers or commission agents. The commission agents and wholesalers redundant supply chain practices make unorganized further inefficient.

Ways through which Supply chain management can be improved
1. Improving infrastructure through schemes like AjeevikaGrameen Express yojana, SAMPADA yojana (building warehouses)
2. Vertical coordination of farmers through cooperatives, contract farming and retail chains would facilitate better delivery of output, reduce market risks, provide better infrastructure, attract more public interest, acquire better extension services, and create awareness regarding the prevailing and new technologies.
3. Customized logistics is another important immediate requirement to make logistic effective. This reduces the cost, facilitates the maintenance of quality of the produce and fulfills the requirements of targeted customers.
4. Information system for better coordination among different stakeholders from farmers to consumers is the need of the hour. The internet and mobile communication can also be used to enable information and financial transfer between the stakeholders.
5. Public private partnership is another strategic solution. Supply chain like washing, waxing, grading, sorting, packing, pre-cooling, handling facilities, insurance, finance, transport and processing facilities would add value to supply chain functioning.
6. Establishment of Mega Food parks : These parks will also provide the required infrastructural and common facilities which are essential for sustenance of the industries. Quality assurance laboratories, Ware housing including cold storages, common effluent treatment plants etc.

Conclusion

The supply chain management has to be improved in all the stages of the supply by adopting global best practices in storage, packaging, handling, transportation, value added service etc. And also by disintermediation and participation of organized players i.e., modern supply chain with a view to benefit both farmers as well as ultimate consumers.

Best Answer: AniketSachan

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Suraj Sharma

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Q.74) There is a need to introduce second generation land reforms in India. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Introduction:

Second generation land reforms are aimed at reorganizing state and collective farms into family-size units and introducing market-oriented land systems. It is broadly about leaving resource allocation and production decisions to market forces rather than to the government institutions.

Body:

Need for reforms:

- Universality- Previous reforms like tenancy act, land ceiling etc. benefitted many farmers but the benefits were unevenly distributed across classes and regions. New reforms are required to cover all potential beneficiaries.

- Land market development- Issues in land acquisition, transfer and lease of land prevents the development of a sound market mechanism where land is seen just as a resource that can help its owners in distress situation.

- Improved output- Land leasing, co-operative farming, contract farming etc. help farmers get better returns from the same piece of land, but it can only be exercised with increased market forces at play.

- Gender equality- There has been increased feminization of agriculture due to male migration, but women are still denied ownership rights over land.

How it can be accomplished:

- Land records modernization/computerization- Digital India Land Records ModernisationProgramme (DILRMP) has been launched.

- Appropriate land compensation- The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 is meant to provide owners with rightful compensation.
- Land leasing- Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016 can help in this regard.
- Contract farming- Draft Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 has been released to strengthen rules and regulations regarding this.
- Consolidation of land holdings so that huge machineries can be utilized
- FDI in agricultural sector
- Co-operative farming
- Use of land banks and land pooling

Conclusion:
For achievement of faster, sustainable and inclusive growth there is need for second generation land reform. The reforms can also help in achieving the goal of doubling farmers income by 2022.

Best answer: SreelakshmyViajayan Uma
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Q.75) What are the fears concerning the weaponisation of artificial intelligence? Discuss.

Introduction:
Google cancelled its contract with the US Department of defence to develop a machine vision system known as Project Maven, which would analyse imagery captured by military drones to detect vehicles and other objects, track their motion and provide data to the military. The company's employees signed en masse a letter to the company's chief executive, SundarPichai, stating that such a project would outsource the moral responsibility for the application of their work to a third party, and that they were not prepared to countenance Google or its contractors building what they referred to as "warfare technology".

Body
Fears about weaponisation of artificial intelligence:
1. **Drone managed by Humans:** Remotely operated drones are currently used by several countries' militaries to drop bombs on targets. But incidents in Afghanistan and elsewhere point that drone images aren't enough to clearly distinguish between civilians and combatants. AI technology can contain significant bias that affects its decision making, often with harmful effects.
2. **Humans pushed out of life and death decisions:** Erosion of traditional socio-political structures and the possibility of great loss of lives due to accelerated

growth of autonomous military applications and the use of weapon zed information, lies and propaganda to dangerously destabilize human groups. Some also fear cybercriminals' reach into economic systems.

3. Most AI tools are and will be in the hands of companies striving for profits or governments striving for power. Values and ethics are often not baked into the digital systems making people's decisions for them. These systems are globally networked and not easy to regulate or rein in.

4. There is overwhelming fear among experts about very bad copy of AI can fall in the hands of terrorists and cause huge destruction

Conclusion

The United Nations recently discussed the use of autonomous weapons and the possibility to institute an international ban on "killer robots." After 100 leaders from artificial intelligence community like Elon Musk warned that it could lead to third revolution in warfare. There need to be more such discussions in order to avoid the misuse of technology.

Best Answer: Rahul

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Q.76) Bring out the latest advanced made by ISRO in satellite technology.

Introduction:

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.

Body:

Latest advancements by ISRO in satellite technology:

• GSLV Mark III – developed by ISRO with its own cryogenic engine. The launch vehicle is capable of carrying 4 ton satellites into the geosynchronous transfer orbits.

• GSAT-7A- Indian Communication satellite built to provide communication capability to the users over the Indian region.

• GSAT-11- India's heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite. It will boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country coming under the Bharat Net Project

• HysIS- Hyper-Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) is an earth observation satellite built to study the earth's surface in both the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. Data from the satellite will be

used for a wide range of applications including agriculture, forestry, soil/geological environments, coastal zones and inland waters, etc.

- Vikas engine- The semi-cryogenic Vikas engine will improve the payload capabilities of PSLV, GSLV and GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles.
- Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)- It will be exclusively for small satellites such as nanosats and cubesats and will offer affordable launch options in India and help boost revenues
- IRNSS – ISRO helped launch India's own GPS system consisting of 7 satellites. It is capable of navigating the entire Indian subcontinent
- Reusable Launch Vehicle– demonstrated successfully. This would help reduce the cost of future launches to a fraction of present ones
- 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
- Mangalyaan- The Mars Orbiter Mission is a space probe to explore and observe Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and the Martian atmosphere.

Conclusion:
The success of ISRO is testament to India's capability in frugal engineering and finding solutions with severe resource constraints and international non-cooperation. Future missions like Chandrayaan-2, Aditya-L1, Gaganyaan etc. will help India enhance its global image even further.

Best answer: ArvindSenta
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Q.77) What are your views on gene editing? Should it be allowed? Evaluate its pros and cons.

Introduction
Gene editing, who is also known as genome editing, involves the insertion, deletion, or replacement of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) in a gene.
Several different methods that can be used to edit genes **(Note this is extra info -not needed in answer)**
1) Zinc finger nuclease technology: Has been used longer than any other gene-editing method. First developed in the 1990s, this approach involves the binding of a pair of ZFNs to a DNA target.
2) TALEN (transcription activator-like effectors nuclease) Developed in 2009 .TALENs are produced by a common type of plant bacteria. Like ZFNs, TALENs bind to and cut targeted DNA sequences. A key advantage the TALEN gene-editing method holds over ZFN is that engineering TALENs is simpler than using ZFNs.

3) CRISPR (the biggest development in gene editing was the discovery of clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPRs). The CRISPR method uses bacterial enzymes to target and cut specific sections of DNA. CRISPR is simpler and cheaper than earlier gene-editing methods.

Body
Pros about Gene editing:
Cancer Therapeutics: New immune therapies can be developed using CRISPR to treat cancer. Scientists can genetically modify T-cells using CRISPR to locate and kill cancer cells.

Curing Genetic Diseases: CRISPR technology can eliminate the genes that cause genetic diseases such as diabetes, cystic fibrosis. Given that the scientific community has already mapped many genes that cause the genetic disease, CRISPR could be used to cure faulty genes that cause genetic diseases.

Drug Research: Scientists are predicting that CRISPR could potentially speed up the drug discovery process given the technology is relatively cheap, precise and simple to use. Some of the drug makers in the world are already incorporating CRISPR technology in their drug research and discovery phase.

Pest Resilient Crops: According to Jennifer Doudna, CRISPR pioneer, genome editing could address pest and nutrition challenges facing agriculture, especially in light of climate change and rapid population growth.

Cons about gene editing
- **Changes to the Germ-line Cells**: This could potentially lead to development of designer babies which would create divisions in society as designer baby will have more genetic advantage over the other
- Bio Weapons: The former U.S. director of national intelligence listed "genome editing" among six threats in the section on weapons of mass destruction in 2016. The technology can be used to genetically modify bacteria or viruses to wage biological attacks against humans.
- Unknown diseases to human : There is a rising fear that genome editing can cause different type of diseases still unknown to human

Should Gene editing be allowed
Gene editing should be encouraged to enhance the advancements in field of science and improve the standard of living of people E.g.: CRISPR technology is targeting to treat the rare disease caused by mutation of one gene. At the same time a common guidelines need to be developed by international community's which set the guidelines of what risks are acceptable and what are not.

Conclusion
Like every new technology gene editing has two sides the need is to encourage the positive side while being cautious about negatives.

Best Answer: Mudrarakshas

Q.78) Examine the factors that have constrained research and innovation capabilities in India. What measures be taken to promote indigenisation? Suggest.

Introduction:
Research and innovation determines the growth trajectory of a nation and are essential for overall development be it social, economic or human development parameter.

Body:
Factors that have constrained research and innovation capabilities:

- **Low level of research investment**– As per UNESCO Institute of Statistics data, India spends 0.8% in GDP on R&D, which is notably less than China's 2% or the 2.7% of the US 0r 4.2% of Israel.

- **Lagging private sector**– 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.

- **Weak industry-academia linkage**– Unlike western countries, there is disconnect between industry needs and academics creating a vacuum in research and innovation.

- **Neglect at university level**– 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.

- **Lack of infrastructure**– Physical as well as other enabling infrastructure is missing to help in research capabilities.

- **Insufficient FDI**– FDI in India has focused on setting up back-end offices for R & D centers in developed countries.

- **Issues regarding Intellectual Property rights (IPR)**– Weak enforcement of IPR rules prevent the development of innovation ecosystem in the nation.

- **Unethical practices**– the urge to make illegal money, immense misuse of power, frivolous publications and patents, faulty promotion policies, victimization for speaking against wrong or corrupt practices in the management, sycophancy, and brain drain.

Measures taken by government:

- **Various schemes have been introduced** to improve the quality of research institutes, for the promotion of technology business incubators (**Atal Incubation Centres**) and research parks that promote innovative ideas until they become commercial ventures.
- Government procedures and approvals for scientists and researchers have been placed online and made transparent, thereby assuring **"Ease of Doing Science".**
- **PM fellowship scheme** aimed at encouraging young, talented, enthusiastic and result-oriented scholars to take up industry-relevant research.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs** ensure that dedicated workspaces are created for students to innovate and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
- Platforms like **"Innovate India"** promote and recognise innovations happening across the nation by enabling citizens to share their innovation.
- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0** to help bring transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.
- **IMPRINT India** is aimed at adopting engineering and technology as the vehicle to addressing the societal needs and achieving national prosperity
- Forging technology and innovation partnerships with other nations like **India-Israel Innovation Bridge** will act as link between start-ups of India and Israel.
- Various **enabling policies** like Science, Technology & Innovation Policy 2013, National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, Technology Vision Document 2035 and Space Vision India 2025 have been framed.

Way forward:
- Increased R&D investment up to 2% of GDP
- Improve industry-academia linkages
- Favourable policies to boost innovation ecosystem
- Boost to private sector
- Attract foreign investment in research
- Encourage grassroot level innovators
- Strengthen IPR policy regime
- Upgrade infrastructure

Conclusion:
India has realized the importance of promoting research and innovation, which can be seen from the fact that it made a quantum leap of 21 places in the Global Innovation Index in two years and stands as the 57th most innovative nation in the world today.

Best answer: Gargi Gupta
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Q.79) Comment upon the strategy adopted by India to counter Chinese adventurism in the Indian Ocean.

Introduction

Chinese expansionist policies are reflected in its policies of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), String of pearl theory by building different ports like Hambantota port (Sri Lanka) and Gwadar port (Pak), illegal constructions in South China Sea, and military/naval movement in the Indian Ocean Region.

Body

In view of this, India has adopted a strategy with the following elements:
1. Strengthening engagement with countries in Chinese neighbourhood, such as Mongolia, ASEAN countries, Japan, etc.
2. Recently Indian navy has inaugurated information fusion centre for India Ocean region in order to strengthen maritime security in the region.
3. Entering into multilateral & bilateral groupings involving China in order to expand the scope of engagement with China and its neighbours. e.g.: SCO, RCEP, ARF, BIMSTEC, East Asia Summit etc.
4. Malabar exercise(Japan, India and US) , SIMBEX(Singapore and India) etc. prepared India how to deal if any skirmishes happen in South China sea or Indian Ocean
5. Development of Chabhar port in the Persian gulf and Matala airport in Sri Lanka are counter to Gwadar port in Pakistan and Hambantota port in Sri Lanka.
6. India got access to Changi naval base located near south China sea in Singapore
7. Foreign policy innovations such as rejuvenating IOR-ARC, SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), Project Mausam , Africa-Asia Growth Corridor (AAGC), North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC), Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation etc.
8. Creating new fora to collaborate with partners with similar counter-China concerns. E.g.: J-A-I trilateral etc.

This strategy is likely to help in the following ways:
1. Increase the cost of Chinese ventures into Indian Ocean region (IOR) since countries in the region would have alternatives to the Chinese 'debt-for-diplomacy' model.

2. Increase India's soft power as a 'benign regional power'

However, challenges are likely to remain especially given the superior Chinese hard power (in economic & security domain) resulting in our limited and reluctant engagement with these partners.
Further, national interests of our partners in the aforesaid multilateral fora might run in with our own national interests.

Conclusion
Thus, we need more redundancy and robustness in our International engagements to counter Chinese adventurism in the Indian Ocean

Best answer: CSE Asp(SVPNPA)
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Q.80) What are the most pressing problems being faced by India's diaspora across the world? Analyse.

Introduction:
Diasporas have emerged as powerful entities since they are recognized as 'soft power' in the realm of foreign policy strategy and also as an agent or catalyst of economic development of countries of origin beside their active role in the host countries. It is aptly said that "Sun never sets in Indian Diaspora as Indian Diaspora ranging around at least 25 million is spread across various geographic locations and the problem faced by Diaspora is diverse as well.

Body
Problems faced by Indian Diaspora
1) Economic Issues:
Indian emigrants in ECR countries, from time to time face violation of contractual terms, adverse working conditions, wage related issues, employer related problems, medical & insurance related problems and compensation/death claims.
2) Political Issues:
The leaders of world are increasingly insisting on providing jobs to local population and this is cause of great concern for Diaspora who are denied opportunities Eg:H1B issue of USA .Saudi Arabia action of insisting on local people for job as security guards
3) Societal issues:
Rise in xenophobia across world has led to attack on Indian immigrants especially in countries like USA E.g.: Murder of Software professional, Attack on turban wearing Sardar.
4) Caught in Conflict Zones:
Indians are caught in conflict affected zones like Yemen, Syria.

5) Loss of connect with Indian culture and values: The Indian Diaspora feels alienated in foreign land and is unable to express themselves.

Steps taken by Indian government to handle the issues of Diaspora

1. e-Migrate provides the Ministry a comprehensive and online database of emigrants, Missions, Recruiting Agents, Foreign Employers, Insurance Agencies to make the whole emigration process faster, transparent and allows online authentication/verification of credentials of all the stakeholders.
2. Government of India has signed MoU with 6 Gulf countries, Jordan and Malaysia. The major intent is to enhance employment opportunities and for bilateral cooperation in protection and welfare of workers.
3. Government of India has also started 'Madad' portal for online lodging of the grievances of the emigrants, which are attended to on priority basis.
4. Reforms to PIO Cards: The Centre recently amended the rules of the PIO Card Scheme so that new recipients of PIO cards will receive cards that will be valid for the duration of their life. This lifetime validity will be applicable retrospectively to holders of PIO cards too if they possess a valid passport.
5. New Embassies in Latin America and African country: To help the Diaspora.
6. Bilateral engagement with US, UK to address the concern of skilled labour.
7. Programmes like "Bharat koJaniye" to help the Indians living abroad learn about India and also an opportunity to visit India

The diaspora of India is rich and diverse and can help in developing India and hence a closer tie with them is needed.

Best Answers: NKY
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https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/f1cf7fb1c43678eddac449dcd8be834c13c448941ee40d2c36c9e5bc2b1d941b.jpg
Rahul
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Q.81) Do a comparative analysis of the genesis and objectives of BRICS, RIC and IBSA.

Introduction
BRICS, RIC and IBSA are three international grouping seeking cooperation among middle power and emerging economies. They are assuming greater importance in international field as non-western countries assert their power globally.

Body

	BRICS	IBSA	RIC
Member	Brazil, Russia, India ,China ,South Africa	India , Brazil ,South Africa	Russia, India, China
Group formed	2009 in Russia	2003 Brasilia declaration	2003 in Russia
Genesis	First time Goldman Sachs chairman Jim O'Neil invented the term for emerging economies , later South Africa joined in 2010.	South-south cooperation for multi ethnic and multi-cultural societies	Geo strategic association of 3 Asian countries tries against the western powers
Objectives	60% of population and 40 % of GDP with economic ties and trade and commerce among these countries. It expands its vision to fight against terrorist activities It also have alternate measures for financial institution like BRICS or National development Bank	Promote trade and commerce among three countries Expand core democratic values to multi ethnic and multi-cultural countries It also works to promote economic prosperity , poverty alleviation programs in non-western countries to strengthen them against western domination.	Working together to strengthen their capabilities against terrorism and provide safe maritime access to all in rule based manner. It aim to improve diplomatic relations of three Asian giants and resolve their bilateral issues for eg meeting took place between India and china after Doklam issue

Conclusion
Write a suitable and brief conclusion

Best answer: jean grey
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https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/7dd62b55043d02b6519190c0f527bfd2e43f9025e9a8bb7a00764ea5faaa4f51.jpg

Q.82) What is UNDP? Discuss its objectives and programmes.

Introduction
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.
Working on the ground in some 170 countries and territories, supporting their own solutions to development challenges and developing national and local capacities

that will help them achieve human development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDP helps countries attract and use aid effectively. In all their activities, UNDP promote gender equality and the protection of human rights.

Body

UNDP's Strategic Plan (2018-2021) has been designed to be responsive to the wide diversity of the countries. The diversity is reflected in three broad development contexts:

1 Eradicating poverty

2 Structural transformations

3 Building resilience.

To respond to these issues, and better focus its resources and expertise to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, UNDP has identified a set of approaches that is called Signature Solutions.

Signature Solutions are integrated responses to development against which is aligned with resources and expertise, to make real impact.

1. Keeping people out of **POVERTY**

2. **GOVERNANCE** for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies

3. Crisis prevention and increased **RESILIENCE**

4. **ENVIRONMENT**: nature-based solutions for development

5. Clean, affordable **ENERGY**

6. Women's empowerment and **GENDER** equality

Each Solution includes a mix of policy advice, technical assistance, finance, and programmes. Each solution has the potential to unlock the path to sustainable development. But no one solution will succeed on its own. All of them are needed to achieve the SDGs.

Programmes of UNDP:

To achieve Sustainable development goals : The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious, universal and holistic agenda. UNDP promotes an integrated approach that tackles the connected issues of multidimensional poverty, inequality and exclusion, and sustainability, while enhancing knowledge, skills and production technologies to enlarge peoples' choices, reduce risks and sustain development gains.

a) Equator Initiative: The Equator Initiative provides opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities around the world to address the challenges of land degradation, biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in a socially equitable manner

b) Ocean action Hub: The Ocean Action Hub is an open, interactive website providing information and promoting action globally to implement and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life below Water before 2020.

c)Business Call to action: Aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by challenging companies to develop inclusive business models that engage people at the base of the economic pyramid (BoP) – people with

less than US$10 per day in purchasing power in 2015 US dollars – as consumers, producers, suppliers, distributors of goods and services and employees.

d)Green Commodities Program: Launched in 2009, today expanded to eleven countries to help address the sustainability problems of vital commodities such as palm oil, cocoa, coffee, pineapple, fisheries, soy and beef, focusing specifically on:

• Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

• Enabling Environment

• Farmer Support

e) BioFin: The biodiversity finance initiative: BIOFIN was initiated in response to the urgent global need to divert more finance from all possible sources towards global and national biodiversity goals, as highlighted during the 2010 CBD COP 10 in Nagoya**.**

f) UN REDD Programme: The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.

g) UNDP-UNEP Poverty initiative : a global programme that supports country-led efforts to put pro-poor, pro-environment objectives into the heart of government by mainstreaming poverty-environment objectives into national development and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring.

h)PAGE: The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.Brings together 5 UN agencies UN Environment,ILO,UNDP,UN Industrial development organisation and UN institute of training and research whose mandate , expertise and network can offer integrated solutions,

i) Tax Inspector without borders: The objective of the TIWB Initiative is to enable sharing of tax audit knowledge and skills with tax administrations in developing countries through a targeted, real time "learning by doing" approach. Selected experts will work with local tax officials directly on current audits and audit-related issues concerning international tax matters and general audit practices relevant for specific cases. This is a specialized area of tax audit assistance, given its focus on providing assistance on real, current cases.

Democratic governance and peace initiative : support the peaceful resolution of conflicts, promote the rule of law and access to justice, citizen security and human rights

 a) Youth for Peace : The Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal, launched in October 2016, supports the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security and serves the needs of young peace builders, decision-makers, researchers, development practitioners and other stakeholders, by providing a one-stop-shop for generating, accessing and sharing knowledge to promote and support young people's participation in peace building.

b) EC-UNDP Joint task force for electoral assistance : Provides assistance

3) **Climate resilience and disaster initiatives**

a)UNDP Climate change adaptation : UNDP promotes climate resilient infrastructure and energy by making energy more environmentally sustainable, affordable and accessible, and by promoting climate-smart infrastructure.

b) Preparing Airports for disaster

c) Capacity for disaster reduction initiative : The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) is a global partnership composed of 15 UN and non-UN organizations that works towards strengthening countries' capacities to prevent, manage and recover from the impact of disasters. The CADRI Partnership draws upon the diversity of expertise of its members to offers a unique combination of knowledge, experience and resources to support countries implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.**

4) **Gender Equality :**

a) Gender Equality Seal for Public and Private Organizations : To close persistent gender gaps in the workplace, UNDP is supporting public and private organizations to implement a Gender Equality Seal Programme. Through the Seal Programme, UNDP provides government partners with tools, guidance and specific assessment criteria to ensure successful implementation and certification.

b) Barefoot College Women Solar Engineers: Women Solar Engineer" initiative is to build local capacity and electrify poor, "off-the-grid" communities with clean, low-cost solar energy. As such, the project is uniquely positioned to address multiple development goals at once

Programmes in India :

1)**Inclusive development :**

a) DISHA : Creating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women in India

b) Strengthening National capacities in tribal areas

c) Strengthening NYKSS and NSS

2) **Strengthening access to system and institutions :**

a) **Improving Efficiency of Vaccination Systems in Multiple States**: In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, UNDP aims to support the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) through designing and implementing an Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), and strengthening the evidence base for improved policy-making in vaccine delivery, procurement and planning for new antigens. Integrating innovation with health care, eVIN aims to strengthen the vaccine supply chain to ensure equity in vaccine availability.

b)Increasing access to Justice :

Access of justice to poor women , SC/ST and minorities through developing strategies and initiatives that address the barriers they face while accessing justice.

3) Environment and energy

Access to clean energy : To develop market for renewable energy , technology packages for rural livelihoods in Assam , Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Secure Himalaya: to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem, while enhancing the lives and livelihoods of local communities**.**Implemented by GoI along with GEF and UNDP.

Note : This is exhaustive list of programmes to help you in revision also to nudge you to read more about these initiatives

Conclusion
UNDP thus is few years since its start has helped countries across world to build sustainable communities and achieve targets.

Best Answer: SreeLakshmyVijayan Uma
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2507deebabac660b15824ad19f6.jpg
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bfc3a61dfd28cf82dfb0a63addc.jpg

Q.83) How does China-Pakistan axis pose a threat to India's security ecosystem? Analyse.

Introduction
China and Pakistan describe each other as "all-weather friends". According to Pakistan, Pak – China friendship is sweater than honey and higher than the mountains.

Body
As such, this China-Pakistan axis poses a threat to India's security ecosystem in the following ways:
1. It opens a two-front war possibility for India, something which we might not be able to counter, given our weakness, especially vis-à-vis China.
2. China is able to constrain India's economic growth and military might by forcing India into greater defence expenditure.
3. China wants to interfere in Kashmir issue, while India wants bilateral solution.
4. Pakistan is able to sustain cross-border terrorism despite a domestic Balance of Payments crisis, using Chinese funds and material (including Chinese-made grenades).
5. They're able to combine their efforts in destabilizing Indian economy by exploiting open & porous borders with India, Myanmar and Bangladesh for:

6. Infiltration of terrorists disguised as legal migrants.
7. Supply of fake currency
8. Trafficking of humans as well as goods.
9. Money laundering
10. Supply of illegal arms and ammunitions
11. Further, China is helping Pakistan gain military nuclear technology like Ghazini including strategic war heads, nuclear triad etc. which further destabilize Indian neighbourhood.
12. The two countries are also collaborating in destabilizing other Indian neighbours, including Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal, thereby further creating threat to India's security ecosystem.
13. Passing of CPEC through POK affects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.
14. Impediment in India's bid to NSG, also China vetoes resolution against Pakistan in UNSC.

Conclusion
We need to strengthen our economic and security apparatus so as to able to strengthen both our domestic as well as foreign policy ventures to counter this threat.

Best answer: Ankur
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https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/6db9d637bbfcbfaeef026eaa1c0bdb9d5a5cbe666e7356a7d37abc14ddfc3642.jpg

Q.84) What is the threat perception associated wit China's aggressive infrastructure expansion in the border areas? Discuss.

Introduction
China's "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) policy is aimed at investing large sums of money in infrastructure development in the area between the two Silk Roads, in an effort to join them together and create one ordered area. This extends beyond mere economic activity, however, and includes establishing a whole host of rules, from cultural exchange to the movement of people.

Body
Threat perception with regard to Chinese excessive expansion in border areas:
1)Threat to India's Sovereignty: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, which passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The corridor threatens territorial integrity of nation.

2)Expansion of Military: The infrastructure being built by China, including roads, railways and ports, will benefit China's military, enabling Beijing to secure an effective means for communication and the movement of troops in a contingency. This would enable rapid mobilisation of military at the times of conflict

3)Control of Maritime trade: CPEC gives China a foothold in the western Indian Ocean with the Gwadar port, located near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, where Chinese warships and a submarine have surfaced. Access here allows China greater potential to control maritime trade in that part of the world – a vulnerable point for India, which sources more than 60 percent of its oil supplies from the Middle East.

4)Curtail India's influence in neighbourhood: Nepal which was historically close to India is now seeking help from China to use its ports for transport of goods ,The proposed rail corridor between Kathmandu and Tibet is example of growing influence of China in Nepal.

5)Threats of insurgency in North East: The illegal use of money and providing external help in forms of arms can cause unrest in North East.

India realises the potential risks and hence has its own set of connectivity initiatives such as Myanmar's Kaladan project, the Chabahar port project with Iran, as well as the north-south corridor with Russia which could be potentially leveraged. The proposed 7200-kilometer International North South Transportation Corridor is a ship, rail and road transportation system connecting the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran to Russia and North Europe.

Conclusion

India need to be cautious with growing influence of China and at same time strive and improve its infrastructure in North East and its relations with neighbouring countries.

Best Answer: Lame Name

China is pursuing aggressive infrastructure expansion of both human and physical infrastructure in border areas. This is evident from:

1. Karakoram highway
2. Resettlement of Chinese citizens in Tibet with the intention to change the regional ethnic mix.
3. Surveillance of Uighurs in Xinjiang
4. Industrial development with policy reform to promote industrialization in its interior areas.

This infrastructure expansion entails the following threat perception from India's standpoint:

1. Illegal migrants:
2. Social harmony will be disrupted as illegal migrants, disgruntled with Chinese surveillance and intrusive governance might flee to bordering Indian territory (e.g.: Tibetans, Uighurs etc.)
3. These migrants might also upset the local resource balance, given that even Indian border areas are relatively underdeveloped.
4. Military threat:

5. In case of conflict, this infrastructure would facilitate rapid mobilization of arms and personnel against India. Given our topographic realities along Chinese border, we might lag behind.
6. The frequency of border intrusions by Chinese military might increase further.
7. It curtails India's sphere of influence in the Himalayan and South Asian region (Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh etc.) where China would be able to play a more proactive role, as is evident from its mobilization during Nepal earthquake (2015).
   a. China now proposes a tunnel railway project between Tibet and Kathmandu.
   b. BCIM corridor is another step in this direction.
8. It would further strengthen the anti-India sentiments in Indian neighbourhood by using is (money and military) hard power, thereby creating new security threats for India, such as by:
9. Supporting insurgency
10. Illegal arms, ammunitions,
11. Money laundering and FCNR etc.

India needs to shore up its military and security weakness vis-à-vis China to counter this threat perception.

Q.85) What do you understand by benami transactions? How does it operate?

Introduction

Benami Transaction, in common parlance, refers to a transaction in which a property is transferred in the name of a person, whereas the consideration for the same is paid by some other person.

Body

Operation of benami transactions

1.Naamdar – He\she is the person on whose name the property is purchased. He can be wife\husband, relatives, poor cultivators depending upon the moneylender, offshore fictitious person etc. -which even may not exist, is unaware or coerced.

2. Benaamdar – He\she is the person who actually owns the property. This may be in Indian context anybody corporate, money lender, politician, businessperson. The main motive is to invest Illegal and unaccounted money into economy and get returns off.

3. Finally by various methods of coercion, or shelling of companies, false records, bribe etc. The property is purchased but remain under control of benamdaar.

Consequences
1. Black money
2. Sky rocketing prices of property
3. The common man suffers to afford a House
4. Loss of revenue to government

5. Money can be later used to illegal activities

Conclusion
Real Estates Regulation act , Benami transition (prohibition) Act and linking Aadhar with PAN has led to reduction in this illicit corrupt business as can be seen from slump in the market.

Best answer: Suraj Sharma
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https://uploads.disquscdn.com/images/d9118323f50389189ce484f9056c9dec040bd9a2f17099c33e19f1a9fc3bb087.jpg

Q.86) Enumerate the security threats imposed by misuse of communication networks and social media.

Introduction
Smartphone and internet usage in India is set to massively swell in the next four years.
By 2022, there will be 829 million smartphone users in India, accounting for 60% of the population, according to Cisco's 13th annual Visual Networking Index (VNI).
With the increase penetration of smartphones, the security threats related to cyber space are cause of concern.

Body
Security threats due to misuse:
1. **Social engineering:** Today, 'social engineering' is one of the most prevalent social media threats and also the most popular tactic for cyber criminals. Social media platforms allow attackers to find personal information that can be used to target specific individuals. Using information from employee profiles, a plausible fake account can be created to establish trust over time. Once the trust is built, the attacker might start asking for specific information, like internal server names, project names, or even have the new friend open an infected document or visit a prepared website that will drop a backdoor onto their computer. Eg: The recent case of BrahMoS Engineer being lured by Pakistan's ISI.
2. **Targeted phishing attacks:** Such attacks are carried out to steal money or confidential information, as was the case with the Hydraq attacks in early 2010 that compromised critical information of several multi-national companies. This social media threat is an example of social engineering tactics, whereby attackers exploit fear and anxiety, instead of system vulnerability to get users to part with their money. Since these attacks are so specific and targeted, the chances of success are higher. Rent Examples from India include July 206 attack on Union bank of India swindling bank of $171 million, a prompt action did help to recover the amount, data theft of millions of users of zomato.

3. Steal of confidential information of official. national, defence and businesses through advanced persistent threats Eg: DeepPanda in 2015 – attack on US office of personal management by China, StuxWorm 2010-Attack on Iranian infrastructure .

4. Fake news: The internet has enabled a whole new way to publish, share and consume information and news with very little regulation or editorial standards. This has in turn led to deliberate propaganda and clickbait articles causing disharmony in society Ex: Communalism of incidents related to death of person

5. Radicalisation of youth: The modus operandi of ISIS was usage of social media to spread the message and target vulnerable youth who felt alienated leading to increase in crimes like lone wolf attack in West .

6. Criminal Activity and Money laundering: Organised criminals are now using social media to recruit some public individuals to act as unsuspecting money launderers of their money they got from their dirty works like drug smuggling, people trafficking and fraud.

The various steps which can be taken to safeguard the threats include
1)PPP Model for Cyber security :
- State Cybersecurity Framework shall be envisaged in P-P-P Model
- Government shall partner with the private sector and the academia to strength cybersecurity posture of the state.

2)Information Security policy and practises:
- IS Policies & practices shall be mandated at govt. functionaries & its service providers
- Security Audit Adhering to international standards applicable for all govt. websites, applications before hosting and publishing
- Govt. to ensure ISPs operating in the state shall deploy cybersecurity plans in line with State cybersecurity policy.

3) State Computer Response teams:
- Establishment of the State CERT to operate in conjunction ICERT and coordinate with NCIIPC
- Cybersecurity drills shall be carried out under the supervision of I-CERT

4)Security Budgets:
Govt. agencies implementing IT Projects shall allocate appropriate budget towards compliance with the security requirement of IT Act 2000 and State cybersecurity policy, ISMS, security solution procurement and trainings.

5)Capacity Building and awareness:
- Govt. shall take appropriate steps for enhancing awareness of citizens and small business for cybersecurity
- Cybersecurity Capacity building and training for professional, extending ISEA program, introducing curricula academia and organizing conferences
- Strengthening LEAs through training, establishment of forensics labs, etc.

Conclusion
With the increase in penetration of internet in India , need is to be aware of risks and handle those risks on war footing

Best Answer: Swapnil
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Q.87) How is air quality measured? Discuss the parameters and indicators of Air Quality Index.

Introduction:
Air pollution levels in most of the urban areas have been a matter of serious concern. It is the right of the people to know the quality of air they breathe. However, the data generated through National Ambient Air Monitoring Network are reported in the form that may not be easily understood by a common person.

Body:
In view of this, CPCB took initiative for developing a national Air Quality Index (AQI) for Indian cities. AQI is a tool to disseminate information on air quality in qualitative terms (e.g. good, satisfactory, poor) as well as its associated likely health impacts. The formulation of the index was an initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission (Cleanliness Mission), based on the recommendations of IIT Kanpur and the Expert Group formed in this regard.
In India, National Air Quality Index (AQI) disseminates information on air quality in an easily understandable form for the general public. The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely,
- Particulate Matter (size less than 10 µm) or (PM10),
- Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5 µm) or (PM2.5),
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2),
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO2),
- Carbon Monoxide (CO),
- Ozone (O3),
- Ammonia (NH3), and
- Lead (Pb).

The index will be based on real time monitoring, and the health risks will be easily identified through a colour coded system. The risks will be signified through six levels – good, satisfactory, moderately polluted, poor, very poor, and severe.

AQI	Remark	Color Code	Possible Health Impacts
0-50	Good		Minimal impact
51-100	Satisfactory		Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people
101-200	Moderate		Breathing discomfort to the people with lungs, asthma and heart diseases
201-300	Poor		Breathing discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure
301-400	Very Poor		Respiratory illness on prolonged exposure
401-500	Severe		Affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases

Various ways to measure Air Quality:
- Ground monitoring stations: continuous ambient air quality monitoring (CAAQM) stations collect data of 8 pollutants. Example: SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) in cities like Delhi.
- Use of satellite data for air pollution monitoring. It helps to monitor pollution even in areas where ground-based network does not exist.

Conclusion:
Given air pollution issues in the country, Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) A time bound national level strategy for pan India implementation to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.

Best answer: ArvindSenta
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Q.88) What is land dereliction? What are its factors? How can it be addressed? Discuss.

Introduction

Derelict land is land which has been abandoned as useless or as too badly damaged to repay a private person to improve it. They are ugly, denuded of vegetation, laced with stagnant pools of water, or covered with mine tailings or slag.

Body

Factors of land dereliction:-

1) It is mainly associated with industrial countries, and also with developing countries where after mining and working on the land, leaving piles of tailings, dangerous pools land is abandoned. No effort is put to restore the degrading quality of land and dump wastes.

2) It arises because mining operators are unwilling to spend money on rehabilitation which will give them no direct financial return.

3) The financial advantages of exports, employment opportunities and economic development make governments anxious to exploit mineral resources, but rehabilitation legislation is often not strict enough.

4) Excessive grazing by livestock

5) Lack of interest in sustainable practises of business.

Addressing the issue for combating the danger: –

1. Existing mining companies should be forced to rehabilitate the land after it becomes uneconomic to extract the mineral.
2. Strict laws and restrictions should be imposed and enforced.
3. Time-limits on mineral exploitation could overcome such evasion.
4. Force the companies to tip their wastes only in large, supervised tips, rather than in a multiplicity of small tips. In the long term this reduces the area made derelict and also allows reclamation to be carried out more easily and economically because it is concentrated in a single area.
5. If the land has been completely abandoned, for many years local or national government agencies should be encouraged to reclaim the land.
6. Sustainable mining by Creating dedicated corridors for movement of men and machinery along with green corridor
7. MadhavGadgil committee in 2013 suggested to phase out illegal mining from western ghats to counter land degradation. This should apply in whole country.
8. Soil protection technique like soil mulching, contour bunding and soil health card for nutrition check etc.

Conclusion

In spite of all the difficulties, reclamation of derelict land is both possible and desirable. It can provide additional land for agriculture, for industry, for building or for other commercial purposes, parks, sports fields and other facilities for outdoor recreation. eg. old mining pools are often used for fish-farming in Malaysia

Best answer: Mudrarakshas

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Q.89) What measures both preventive and mitigative can be taken to address the ecological hazard of droughts? Suggest.

Introduction:

Drought is a slow onset disaster, which gradually evolves over months and years due to complex interactions of environmental and anthropogenic factors.

Typically, the reason behind drought is considered to be prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall leading to shortage of water. But low rainfall is not the only contributing factor.

Body:

Drought impacts are often multifaceted social, economic and environmental.

Economic impacts:

- Reduced agricultural production leading to reduced harvest and thereby reduction in the earning.
- Increased cost of farm maintenance due to the additional costs of water provisions and other resources to the farm products (including the reduced usage of fertilizers/ chemicals leading to lesser output).
- Loss of livelihood for marginal farm workers.
- Increasing cost of maintaining livestock due to shortage of fodder and drinking water.

Social Impacts:

- Drought has serious impacts on health and social safety.
- Nutritional concerns due to poor quality diet and allied health problems, loss of human lives in the extreme scenario.
- Increasing outmigration in search of alternate jobs to urban areas, which in turn increase the vulnerability of migrants as they settle/ squat in risky areas/ unhygienic conditions.
- Increasing child drop-out rates and child labor.
- Early marriage of daughters to reduce financial burden and the linking of non-marriage of daughters to the drought occurrence.
- Increased stress and anxiety resulting in increasing incidences of farmer suicide.
- Conflicts over water resources.

Environmental impacts:

The most severe impact of drought is upon the environmental resources. Often droughts result in extensive damage to flora and fauna of a region. The significant impacts include:

- Increased animal attacks in farm areas due to lack of food in their own habitats.
- Loss or destruction of fishes and aquatic organisms.

- Lack of adequate food and drinking water in forests and in extreme cases resulting in loss of wildlife.
- Migration of wild animals thereby increasing human-animal conflicts.
- Weak and diseased animals.
- Loss of wetlands and increasing incidences of wildfires.
- Degradation of soil quality and soil productivity.
- Increased erosion and desertification rates.

Drought management guidelines as given by National Disaster Management Authority

Preventive measures: identify drought prone areas and channelize efforts to augment water supply and conservation in these regions through
- Judicious use of surface and groundwater.
- Cloud seeding in Drought Prone regions of India.
- Use of modern irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler irrigation.
- Water Conservation, Storage Structures and Management.
- Afforestation.

Mitigation measures:
- Contingency Crop Planning – It aims to provide other cropping options to farmers like drought resistant crops.
- Relief Employment – Due to drought induced employment loss, the arrangement can be made for relief employment programmes with cash and food grain assistance.
- Gratuitous assistance in the form of cash or food grains to people who might not be able to participate in the relief employment programmes or who are in the category of dependents.
- Relief through Tax Waivers and Concessions will help people to meet their basic entitlements.
- Cattle camps and Fodder supply helps farmer in protecting their cattle by providing necessary assistance for their fodder, feed and health. This is done to discourage distress selling of cattle which is an important asset to farmers.
- Crop Insurance schemes.

Note: Question demands only Preventive and Mitigation measures.

Conclusion:

As per the rough estimates about 16 percent of the total geographical areas of India are drought prone and approximately 50 million people are annually affected by droughts. About 68 percent of the total sown area of the country is drought prone; which amounts to 329 million hectares. As erratic Indian monsoon gets further affected by climate change, water conservation through comprehensive strategy needs a focus to address recurring droughts in future.

Best answer: SreelakshmyVijayan Uma

Q.90) What are the principles, objectives and strategies of environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Introduction
Environmental assessment is the assessment of the environmental consequences of a plan, policy, program, or actual projects prior to the decision to move forward with the proposed action.

Body
Principal
There are eight guiding principles that govern the entire EIA process: The principles of EIA:

1. Participation – appropriate/timely access for interested parties
2. Transparency – open and accessible assessment decisions
3. Certainty – process/timing agreed in advance
4. Accountability – decision makers responsible for their actions and decisions
5. Credibility – undertaken with professionalism/objectivity
6. Cost effectiveness – environmental protection at the least cost to society
7. Flexibility – adaptable to deal efficiently with any proposal and decision situation
8. Practicality – information/outputs readily usable in decision making and planning

Objective of EIA:
The objective of EIA is
- to identify, predict and evaluate the economic, environmental and social impact of development activities
- to provide information on the environmental consequences for decision making and
- to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development through the identification of appropriate alternatives and mitigation measures.

Strategies
- Screening – is an SIA is required (eg, legislation, policies, requirements etc), what type of SIA is needed, when is it required.
- Scoping – what is the aim of the PPP, are there any significant strategic issues, who are the stakeholders, what is the current state of the environment.
- Impact assessment – identify all inputs into the SIA, constraints, project impacts, opportunities and trends, develop objectives, criteria and indicators.

- Developing parameters, principles or guidelines – these are used to guide the SIA process and can include recommendations on addressing environmental or socio-economic impacts.
- Comparing and evaluating alternative PPPs – preferred alternative/s selected, trade-offs made, public participation sought.
- Decision-making – responsibilities and accountabilities assigned, SIA process is checked, final decision documented.
- Monitoring and review – develop an implementation plan, begin monitoring and review of the project.
- Implement the selected proposal.

Conclusion
Hence environment impact assessment is basically a feedback process to maintain social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

Best answer: Mudrarakshas
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Q.91) What strategies can be adopted to address home grown terrorist outfits in India? Suggest.

Introduction:
Domestic terrorism or home-grown terrorism is terrorism in which perpetrator targets his own country and countrymen.

Body:
Being multi-religious, multi-ethnic and pluralistic society, India remains prone to both international and domestic terrorism. Various home grown terror outfits have exploited fragmented identities to spread violence. United National Liberation Front (UNLF), United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), Indian Mujahuddein (IM) and Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) are few of the home grown terror outfits in India.

Strategies to address home grown terror outfits
- Concerted efforts to address the root cause of alienation which affects communities or sections of the society. This is done by addressing genuine concerns and through education and awareness campaigns that dispel false propaganda.
- Intelligence agencies shall keep track of radicalisation attempts by over-ground workers and recruitment agents to stop this process at its inception. Keep check on international support (funds, arms) to these outfits.

- Legislation of laws for speedy conviction of terrorists and ban such outfits. Example: Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.
- International co-operation to facilitate follow up on suspects and cases in progress. This will help to deal with insurgency groups known to take shelter in neighbouring countries.
- Check on social media platforms.
- Strengthening internal security agencies like Police forces.
- Community patrolling.

Conclusion:
Above mentioned are few of the measures but the best defence would be to ensure that the people do not have the incentive to pick up arms against the country by providing them equitable political, social and economic opportunities.

Best answer: SID
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Q.92) How does terrorism affect the socio-economic ecosystem of a country? Discuss.

Introduction
Terrorism can be defined as the unlawful use of forces to people and damage of properties to coerce government and society as a whole for a vested social or political interest. Terrorism is a concern for the whole world including India. It affects every section of a Nation impacting it's socio economic scenario.

Body
Socio- Economic impact of terrorism:
> Terror led war cause huge loss of life and property (e.g. in Syria civil war , Iraq war etc.)
> Huge funding to prevent terror act reduces fund at disposal of the Government impacting social welfare schemes
> Terror led unrest impacts basic services like health, education closure of shops etc.
> Huge burden on economic health of a Nation.
> Cross border terrorism impacts relation with other Nation impacting Trade, tourism, international prestige etc. (e.g. Pathankot attack, Uri attack in India increased tension between India and Pakistan)
>Radicalisation of youth and creation of unrest among people (North- East insurgency, Kashmir issues etc.)
- Spread of communal disharmony for e.g. Muslims & Jews in Palestine
- Paralyse democratic processes in elections e.g. Afghanistan, Pakistam

- Increasing unemployment among youth due to lack of investment and industrial activity
- Increased tension in bilateral relations for e.g India- Pakistan.

Security issue of women and children for e.g. sex slaves of ISIS yajidi and Kurd woman

Huge refugees putting pressure on a Nation's resources (e.g. Rohingyas in Bangladesh)

> Children's, women's and elderly people are worst effected leaving them with less opportunity e.g. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, India and Myanmar etc.)

Conclusion

Terrorism is a common enemy to all and world leaders should come forward to some up with a concrete framework to deal with it. The CCIT(comprehensive convention on international terrorism) proposed by India in this regard is a step in right direction.

Further India should use leverage various platform like SCO, UN, BIMSTEC etc. to spread awareness of the terror threat and strengths it's preparedness to deal with domestic terror.

Best answer Swapnil

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Q.93) Discuss the institutional framework of disaster management in India.

Introduction:

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique Geo-Climatic conditions. Floods, Droughts, Cyclones are recurrent phenomenon. Development cannot be sustained unless disaster events are effectively managed.

Body:

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 deals with the management of disasters. This act envisaged a three tier Disaster Management structure in India at National, States and District levels. Under the act, the NDMA, SDMA, NEC, NDRF, NIDM and disaster related funds were established.

Institutional structure for disaster management is hierarchical and functions at three levels – centre, state and district. It is a multi-stakeholder setup, i.e., the structure draws involvement of various relevant ministries, government departments and administrative bodies.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- Is a National Authority responsible for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management and for ensuring timely and effective response to disaster.
- It consists of nine members with prime minister as its ex-officio chairperson.

National Executive Committee (NEC)

- NEC is responsible for assisting NDMA in execution of various functions for disaster management like Implementing the plans and policies of NDMA; Ensuring compliance with the directives of Central Government; To act as a coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management; Prepare the National Plan to be approved by the NDMA; Prepare guidelines for different ministries with respect to disaster management.

State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)

- A state Disaster Management Authority is established by every state government.
- The Chief Minister of the state is the chairperson of SDMA. There are maximum 9 members other than the chairperson.

State Executive Committee (SEC)

- The state government also creates a State Executive Committee to assist the State Authority in the performance of its functions and to coordinate action in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the State Authority and ensure the compliance of directions issued by the State Authority.
- Its powers and functions are almost a replica of the NEC at state level.

District Disaster Management Authority

- The DDMA are set up by state government via a notification in the state budget. It consists of Chairperson and seven members. The collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner would be the chairman.
- The DDMA works as a district planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management.
- It will coordinate with the upper two tiers of the structure and will plan the implementation of the prevention, mitigation and preparedness at local level.

National Disaster Response Force

- For the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster. The general superintendence, direction and control of the Force shall be vested and exercised by NDMA.

National Disaster Response Fund

- For meeting any threatening disaster situation or disaster. The central government will be able to use the money from this fund to meet expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.

National Institute of Disaster Management

- It is responsible for planning and promoting training and research in the area of disaster management.
- It is a premier national organization working for human resource development at national level in the area of disaster management.

Conclusion:

Ineffectiveness in preparedness and coordination, lack of implementation capacity at state level, not constituting Disaster Mitigation Fund, inadequate technology and manpower remain as challenge in Disaster Management. Challenges needs to be addressed to reduce vulnerability and achieve disaster resilience.

Best answer: Krishnakant

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Q.94) How can NATGRID help in securing a peaceful territory? Comment.

Introduction

NATGRID is a post Mumbai 26/11 attack measure. It aims to mitigate a vital deficiency — lack of real time information, which was considered to be one of the major hurdles in detecting US terror suspect David Headley's movement across the country during his multiple visits between 2006 and 2009.

Body

Role of NATGRID in securing territory

- NATGRID is an ambitious counter terrorism programme, which will utilise technologies like Big Data and analytics to study and analyse the huge amounts of data from various intelligence and enforcement agencies to help track suspected terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks.

- It will connect, in different phases, data providing organisations and users besides developing a legal structure through which information can be accessed by the law enforcement agencies.

- NATGRID will become a secure centralised database to stream sensitive information from 21 sets of data sources such as banks, credit cards, visa, immigration and train and air travel details, as well as from various intelligence agencies.

- The database would be accessible to authorised persons from 11 agencies on a case-to-case basis, and only for professional investigations into suspected cases of terrorism.

- NATGRID is essentially a tool that enables security agencies to locate and obtain relevant information on terror suspects from pooled data of various organisations and services in the country. It will help identify, capture and prosecute terrorists and help pre-empt terrorist plots.

- NATGRID would also help the police and the Intelligence Bureau keep a tab on persons with suspicious backgrounds. The police would have access to all his data and any movement by this person would also be tracked with the help of this data base.

The danger from not having a sophisticated tool like the NATGRID is that it forces the police to rely on harsh and coercive means to extract information in a crude and degrading fashion. After every terrorist incident, it goes about rounding up suspects—many of who are innocent. If, instead, a pattern search and recognition system were in place, these violations of human rights would be much fewer.
Criticisms:
- NATGRID is facing opposition on charges of possible violations of privacy and leakage of confidential personal information.
- Its efficacy in preventing terror has also been questioned given that no state agency or police force has access to its database thus reducing chances of immediate, effective action.
- According to few experts, digital databases such as NATGRID can be misused. Over the last two decades, the very digital tools that terrorists use have also become great weapons to fight the ideologies of violence.
- The Snowden files have already revealed the widespread misuse in recent years of surveillance capabilities to compromise individual privacy and even violate national sovereignty.

Conclusion
In its present form, NATGRID suffers from few inadequacies, some due to bureaucratic red tape and others due to fundamental flaws in the system. If the government takes enough measures to ensure that information does not fall through the firewalls that guard it, NATGRID has the potential to become India's go-to grid for a 360-degree perspective to prevent and contain crises

Best answer: Amit
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95. Recently Supreme Court has given its nod to the Chardham Project. What will be its socio – economic implications? What are the environmental concerns related to the project? (20m – 250 words)
Introduction
The 900-kilometre Char Dham highway project is aimed at expanding and connecting highways leading to four pilgrimage sites in Uttarakhand – Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath – considered holy by followers of Hinduism.

Some environmental activists and NGOs approached to The Supreme Court demanding stay on project due to concerns of possible environmental damages. But SC recently nodded for go ahead to chardham project.

Body

Socio-economic implications of the Chardham Project:

- The four towns of the hilly State to be connected by all-weather roads are Yamnotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.
- Accessibility will help local communities to develop. It will be easy for government to provide basic services to communities living in that area.
- Easy accessibility to pilgrimages sites will help in preserving the rich heritage and culture of India.
- Connectivity infrastructure is very important for tourism to flourish. Tourism will help in growth of traditional industry of the region and create additional employment.
- This connectivity project extends up to Tanakpur and Pithorgarh, which are near Indo-Nepal border. It will enhance avenues of trade between two countries and improve people to people contacts.

In terms of socio-economic implications, there are some setbacks too;

- Easy accessibility may lead to industrialisation of the region and exploitation of the local communities.
- Tourism on very large extent may lead to domination of business tycoons, and local businessmen traders will suffer.
- Such a large scale project may lead to displacement of people already residing in the region. Porous border can lead to smuggling and illegal entry of migrants and hostile non-state actors.

Environmental concerns:

- Petitions filed against the project are based on environmental concerns only.
- This region lies on the border where the Indian tectonic plate goes under the Eurasian Tectonic Plate.
  The phenomenon makes the region susceptible to earthquakes and landslides.
- The Geological Survey of India, in its report prepared after the Kedarnath disaster, states that road construction in mountains reactivates landslides as it disturbs the "toe of the natural slope of the hill."
- On one hand we are aiming to reduce CO_2 emission as targeted under our INDCs for Paris agreement, on the other hand as many as 25,300 trees have been cut and 373 hectares of forestland diverted for Char Dham Mahamarg.
- The road from Uttarkashi to Gangotri comes under the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

- Since projects less than 100km are not required to go through EIA, the Government has been accused of bypassing the Environment Impact Assessment by breaking the project in many small projects.

Conclusion
- Infrastructure development is necessary for India to continue its track as fastest growing economy. Safety and security of the thousands of pilgrims, inclusive development of all communities and such other are responsibilities of the government. But environment is also equally important.
- Thus we need to strike a fine balance between our development goals and environment protection.
- It must be noted that NGT and SC both has given green signal to the project, their decision must be on the basis of merits and intended towards larger good.

Best Answer: Sreelakshmy Vijayan Uma
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96. The art of storytelling through painting reached its pinnacle during Mughal Period. Substantiate with the help of examples.

Introduction
India has a rich history in terms of Art and culture. Many ruling dynasties came here, established their rule and not only embraced local culture but also enriched it through their own contributions. One of such rich heritage is of storytelling through paintings.

Body
Story telling through paintings in India:
- Story telling through paintings has been an established art form in India. We find many examples of Ramayana and Mahabharata depicted in the form of continuous paintings, for example in Pattachitra of Odisha.
- Similarly, Jataka stories of Buddha are also found in paintings of Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra.
- Though this art form already existed in India, but Mughals with their rich colors and more realistic paintings took this art to its pinnacle.

Storytelling through paintings in Mughal era:
Mughal painting marks a unique a blending of Persian and Indian ideas. Mughal painting was essentially a court art, developed under the patronage of the ruling Mughal emperors and began to decline when the rulers lost interest. The subjects treated were generally secular, revolving around themes like battles, court scenes, receptions, legendary stories, hunting scenes, wildlife, portraits, and the likes.

Imperial Mughal painting represents one of the most celebrated art forms of India. It arose with remarkable rapidity in the mid-sixteenth century as a blending of three distinct traditions:

1. Court painting of Safavid Iran,
2. Indigenous Indian devotional manuscript illumination, and;
3. Indo-Persian or Sultanate painting, which is it is a hybrid of provincial Persian and local Indian styles.

The result of this merging resulted in paintings of unprecedented vitality, brilliant coloration, and impossibly precise detail, is something dramatically more than the sum of its parts.

The credit for the development of Mughal painting goes to Akbar and Jahangir. The former possessed a library of 24000 Manuscripts, many of which were illustrated through paintings.

In the year 1567 Akbar ordered the preparation of a lavishly illustrated manuscript of the Persian translation of the "Hamzanama", the celebrated Arab epic about a legendary Hamza. Sayyid Ali and Abdus Samad were appointed to lead a group of roughly and hundred painters. The projects took 15 years to complete, and most of the Indian pointers who founded the Mughal School were trained during that period. One of the leading painters at Akbar's court was a potter's son Daswanth.

Similarly, "Tutinama" was also an illustrated version of Persian tales in the form of 250 miniature paintings commissioned by Akbar.

Is it pinnacle of Art of storytelling through paintings?

- Mughal Court paintings provide an insight into the life and times of rulers of the period. These paintings also reflect the contemporary social and political condition of the people. Social customs and courtly traditions are vividly depicted in these paintings.

- Mughal painting forms a dramatic episode in the history of India. It's aims and standpoint are secular and realistic: it is interested in passing events and most typically in the exact delineation of individual character in the portraiture of men and animals.

- It is dramatic rather than static, aristocratic more than surreal and academic rather than vocational.

- After Mughal, there came "company paintings" in India. But they were not as realistic and detailed as Mughal miniature paintings.

Conclusion

Thus it can be concluded that Mughal paintings are great story tellers and are very informative, providing us with deep insights into not only the life and times of the Mughals but also in rich Indian heritage and culture.

Best Answer: P29
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97. What evidences prove that India was a hub of education and learning during ancient time?

Introduction:

In words of Mark Twain, "India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great-grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only."

Body:

Evidences to prove India was hub of education and learning during ancient times:

- World class universities at Nalanda and Takshashila.
- Students produced by these universities: Chanakya from Takshashila.
- Shad Darshanas: Evolution of six philosophies and their teachings.
- Travellers accounts.
- Ancient treasures and writings.
- Famous poets and their works: Aryabhatta, Sushrutha, Varaharamihira, Chanakya, Nagarguna, Thiruvalluvar, etc.
- Foreign students coming to India for studies and research purposes.
- Excellence in Science and arts.
- World's first republic and Democracy: Buddha's council, Sabha and samitis during early Vedic and Buddhist times.

Note: 1-2 lines explanation is required for all points.

Conclusion:

The above evidences prove that India was the center of excellence in education and beckoning light to the world. Also according to historical facts, Nalanda university library had 9 million books and when it was set fire by invaders, it took 3 months for the fire to completely burn down.

Best Answer: Lucku Verma

98. UNESCO has created a list of endangered languages of India where 42 languages have been listed as critically endangered. In the light of above fact discuss why is it important for India to protect its regional languages? What measures can be taken to prevent the extinction of local languages?

Introduction:

An endangered language is one that is likely to become extinct in the near future. Many languages are failing out of use and being replaced by others that are more widely used in the region or nation, such as Hindi in majority of northern India, Kannada in Most parts of Karnataka leaving behind small languages.

Body:

Importance for India to protect regional languages:
- Protect unity in diversity and fundamental right: Article 29 and 30 of Indian constitution.
- Language is linked to culture and tradition.
- Language is directly related to people's ethnicity: For instance, Tamil people in south Asia, Tuluva people or kodugu natives from Karnataka etc.
- Threat to civilization: Extinction of Indus valley led to extinction of Brahmi script.
- Celebrating diversity, Pluralism and multi-culturalism.

Measures that can be taken:
- Encourage education in mother tongue.
- Encourage students to take up one compulsory language other than their own.
- Three language policy in schools.
- Research at university level and Chair in central university.
- NGO support in form of funds and awareness creation to promote and preserve ancient languages.
- Digitalization of scripts and dictionary.

Note: 1-2 lines explanation is mandatory for each point.

Conclusion:
Provide an apt conclusion.

Best answer: Indian
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99. 2019 is the 50th Anniversary of Nationalisation of Banks. What were the socio – economic reasons for nationalization banks? Did it achieve what was intended? Critically examine.

Introduction
Almost half a century before in 1969, by means of an Ordinance, the then government nationalised 14 commercial banks of the country.

Body
What is Nationalisation
Nationalisation is a process whereby a national government or State takes over the private industry, organisation or assets into public ownership by an Act or ordinance or some other kind of orders. This strategy has been frequently adopted by socialist governments for transition from capitalism to socialism.
By nationalization, in 1969, the ownership of 14 major commercial private banks - estimated to be controlling 70 percent of the deposits in the country - was

transferred to the government by Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance.

Socio-economic Reasons Behind Nationalisation of Banks in India

1. **To reduce monopoly practices:** Initially, a few leading industrial and business houses had close association with commercial banks. They exploited the bank resources in such a way that the new business units cannot enter in any line of business in competition with these business houses.

2. **Advance loan to agriculture sector:** If banks fail to assist the agriculture in many ways, agriculture cannot prosper, that too, a country like India where more than 70% of the population depends upon agriculture.

3. **Balanced Regional development:** In a country, certain areas remained backward for lack of financial resource and credit facilities. Private Banks neglected the backward areas because of poor business potential and profit opportunities.

4. **To reduce misuse of savings of general public:** Banks collect savings from the gen-eral public. If it is in the hand of private sector, the national interests may be neglected, besides, in Five-Year Plans, the government gives priority to some specified sectors like agriculture, small-industries etc.

5. **Greater mobilisation of deposits:** The public sector banks open branches in rural areas where the private sector has failed. Because of such rapid branch expansion there is possi-bility to mobilise rural savings.

6. **Greater control by the Reserve Bank:** In a developing country like India there is need for exercising strict control over credit created by banks. If banks are under the control of the Govt., it becomes easy for the Central Bank to bring about co-ordinated credit control.

7. **Greater Stability of banking structure:** Nationalised banks are sure to command more confidence with the customers about the safety of their deposits. Besides this, the planned development of nationalised banks will impart greater stability for the banking structure.

Achievements of Nationalized Banks

1. Branch Expansion: Branch expansion gained momentum after nationalization of top commercial banks. This expansion was not only in urban areas but also in rural and village areas.

2. Expansion of Bank Deposits: Since nationalization of banks, there has been a substantial growth in the deposits of commercial banks. Thus bank deposits had increased by 200 times. Development of banking habit among people through publicity led to increase in bank deposits.

3. Credit Expansion: The expansion of bank credit has also been more spectacular in the post-bank nationalization period. At present, banks are also meeting the credit requirements of industry, trade and agriculture on a much larger scale than before.

4. Investment in Government Securities: The nationalized banks are expected to provide finance for economic plans of the country through the purchase of government securities. There has been a significant increase in the investment of the banks in government and other approved securities in recent years.

5. Advances to Priority Sectors: An important change after the nationalization of banks is the expansion of advances to the priority sectors. One of the main objectives of nationalization of banks to extend credit facilities to the borrowers in the so far neglected sectors of the economy. To achieve this, the banks formulated various schemes to provide credit to the small borrowers in the priority sectors, like agriculture, small-scale industry, road and water transport, retail trade and small business.

6. Social Banking - Poverty Alleviation Program: Commercial banks, especially the nationalized banks have been participating in the poverty alleviation Program launched by the government.

7. Growing Importance of Small Customers: The importance of small customers to banks has been growing. Most of the deposits in recent years have come from people with small income. Similarly, commercial banks lending to small customers has assumed greater importance.

8. Diversification in Banking: The changes which have been taking place in India since 1969 have necessitated banking companies to give up their conservative and traditional system of banking and take to new and progressive functions.

9. Safety: The government has given importance to safety of the banks. The RBI exercises tight control over banks and safeguards depositors interest.

Though there have been considerable achievements of nationalisation of banks, but current situation of Banking system and farmers' distress show other side of the coin too.

- Deterioration in asset quality is higher in public sector banks than that of private banks. Non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of PSBs is 6.9 per cent (against 2.2 per cent and 0.6 per cent for private sector and foreign banks, respectively).
- Most of the banks under RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework are PSBs.
- According to RBI's financial stability report, public sector banks (PSBs) are far more prone to fraud than their private sector counterparts.
- The RBI notes that more than 85% of frauds could be linked to PSBs, even though their share of overall credit is only about 65%.
- The serious corporate governance issues faced by public sector banks also contributed to the lax lending practices that are at the core of the NPA crisis.
- In agriculture sector, most of the farmers still relay on informal credit sources such as money lenders.
- NABARD's survey shows that lengthy procedure for sanction of loans by institutions, demand for collateral security and short term of crop loan were the reasons for farmers seeking loans from non-institutional sources.

Conclusion
A banking revolution occurred in the country during the post-nationalization era. There has been a fundamental change in the lending policies of the nationalized banks. It has changed from class banking to mass-banking or social banking. This system has improved and progressed appreciably. But recent two major issues of NPAs and agriculture crisis put a question mark on extent of the success of nationalisation of banks.

100. What factors led to the division of Korea into South and North Korea?

Introduction

North Korea and South Korea are again in news, but this time for a good reason. Peace process which publically started with the Winter Olympics are still going on with hope of unification and demiliterisation of Korean Peninsula.

Body

The Division of Korea began at the end of World War II in 1945. With the defeat of Japan, the Soviet Union occupied the north of Korea, and the United States occupied the south, with the boundary between their zones being the 38th parallel.

Factors that led to the division of Korea

Japanese Rule: Since Russio-Japanese war ended in 1905, Korea was under Japanese control till 1945. During this period, nationalist and radical groups emerged, mostly in exile, to struggle for independence.

World War II and defeat of Japan: As war began, Russia took benefit of resentment rising in Korea against Japanese rule. Russia called on Koreans to rise up against Japan.

US became anxious that Russia would occupy the whole of Korea, thus they hurriedly decide on the south of 38th parallel as American occupation. They chose it because it divided the country approximately in half but would place the capital Seoul under American control. During the process no one from Korea were consulted.

Cold war: Soon after WWII, cold war between US and USSR started. USSR started to establish communism in Northern part of Korean peninsula. With the fear of Soviet expansion, US occupied South Korea and established anti-communist government there.

UN intervention and the formation of separate governments: UN decided to hold elections in Korea to establish an independent government there, but Soviet Union boycotted the elections because it was perceived that UN is under US influence. Therefore UN decided to go-ahead with election only in South.

The decision to proceed with separate elections was unpopular among many Koreans, who rightly saw it as a prelude to a permanent division of the country.

Korean War: It was final nail in the coffin of United Korea. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. United Nations intervened to protect the South, sending a US-led force. Both the sides tried to unify Korea under their influence, communist and anti-communist.

Armistice: The Korean Armistice Agreement was signed after three years of war. The two sides agreed to create a four-kilometer-wide buffer zone between the states, known as the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). This new border, reflecting the territory held by each side at the end of the war, crossed the 38th parallel diagonally. And Korea stood formally divided.

Conclusion

North and South Korea have been divided for more than 70 years, ever since the Korean Peninsula became an unexpected casualty of the escalating Cold War between two rival superpowers: the Soviet Union and the United States.
Recently, presiding leaders of both the Koreas met in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The Panmunjom Declaration signed by both leaders called for the end of longstanding military activities near the border and the reunification of Korea.

Best Answer: Sonia Hussain

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101. What factors do you think led to attitudinal change of Mahatma Gandhi from a non-compromising peaceful Gandhi of Non – Cooperation (1920) to an aggressive Gandhi of Quit India Movement (1942)?

Introduction:

Mahatma Gandhi reached shores of India from South Africa on January 1915 and toured the country before participating in freedom struggle. His ways had a drastic change from non-violence, peaceful, non passive resistance to direct confrontation during the last days of Independence.

Body:

Factors that led to attitude change of Mahatma Gandhi from non-compromising peaceful Gandhi to aggressive Gandhi:

- Non-Cooperation Movement: Abrupt end of NCM due to Chauri-Chaura incident and aftermath
- Split of Congress: Swarajya Party.
- Simon Commission: Assault against protestors.
- Salt Satyagraha.
- Round Table Conferences: Gandhi - Irwin Pact.
- Individual Satyagraha: Gave confidence about the strength of masses and by then

- people were prepared for long struggle.
- World wars: British true intentions were visible during the course of 2nd world war and Cripps Mission.
- Bengal Famine and Britishers non-empathy towards India and turning away supply to war.
- Youths turning violent and losing patience.
- Mass ready for direct confrontation.

Note: 1-2 lines explanation is required for each point.

Conclusion:

All the above factors slowly one after another turned Gandhian and fellow citizens impatient, also millions perished during the Bengal famine, these things enraged Gandhi and he finally gave a call for direct confrontation with a call for "Do or Die".

Best Answer: Mudrarakshas

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102. 'Statue of Unity' is as tall as the person it is dedicated to. Describe the contribution of Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel in the Independence Struggle of India and its unification.

Introduction:

Recently Sardar Patel's statue was unveiled along the banks of river Narmada by the central government to honour his struggle and contributions towards independence. Sardar Vallabhai Patel along with C Rajagopalachari can be considered as true Gandhians, who followed the footsteps of Gandhi and former's contributions in the Independence struggle is no less a feat.

Body:

Patel's contribution in Independence struggle:

- Led from front in Kheda and Bardoli satyagraha.
- Mobilization of masses.
- Salt Satyagraha and subsequent arrest.
- Role in Civil Disobedience.
- Role in defending fundamental rights and civil liberties during his congress presidency.

- Social work: Untouchability, Women empowerment, Caste discrimination, alcohol ban etc. in Gujarat.

Unification:

After independence, Sardar Patel become India's first deputy prime minister and first home minister and placed a very significant role in unification of country.

- Accession of princely states into Indian Union.
- Operation Polo.
- Referendum in case of Junagarh.
- Effort to settle refugees fleeing Pakistan.
- Safeguarding and strengthen Civil services.

Note: 1-2 lines explanation is required for each point.

Conclusion:

Sarder Vallabhai Patel was a great son of country whose contribution towards Independence struggle and preventing Balkanization of country is worth mentioning for ages to come. Majority of the credit goes to this tall man, if India is able to maintain its Unity and Integrity till today. For his feat he was fondly known as "Iron Man of India".

Best Answer: Sreelakshmy Vijayan Uma

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103. Do you think reservation in education institutions and public employment has improved socio – economic condition of SC/STs? What measures can be taken to improve the social mobility of these vulnerable sections?

Introduction
India is unique in the world in that reservation policies address historically disadvantaged groups, defined primarily by a caste system (most other countries base it on ethnicity, religion, language, gender or sexual preference).

Body
Improvements in socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs;
Improvement in Literacy rates: According to census report 2011, literacy rate among ST improved from 47.10% in 2001 to 58.96% in 2011. Similarly for SCs, improvement is from 34.76% in 2001 to 66.10% in 2011.

Improved representation: Hitherto marginalised communities are now part of administration and decision making. Their participation in educational institutions and public employment substantially improved.

Improvement in soci-economic indicators: Studies, surveys and census data shows consistent improvement in life expectancy and health indicators of mentioned communities. Also there is substantial reduction in poverty of the communities.

Empowerment: Reservation policy mandated the admission of SC and ST students on educational institutions. It made the communities more empowered and vocal to fight for their rights.

Awareness: There is general awareness among the members of the community about their rights and legal protections. Awareness itself is a great tool for march towards freedom and egalitarian society.

Still miles to go...
- According to AISHE report 2017-18 Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education for Scheduled Castes is 21.8% and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 15.9% as compared to the national GER of 25.8%.
- Similarly, though share of SCs and STs in government services and salaried employment increased but still they are rarely found in top posts of government and private institutions.
- There are people from SC and ST community who are economically empowered and improved their standard of living they continue to face social discrimination which is still deeply rooted in Indian society.
- A so called "upper caste" patient refused to get treatment from an SC doctor, such incidences show the slow pace of social mobility of SCs and STs.
- There is formation of "creamy layer" in SCs and STs who take most of the reservation benefits, actual deserving members of the community residing somewhere in rural India or slum of urban areas are not able to enjoy the benefits of policy.

Measures to improve social mobility of SCs and STs:
- Education communication and information (EIC) are the best tools to bring a social change. There should be behavioral change that all human being deserve equal treatment mainly because of their common 'humanity'.
- Inter-caste marriages should be promoted to break the age-old barriers of caste and creed. The liquidity among social strata will automatically eliminate social discrimination.
- Stringent implementation of Schedule Caste and Schedule tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act; Legal protection will help these communities to fearlessly establish themselves as equals.
- Creamy layer concept can be introduced, as suggested by Supreme Court, to make reservation benefits reach to those who actually deserve it.
- Initiatives like Standup India should also be specifically focused, because social and economic mobility goes hand in hand.

Conclusion

Over the years, much progress has been made in Independent India. Millions of people have risen from extreme poverty, fewer are malnourished, people expect to live longer and more children go to school than ever before. Still, Many challenges remain, and exclusion—can be called inequality, or lack of opportunity or merely a continuation of basic deprivation —has led to political debates and upheavals. But there is need of 'will' of leaders as well as members of the society to end this menace of social discrimination.

Best Answer: Iron Man

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104. You must have observed transgenders begging on the traffic signal and doing demeaning jobs. Do you think giving them status of a third gender will improve this situation? What more steps can be taken to improve their social condition?

Introduction
Transgender is one of the most discriminated communities accross the world. Recently, Lok Sabha passed a bill seeking to empower the transgender community by providing them a separate identity.

Body
Briefly about Transgender in India
- Numbering approximately 4,90,000 as per the last count (2011), transgender people in India are perhaps one of the most visibly invisible population in the country.
- Historically, Indian society has been tolerant of diverse sexual identities and sexual behaviours. However, transgender people have been increasingly recognised as one of the most socio-economically marginalised communities in the country.
- Often shunned as a menace to society, they are now only visible on the streets and localities where they are found begging, never as a part of the mainstream.
- They are subject to extreme forms of social ostracisation and exclusion from basic dignity and human rights. They remain highly vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Significance of Status of 'Third gender'
- **Identity:** Every human being has an identity which is dear to them. Similarly, Third gender status will give transgender community a definite identity in the society.
- **Access to public services:** Health, education, voting rights, and access to several other services becomes difficult when a person refuses to accept one of the two "widely accepted" identities of male or female. Now, a third gender identity will help them to avail those services which are available equally to all.

- **Employment opportunities:** A socially acceptable and legally protected status will help the community members to seek any employment just as other members of the society.
- **Rights and empowerment:** Legal protection of their identity will help them to demand opportunities and practice their rights.

Identity is important but not sufficient:
- Despite laws, policies and their implementation, the community continues to remain quite marginalised and highly vulnerable.
- We have numerous examples of higher education institutions providing quota and giving special consideration to transgender people, but the takers remain few and far between. This is mostly because the school education of most transgender people either remains incomplete or non-existent.
- The lack of basic schooling is a direct result of bullying and, hence, transgender persons are forced to leave schools, which remain unequipped to handle children with alternate sexual identities.
- Education is one example, there remains many such issues which needs to be addressed.

What more needs to be done?

Definition of Transgender: There must be a sensitive definition of the community and its individuals. Insensitive definition of transgender in Bill passed by Lok Sabha is against the dignity and respect to individuals.

Provision of self determination of gender: Laws and society should not define the gender identity of individuals, rather individuals should be given freedom to decide their own identities.

Reservation in education and employment: It will help them make economic and social progress in the society and contribute to it in equal manner as done by other members.

Civil rights: Of the community and individuals should be protected under law. Atrocities against them should be dealt seriously.

Conclusion
- The need of the hour is a robust Bill with strong anti-discrimination provisions that will remedy the historical injustices faced by the transgender community, which continues to fight for the most basic rights even today.
- There is much good intention behind the welfare provisions, but social legislation is much more than high-minded clauses. It needs to be followed up with zealous implementation and framing of deadlines to achieve specific objectives.
- A multi-pronged approach is needed on a war footing in the form of mass awareness campaigns, generating avenues for dignified employment, gender sensitisation and affirmative action.

Best Answer: Desert Eagle

105. off late it has been seen that juveniles are involved in many heinous crimes but are getting away without any harsh punishment due to their age. Do you think the age of juveniles should be reduced to 16 from 18? If not, what measures should be taken to reform the youth?

Introduction:

Recently the central government passed an act to treat juveniles in age of 16-18 involved in heinous crimes to be tried as adults. This is was done as off late juveniles in that age group are involved in many heinous crimes but get off without any harsh punishments.

Body:

The age of juveniles should be reduced because:

- Maturity: Youths are getting maturity at an earlier age now than previous generation and are aware of consequences.
- Deterrence: Reducing age will act as deterrence for future.
- High crime: Majority of them are involved in heinous crimes and commit the gravest of offences with no remorse.
- No fear: Also they are aware about the law being loose on them makes them do it without any fear of getting punished.

They should not be:

- Awareness: Many child rights activists point out that they lack maturity and awareness about the degree of crime being committed.
- Used: It is also cited that several juveniles are used by handlers and they are not aware of the consequences.
- Hardened criminals: It might make them hardened criminals in future if they are not given a chance to reform.

Measures:

- Moral education.
- Interaction with counsellors.
- Noticing the change in their behaviour at school level or college level and keeping a track of their activities.
- Parents involvement in their everyday life.

- Encouraging joint family system: Majority of the juveniles feel left out due to nuclear family and non-availability of emotional support and love during tender age which drags them towards crime.
- Restriction on contents in print and social media: Crime related content and sexual contents should be filters.

Conclusion:

Provide an apt conclusion.

Best answer: Iron man.

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106. Rural to urban migration of men has increased the role of women in rural economy but it has also exposed them to different types of exploitations. Comment.

Introduction:

The term feminization of agriculture has become a common scenario in rural parts of country due to migration of men to urban areas in search of blue collared jobs in factories and industrial units. This has increased participation of women in agriculture and rural economic activities.

Body:

The increased participation has also led to exploitation of women:

- Wage parity.
- Menial jobs.
- Sexual exploitation.
- Lack of access to formal credit.
- Physical stress: Due to physical labour.
- Double burden: Family and work.
- Maternity issues.
- Health issues due to hard work and work under dangerous conditions.

Government initiatives to address the issue:

- Equal share in property to female member.

- Pradhan mantri Matru Vandhana Yojana.
- Kisan Credit cards.
- Mudra loans.
- Stand up India.
- Free food in hospitals for pregnant and lactating women.
- Wage compensation during maternity.
- Mahila E-haat.

Note: 1-2 line explanation is required for all points.

Way forward:

- Wage parity: Brining wage parity i.e. equal pay for equal work irrespective of gender.
- Formal work: Gram Sabha providing employment to women under MGNREGA and other schemes like ASHA etc.
- Feminization of tools: Feminization of agricultural tools i.e. making them women user friendly.
- Formal credit: Making availability of formal credit without any guarantee since they lack any property or lands under their name.
- Marketing facility: Providing marketing facility to women produce.
- KVK: Opening krishi Vigyan Kendra at every Zilla panchayat level to address and train them.
- Collective farming by women: This is reduce any kind of exploitation be it sexual or physical by men or outsiders.

Best answer: Rashmi Rani

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107. What conditions are required for the formation of a Tropical Cyclone? How was the recent Titli cyclone different from the usual tropical cyclones?

Introduction
A tropical cyclone is an intense low pressure area or a whirl in the atmosphere over tropical or sub-tropical waters, with organised convection (i.e. thunderstorm activity) and winds at low levels, circulating either anti-clockwise (in the northern hemisphere) or clockwise (in the southern hemisphere). From the centre of a cyclonic storm, pressure increases outwards. The amount of the pressure drop in the centre and the rate at which it increases outwards gives the intensity of the cyclones and the strength of winds.

Tropical cyclones require certain conditions for their formation. These are

- A source of warm, moist air derived from tropical oceans with sea surface temperature normally near to or in excess of 27 °C
- Winds near the ocean surface blowing from different directions converging and causing air to rise and storm clouds to form
- Winds which do not vary greatly with height - known as low wind shear. This allows the storm clouds to rise vertically to high levels;
- Presence of Coriolis force, provides energy to rotate or curve in anti-clockwise (in the northern hemisphere) or clockwise (in the southern hemisphere)

How Titli Cyclone is different from usual cyclones?
- Indian Meteorological Department declared Titli cyclone a rarest of the rare occurrence and categorised it as 'very severe cyclone'.
- Wind speed of normal tropical cyclone ranges around 118-120 km per hour. But Wind speed of Titli Cyclone was around 150 km per hour, which is rare occurrence.
- Reoccurrence or re-emergence: Usually cyclones die after landfall. But Titli Cyclone reemerged again after landfall on Odisha coast.
- Turned in Northeastern direction: Usually cyclones die after landfall, but Titli took a Northeast turn and continued.

These are some of the reasons because of which Titli Cyclone has been declared as rare occurrence.

Conclusion

Frequency and severity of storms are increasing. It has been argued that Climate Change can be one of the reason behind it. Improved forecasting and precision of IMD helped to mitigate the losses to eastern coast of India.

Best Answer: P29
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108. What are the reasons for poor economic development of African countries despite being rich in Natural resources?

Introduction

Although Africa has been endowed with vast reserves of natural resources such as 30% of world's mineral resources, gold, diamonds, bauxite, uranium, iron-ore etc, yet it is by far the poorest continent on the planet with 28 of the world's poorest countries being African. This is called the "**curse of riches**".

Body

Reasons for poor economic development

1. **Historical Colonial Exploitation:** European colonial powers such as Britain, France, Dutch etc. exploited the African resources with no focus on indigenous industrial development.
2. **Political instability** due to continuous civil wars in countries such as Sudan, Congo etc. and presence of active terror outfits such as Boko-Haram in Nigeria.
3. **Tropical humid climate** makes it prone to health epidemics such as Malaria, Ebola etc.
4. **Lack of infrastructure** for health, education, skilling and transport hinder the development of industries.
5. **Rampant corruption** in governance as highlighted by Transparency International.
6. **Dysfunctional or Non-existence of Democratic Institutions** make it difficult for designing of effective policies for development.
7. **Neo-Colonialism:** Colonialism has been replaced by Neo-Colonialism with different nations such as China, Israel eyeing for rich resources of Africa.
8. **Need of huge investment** for development.

Measures needed to ensure the development of Africa

1. **International cooperation** in terms of investment for skilling, health and education infrastructure, capacity building and transfer of technology for industrial setup.
2. **Equitable sharing of benefits** with indigenous people accruing from resource utilization which needs to be done in sustainable manner.
3. **Projects such as** Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, International Solar Alliance can benefit Africa to a great extent.
4. **Representation of African nations** in multilateral forums such as UNO, WTO needs to be increased so that their voices can be heard by the developed nations. Role of Forums such as African Union needs to be enhanced

Conclusion

In Africa's growth lies the growth of world economy and therefore nations should cooperate in a sustainable and accountable manner to ensure its economic development. The approach should be more humanitarian in nature than just following cheque-book diplomacy.

Best answer: P29

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109. Recently a large dead zone was discovered in the Indian Ocean. What are dead zones? What can be the reasons behind the formation of dead zones?

Introduction:

Dead zones are oxygen-starved ocean regions where few organisms can survive. They emerge in ocean depths ranging from 650 to 2,600 feet (200 to 800 meters), when influxes of chemical nutrients — typically from human pollution — spur algae growth, which sucks up oxygen. A large dead zone has been recently discovered in the Gulf of Oman.

Body:

Reasons behind the formation of dead zones:
- Climate change- Warmer ocean waters near the sea surface hamper the retention and circulation of oxygen.
- Eutrophication- An increase in chemical nutrients in the water, leading to excessive blooms of algae that deplete underwater oxygen levels.
- Algal bloom- Overgrowth of algae, which then sinks and decomposes in the water. The decomposition process consumes oxygen and depletes the supply available to healthy marine life.
- Agricultural runoff- Nitrogen and phosphorous from chemical fertilizers lead to eutrophication.
- Emissions- Sewage, vehicular and industrial emissions add to the nutrient content of ocean.
- Oceanographic phenomenon- Stagnant water in enclosed water bodies, coastal upwelling, ocean and wind current patterns effect the formation of dead zones.

Dead zones are causing a devastating effect on marine life form, lead to loss of habitat and biodiversity, as well as have social and economic implications by disrupting the fishing industry.

Conclusion:

There is need to get all stakeholders on board to address the issue. A spur of ecofriendly activities like proper waste disposal, addressing climate change, organic farming, recycle and reuse, wetlands and floodplains conservation etc. along with new initiatives like nutrient trading on lines of carbon trading can go a long way in solving the problem.

Best answer: Sreelakshmy Vijayan Uma

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110. Despite making India a food surplus country, Green Revolution has also done a long term damage on the India soils. Elucidate. What measures can be taken to restore the fertility of soils in India?

Introduction:

Green Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s, not only made India a food surplus country from a food deficit one, but also resulted in huge economic benefits through job creation and improved gross domestic product. This achievement, however, got limited due to its long-term damage on Indian soils.

Body:

Negative impact of green revolution on soil:
- Soil alkalinity- Increased water usage by HYV crops and over-irrigation by farmers have made soils alkaline. The saline and alkaline affected tracts, locally known as kaller in Punjab and reh in Uttar Pradesh, have expanded and increased in area.
- Water logging- In canal irrigated areas water-logging is a serious ecological problem, for example, The Indira Gandhi Canal command area.
- Soil erosion- The agricultural area has been expanded into the pastures and forests, which are more susceptible to erosion.
- Declining soil fertility- Due to transformation of traditional rotation of crops, the place of leguminous crops (pulses etc.) has been taken by the soil exhaustive crops like rice, wheat, maize, bajra and cotton.
- Soil toxicity- Increased use of chemical fertilizers along with pesticides has increased the level of toxicity in the soil.
- Changed soil texture- Deep ploughing by tractors, absence of compost and green manuring have changed the texture of soil.
- Soil deficiency- Soil has become deficient in micro nutrients and overloaded with some macro nutrients like nitrogen due to overuse of urea.

Measures to restore fertility:
- Organic farming and use of manure to reduce the negative impacts of chemical fertilizers
- Judicious selection of crops to reduce the proportion of injurious salts in the soil.
- Cultivation of salt tolerant crops like barley, sugar beet, salt grass, asparagus, spinach and tomato may improve the fertility of alkaline lands
- Afforestation and agro-forestry to mitigate the effects of deforestation and conserve soil
- Use of practices like No-tillage farming, strip cropping can help prevent soil erosion and restore fertility in the long run.
- Crop diversification, crop rotation, growing legumes, composting etc. can also help restoring soil fertility.

Conclusion:

Green Revolution 2.0 that incorporates increased food production along with environmental protection is much needed. With huge population pressure, India cannot go completely organic, and it necessitates impetus to agriculture R&D to achieve the desired crop production while maintaining environmental sustainability.

Best answer: Sakshi

111. Of late many countries have been moving away from the international treaties for economic progress. How justified is it in terms of environmental ethics?

Introduction

Of late, there has been news about various countries specially rich and developed countries' withdrawal from international treaties. United States left Paris Climate Agreement and Japan withdrew from International whaling convention. Reasons cited were economic development and negation of Climate Change altogether.

Body

International treaties and Environmental Ethics:

Environment is a global and common asset, equally for all. Protecting it is common ethical responsibility of all the countries. **United Nations adopted a Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change.**

It sets out six ethical principles:

1. Prevention of harm
2. Precautionary approach
3. Equity and justice
4. Sustainable development
5. Solidarity
6. Scientific knowledge and integrity in decision-making

Withdrawal from international treaties explains the intent of leaving countries. After such withdrawal, most or all of the above principles will be compromised due to lack of accountability.

The recent IPCC report 2018 highlights several extreme impacts that developing countries like India would face if warming touches 2°C as compared to 1.5°C. At such critical moment, leaving international treaties is morally and ethically not at all justified.

Conclusion

Environment and Climate change is fundamentally an ethical issue. If failure to act could have catastrophic implications, responses to climate change that are not thought through carefully, with ethical implications in mind, have the potential to devastate entire communities, create new paradigms of inequity and misdistribution, and render even more vulnerable those peoples who have already found themselves uprooted by other man-made political and ideological struggles. It will be not only harmful for other nations but also future generations of the leaving countries.

Best Answer:
Point_Nemo

Ankur

112. In democracy, individuals are governed by institutions. In the light of current degradation of institutional set up, what can be the long term impacts on governance?

Introduction

In a vibrant democracy, institutions play an important role in providing good governance to the citizens through their transparent, non-partisan and impartial working process. Recently, there has been debate going on regarding degradation of institutional setup with instances of feud in CBI, tussle between government and RBI etc. coming to public view.

Body

Long term impacts on governance

- **Increase in trust deficit** between citizens and government. This leads to erosion of credibility and confidence degradation.

- **Decline of transparency** in the working of institutions, thus making it prone to biasness and partiality.

- **Decline of Accountability** towards the citizens for whom it is meant to provide good governance.

- **Prone to corrupt practices -** decline of institutions gives rise to increase in discretion of officials which in turn gives rise to corruption.

- **Democratic and Constitutional values** which are meant to govern these institutions will be on decline. Favouritism, partisanship and Nepotism etc. will the negative values governing institutional functioning.

- **Decline in quality of services** when there is lack of proper grievance redressal mechanism.

- **Centre-state relations impacted** which are based on co-operative federalism. Example- Recent withdrawal of general consent for CBI by Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

Measures needed to prevent such degradation

1. **Strengthen checks and balances** such as make RTI working more robust and Citizen Charter implementation effective.

2. **Fast and effective grievance redressal mechanism**.

3. **Fair, non-partisan and transparent selection** process for appointmentsof officials.

4. **Providing autonomy to institutions** with lesser government control to provide more governance with less government.

Conclusion
Robust working of institutions is the foundation stone of democracy and there is need to preserve the same for effective and efficient governance of citizens and nation as a whole.
Best answer:
Ritik
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113. A basic value of journalism is neutrality. With current increase of investigative journalism, do you think media is infringing in the smooth governance and judicial process in India?

Introduction:

Investigative journalism is the discipline of digging deep and bringing to light verified facts about wrongdoing, or about a matter of significance, which are sought to be covered up or are otherwise inaccessible to the public.

Body:

Media infringement:
- It bypasses public and judicial institutions, shows the credibility of public institutions in poor light.
- It could be used by warring political factions for gaining advantage. Increasingly politicians are buying/opening media outlets to influence public.
- The exposed are shamed in public without giving a chance to prove their innocence, thus taking on the judicial role in their hands.
- Increased RTI applications, hinders the governance process.
- Sting operations give a lopsided view without deep analysis. Rarely does the media pursue a case in full, which on one hand reduces the credibility of journalism, and on other affect the investigative process. E.g. sting operations are India TV exposing spot fixing by offering bribes to players to catch them fixing a spot or match.
- Privacy of the exposed and sometimes of their relatives and friends is violated.
- The online platforms are doing investigation and trying to uncover the truth. Many a time, rumours take form as news and easily are broadcasted through social media. E.g. Tehalka.com's operation West End

Aid in governance process:
- Accountability- It helps in holding the public institutions accountable to the public by exposing corruption cases. E.g. Vyapam scam.

- Evidence- Tapes, conversation and evidence obtained could be used in court of law to punish the offenders, like the case of Panama papers, which brought significant financial misdoings in public domain along with due evidence.
- Awareness- It brings awareness on government provisions and procedures available to public to tackle the corrupt.
- Restore faith- It restores faith in the masses that corrupt and criminals cant escape their fate. E.g. Jessica lal murder case andvikasyadav case.

Conclusion:

Investigative journalism of quality and relevance is valuable in itself, in what it can do for ordinary folk and for society, typically holding up truth to power. It however, must be supplemented by ethical standards.

Best answer: Iron Man
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114. Plans drafted in a room often fail in the field. In the light of above statement discuss the importance of human interaction in civil services?

Introduction:

Policies are often framed from an objective point of view. The implementation, however, cannot be objective as it includes the human element. To address this concern, civil servants must be efficient in human interactions to guide the policies so as to achieve the desired outcome.

Body:

Importance of human interaction:
Predicts ground reality- Qualities like empathy in civil servants helps them understand the wishes of people.
Fill loopholes- With constant feedback from the people, officers can implement a policy better by filling the loopholes in the original framework.
Innovative ideas- Human interaction can provide innovative ideas for better implementation of plans and policies.
Custom fit- There is no one size fits all plan, and with human interaction officers can customize the plans as per the needs of the population.
Optimum utilization of resources- Local surveys can help in efficient resource utilization.
Transparency- A plan involving viewpoint of populace is comparatively better accepted and enjoys the trust of the citizens.

Involvement of people in the entire process of governance can help ensure better policy implementation while also restoring their faith in the institutions.

Best answer: Point Nemo
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115. What is Doctrine of 'Pith and Substance'? How is it helpful in maintaining a balance in a large federal democracy like India?

Introduction:

Doctrine of Pith and Substance says that where the question arises of determining whether a particular law relates to a particular subject (mentioned in one List or another), the court looks to the substance of the matter.

Body:

- Pith means 'true nature' or 'essence of something' and Substance means 'the most important or essential part of something'.
- If the substance falls within Union List, then the incidental encroachment by the law on the State List does not make it invalid.
- The doctrine has been applied in India also to provide a degree of flexibility in the otherwise rigid scheme of distribution of powers.
- The basic idea behind this principle is that an act or a provision created by the State is valid if the true nature of the act or the provision is about a subject that falls in the State list. It has been applied in case of The State of Bombay And Another vs F.N. Balsara

Maintaining balance:
- It is important to ascertain the true nature and character of legislation for the purpose of determining the List under which it falls.
- This doctrine is widely used when deciding whether a state is within its rights to create a statute that involves a subject mentioned in Union List of the Constitution.
- It helps to keep in check overlapping of executive powers.
- Taxation powers of the feral government stay within their own domain.
- Upholds sovereignty and autonomy of both central and state governments.
- Promotes cooperative federalism by giving enough space of legislation for both governments.

Conclusion:

The doctrine has been applied in several instances to hold the true spirit of the law framed by state government while preserving the sovereignty of the Central government. It thus helps maintain the federal balance in the Indian scheme of things.

116. In the light of recent conflicts between locals and migrants in almost all the states, do you think that the concept of 'Permanent Residents' should be extended to other states as well to protect the interests of locals?

Introduction:

The concept of 'Permanent Residents' has been defined in Indian constitution, under article 35A for Jammu and Kashmir. It grants special privileges to the local population and restricts migrants from enjoying certain rights.

Body:

Benefits of extending to other states:
- Reduced conflicts- A defined set of rights for locals and migrants reduces conflicts between them.
- Employment- Ensures local populace is employed first, thus preventing their out migration and distress.
- Protection of culture- Preserves unique culture of a region by reducing the influx of outsiders.
- Voting- Only locals will be able to vote, giving them more power to decide the interests of their region.

Drawbacks of extension:
- Against spirit of oneness- It creates class within classes of Indian citizens and gives rise to regionalism.
- Rise to alienation and separatist identity- Like in case of J&K, it has resulted in alienation among its people.
- Against the spirit of Constitution- It violates fundamental rights, like those under article 19.
- Stifle regional growth- Migrants in most cases help in spurring the growth of the region through investment or cheap labor.
- Gender discrimination- Such concept denies rights to local women in case she marries and outsider.

Conclusion:

Migrants have helped in socio-economic upliftment of many regions like GIFT city, Mumbai etc. It is in the interest of India to allow free movement of people, although few safeguards can be taken so as not to devoid the local population of its rights.

117. With an increase in demand of separate State status, is there a need of a new State Reorganisation Commission to divide states on administrative convenience?

Introduction

There has been increasing demand for separate state status fuelling in various regions of India such as Gorkhaland in West Bengal, Bodoland in Assam etc.There are multitudes of reasons for such demands such as **differential development levels**(egVidharba in Maharashtra)**, cultural subjugation**(egGorkhaland)**, ethnic differences** etc.

First State Reorganisation Commission(SRC) was formed in 1953 which stated language as the basis for state formation. However with these rising demands the need for new SRC has been felt which can decide the basis to divide states on administrative convenience.

Body

Need for new SRC :

- It will help to **lay down the sound criteria** for reorganisation.
- State reorganisation **is not a one stop exercise** but an evolving process.
- Almost 30 years of LPG(Liberalisation, Globalisation and Privatisation) has altered the socio-economic, political and demographic realties. Regional imbalances have grown leading to regional sentiments of neglect.
- **Some states have become disproportionately large**, thus became administratively inconvenient to govern them.
- Reorganisation will **allay the fear of communities** demanding separate states.
- **States formed on basis of administrative convenience have performed better**. 10th Five Year plan comparisons show Chhattisgarh(9.3%), Jharkhand(11%) and Uttarakhand(8.8%) performed better in GDP growth rate than Madhya Pradesh(4.3%), Bihar(4.7) and Uttar Pradesh(4.6%) respectively which were formed in 2000.

Challenges that might occur:

1. **Domino effect** with respect to demands from other regions of India.
2. Problem of **interstate, centre-state management** will become exceedingly complicated.
3. **Adversely affect the political climate** with more demands coming in for political mileage.

4. **Smaller states are no guarantee for human development**. Example - Average per capita spending on health is highest in Kerela (small state) and lowest in Jharkhand (also small).

5. **Financial viability** also needs to be ensured. A new state implies duplication of infrastructure –capital, legislature, courts etc.

Conclusion

Thus, keeping in view the demands of various sections of people, formation of new SRC is a valid proposition which will help to set the sound criteria for reorganisation.

Best answer:

Achilese

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118. The constitution makers of India were all western educated and used very technical language in framing the Constitution of India. Do you think it would have been better for understanding and interpreting the Constitution if lucid language was used?

Introduction

Indian constitution is one of the world's most progressive and egalitarian Constitutions. Though it borrowed many of the provisions from already existing statutes, still it is unique in itself. Beside all its good features, there are some debatable aspects. One of such aspects is "language" of the constitution.

Body

Constitution of India - Paradise for Lawyers

Complexity of the language of the constitution can be understood from comment of P. R. Deshmukh, a member of Constituent Assembly: "(Constitution Should) not a law manual but a socio-political document, a vibrating, pulsating and life-giving document. But to our misfortune, that was not to be, and we have been burdened with so much of words, words and words which could have been very easily eliminated."

More Lucid Language would have been better for understanding and interpreting:

We have many examples where Supreme Court itself revisited its own judgments due to different interpretations of the provisions.

On the part of government too, be it reservation policy or beef-ban initiatives, all the parties involved in debate on such policies interpret constitutional provisions according to their own interests.

More Lucid language;

- It could be easily understood by the majority of people who lack literacy in legal and technical terms.
- It would have made people more aware of their rights and it's limitations along with their duties.
- It would have caused lesser controversy and subsequently lesser litigation in apex court such as in Keshvanand Bharti Case, Golaknath Case etc.
- It would have enabled socially motivated individuals, civil society and other organizations to have more participation in democracy.
- The extreme technical nature of Fundamental duties and DPSPs has created a roadblock in their implementation.

However it must be understood that such technical and vast constitution was needed to safeguard the rights and aspirations of diverse nature of Indian population. Also the basic ideals like freedom, equality, Justice, fraternity, liberty etc helps a long way in interpretation of the constitution. The apex court of India has always taken into consideration the basic philosophy behind the constitution along with preamble and DPSPs while interpreting various provision of constitution the greatest achievement of which is basic feature principle of Indian constitution.

Conclusion

Thus it can be argued that a lucid constitution would have helped a great deal in understanding and interpreting the constitution at individual level this task has been actively taken up by an independent judiciary to keep balance and check on the power of executive and legislature.

Best Answer

Shri

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119. With increasing criminalization of politics, do you think a strict law should be made to bar people with criminal record to contest in elections? Critically analyse.

Introduction:

As per a report by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) 34% of the ministers have criminal cases against them. Also, the percentage of parliamentarians with a criminal background went up by more than 10 percentage points in 10 years, from 23% in 2004 to 34% in 2014.

Body:

Recently, the Supreme courthas recommended that the Parliament must make law to ensure that persons facing serious criminal cases do not enter into the political stream. Such a law should be made:

- Rule of law- A clean political system will ensure the prevalence of rule of law instead of rule of politicians.
- Improved governance- Honest politicians would need to work for their constituencies to secure votes, hence improving the overall governance.
- End vicious cycle- Crime in politics breeds more criminals. Cleaning will help end this vicious cycle.
- Opportunity to new leaders- Many good leaders and youth often stay away from politics due to prevalence of crime. Clean up will help attract new talent to the political arena.

It might not be helpful:
- Though the Representation of the People Act disqualifies a sitting legislator or a candidate on certain grounds, there is nothing regulating the appointments to offices within the party.
- A politician may be disqualified from being a legislator, but he may continue to hold high positions within his party, thus also continuing to play an important public role which he has been deemed unfit for by the law.
- Convicted politicians may continue to influence law-making by controlling the party and fielding proxy candidates in legislature
- Rates of conviction are too low and trials themselves are subject to long delays as highlighted by a recent Law commission report.
- False cases may be filed as a tool of political vendetta.
- The definition of heinous crimes may change as per times and societal conditions.

Way forward:
- Fast-track courts
- Greater transparency in campaign financing
- Promoting inner party democracy
- Check on election finances
- Broader governance will have to improve for voters to reduce the reliance on criminal politicians

Conclusion:

Various committees like N.N. Vohra Committee, Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms and Law Commission of India have highlighted the importance of decriminalization of politics. It is important to take necessary steps to ensure decriminalisation of politics by way of cleaning the electoral process.

Best answer:Shri
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120. Recent Voting patterns signal that Indian voters seem to use NOTA not just to show their disapproval of the candidates in the fray but to express their disenchantment with the existing political system. Do you think the use of NOTA is

wastage of precious vote? In your opinion should the Election Commission remove NOTA option from direct elections the way it has removed it from RajyaSabha elections?

Introduction:

NOTA (None Of The Above) option in the Indian electoral system allows voters to express their dissent against all the candidates in an election. It was enacted after the Supreme Court's judgment in People's Union for Civil liberties v. Union of India and does not include 'right to reject'.

Body:

NOTA is a wastage of precious vote:
- It does not mean rejection. A NOTA vote does not have any impact on the election result.
- No legal standing for re-election in case the total number of NOTA votes crosses a certain percentage.
- NOTA can only work only when it is paired with Right To Recall option where voters can recall candidates they have elected.

It is not wastage:
- Increase the public participation in an electoral process.
- Gives the voter the right to express his disapproval with the kind of candidates that are being put up by the political parties.
- Compel the political parties to nominate a sound candidate.

Removing NOTA from direct elections:
- RajyaSabha elections are indirect, open ballot and single transferable vote based system of proportional representation.
- Direct elections represent wish of people, so for a true representation of democratic will NOTA is important.
- It, however, needs to be combined with a right to reject and a provision for re-election.
- If NOTA has received highest number of valid votes, then the said election for that particular seat should be countermanded and fresh elections should be held for such post.
- There should also be a provision that same candidates should not contest the new election, because the result could be the same as earlier.
- All such contesting candidates who secured less votes than NOTA should not be eligible to re-file the nomination/contest the re-election.
- Such provisions can compel political parties to nominate sound candidates and are forced to accept the will of the people.

Conclusion:

NOTA is necessary for the voters to show their disapproval of the candidates. It however needs to be made meaningful by combining with 'right to reject', rather

than just being a cosmetic. Example could be taken from the municipal elections on Maharashtra and Haryana.

121. Even though India has Parliamentary form of Government, elections are fought in a style of Presidential form due to hero worship. Analyse.
Introduction
India opted for parliamentary form of government based on Westminster model where executive is directly responsible to legislature where as in presidential system election is more about national leader elected on the basis of his/her charisma with limited accountability.
Body
Elections in India are being fought in a style of presidential form due to hero worship where Charisma matters more than manifestos or ideologies of parties.
Reasons for rise of such style:
- Rise of Charismatic leaders.
- Illiteracy among voters leading to getting attracted by National leader than adjudging the suitability of their own constituency candidates in a rational manner.
- Dynastic politics also has a role to play where people associate more with one ruling family and their PM candidate.
- Lack of inner party democracy also leads to take over by one single popular leader.
- Role of media in form of paid news can make someone hero in no time.

Issues associated with such tendency:
- Undermining the Parliamentary form of government which is the part of Basic structure of Constitution as declared by Supreme Court in Kesavnanda Bharti Case, 1973.
- Diminishes the role of other members of legislature leading to authoritarian tendencies in leader.
- Strong and unchecked leaders' influence may lead to eroding the credibility of democratic institutions.
- Main issues gets sidelined in election time, people start to vote on emotive connectivity with leader.

- Local independent candidates however suitable they are find difficulty in competing against candidates for whom National leader campaigns.

Solutions:
- Information, Education and Awareness campaign for the voters by leveraging the technology.
- Implementing Inner party democracy.

Conclusion

There is need to make voters aware about their role in parliamentary democratic setup to choose the right candidate to govern them based on rationality and reason.

Best answer:

SID

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122. With many constituencies complaining about faulty voting machines, what steps can be taken by the Election Commission to reinstate the faith of voters on the elections process?

Introduction

Recently numerous allegations have been cropping under various constituencies regarding the reliability of Electronic voting machines. It has been alleged that voting machines have been tampered to favour a particular party.

Body

The Electronic Voting Machine process, despite the plethora of grievances about its functioning from the Opposition parties, is a major improvement over paper-based voting.

There has been no evidence of EVM-tampering as claimed by some parties, and administrative and technical safeguards instituted by the ECI and EVM manufacturers have held steady since the introduction of the EVM.

Also, the ECI had fast-tracked the implementation of the VVPAT, an adjunct to the EVM that allows for a paper trail for voting and later verification of the electronically registered mandate in the ballot unit of the EVM.

Election Commission of India had decided in 2018 to roll-out VVPAT in 100% of the polling stations for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, a first.

What more needs to be done?

Cross verification of EVM-VVPAT
- The fraction of polling stations chosen for such random cross-verification has been inexplicably minuscule (less than 1% of polling stations in each constituency).
- A plea in Supreme Court requested for at least 30% of EVM-VVPAT verification.

- The Opposition political parties also demanded for a count of 50% of the VVPAT slips.
- ECI safeguards are robust enough to prevent this, but VVPAT recounts could eliminate any remaining doubt about possible "insider fraud" by errant officials or manufacturers.

Machine Glitches
- The other issue with the VVPAT is more significant: machine glitches. During the parliamentary by-elections in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and Assembly elections in Karnataka in 2018, VVPAT glitches resulted in machine replacement rates rising to 20% and 4%, respectively.
- Glitches in the VVPAT machines were largely due to spooling issues in the print unit, which was sensitive to extreme weather.
- Considering the seasonal (weather) diversity of India, some hardware-related changes and all weather machines should be introduced.

Education, Information and Communication (EIC)
- In Delhi, a "democracy on wheels" vehicle has been flagged off recently. It has an EVM and VVPAT machine and will visit all polling locations in Delhi.
- Election officials will showcase the machines at static locations across Delhi so voters can familiarise themselves with the process of using a VVPAT.
- On similar line, proposed "VVIP" or voter verification information programme should be launched by the Election Commission all over the country soon.
- Election commission of India should call for all party meet and demonstrate EVM-VVPAT functioning.

Other measure
- Not only machines but faith of citizen must be restored in complete election process and in democracy as a whole. For example, recent app launch of cVigil app enables citizen to be eyes and ears of ECI in ensuring fair elections.
- Launch of dedicated websites and toll free numbers, enable citizens to verify their names in electoral role, and facilitate to enroll missing voters.
- Such other steps can help voters to strengthen their faith in election process.

Conclusion
Being one of the largest democracy, it is inevitable to use technology in election process. Though ECI ensured safety of EVMs, but to deepen the trust in system, all stakeholders must be brought under confidence.
Best Answer: Sonia Hussain

123. Recent cases of corruption have thrown a light on weak corporate governance in India. What is Corporate governance? What factors have lead to weak corporate governance scenario in India?

Introduction:

Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices and processes by which a firm is directed and controlled. Corporate governance essentially involves balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholders, such as shareholders, management, customers, suppliers, financiers, government and the community.

Body:

- The concept of corporate governance was given first by Cadbury committee in England
- Recent corruption cases like ChandaKochar- Videocon case, IL&FS crisis, PNB fraud, Satyam scam have thrown a light on weak corporate governance in India.

Factors responsible for weak corporate governance:
- Nepotism in the management- It is common for friends and family of promoters (a uniquely Indian term for founders and controlling shareholders) and management to be appointed as board members.
- Performance Evaluation of Directors - Although performance evaluation of directors has been part of the existing legal framework in India, Evaluation is always a sensitive subject and public disclosures may run counter-productive.
- True Independence of Directors - Independent directors' appointment is biggest concern in the corporate governance.
- The independence of promoter appointed independent directors is questionable as it is unlikely that they will stand-up for minority interests against the promoter.
- Removal of Independent Directors - In India there are instances of independent directors not siding with promoter decisions have not been taken well and they were removed from their position by promoters.
- Accountability to Stakeholders - Various general duties have been imposed on all directors, directors including independent directors have been complacent due to lack of enforcement action.
- Executive Compensation - Executive compensation is a contentious issue especially when subject to shareholder accountability.
- Risk Management - Indian companies certainly don't have a clear idea about the risk management and predictions.
- Regulations- Either a stringent legal and regulatory regime that is difficult to follow or weak enforcement of laws and regulations.

124. Ayushman Bharat is one of the most ambitious health schemes ever launched in India. What can be the key challenges in proper implementation of this scheme?

Introduction:

Ayushman Bharat- National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), aims to cover 10 crore families or approximately 50 crore population, with Rs 5 lakh insurance cover per family per year. The scheme is for secondary and tertiary healthcare, mainly for hospital care and is likely to benefit more than 37% of the population.

Body:

Challenges the scheme can face:
- Economic sustainability- Package rates fixed by the government are loss-making for hospitals. For example, the proposed cost of a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) is about Rs.90,000. The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates for this in Delhi are above Rs.1.1 lakh and private hospitals routinely charge above Rs.3 lakh.
- Infrastructure - The hospital business, particularly the multi-speciality tertiary care business, is capital-intensive with a long gestation period. There is severe shortage of infrastructure and government should provide adequate finances for the sector's development and also provide incentives and tax benefits.
- Financing - Another challenge is that health is a state subject and hence requires states to contribute 40% of the expenditure for Ayushman Bharat. However, most states have a poor fiscal situation.
- Insurance- States have the option to select a "Trust" model that does not require insurers to participate. Where insurers participate, the auction may push premiums to unviable, low levels.
- Grievance redressal- Theorganisational committees that will deal with grievances of hospitals and insurers consist primarily of government representatives. Their chief focus will be to have patients' claims paid and they have less incentive to solve the problems of hospitals or insurers.

- Payment issues- Under the trust system, there is less restraint on claims payment. Also, states are notorious for delaying payments and hospitals are concerned about payment cycles.
- Data issue- To calculate the odds of patients opting for a certain procedure in a certain district, for instance, the insurer must know the disease burden in that district. The government too must know this to be able to regulate insurers and service providers effectively. However, such data simply does not exist.

Conclusion:

For the success of the programme, effective implementation is the key. For this an independent body or unit may be set up within the ministry of health & family welfare to plan, coordinate, and provide technical backstopping to states, including in capacity building and development of standards and guidelines for the programme.

Best answer: Point Nemo

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125. Is it policy formulation or the implementation of policy which has made Indian farmers to remain as one of the most vulnerable economic sections?
Introduction
Agriculture employs about 49% of Indian workforce, contributing to only about 16% of GDP showing the grim situation of Indian agriculture. This is further reflected in indebtedness, protests and suicides of farmers making them the most vulnerable section of society.
Body
The reason for this distress among farmers is because of both poor policy formulation and implementation.
Issues with regard to policy formulation:
- Following top to down approach while formulating policies with no wider consultation from all stakeholders.
- Focus on short term solutions and populist measure rather than addressing core structural issues. Example- farm loan waiver schemes.
- One size fits all approach irrespective of demands of the region. Example- same MSP for all regions.
- Limitations of APMC (Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act) which further aggravated the situation for farmers with problems of cartelization and non-remunerative prices for produce.
- Failure of policies to look into issues of landless farmers, women farmers, tillers etc.
- MSP regime biasness towards cereals.

- Lack of coordination between state and centre with respect to various policies.
- Restrictions on exports also affect farmers' income.

Issues with regard to policy implementation:
- Institutional problems such as delay in payment of subsidies and compensation, redtapism etc.
- Rampant corruption of officials. Example - ghost beneficiaries to pocket the benefits of various schemes, leakages as in case of diversion of fertilizers for black market.
- Low level of awareness among farmers with regard to different schemes of government.
- Misdirected benefits. Example- insurance companies benefitted to the tune of 10000Cr as per CAG and Centre for science and environment report.
- Delay in creating infrastructure such as incomplete irrigation projects integrated cold chains, warehouses, transport facilities etc.

Solutions:
- Information, Education and Awareness campaign for the farmers by leveraging the ICT infrastructure.
- Wider consultation with respect to policy formulation with all stakeholders.
- Use of JAM (JanDhan-Aadhar-Mobile) trinity for identification of beneficiaries.
- Promotion of Organic Farming, Zero Budget Natural Farming, and Precision Agriculture to reduce input cost making the agriculture remunerative for farmers.
- Full scale implementation of e-NAM.
- Promotion of Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) for the benefit of small and marginal farmers to give them bargaining power.
- Creation of non-farm jobs through schemes such as PM Employment Generation scheme to reduce stress on agriculture.

Conclusion

Thus, there is urgent need to work on both policy formulation and implementation to make the agriculture sustainable and rewarding for farmers and achieve the dream of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

Best answer:

Shri

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126. There is high attrition rate of civil servants from the services. What can be the possible reasons for this? What steps can be taken by the government to retain good officers in the service?

Introduction

Civil Services as part of permanent executive keeps the wheels of governance smoothly rolling. Recent episode of resignation of Shah Faesal from IAS brought to light the discussion regarding the high attrition rate of civil servants from the services.

Body

Reasons for high rate of attrition:

- Undue political interference which hampers the working of civil servants.
- Politicization of personnel management.
- Work-life balance is often disturbed. A civil servant is 24x7 on duty.
- Corruption also leads to honest civil servants resigning from services.
- Better payroll in private sector when compared to public services.
- Uncertainty with regard to transfers, promotions, suspensions etc.
- Ministers tendency to blame civil servants for policy failures.

Steps that can be taken to retain good officers:

- Institutionalising the process of transfer, promotions and appointments through constitution of Civil Services Board.
- Insistence on written orders as suggested by Hota committee.
- Proper grievance redressal mechanism.
- Implementation of prior sanction guideline of Supreme Court for investigating civil servants.
- Regular training and up gradation of expertise of civil servants to keep them motivated.
- Implementing the guidelines given by Supreme Court in TSR Subramanian case, 2013.
    1. Ensure stability of tenure.
    2. Avoid verbal orders, insist on written orders.
    3. Enact a civil services law.

Conclusion

Civil servants constitute the steel frame of India on whose shoulders rest the governance of such a diverse country as India. Therefore for efficient and effective administration in the country civil services should be equipped with the best of officers and continues efforts should be made to keep them motivated for public services.

Best answer:

SID

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127. Recently a trend has started that individual Indian states are getting into bilateral deals with other countries and signing MoUs on different issues. What impact can it have on India's federalism?

Introduction:

In a recent trend international relations are being conducted by the states on their own, termed as para-diplomacy. A number of Indian states have actively pursued foreign direct investment from abroad and other foreign economic opportunities. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and other states have regularly organized investor summits in order to gain foreign investment.

Body:

Positive impact on federalism:
- Cooperative federalism- Central government by itself is not well-equipped to meet the challenges posed by new political, economic and social forces. Paradiplomacycan combine efforts of both states and Centre to make India prosper.
- Autonomy to states- States are often better equipped than the Central government to undertake diplomatic measures in areas of trade, commerce, foreign direct investment, education, cultural exchanges and also outsourcing of business.
- Competitive federalism- States are competing with each in order to attract investment
- Financial independence- States need not depend on Centre for all their financial needs.

Negative impacts:
- Sovereignty- Increased role of states in international affairs undermines the Centre and affects sovereignty.
- Rise in disputes- States stand in foreign relations with a country might differ from the Centre's stand and can thus affect the Centre-state relations.
- Unequal development- Rich and prosperous states will woo more foreign investment, thus widening the already existing regional disparity.
- Fuel secessionism- Power to connect with the outer world on their own can fuel secessionist movements further.

Conclusion:

To promote paradiplomacy, Ministry of External Affairs has established a new States division along with other measures. There is, however, a need for a new structure in MEA in which the states are fully represented and can express their concerns and ask for Centre's engagement in order to promote their interest without infringing upon Centre's powers.

128. What is Gujral Doctrine? With Pakistan and China increasing their economic and defence cooperation, how relevant is Gujral doctrine in current scenario?

Introduction:

The Gujral Doctrine is a set of five principles to guide the conduct of foreign relations with India's immediate neighbours, notably Pakistan, as spelt out by former PM I.K. Gujral. The policy seeks friendship on the basis of sovereign equality and non-interference, with 'non-reciprocal magnanimity' towards the smaller countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Body:

Main components:
- India should establish faithful relationship with her neighbouring countries
- No South Asian country should allow its territory to be used against the interest of another country of the region.
- No country should interfere in one another's internal matters.
- All South Asian nations will resolve the dispute through peaceful bilateral negotiations.
- All the South Asian countries will respect each other's sovereignty and integrity.

Pakistan and China are increasing their economic and defense cooperation through CPEC, Gwadhar port, purchase of defense equipment from China, economic aid from China to Pakistan etc.

Relevance of Gujral doctrine in this case:
- Increase Pakistan-China cooperation can be detrimental to the Indian interests in the region and India should thus start improving its relations with other neighbors.
- Relations with Pakistan and China should also be improved through bilateral negotiations.
- Ensure non-interference in India's internal matters especially in Kashmir after an increased Pak-Chinese presence in the region.
- Resolving border disputes with both countries in a peaceful manner while not allowing those to hurt India's sovereignty as happened in case of Doklam standoff.
- Entering into stronger ties with border states so that their territories can not be used against Indian interest e.g. Bhutan and Nepal.

Conclusion:

Gujral doctrine keeps the best interest of the nation ahead while also ensuring a peaceful coexistence with other smaller nations. With changing politic-economic scenario the importance of the doctrine has further increased in the region to maintain harmonious relations.

129. In an era where connectivity between men has increased, why do you think countries are opting for more protectionist policies rather than being more global? What impact can it have on India?

Introduction

Protectionism is the economic policy of restricting imports from other countries through methods such as tariffs on imported goods, import quotas, and a variety of other government regulations. In recent times some protectionist measures taken such as USA opting out of TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership), restrictions on H1B visa, BREXIT etc. brings to light that challenges which protectionist measures are posing to globalised world.

Body

Reasons for protectionist policies:
- Global slowdown since 2008 financial crisis.
- To correct balance of payments disequilibrium as demand for imports is dampened and exports promoted. Example is US-China trade war.
- To prevent dumping, this is where economies sell goods in overseas markets at a price below the cost of production.
- Unsound fears of xenophobia, Islamophobia etc.
- Rise of right wing politics at global level leading to political Leaders en-cashing on fears of natives for political mileage.
- To safeguard domestic employment as protectionist policies reduce import penetration.
- Also employed to give boost to domestic manufacturing.

Impact on India:
- Dumping to India will increase if countries like US impose trade restrictions.
- Financial instability risks - corporate vulnerability is enhanced as global trade and growth decline as indicated by Global Financial Stability Report. India is

already burdened with the twin balance sheet problem, this will add to its woes.

- Decline in exports which are already suffering.
- Could trigger capital outflows.
- Unemployment – BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) shifted to home countries.
- Negative impact on IT industry due to restrictions imposed on H1B visa as Indian IT professionals constitute major beneficiaries.
- Effect on foreign remittances of which India is major beneficiary.
- Surge in Hate crimes against Indians may rise due to such prevailing rhetoric in these countries.

Conclusion

This sudden surge in protectionist measures in globalised world also presents an opportunity for India to diversify its engagements with the other nations with which there exists enormous potential for cooperation and collaboration and expand its reach to the unchartered territories.

Best answer:

P29

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130. Do you think it is a wise decision for India to be a part of Moscow Dialogue? What impact can it have on India?

Introduction

Moscow Dialogue is a Russian sponsored peace conference with the Taliban to bring various parties to the conflict in Afghanistan around a table to kick-start a peace process. Representatives from 12 countries participated along with Afghanistan government through its High Peace Council. India participated in unofficial capacity.

Body

India's participation in the conference is a departure from it earlier stance where it held that any peace talks should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled and with the participation of Afghanistan Government. However, it was a wise decision on the part of India to be part of the peace conference.

Reasons for India to be a part of Moscow Dialogue:

- The current policy needs to be recalibrated in accordance with the changing regional and global power dynamics.
- India has bowed to the inevitable since the US, Russia, China and even the Afghan government have all indicated that they are ready to talk with the Taliban.
- It shows India's commitment towards a peaceful and stable Afghanistan which has been an arena of turmoil since decades.

- A stable Afghanistan is beneficial for India's strategic and infrastructural stakes in Afghanistan.
- Russia's invitation to India to participate in Moscow talks is recognition of India's stakes and its role in the region.
- USA's announcement to gradually withdraw its forces shows prompted India to engage with Taliban along with other stakeholders.
- It is as per "Neighbourhood First" policy.

Impacts that it can have on India:
- It testifies India's role as a peacemaker which bolsters India image at regional and global level and makes it claim to join UNSC as a permanent member stronger.
- It will maintain goodwill in the region especially among Afghani people.
- It will have positive impact on Connect Central Asia policy.
- Peace in Afghanistan will act as catalyst for pending projects such as TAPI pipeline which are stalled due to security concerns.
- However, it can also have some negative implications such as rise of Taliban insurgency in India in collusion with Pakistan and problem of drug menace may rise as Afghanistan being a part of golden crescent.

Conclusion
There is no denying the fact that Taliban affects the polity of Afghanistan in big way. Therefore engaging with the Taliban for humanitarian causes and the initiating of a peace process is inevitable However, Russia's peace-making efforts must meet Afghanistan's needs, which include initiating negotiations, achieving a political solution, and ultimately peace, and then maintaining that peace.
Best answer:
Point_Nemo
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131. What aspects should be covered by an ideal Citizen's Charter? Do you think like RTI, Citizen's Charter should also be made compulsory for public organizations?

Introduction:

Citizen's/Client's Charter is a document which represents a systematic effort to focus on the commitment of the Organization towards it's Citizens/Clients in respect of Standard of Services,Information, Choice and Consultation, Non-discrimination and Accessibility, GrievancesRedress, Courtesy and Value for Money. This also includes expectations of the Organizationfrom the Citizen/Client for fulfilling the commitment of the Organization.

- Vision Statement- Vision implies the ultimate direction in which the organisation seeks to move.
- Mission Statement- The 'mission' statement provides the specific objectives which drive the organization in tune with its vision.
- Identification of Services- The Charter should clearly identify the services, which would be provided by the organisation to attain its mission and vision.
- Identification of Levels- in the Charter, there should be a clear identification of the levels at which specific services would be provided.
- Identification of Client Groups/ Stakeholders/Users- A clear understanding of the client groups/ stakeholders/ users by the organisations would be necessary for an increased interface with these in matter of policy and administration.
- Specification of Time-Frames for Each Service- There should be a clear commitment about the time-frame for delivery of specific services in the Charter.
- Specification of Time-Frames at Each Level- It is important that time-frames for service delivery are provided for each level at which specific services are delivered.
- Specification of Service Quality Standards- Charter must indicate the specific quality standards to which the organisation is committed.
- Specification of Service Delivery Standards- Charter should provide clear commitment on service delivery standards such as timeliness, access, accuracy, reliability, affordability, responsiveness, fairness, sensitivity, and courtesy in the delivery of service.
- Clear Information about Processes/ Procedures and contact points to Access Service Benefits- It is important that the Charter provides information about the procedures, contacts etc. involved in obtaining the service and facilitates the citizen/ client to obtain it.
- Clear Information about Information Facilitation Counters- The specific location of the IFC must be mentioned in the Charter. This will enable citizens know how they can get their queries settled.
- Providing Information about the Public Grievance Redressal Procedures- Awareness of grievances is the first step which an organization can take towards introducing correctives in its functioning.
- Information about the Time-frame for the Public Grievance Redress- Information about the time-frame of the grievance redressal should be an essential feature of all the Charters.
- Information about Procedures for Inviting Suggestions/ Inputs- Charter should invite suggestions from the public about the activities and functioning of the organisation.
- Information about Monitoring Mechanism to Ensure Compliance with Commitments- There should be clear information in the Charter about the monitoring mechanisms created by the organization in order to ensure that Charter does not remain merely a superficial document, with little capacity to ensure its own implementation.

Citizen charter be made compulsory
In favor:
- Timely delivery of services
- Grievance redressal

- Efficiency in attitudes of civil servants
- Accountability and enhanced people participation in the process
- Performance evaluation

Against:
- Need of manpower
- Need of ICT infrastructure and resources for its maintenance
- Diversion of department time from works of public importance

Conclusion:

Write a suitable conclusion.

Best answer: AyushDubey

A Citizen Charter is a document that outlines the commitment of a public body towards standard, quality and timeframe of service delivery along with grievance redress mechanism.
An ideal citizens charter must contain:
1. Vision and mission statement of the organization.
2. Information about the nature and quality of service delivery.
3. Time frame within which the service must be delivered.
4. Expectations from the client.
5. Grievance redreassal infrastructure in case of non compliance.
However it has been observed that citizens charter has remained a toothless tiger due to lack of legal backing and no review or revision by the concerned department. It has been argued to provide statutory support to citizens charter.
Argument in favor:
1.timely delivery of important service.
2. Improve ease of doing business.
3. Cultivate efficiency against the lax attitude of civil servants.
4. Improve accountability transparency and improve people participation thereby building confidence over institution.
5. Help in evaluation of institution performance.
Argument against:
1. Lack of manpower to adhere to such system.
2. Weak ICT infrastructure as well as trained manpower for efficient service delivery.
3. Department are already overburdened.
Hence it is important that statuatory backing be provided to citizens charter on a limited basis over delivery of essential services. Slowly as other institutional and infrastrucual reforms take place this statute can be extended to all departments.

132. Too much of transparency in civil services has hindered in quick and bold decision making. Critically analyse.

Introduction:

Transparency in civil services refers to the work of civil servant be available in public domain as per requirement and open for scrutiny. This is provided through Right to Information and is facilitated by CAG, CVC etc.

Hindrance to quick decision-making:
- Undue scrutiny demotivates civil servants and instigates fear of unwanted prosecution.
- Political interference due to transparency in the work.
- Availability of the information for Public interest Litigation
- Misuse of the information by various activist groups.
- Fear of judgment in certain occasions like between ethical and rule based decision, environment and public concerns etc.

Not a hindrance:
- Reduces scope of corruption
- Increased accountability and assurance that public resources are used for welfare
- Make citizens aware about what is happening in governance
- Builds faith in the administration

Transparency is an important tool for improving the service delivery. However precaution must be taken by making enough safeguards that it does not become an obstacle in the efficient working of the administrative system.

Best answer: Point Nemo

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133. It has been observed that political parties make tall claims and unrealistic promises before the elections and once the elections are over they get away by calling them 'campaigning dialogues'. Should there be a mechanism to make political parties accountable for keeping their promises after winning the elections??
Introduction
Accountability is the hallmark of democratic setup of any country which refers to answerability and taking responsibility of one's actions or inactions. Election season is marked by tall claims and unrealistic promises of political parties in their election

manifestos for which they are not answerable to anyone if they fail to fulfill those promises.

Body

If democracy is a social contract between those elected and ordinary citizens, then manifestoes should be considered as a legal contract enshrining a country's purported development agenda.

Arguments in support of making political parties accountable:

- Election promises disturb the level playing field, give edge to some parties, and shakes the root of free and fair election to a large degree.
- Parties play with the emotions of people. Example - issue of illegal migrants in north east states.
- There is increase in trust deficit in case government fails to fulfil election promises.
- Election promises sometimes create rift/tension between communities in a multi-cultural society as India. Example - promises of construction of Ram Temple even though the matter is sub-judice in Supreme Court.
- It creates undue burden on exchequer which is against prudent fiscal planning. Example – loan waiver announcements by various political parties.
- Populist promises announced can sometimes lead to inadequately planned measures which can have unintended results. Example- demonetization was announced to put a curb on black money.
- Making parties accountable for their promises will ensure that they will make realistic promises; debates on more important issues of national importance can be of public discourse.

Challenges in making parties accountable:

- Model Code of Conduct (MCC) drafted by Election Commission of India (ECI) is not enforceable by law.
- Sometimes Coalition government comes to power which makes it difficult to fulfil election promises.
- It is impractical for ECI to scrutinize manifestos of all political parties.

Suggestions:

- Making MCC legally enforceable.
- Increasing awareness among voters by NGOs, civil societies about manifestos during election times.
- Unbiased media -making paid news a corrupt practice under Section 123 of the Representation of People's (RP) Act, 1951.
- Need for self-restraint by parties.

Conclusion

For the health of India's democracy, ensuring accountability of political parties for manifestoes remains a key reform to be pushed which will strengthen the democratic credentials of our country.

134. Transparency and confidentiality are generally accepted principles of probity. Do you think the two concepts are against each other? Elaborate.

Introduction

Probity is the act of strict adherence to highest principles and ideals (integrity, good character, honesty, decency) rather than just avoiding corrupt or dishonest conduct. Transparency as a general principle of probity refers to openness in the working of government whereas Confidentiality as general principle of probity refers to keeping or maintaining secrecy of certain matters from public view for larger public interest.

Body

The relationship between transparency and confidentiality needs to be examined in the light of arguments where both support each other at times and are in opposition to each other at other times.

Transparency and Confidentiality as opposite poles:
- Transparency supports freedom to access the information whereas confidentiality puts restriction on such freedom. Example – Right to Information Act (RTI) provides access to information whereas Official Secrets Act (OSA) denies access to information for general public.
- Transparency builds the trust of the public for the government whereas Confidentiality generates doubt and suspicion in the minds of people. Example – Non-disclosure of Rafale Deal price details by the government.
- Transparency is citizen centric whereas Confidentiality is state centric.
- Transparency encourages accountability of government towards people whereas Confidentiality dilutes accountability of government.
- Refusal of Judiciary to be brought under RTI act shows the opposition of transparency and confidentiality.
- Transparency helps in reducing corruption whereas confidentiality in procedures to corrupt practices.

Transparency and Confidentiality working together for ensuring probity:
- Protection of Whistle-blowers by not disclosing their identity.
- Non-disclosure of certain sensitive information under section 8 of RTI Act for larger public interest.
- Both can act for the benefit of larger public. Example – RTI Act (related to transparency) and Data Protection Bill(for maintaining confidentiality about public data) both are beneficial for citizens.
- Betterment of international relations requires both transparency and confidentiality. Example- Sharing of hydrological data between India and China even in times when relations are bitter between both.

135. RBI has put in place a strong Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework. What is PCA and why is it required in India?

Introduction
India has been ranked 5th on a list of countries with highest Non-performing Assets (NPA) levels and is on top spot among the BRICS nations, according to latest report by CARE Ratings.

Body
What is PCA?
PCA (Prompt Corrective Action) framework is supervisory tool of RBI, which involves monitoring of certain performance indicators of banks to check their financial health early warning exercise to ensure that banks do not go bust. Its objective is to facilitate banks to take corrective measures including those prescribed by RBI, in timely manner to restore their financial health.

PCA framework is invoked on banks when they breach any of three key regulatory trigger points (or thresholds). They are capital to risk weighted asset ratio, net non-performing assets (NPA) and Return on Assets (RoA).

Depending on risk thresholds set in PCA framework, banks are put under two type of restrictions, mandatory and discretionary depending upon their placement in PCA framework levels. The mandatory restrictions are on dividend, branch expansion, directors' compensation while discretionary restrictions include curbs on lending and deposit.

Requirement for PCA framework in India:
- To prevent further piling of NPAs which were around 11.8% as of March, 2018.
- To prevent bank failure and restore profitability and sustainability.
- To restrict expansion of reckless credit growth, which resulted into mounting of NPAs.
- PCA is required to fulfil commitment under BASEL III norms.
- To fight against the practice of ever-greening of loans.
- To improve governance of banks, thus preventing scams such as that of PNB(Punjab National Bank).

Possible fallouts of PCA invocation:

- Banks under the PCA may lose market share to private sector banks in corporate loans and unsecured personal loans.
- PCA framework restricts the amount of loans banks can extend; this will definitely put pressure on credit being made available to companies especially the MSMEs.
- Restriction on branch expansion may negatively impact financial inclusion.

Conclusion

The 11 Public Sector Banks put under PCA framework by the Reserve Bank of India have shown improvement in their Non-performing Assets. Thus, PCA framework is an essential step to maintain the health of banking sector which is very much essential for the robust growth of economy.

Best answer:

SID

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136. The World Economic Forum has announced a new center for the fourth Industrial Revolution in India. What is 4th Industrial revolution? What impact can it have on Indian economy?

Introduction

The WEF is setting up a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Maharashtra. The other centres are in San Francisco, USA, Japan and China. Artificial intelligence, block chain and drones are the first three projects of the centre in India. WEF will work in collaboration with the NITI Aayog, business leaders, academia and start-ups in these projects.

Body:

What is 4th Industrial Revolution (4th IR)?

4th Industrial revolution is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres.

There are three reasons why today's transformations represent not merely a prolongation of the Third Industrial Revolution but rather the arrival of a Fourth and distinct one: velocity, scope, and systems impact.

Impacts on Indian economy

Positive Impacts:

- Demographic dividend and Employment generation: Further consolidation of global market will help India to utilise its demographic dividend by providing workforce and services.

- Strong Banking sector: Artificial Intelligence, Blok chain technology and such other things will help in reducing the NPA problem and thus strengthening the pivot of economy that is banking sector.
- Global Leader in Industrial revolution: New centre at Mumbai, along with strong service sector and IT sector provides opportunity for India to become leader in 4th IR.
- Investments and exports: 4th IR can bring avenues for FDI in India and Exports from India.
- Agriculture and Health: Innovation and blending of physical and virtual realities will lead to improved health and agriculture in India.

Negative Impacts:
- Loss of jobs: Huge chunk of Indian labour force is either low skilled or unskilled. According to reports automation can kill 70% of the Indian IT jobs.
- Competitiveness: Due to low enrollment in Higher Education and poor quality makes Indian workforce less competitive as compared to other counterparts of Indian economy.
- Dumping: Further consolidation of global market and slow pace of innovation in India may lead to dumping by tech giants such as China in India.
- Loss to MSMEs: Small industries may not be able to sustain against giant MNCs. It may hamper domestic market.
- Economic inequality: Loss of low paying jobs may lead to further widening of the gap between rich and poor.
- Environmental Externalities: Dumping and complex nature of economies may lead to unprecedented exploitation of resources and environmental degradation. As IPCC already warned against rapidly increasing global temperature and consequential climate change.

Steps taken by India to comply with 4th IR:
The New Industrial Policy framed by the Ministry of Commerce in consultation with all stakeholders with intention to align India with the emerging technologies of drones, artificial intelligence and block chain.
NITI Ayog launched National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence with focus on sectors such as Agriculture, Health, and transportation, etc.
Conclusion
As the world's largest democracy and the country with one of the highest number of scientists and engineers, India is a key political, social and economic player that will shape the course of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
But India needs to proceed cautiously and swiftly to match the pace with the world without hampering domestic economy.
Best Answer:
Mushfique Hussain

137. This year's Nobel price has been given for Endogenous Growth theory. Explain Endogenous Growth Theory with the help of examples from India.

Introduction:

The endogenous growth theory is an economic theory which argues that economic growth is generated from within a system as a direct result of internal processes. The theory notes that the enhancement of a nation's human capital will lead to economic growth by means of the development of new forms of technology and efficient and effective means of production.

Body:

Central tenents to endogenous growth theory include:

- Government policies ability to raise a country's growth rate if they lead to more intense competition in markets and help to stimulate product and process innovation.
- There are increasing returns to scale from capital investment especially in infrastructure and investment in education and health and telecommunications.
- Private sector investment in research & development is a key source of technological progress
- The protection of property rights and patents is essential to providing incentives for businesses and entrepreneurs to engage in research and development
- Investment in human capital is a vital component of growth
- Government policy should encourage entrepreneurship as a means of creating new businesses and ultimately as an important source of new jobs, investment and further innovation

Indian examples-
- Agriculture- Green revolution using HYV seeds, fertilizers and new cropping methods was an investment in knowledge that helped India be a food surplus country.

- Service sector- Investments in education, private sector research and development helped fuel the service sector economy especially IT and finance to their current level.
- Startups- Government policies encouraging startups and business through ease of doing business is helping in economic growth and GDP boost.
- Innovation- Success of ISRO, India becoming a hub of generic medicines etc was all due to early investment in knowledge and research.

Note- Combine few of the Indian examples with the central tenents of the theory to explain.

Conclusion:

Endogenous growth models are nearly impossible to validate by empirical evidence, but history has proven their success. India should aim to keep investing in human capital to achieve the economic growth it strives for.

Best answer: Point Nemo
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138. What are Sovereign Gold Bonds? What are the advantages of holding Sovereign Gold bonds in comparison with holding physical gold? How is it beneficial for the economy?

Introduction:

SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.

Body:

Advantages compared to physical gold:
- Gold denomination – These bonds will be issued in multiple weight denominations, starting from 1 gram onwards, providing flexibility in terms of purchasing gold which suits the needs of an individual.
- Interest – Investments in this scheme are eligible to earn interest every year.
- Safety – There is no need for storage or safety of gold under this scheme, as the gold isn't physically given to an investor immediately.
- Purity – Since it is backed by the government, one is assured of purity of gold when they invest in the scheme.
- Loan collateral – Investors can use these bonds as collateral against loans.

- Tradable – Investors can trade these bonds on stock exchanges, subject to notifications of the Reserve Bank of India.
- Cheaper- Free from making charges like in case of gold jewellery. Transaction charges are also low compared to physical gold.
- Financial benefit- Provides additional interest of 2.5% per annum and capital gains at the time of maturity are exempt from tax.

Benefits for the economy:
- Can reduce Indian's dependence on gold imports and help narrow India's current account deficit and trade deficit.
- Reduction in the cost of Government's borrowings. The current borrowing cost from the domestic market is around 7-8 per cent. Thus, an interest payment below this level is an yearly saving for the Government on account of its borrowing cost.
- A decrease in the price of the gold will be a gain for the Government.
- It will reduce the demand for physical gold to some extent and thus helps in reducing the annual demand for import of gold.
- Bring the idle gold lying with Indian households into the economy
- Help government to raise finances which can be used for development purpose
- help fight the menace of black money due to strict KYC compliance.
-

Conclusion:

Though the scheme offers immense benefits for the consumer as well as the economy, there are some obstacles that need to be overcome. The government must create enough awareness about the benefits as gold in India is not seen as an investment but has a social value.

Best answer: Ayush Dubey

Soverign gold bond scheme is a scheme wherein government security is issued denominated in grams of gold. Gold bonds are purchased at face value by the investor which can then be redeemed at current gold price along with interest. They are substitute for holding physical gold. These bonds are issued by RBI on behalf of GoI.
Advantages of holding gold bonds:
1. Gold bonds are in dematerialized form hence they are easy to store as compared to physical gold.
2. The cost associated with security and risk of keeping physical gold is also eliminated.
3. No assurance related to purity has to be made which is very much required if one posess physical gold.
4. it provides the same return along with interest as physical gold.
It is beneficial for the economy due to the following reasons:
1. These bonds can lower the import of gold thus reducing India's current account deficit.
2. It will make Indian currency stronger thus reducing the cost of crude oil import thus reducing inflation.

3. It will help in better transmission of RBI monetary policy as bonds are formal means of investment.

4. It will also help fight the menace of black money due to strict KYC compliance.

5. It brings an additional source of revenue which can be used to fund social welfare programme.

However soverign gold bond scheme is not much popular due to lack of awareness and also a psychological affinity for gold possession among indians which is regarded as a symbol of wealth. It is hence necessary to inform the public of the benefits of the scheme to make it successful.

139. Recently government has launched an ambitious PM KISAN scheme. What are its objectives? What are the institutional and infrastructural impediments in implementing this scheme?

Introduction

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) scheme, announced in the interim budget of 2019-2020, aims to give 6,000 a year to 12 Cr farmer families in three equal installments who own up to two hectares of cultivable land.

Body

Objectives of PM KISAN scheme:

- To supplement the financial needs of small and marginal farmers for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities.
- To give a boost to rural consumption.
- To augment government efforts in aim of doubling farmers income by 2022.

The intention of PM KISAN is noble but it is bound to face some impediments in its implementation.

Institutional impediments:

- Non-existence framework for implementing it at such a large scale in such short time.
- Problem in identification of beneficiaries - majority of the States have incomplete tenancy records and land records are not digitized.
- Non-timely DBT payments as evident from other welfare schemes based on DBT.
- Challenges in recognition of land rights in tribal and forest areas who are among the most vulnerable people.
- Challenge of creating awareness in far flung areas in such short period.

Infrastructural impediments:

- Inadequate ICT infrastructure as this scheme is based on Aadhar.
- Other issues related to Aadhar which are being faced in other schemes such as non-matching of fingerprints due to excessive manual labour.
- Last mile banking penetration issues and lack of financial inclusion of small and marginal farmers.

- Lack of proper grievance redressal mechanism.
- Incapacity of states in terms of identifying the beneficiaries in such short time.

Conclusion

PM-KISAN is an ambitious scheme that has the potential to deliver significant welfare outcomes. However, the current top-down, rushed approach of the government ignores governance constraints and is therefore an alternative bottom-up strategy and well-planned implementation mechanism would allow weaknesses to be identified and rectified at the local level.

Best answer:

Point_Nemo

140. There is a huge economic disparity between big farmers, and small and marginal farmers. Is it a result of bad implementation of land reforms in India? How do you think this gap can be reduced?

Introduction

Agriculture forms the mainstay for about 49% of total workforce in India. Small and marginal farmers (owning less than 2 hectares of land) constitute about 85% of farming households.

According to the Committee on Doubling of Farmers' Income headed by Ashok Dalwai, the average annual earning of large farmers (landholding above 10 Ha) was seven-and-a-half times and that of a medium and semi-medium farmer's was two-and-a-half times more than a small and marginal farmer's household. It means 85 per cent of farmer households earn 9 per cent of total income while the rest earn 91 per cent. This shows the grave economic disparity existing among agricultural households.

Body

The purpose of land reforms was to distribute land to the landless and provide title of ownership to the cultivators. However, it could not fructify in real sense of the term. The most notable and successful land reforms happened in states of Kerala and West Bengal (Operation Barga). There are multitudes of reasons for the existing economic disparity along bad implementation of land reforms among one of them.

Bad implementation of land reforms:

- Purposeful delay in the implementation land reform policy in many states, giving gap for transactions to escape the tooth of land reform laws.
- Zamindars - political nexus to get around the laws.
- Delay and loopholes in land ceiling laws caused large farmers to retain larger landholding through steps such as benami properties.
- Distribution of non-productive lands to the landless.

- Corruption in the process of land consolidation.

Other reasons for economic disparity:
- Inverse relationship between land size and efficiency because small farm size makes mechanization impossible leading to low productivity and low returns.
- Small and marginal farmers falling in debt trap of moneylenders because of lack of formal or institutionalized sources of credit.
- Poor targeting of policies with benefits mostly accruing to large farmers. Most populists schemes such farm loan waivers have also benefitted only large farmers.
- Distress sale by small farmers due to inadequate storage infrastructure leads to low remunerative prices for their produce.

Measures to reduce the gap:
- Digitization of land records for targeted benefits to small and marginal farmers.
- Effective implementation of e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) for better price discovery for farmers leading to high returns for farmers.
- Creation of non-farm jobs through schemes such as Prime Ministers' Employment Generation Programme to reduce disguise unemployment in agriculture.
- Increasing access to formal sources of credit for small and marginal farmers.
- Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations and Cooperative farming to give small farmers better negotiating power.
- Providing lab-to-farm connect through creating awareness about more scientific methods of cultivation for better yields and hence more returns.
- Taxing agricultural income for large farmers as suggested by NITI Aayog.

Conclusion
The challenge of making farming lucrative just got tougher with rising economic disparity. It is not just among various landholding groups, there is a distinct variation in income level across states depending on level of agricultural growth. The recent government intervention in interim budget of 2019-2020 to provide direct benefit transfer of 6000 rupees per annum for small and marginal farming households though PM KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) scheme is a step in the right direction for the benefit of small farmers.
Best answer:
Mushfique
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141. What can be the reasons of high number of accidents and casualties in Indian railways as compared to other railway networks? What steps have been taken by the government to prevent train mishaps?

Introduction:

As per the latest data, train accidents have come down from 118 in 2013-14 to 73 in 2017-18 but still the number is high compared to other railways networks in the world. Not just the numbers, but also the casualties associated are high as was incident in case of Amritsar accident during Dussehra.

Body:

Causes of rail accidents in India-
- Derailments- technical faults in the rolling stock, the rails or the security systems, or because of landslides, avalanches or objects obstructing the rails
- Unmanned level crossings (UMLCs)- These are responsible for a number of accidents.
- Collisions- Due to foggy weather, low signal visibility, poor signaling etc.
- Failure of railway staff- Carelessness in working, poor maintenance work, overworked, signaling errors by loco-pilots, adoption of short-cuts and non-observance of laid down safety rules and procedures.
- Under-investment- Lack of adequate investment in the railways infrastructure and maintenance, as has been pointed by the Kakodkar Committee.
- Congestion- Slow expansion of rail networks has put undue burden on the existing infrastructure, leading to severe congestion and safety compromises.

Steps taken by government:
- To provide safeguard in train operation in Automatic Block System during foggy weather, the number of trains are restricted to two between two stations.
- Improving the visibility of signals.
- Fog PASS Device, a Global Positioning System (GPS) based hand held portable device, is used. It serves as an aid for the crew during foggy weather through audio visual alarm, whenever any landmark comes within the geo-fence range.
- 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)' had been introduced with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore over a period of five years from 2017-18 onwards for critical safety related works.
- Switch over to the manufacture of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches from 2018-19 onwards and stopping the manufacture of ICF coaches. The LHB coaches having superior design and better safety features like anti-climbing features etc.
- Elimination of unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge through closure, merger, provision of subways and manning, etc.
- New works have been included in the category of Safety works like Platform extension and raising, foot overbridge, pathways and boundary walls etc. to improve passenger safety.
- Delegation of powers and easing of procedures, improving safety awareness amongst railway employees, and better training facilities like imparting simulator based training for improving the driving skills and the reaction time of Loco Pilots.
- Periodic inspections of rails and unmanned crosisngs.

- Heating, Ventilation and Air conditioning of locomotive Cabs (HVACs) – Improvement in the working conditions of loco crew is a priority area for Indian Railways. Provision of AC in loco cab will reduce fatigue level on run and will make working environment of crew better and improve their efficiency.
- Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.
- Mechanization of track maintenance is being carried out to reduce human errors.
- Long Rail panels are being used on track to minimize welded joints.

Conclusion:

Train accidents cause loss of life and property as well as are detrimental for the economy. Preventing their occurrence will ensure not just safety of lives but will also be beneficial for the economy as a whole.

Best answer: Poojan
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142. Despite all efforts India has not been able to attain self sufficiency in respect of industrial material. Comment.

Introduction:

Industrial sector contributes around 25% to GDP of country but is severely lagging behind in terms of self-sufficiency and is majorly dependent on imports.

Body:

Reasons
- Political Issues: Pre-Liberalization era restriction like license raj, Entry exit issues, Stability of government policies.
- Financial issues: Availability of cheap and affordable finance, FDI regulations, foreign investment restrictions.
- Research and Development: Lack of investment in R&D.
- Technology: Lack of innovation, upgradation, import restriction, local availability of technologies.
- Service sector: Increased emphasis on service sector as compared to manufacturing.
- Human Resources: Lack of skilled labor pool, cheap availability of labor compared to other neighboring countries etc.

Measures to increase the contribution:
- Industrial policy: Robust policies regarding import export, SEZ's, Labour reforms, Export control units etc.
- Finance: Cheaper finance, removal of restrictions in FDI, Joint ventures etc.

- R&D: Increasing fund flow for R&D. Opening up of national laboratories for industrial investment.
- Education Policy: Change in education policy and increasing vocational courses as required form time to time.

Conclusion:

Government is also coming up with reforms in sector like Make in India, Ease of Doing business. Bringing up schemes to provide affordable funds like Mudra Yojana, Start-up and Stand up India schemes. But more needs to be done in order to make India self sufficient in case of Industrial material.

Best answer: Sandip

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143. Science and Technology has always been an integral part of our culture. Comment.

Introduction
The greatness of Indian culture can be gauged from the science and technological developments that took place as an integral part of it.
Ancient India was known for rich scientific contributionsright from the use of zero, precise calculation of eclipses, concept of atom, to "ShushrutaSamhita" involving complex surgery and "Charak" explicitly describing diseases, their causes and modes of treatment.

Body
Science and Technology as an integral part of our culture:
- From 8000 BC, the Mesolithic age began and continued upto 4000BC in India. During this time, sharp and pointed tools were used for killing fast-moving animals. The beginning of plant cultivationalso appeared. So technology had already made an appearance on theIndian scene.
- During Indus Valley civilization, there was development of technologies like the plough, smelting of metals like copper and bronze, lost wax technique for casting, use of burnt bricks for construction, well laid drainage system, art of writing etc.
- In Vedic and later Vedic period:
    1. Yoga is Indian contribution by Maharishi Patanjali which is recognized world over for its benefits for health.
    2. Philosophy of Maharishi Kanad which advocated about the indivisibility of atom.

3. Sulvasutras which mentioned about the scientific construction of altars through use of geometry.
4. Charaka and Sushruta were the principal contributors to Ayurveda, a system of medicine and lifestyle developed in Ancient India.

Gupta period and later ages:
1. Contribution by Aryabhata in the field of mathematics and astronomy. He gave explanation of lunar eclipse and solar eclipse, rotation of Earth on its axis, reflection of light by moon, sinusoidal functions, solution of single variable quadratic equation, value of π correct to 4 decimal places, diameter of Earth.
2. Varahamihira's main work is the book Pancha-Siddhantika on mathematical astronomy.
3. Brahmagupta was the first to give rules to compute with zero.
4. Metallurgy reached its zenith during gupta era which is evident from rust free Mehrauli Iron pillar.
5. Development of art and architecture shows the use of technology in construction of architectural marvels such as TajMahal, Astronomical observatory JantarMantarin Jaipur etc.

This spirit of development of scientific contributions was continued in post-independence era with the Indian Space and Research Organization's (ISRO) success in Mars Orbiter Mission, Chandrayaan mission, India evolving as generic medicines hub, establishment of IITs etc.

Conclusion

This legacy of development of science and technology needs to be further taken forward because Science is the one and only medium that can provide solutions for the present and emerging problems in the years to come. Government has taken number of steps to encourage development of scientific temper through schemes such as AIM (Atal Innovation Mission), INSPIRE and revive the traditional Indian knowledge through schemes such as AYUSH mission.

Best answer:

Ritik

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144. The number of Research papers published by Indian research scholars have increased but the quality of research is still dismal. What are the reasons for that? What steps have been taken by the GoI to improve the quality of research in India?

Introduction

According to a report, India's scientific publications grew 13.9%, as against the global average of 4.1%, between 2009 and 2013. Similar to scientific research, there is huge increase in other researches and publications too. Though quantity of research increased but quality is questionable.

In the recently released QS World University rankings 2019, not a single Indian university figures in top 100 world universities list. QS World's Universities ranking considers research output of the universities as a parameter, which many Indian universities lack in.

Body

Reasons of poor quality research in India:

1. Affiliations and governance of Universities

One of the causes of the problems plaguing higher education in India is the system of affiliation, where a university can have as many as over 500 colleges attached to it. This simply makes the university, "ungovernable".

Besides being a logistical and administrative nightmare to the parent university, these colleges function in isolation and there is no real communication amongst the academic disciplines. It defeats one of the fundamental principles of a university—of being an institution where students and teachers are able to exchange ideas and the different disciplines mingle, in the process learning from one another and finding ways to innovate.

2. Lack of interactions

Much of the research in India happens in silos and are either irrelevant or redundant for any practical purposes.

Research in India happens mostly in specialised research institutes rather than in university campuses.

Aside from basic research, due to minimal interaction between departments, there is a lack of interdisciplinary education and research in these campuses.

3. Segregation of teaching and research

Owing to the segregation of teaching and research in the country, entire generations of students have graduated from the university system without producing even a single original research.

4. Investment in research

India's investment in research is a measly 0.62 percent of GDP. These numbers are well below global best practices. France, for example, spends 2.25 percent of

its GDP on research, and the United States, 2.74 percent. Similarly, China invests more than 2.11 percent of its GDP on research.

Steps Taken to improve research

The Government of India (GoI) has launched, beginning in 2013, a string of initiatives to boost the number of researchers in higher education.

- For starters, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan or the National Higher Education Mission to strategically fund higher education institutes in the country.

- In 2015, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched to rank universities and institutes in various parameters, including research.

- Subsequently, the GoI announced the 'Institutes of Eminence (IoE)' scheme, where it initially pledged to support 20 institutes to become world-class universities – of which six have already been announced and more than a dozen are awaiting the status upgrade. A "world-class" university, however, cannot be devoid of research; teaching and research go hand-in-hand. IoEs are chosen on the basis of, among others, their research performance in NIRF.

- In 2018, the 'Prime Ministers Research Fellowship', with an initial budget allocation of INR 16.5 billion. Under the scheme, undergraduate and postgraduate students with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of at least 8.0 from elite Indian institutes such as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), will be eligible for direct admission in PhD programmes of IITs and IISc. They will also be fairly compensated under the scheme.

Way forward

- India is attempting to enhance its global footprint through programmes such as 'Institutes of Eminence' (IoE) and 'Study in India' as well as by preparing a New Education Policy.

- India has a rich demographic dividend that, if harnessed successfully, can contribute to the country's economic growth. However, the Indian education system needs an overhaul.

- While a handful of institutes have been given the tag of IoE for greater autonomy in conducting research and programmes, there are numerous state public universities, affiliated colleges and autonomous colleges that are striving to compete with the raised standards.

- The Indian education system must explore ways by which it can upgrade its current, textbook-heavy learning system.

- Introducing UG research in institutes will not only enhance the quality of students and faculty in the system, but also help India generate relevant scholarly research that will contribute to the country and beyond.

Best Answer: Chiranjeev Biswas

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145. Development of scientific temper is one of the Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Constitution of India. With recent killings of rationalist in India do you think society is not ready for such a Fundamental duty?

Introduction:

Article 51A of the Constitution lists the fundamental duties of citizens, which include development of scientific temper, humanism and spirit of inquiry and reform. It means the Indians must have an open mind to learn new things.

Body:

India is ready for this:
- Technology- ISRO's success, Push to Make in India, digital revolution, nuclear and defense technologies, increasing pace of R&D etc.
- Rational thinking- Many rational thinkers, scientists are getting recognition and people are getting aware against many old superstitions.
- Political leadership- Encouragement to innovation, science & technology etc. under political leadership.
- Education- Setting up higher education institutions and taking care of the quality, efforts made for Indian universities to appear in top universities in the world.

India is not ready:
- Ignorance- Even literate and well-educated people believe in superstitions and follow those.
- Intolerance- Killing of rational thinkers
- Social media- Instead of thinking rationally and researching about something, people blindly follow what social media propagates.
- Status of women- Issues like temple entry during menstruation, child marriages, triple talaq etc. which are not based on rational thinking.

Conclusion:

Scientific temper needs to be promoted across all sections of the society systematically, using tools like National Knowledge Network. Public and political

understanding of science should be based on evidence and debate with open mind.

146. What is the difference between LTE and VoLTE?

Introduction:

The terms LTE and VoLTE are often used together as mobile Internet technology standard, but in reality the two are completely different things, though one is depended on the other.

Body:

	LTE	VoLTE
Stands for	Long-Term Evolution	Voice Over LTE (Long-Term Evolution)
Type	Type of Network	Type of Service provided on the network
Description	The next type of cellular network. Faster than 4G.	Phone Calls over the LTE Network
Definition	In telecommunication, Long-Term Evolution (LTE) is a standard for high-speed wireless communication for mobile phones and data terminals, based on the GSM/EDGE and UMTS/HSPA technologies.	Voice over Long-Term Evolution (Volte) is a standard for high-speed wireless communication for mobile phones and data terminals.
Data	May or may not support data usage and voice call together.	Supports data usage and voice call together.

Effect on Voice Call	Using data and voice at the same time, may or may not affect the quality of the voice call.	Using data and voice at the same time does not affect the quality of the voice call.
Call connection speed	Call connection speed is slow.	Call connection speed is fast.

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best answer: Point Nemo
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147. What is noise? What are different grades of noise pollution? What measures can be taken to control that?

Introduction
Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Sound which pleases the listeners is music and that which causes pain and annoyance is noise. At times what is music for some can be noise for others. Excessive noise in the ambient atmosphere causes fatigue, sleeplessness, hearing disorder, hypertension, etc.

Grades of ambient noise pollution are as following according to noise pollution control and regulations Rules 2000;
- Industrial areas 70-75 dB
- Commercial areas 55-65 dB
- Residential areas 45-55 dB
- Silence zone 40-50 dB
- Indoor limit <30 dB According to WHO

Noise greater than 75 dB over a long exposure can cause hearing damage.
Control of noise pollution
At source
- Strict imposition of noise limit over loudspeakers and automobiles.
- Design equipment to reduce vibration.
- Regular maintenance of machines and automobiles.
- Restrictions on burning firecrackers and honking in silent areas.

In transmission

- Construction of green mufflers by planting trees
- Construction of physical concrete barrier.

At receiver
- Proper use of noise control equipment such as earplug, noise cancelling headphones etc.
- Job rotation so as to reduce exposure time in noisy industrial places.
- One of the best examples of noise pollution control is the concept of silent airport at IGI airport New Delhi wherein information is dissiminated through SMS rather than announcing over loudspeakers, similar initiative can be made at other public places.

Conclusion
It is hence necessary to control the nuisance of noise pollution to reduce negative health impact on people especially in cities so as to ensure a peaceful standard of living for the citizens and to ensure a happy and prosperous life.
Best Answer: Point_Nemo
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148. India has started its ambitious River interlinking project. What can be the ecological impacts of river interlinking?

Introduction
Interlinking involves the process of diverting surplus river water through a network of canals to relatively drier areas either within a state or among two or more states. In India, there is ambitious plan to link, Himalayan rivers, rivers flowing through northeast and peninsular rivers, to balance the deficit and excess water areas. Intentions behind such an ambitious project are good, but there are concerns that it will lead to ecological imbalance.
Body
Benefits of the project include:
- Equitable distribution on river water to reduce effect of drought and to help mitigate the impact of climate change.
- Reduce the incidence of flood by controlling surplus river water flow.
- Providing an infrastructure to promote inland navigation to reduce transport cost and to reduce pollution caused due to road transportation.

However the project has many ecological impacts such as:
- Submergence of large part of protected forest reserve, for example the submergence of large part of Panna Tiger reserve during Ken-Betwa linkage.

- Disruption of habitats for a variety of wild animals due to their relocation to other areas.
- Threat to natural movement of freshwater marine animals like fish, crocodiles etc.
- River interlinking will require clearance of large area of land which will result in deforestation.
- Reduction in quantity of natural flow of rivers especially peninsular rivers.
- Water logging, increased salinity and even water pollution due to inland waterway navigation.
- Connecting rivers coming through fragile topography may lead to increased seismic activity and increased frequency of floods.
- In certain cases, water has to b transported against gravity. It requires huge amount of power. It will create stress on economy as well as environment.
- Course of river changes after some time. For example, Teesta used to flow into Ganga, and now after an earthquake, it started to flow into Brahamputra. Linking them permanently will not be ecologically viable.

Conclusion
Though river interlinking project has certain envisioned benefits it is necessary to balance them with ecological devastation that might be caused due to the project. There is a need of comprehensive environment impact assessment so as to adopt the best alternative to minimize negative ecological impact so as to ensure sustainable development. Other than interlinking of rivers, Effective and efficient utilisation of existing water resources such as ground water, rain water harvesting, water preserving irrigation practices etc must be made priority.
Best Answer: Sreelakshmy Vijayan Uma
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149. How is lightning caused? Last year more than 100 people died in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh due to lightning making it a big disaster. What preventive measures can be taken to for lightning?

Introduction:

Last year Andhra Pradesh recorded approximately 36000 lightning strikes over a period of 13 hours. There have been several instances where people have been killed due to lightning strikes across Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Body:

Lightning strikes tend to affect the tropics more as the heat creates the energy required for a lightning storm.

When air rises and falls within a thunderstorm, positive and negative charges form in the cloud. The bottom of the thundercloud has a negative charge, and the top has a positive charge. A flash of lightning happens when a charge becomes so strong that the air can't stop it from jumping from the cloud to the ground, which has a positive charge. Lightning can also form inside the cloud or between two clouds, moving between the positively and negatively charged areas.

Preventive measures:
- Mapping of Lightning affected zones on the basis of availability of data of deaths and injured persons and data of lightning incidence
- Sharing of data between different agencies for preparation of mitigation plan
- Lightning strike warning system that would inform people of impending disaster.
- Structural protection measure like Lightening shields for buildings and other structures.
- Promote installations of lightning arresters and Doppler Radars
- Education and awareness on how to safely respond to lightning storms.
- Use of social media to effectively deliver the warnings.

Conclusion:

Lightening is an extreme weather event which can cause disaster if proper measures are not taken. Awareness coupled with technological initiatives like development of app called Vajrapath that can predict where lightning will strike based on an analysis of electromagnetic waves, can go a long way in reducing lightening related causalities.

Best answer: Blackbird
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150. Hazard can be natural but disasters are anthropogenic. Comment.

Introduction:

Hazard is associated with the processes that have the potential to inflict social, economic or environmental losses. It can be natural or anthropogenic.

Body:

- Natural hazard are earthquake, tsunami, droughts, floods, landslides, wildfires, thunderstorms etc.

- Anthropogenic hazards are dealing with hazardous material, nuclear power plants, chemical weapons, collapse of structures, train collisions, airplane crashes etc.
- Hazards can thus be from natural causes with no control of anyone over them.
- Disasters, however, are anthropogenic in nature as these are the impacts of the hazards.
- An earthquake of same magnitude in a sparsely populated region will cause much less losses compared to in a heavily populated region.
- Urban floods though involve natural hazards like torrential rainfall but the floods are due to poor management and encroachment of natural wetlands. E.g. Chennai and Mumbai floods.
- Landslides are a natural occurrence in hilly areas and occur frequently. Human intervention and construction activities have created instability in the Himalayas and is responsible for increased frequency of landslides in the region.
- Inefficient or insufficient use of adequate technology, like early warning systems also result in disasters whose impact could have been reduced otherwise, e.g. Okhi cyclone.
- Even in case of man-made hazards, the disasters are often caused by human ignorance, mismanagement or deliberative action.

Conclusion:

The disasters are a result of human intervention, and it is the latter that can prevent those too. Appropriate mitigation techniques, creating awareness, providing appropriate structures and not interfering with the nature can help reduce disasters or their impact.

Best answer: Point Nemo
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151. Independence of Directors is an important aspect of corporate governance. Comment. What factors create a hindrance in true independence of directors?

Introduction
Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices and processes by which a firm is directed and controlled. It essentially involves balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholderssuch as shareholders, management, customers, suppliers, financiers, government and the community.

As per clause 49 of the listing agreement that companies sign with the exchanges, an independent director is a non-executive director who does not have any pecuniary relationship with the company, its promoters, senior management or affiliate

companies, is not related to promoters or the senior management, and/or has not been an executive with the company in the three preceding financial years.

Body

Independence of directors as an important aspect of corporate governance:

- Independent directors are necessary to protect the interests of shareholders, especially minority shareholders.
- To act as watch dog for mismanagement and help the company in improving corporate credibility and governance standards.
- An independent director is not as closely tied to the company as executive and investor board members; this can allow the independent director to be more impartial and objective in decision making.
- An independent board member can bring focus and depth of perspective about company.
- Independents are the key to conflict resolution, they are in a unique position to cut through to the core issues and find agreement much faster.
- Independents can mentor and share their network, an independent can be specifically recruited for skills or perspective needed by executive team.

Factors creating hindrance in the independence of directors:

- Nepotism, favoritism in board appointments.
- Lack of effectiveness and transparency in performance appraisal of directors.
- Relative ease by which independent directors can be removed if they don't side with the promoters.
- Entire boards are not often present at general meetings for stakeholders to ask questions from them.
- No Capping on the maximum number of directorships for a person.

Way forward:

The UdayKotak Committee on Corporate Governance had given various recommendations on Independent Directors to ensure their independence such as:

- Number of independent directors(IDs) on listed company boards be raised from one-third to half.
- Listed companies to appoint one woman independent director.
- Organize more frequent exclusive meetings among IDs to discuss company affairs.
- Strengthens their accountability by making it compulsory for IDs to give detailed reasons if they resign before the end of their term.
- Provides minimum compensation for Independent Directors.
- Capping the Maximum Number of Directorships for a person to 8.

Conclusion

Independent directors can play a significant role in transforming the corporate governance structure of the Indian corporate sector which is currently facing problem of excess debt and board room disputes. Thus removal of hindrances in independence of directors will be a significant achievement for the corporate sector.

Best answer:
Bard of Avon

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152. How is participative governance an integral part of good governance? Is it responsible for delay in decision making?

Introduction

According to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Good governance has 8 major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Similarly, World Bank has also included participative governance as an essensial part of Good Governance.

Body

Benefits of participatory governance:

- It helps in being responsive to the voice of all stakeholders including the government buisness and civil society thus leading to inclusive development.
- It ensure all decision are consensus oriented thus reducing the chances of disputes.
- It embodies the true sense of democracy I e government of the people,by the people for the people.
- It helps in ensuring accountability and transparency by reducing scope of maladministration and corruption for eg. Social audit.
- It helps in safeguarding cultural and traditional rights of tribal communities and forest dwellers such as PESA, role of gram sabha in 5th and 6th schedule area.

However participatory approach often causes delay due to following reasons:

- Conflicting aspirations and demands of various section of society.
- Delay in arriving at a consensus due to engrained difference among various community and failure of government to arrive at a compromise.

- Dispute leading to litigation.

However it must be noted that participative governance is not only factor behind delays in decision making. Bureaucratic delays or red-tapism, political interests of various parties and individuals, litigations and stays, resources scarcity and population pressure are some of the other reasons which also leads to delays.

Conclusion

It is hence necessary that proper steps be taken to disseminate information about government policies and their impact to various stakeholders and to establish an active feedback mechanism. Govt initiative like mygov.in and PRAGATi portal are step in the right direction. Social audits and EIA must be promoted. At the same time it is necessary to strengthen the panchayati Raj bodies especially gram sabha to ensure equitable and inclusive growth for all.

Best Answer: Point_Nemo

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153. Governance is not just targeting growth but aiming for development. Elaborate.

Introduction:

Growth and development are two important dimensions for a nation to determine its progress. Where growth gives a quantifiable outcome that can be used for comparison by scholars, development gives qualitative outcome that the people themselves can testify to.

Body:

Growth without development:
- Jobless growth- Indian GDP is increasing which as per a normal business cycle should increase employment, but in case of India it is not happening.
- Inequality- Growth in GDP is not getting reflected in development across various socio-economic groups but is concentrated in the upper income strata of the society.
- Environment- Only growth can be detrimental for the environment unless it is coupled with sustainable development.
- Human development- Growth cannot ensure human development unless specific indicators for development are governed.
- Skill development- It needs governance to focus on skill building rather than just increasing the number of jobs.
- Empowerment- Various social groups need to be empowered despite experiencing the economic growth in the nation.

Governance should thus target development rather than just growth. Steps that can be taken:
- Digital initiatives
- Eliminating leakages and middlemen
- Decentralization and giving autonomy to grass root organizations
- Progressive taxation instead of regressive
- Investment in human capital

Conclusion:

The main aim of governance is to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. With focus on development initiatives instead of just economic growth it can ensure the overall development of society with will eventually result in growth too.

Best answer: Point_Nemo
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154. Indian Constitution calls India a Socialist state. How is India's governance different from other Socialist nations? Explain with the help of examples.

Introduction:

Socialism is an ideology that has a range of economic and social systems characterised by social proprietorship and democratic control of the means of production as well as the political beliefs, theories, and movements that aim at their formation.

Body:

Difference in India's governance as compared to other socialist nations:
- Multiparty system- India has a multi party system whereas other nations have single party system.
- Ownership- Socialist nations like erstwhile USSR had complete ownership over resources whereas in India government owns only certain critical areas.
- Economic planning- Socialist nations like USSR work by making economic plans through a central planning authority. India has recently abolished planning commission.
- Competition- Having a mixed economic model, in India there is presence of competition between private players along with government. This is absent in case of socialist nations like Venezuela or Cuba.
- Role of government- Government does take decisions for the nations, but these are greatly influenced by the pressure groups that operate in interest of private players.

Socialism has been mentioned in the preamble and is exemplified through Directive Principles of State Policy and certain fundamental rights. Indian model has taken all positives of socialism along with necessary attributes of capitalism to form its unique economic and political model.

Best answer: Point_Nemo
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29a634705395ddcdb86ffcccde7.jpg

155. What were the similarities and dissimilarities between the approach of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar towards the upliftment of the so called lower castes?

Introduction:

Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar were two great socio-political reformers of their times who not only help in India's freedom struggle but also put efforts to curb several social problems existing in the society, upliftment of lower castes being one among them.

Body:

Similarities:
- Both of them had realized the issues of lower castes and worked for the emancipation of the same.
- Both tried to challenge the existing systems, Gandhi did it on social and moral front whereas Ambedkar did it on political front.

Dissimilarities:
- Temple entry- Ambedkar argues that those untouchables who were responsible for constructing and later protecting the Hindu temple have right to enter the temple. Gandhi, on the other hand, asserts that it is the moral duty of the high-caste Hindus to allow the untouchables to enter the Hindu temples.
- Untouchability- In Ambedkar's view, the practice of untouchability was a necessary product of the caste system and asked for annihilation of caste, whereas Gandhi was unable to see any internal connection between untouchability and the caste system and defended the caste system on several grounds. Gandhi considered untouchability as a mixture of social and moral problems but Ambedkar saw it emanating from the ideological, economic and political factors.
- Poona Pact- Ambedkar insisted on a separate electorate for the untouchables and secured the Communal Award of 1931 which Gandhi opposed by fasting, resulting in

a compromise between the two for an increase in the number of untouchable representatives.

- Approach- Gandhi sought to convince and convert the caste Hindus and mobilise their energies by means of moral and religious appeals. He encouraged them to undertake welfare activities among the untouchables in a spirit of remorse and guilt. Ambedkar emphasized on modern values like social justice, equality, self-respect, and dignity and a legal political approach for upliftment of untouchables.
- Villages- Gandhi preferred decentralization of power and self-sufficient villages to give equal voice to all, whereas Ambedkar called villages as a den of superstition and feared that empowering the villages would result in the already affluent upper class men wielding huge power. He preferred a top down approach with a strong center.

Conclusion:

Ambedkar relied much on institutional mechanisms to protect and promote the interests of the untouchables, and did not fully appreciate the importance of changing the moral culture of the wider society. Gandhi created among caste Hindus a deep sense of shame and guilt and awakened them to the egalitarian strand within their religion. Despite their disagreements 'human dignity' was an important idea for them to deconstruct the inequality and ensure justice.

Best answer: None

156. Soil salinisation has become a major problem in the fertile lands of India. How is soil salinistion a problem? What anthropogenic factors have led to salinity of soil? How can saline soil be cured for agriculture?

Introduction:

Salinity is the presence of salts (such as sodium chloride, magnesium and calcium sulfates) and bicarbonates, in soil and water.

Body:

Problems due to soil salinity:
- Agricultural Production- Inefficient osmosis due to high salt concentration can result in dehydration of the plant, causing yield decline or even death of the plant. Salinity affects production in crops, pastures and trees by interfering with nitrogen uptake, reducing growth and stopping plant reproduction.
- Water quality- High levels of salts may affect the taste of drinking water. Chloride in particular has a low taste threshold. Sodium and magnesium sulfate levels in drinking water may produce a laxative effect and reduce the suitability of a water supply for grazing animals.
- Rivers- Salt interacts with in-stream biota (animals and plants), changing the ecological health of streams and estuaries. Salts also help fine materials (such as suspended clay particles) to flocculate, allowing more sunlight to penetrate rivers and leading to harmful algal blooms.

- Terrestrial biodiversity- Salinization can lead to the destruction of remaining natural habitat in many agricultural areas and the fragmentation of many wildlife corridors.
- Soil erosion- Salinity is often associated with prolonged wetness and lack of surface cover and therefore increases the vulnerability of soils to erosion.
- Flood risk- Saline soils have limited capacity to absorb rainfall, resulting in high rates of run-off.
- Infrastructure- Salt also corrodes and destroys the infrastructure including houses, roads and playing fields.

Anthropogenic causes for salinity:
- Faulty agricultural practices where we cultivate water intense crops in less watered area.
- Excessive irrigation due to free electricity for tubewells that results in increased capillary action and thus increasing concentration of salts near plant roots.
  A canal or a water body near by seeps water into near by plot and the water evaporates leaving behind the salts and increasing the salinity

Curing saline soil for agriculture:
- Soil washing- Stagnate water and flush it out, but if the water table is affected this might not yield result.
- Chemical treatment- Use of Gypsum to counter salinity
- Isolating the canal water by building side walls.
- Proper choice of agricultural practices and crops.
- Discourage borewell instead do rain water harvesting using pits.

Conclusion:

Treating soil salinity can not only help remove its negative effects from the ecosystem and biodiversity but will also help India increase its crop production from the same arable land.

Best answer: Ramendra
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157. Why was the 'Day of Deliverance' celebrated by Jinnah, B R Ambedkar and E V Ramasami Naicker?

Introduction
The Muslim League observed 'Day of Deliverance' on 22 December 1939 when the Congress Party members who were part of the Central and provincial governments resigned in mass protesting the Viceroy's decision to make India a party to the Second World War without duly consulting Indians.

Body

The "Day of Deliverance" : 22 December 1939

- On 3 September 1939, the then Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared that India was at war with Nazi Germany during the Second World War, along with Britain.

- The dominant political party in India at that time, the Indian National Congress, objected to this decision of the viceroy which was taken without consulting Indians.

- On 22 October 1939, the Congress called upon all its ministries to resign in the wake of the viceroy's declaration.

- On 2 December that year, League chief Muhammad Ali Jinnah called upon Indian Muslims to celebrate 22 December as 'Deliverance Day' from Congress. He stated, "I wish the Muslims all over India to observe Friday 22 December as the "Day of Deliverance" and thanksgiving as a mark of relief that the Congress regime has at last ceased to function."

- The day was observed by the League in India as decided. Some other parties also joined the celebration. They were the All-India Depressed Classes Association and the Independent Labour Party. Prominent leaders who joined Jinnah in the observance included Dr. B R Ambedkar and E V Ramasami Naicker (Periyar) of the Justice Party. Some Parsis and Anglo-Indians also participated.

Reasons for Jinnah/League's celeberations

- The Congress was in power in 7 British Indian provinces after elections in 1937. The Muslim League could form the government in only one province then.

- The League wanted to portray a negative image of the Congress and it directed efforts to showcase the "plight" of Muslims under Congress rule.

- The 1938 Pirpur Report brought out by the League listed cruelties suffered by Muslims in the Congress-ruled provinces. This report became an important document used to demand and justify partition of the country.

Reasons for Ambedkar and Naicker joining the observance:

- Dr. Ambedkar believed that the communities he worked with were twenty times more oppressed by Congress policies than were Indian Muslims. he clarified that he was criticizing Congress, and not all Hindus.

- E. V. Ramasami Naicker of the Justice Party called upon his party and all Dravidians to celebrate 22 December "on a grand scale...to rid the country of the menace of the Congress".

Conclusion

- The Congress criticised this move of the League. Mahatma Gandhi appealed to Jinnah to desist from observing this day.

- Jawaharlal Nehru offered Jinnah to deal with the allegations of anti-Muslim bias by the party but his attempts fell through because the League was adamant on being the sole representative of Indian Muslims. This was unacceptable to Nehru as there were several Muslims in the Congress party.
- The observance of this day was also disapproved by senior congress leader Abul Kalam Azad.

Best answer: Mudrarakshas
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158. What information of about the contemporary society is provided by Ajanta Paintings?

Introduction
Ajanta Paintings are located in Ajanta caves (UNESCO World Heritage site) which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. These paintings are described as among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art, that present emotion through gesture, pose and form.The paintings are in "dry fresco", painted on top of a dry plaster surface rather than into wet plaster.
According to UNESCO, these are masterpieces of Buddhist religious art that influenced the Indian art that followed.The paintings in the Ajanta caves predominantly narrate the Jataka tales describing the previous births of the Buddha.
Body
The Ajanta cave paintings are a window into the culture, society and religiosity of the native population of Indiabetween the 2nd century BCE and 5th century CE.
- The dress, the jewelry, the gender relations, the social activities depicted showcase at least a lifestyle of the royalty and elite and in others definitely the costumes of the common man, monks and rishi depicted therein.
- The Ajanta Caves were built in a period when both the Buddha and the Hindu gods were simultaneously revered in Indian culture. These paintings show about the unity of religions followed at that time;not only the Ajanta Caves but other nearby cave temples were sponsored and built by Hindus as evidenced by inscriptions wherein the role as well as the Hindu heritage of the donor is proudly proclaimed.
- The Ajanta artworks provide a contrast between the spiritual life of monks who had given up all materialistic possessions versus the sensual life of those it considered materialistic, luxurious, symbols of wealth, leisurely and high fashion.
- These paintings are a significant source of socio-economic information in ancient India, particularlyin relation to the interactions of India with foreign cultures. Some connections with the art of Gandhara can also be noted.

- Depiction of trade in murals suggests that it was economically important enough to the Deccan region that the artists chose to include it with precision.
- Additional evidence of international trade includes the use of the blue lapis lazuli pigment to depict foreigners in the Ajanta paintings, which must have been imported from Afghanistan or Iran.
- Survival of these paintings for so long depicts the advancements that have been made in the art formation using long lasting colors.

Conclusion

The rediscovery of ancient Indian paintings at Ajanta provided Indian artists examples from ancient India to follow and helped to throw some light on the life of people during those times. Nandalal Bose experimented with techniques to follow the ancient style which allowed him to develop his unique style. Abanindranath Tagore and Syed Thajudeen also used the Ajanta paintings for inspiration.

Best answer:

Ramendra

159. What is an ordinance? Can ordinance method be used by the Executive to by – pass legislature? Critically comment.

Introduction:

Ordinances are laws that are promulgated by the President of India on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet as per Article 123 of the Constitution. They can only be issued when Parliament is not in session. They enable the Indian government to take immediate legislative action.

Body:

- Ordinances cease to operate either if Parliament does not approve of them within six weeks of reassembly, or if disapproving resolutions are passed by both Houses. It is also compulsory for a session of Parliament to be held within six months.
- Governor can also promulgate an ordinance under Article 213. It however requires instructions from the President in cases where a passage of similar bill would have required the assent of President.

Instances where ordinance can be used:
- It is meant as a last resort and not a tool to replace the power or functioning of Parliament.

- It can, generally, be issued only on pressing issues or issues that require immediate consideration that cannot wait for Parliament to assemble and consider the bill.

Misuse:
- Ordinances are used by governments to pass legislation which is currently pending in Parliament, as was the case with the Food Security Ordinance
- Ordinances are promulgated when there is no consensus in the parliament. For E.g.: the recent ordinance on altering the Land Reforms Act.
- Re-promulgation: The Security Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was recently re-promulgated for the third time during the term of 15th Lok Sabha. Re-promulgation of Ordinances raises questions about the authority of the Parliament as the highest law making body.
- In Wadhwa vs. State of Bihar (1986), the Supreme Court held that it is unconstitutional to re-promulgate ordinances without putting it to vote in the parliament.

In the above instances, ordinances are being used to bypass legislature. However, following arguments show how it cannot effectively bypass legislature.
- Validity- Maximum validity for an ordinance is 6 months and 6 weeks.
- Restrictions- A constitutional amendment cannot be made through ordinance route.
- Judicial review- Re-promulgation of ordinance can be deemed unconstitutional by the court.
- Not every law or major reforms can be introduced via ordinance route.

Conclusion:

Constitution has provided for separation of powers where enacting laws is the function of legislature .The executive must show self restraint and use ordinance making power only as per the spirit of constitution and not to evade legislative scrutiny and debates.

Best answer: Gurpreet Singh (for 2nd part)
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160. Why is acquisition of land a major impediment in the development process? What steps can be taken to make this process smooth and equitable?

Introduction:

Land acquisition is required for most of the nation building projects, however, it is not a simple process and is often the sole impediment in the development.

Body:

Impediment in the development process:
- Delays important infrastructure projects and increases their costs making them unsustainable.
- Increasing NPAs in infrastructure sector can be attributed to some extent to the delays in land acquisition.
- Inadequate compensation to the owners, mostly poor farmers exclude them from agriculture as well as prevent them from a decent living standard.
- Using agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, on one hand creates infrastructure whereas on the other hand serves as an impediment in the food security.
- Poor land acquisition policies in one region can transfer the development to other regions with favorable policies.

Steps to make it smooth and equitable:
- The land to be acquired from the land owners should be acquired either on a long lease or in the form of equity for the proposed business. This option will ensure a steady income for the affected families.
- The role of governments should be restricted to ensuring that adequate provisions are made for the protection of interests of the landless tillers of the land to be acquired.
- In case of outright sale, open bidding through minimum prices acceptable to all landholders.
- Skill development and employment to the displaced population.

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best answer: Point_Nemo
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161. People are of opinion that war has become a necessity to teach Pakistan a lesson. Do you agree?

Introduction
The terrorist attacks in Pulwama, Pathankot, Uri and Nagrota, among others, are part of Pakistan's low-intensity limited war on the Line of Control (LoC) since 1947-48 and its 30-year-old proxy war to bleed India through a thousand cuts. After Pulwama, there is nationwide anger and people are demanding action against Pakistan.
Body
Is war a necessity to teach Pakistan a lesson?

Yes;

- State sponsored terrorism: India has always asked Pakistan to stop sheltering terrorist organisations. Recently, US also stopped funding Pakistan due to its role as safeheaven to terrorists.
- Pakistan is not inclined to bring to justice the leaders of terrorist organisations like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, etc. And it uses terrorists as 'strategic asset'.
- Bleeding India though a thousand cuts: Pakistan is using terroroutfits to keep India continously unstable and engaged in armed struggle within its own territories.
- Ceasefire violations: Vey frequently, Pakistan resorts to ceasefire violations. War may help in end of the conflict at once.
- Deep State of Pakistan: War can raise the cost for Pakistan's deep state — the army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for waging its proxy war, with a view to eventually making the cost prohibitive.
- Punishment should increase: The military's aim should be to inflict punishment on the Pakistan army deployed on the LoC and terrorist training camps and related infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). For each new act of state-sponsored terrorism, the scale and the intensity of the punishment inflicted should be increased by an order of magnitude.

No;

- Today, some analysts believe that, because of the destructive power of modern weapons, war is no longer a viable option unless the most vital interests of a state are threatened.
- Preparedness: the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence noted that 68% of our equipment in the defence forces was in the 'vintage category'. It also pointed out that we do not have sufficient ammunition to support 10 days of war with Pakistan.
- Budgetary allocations: Our budgetary allocations and optimum utilisation of available resources are not upto the mark.
- Acquisitions will meet requirements 15 or 20 years ago: We have many acquisition projects such as Rafael and others. But they will meet out future requirements. Not in war today.
- China factor and two front war: China is clearly with Pakistan and even if they just start massing troops on our eastern borders, we are not ready to fight on two fronts.
- India have a two-front war doctrine on paper, but it is not backed by anything. Despite boastful claims to the contrary, we do not have the material capacity to fight a two-front war.

- Nuclear Power: Both the countries are nuclear powered. If war escalates, it will be unimaginable disaster for both the countries.
- Global geopolitical scenario: Due to stakes in Afghanistan, Pakistan is important for US and Russia. Due to investment of billions, China will also favour Pakistan. In such situation India cannot afford to make new enemies.

What else can be done?
- We can adopt may other ways to counter and control Pakistani actions. As we rightly did by withdrawing Most Favored Nation (MFN) status.
- FATF has also decided to continue Pakistan in Grey list due to its support to terrorist organisations.
- Similar pressure and isolation can be pressed in UN, WTO and in regional forums such as SAARC.
- Surgical strikes, strengthening intelligence system and military infrastructure etc are also need of the hour.

Conclusion
The response should be proportionate and multidisciplinary in approach, comprising diplomatic, economic and military measures. It should include overt and covert actions.

Best Answer:
Ramendra
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Ankur
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162. How are river water sharing conflicts bad for India's federalism? What steps can be taken to ensure equitable distribution of water in India?

Introduction

India has about twenty major river basins running through the nation and many of these traverse more than one state. This leads to conflicts regarding the use and distribution of water posing a serious threat to India's federal polity such as Cauvery Water dispute, Mahanadi Water dispute etc.

Body

The former head of India's Central Water Commission warned that "hydro-politics is threatening the very fabric of federalism" in the world's second most populous country.

River water disputes as challenge to India's Federalism:
- These disputes have led to water being used as a political weapon,which State parties use to rally their supporters and attack their neighbors creating rift between states.
- Political opportunism over water disputes leading to rise of regionalism.
- Creates tussle between Centre and states as water being state subject but interstate water fall under Centre's domain which is seen by states as encroachment upon their rights, thus disturbing the federal equilibrium.
- Undermines credibility of institutions as and when awards are not being implemented on time.
- Spillover of interstate water disputes can be seen on other areas of cooperation such as interstate trade and commerce etc.

Steps to ensure equitable distribution of water:
- Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which has provision of Single Tribunal, timely resolution, data collection and maintenance of a data bank needs to be implemented to overcome lacunas of Inter State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.
- Interlinking of rivers- can help in adequate distribution of river water in the basin areas.
- Scientific mapping of water resources so that effective management of water resources can be done.
- Water disputes need to be depoliticized and not be made into emotional issues linkedwith regional pride.
- Bringing water into concurrent list as recommended by Mihir shah report where central waterauthority can be constituted to manage rivers.
- Supply Side Management: water resources should be utilized and harnessed properlythrough undertaking long-term measures towards saving water and rationalizing its use.
- Inter-State Council (ISC), GST council etc. can play a useful role in facilitating dialogue and discussion towards resolvingconflicts.
- One model to follow is France's system of "water parliaments," which are responsible for managing the country's rivers, and which reserve a number of seats for non-governmental and environmental organizations.

Conclusion

It is critical for India to keep an eye on efforts to end its internal water wars, which represent one of the least-understood yet most pressing threats to its stability and development. There is a need to practice the concept of the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) for water management in line to achieve goal 6 (Ensure access to water and sanitation for all) of the SDGs.

Best answer:

Point_Nemo

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163. According to a report, 90% of technical graduates in India are unemployable. What are the reasons behind it? What repercussions does it have on job market in India?

Introduction:

As per a study by employability assessment company Aspiring Minds created a stir by claiming that 95 per cent of engineers in the country were not fit for software development jobs.

Body:

Reasons:
• No detention policy which reduced the quality of education
• Lack of updation of curriculum.
• Industry academia gap.
• Lack of measures to check the teacher's updation with changing time.
• Bogus of magazines that publish papers for business gains (novelty of ideas is lost).
• 80% higher education population is concentrated on under graduation. Lack of measures to take up novel researches at this stage is a missed opportunity.

Repercussions on job market (Negative):-
• Major part of job creation lies at the hand of private industries to employ these technical graduates. Increasing automation and artificial intelligence paints a grim picture on future.
• India was an attractive outsourcing destination. In the era of de globalisation coupled with skill gap situation may get worse.

Positive repercussion:
• Increase in the number of entrepreneurs
• ' A crisis is a terrible thing to waste' - it may give a kick start to industries like apparel, electronics manufacturing, assembling etc.
• Industries may start participating in framing curriculum for the students.

Though the crisis of unemployability pose both threats and opportunities to capitalize, Speed with which we change the threat to opportunity without wasting the demographic dividend is paramount.

Best answer: Sreelakshmy Vijayan Uma
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164. The root cause of all economic problems in India is its population. Analyse.

Introduction:

A recent report by the UN forecast that India's population could surpass that of China by around 2024. Around 365 million people in India are in the age bracket of 10-24 years. The NFHS expects this group to be the main driver of the population in coming decades.

Body:

Root cause of economic problems:
- Exploitation of limited resources
- Unemployment and disguised unemployment
- Costly and insufficient healthcare
- Urban slums
- Poverty
- Inaccessible quality education

Cannot be solely attributed
- Skill development required for employment, poverty alleviation
- Proper policies and state expenditure on healthcare
- Urban area management and rurban development to contain urban migration
- Improvement in teaching for quality of education
- Manufacturing sector was bypassed which can absorb agricultural labor

Conclusion:

Population does have an impact o the developmental levels of a country, but it is not the sole cause of all economic troubles. China despite having the highest population is having high development whereas countries in Africa and south America even after having an optimum population are underdeveloped or developing.

165. Urbanisation has been linked with habitat loss but there are several species which have nicely adapted to the urban environment. Illustrate.

Introduction
- Urbanization is process of global scale changing the social and environmental landscape on every continent.
- Formation of cities and urban infrastructure leads to habitat destruction. But there are species which well adapted to changing landscape.

Body
Urbanization is a process by which a large number of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities. For this there is large scale destruction of forests and other natural setup and construction of huge urban infrastructure such as skyscrapers, multi-story buildings, roads and railways, etc.
Along with human being there are certain species which have adapted to the urban environment.
Some examples:
- Nests of Crow, pegion, sparrow, etc. are usually found in buildings' balconies and heights of skyscrapers, etc.
- Black Kite (Cheel) is another huge bird frequently seen in the urban skies.
- Animals such as dogs and cats became part of usual urban life.
- Spider and lizards usually invade any urban infrastructure.

Causes of adaptation:
- Higher intelligence
- Genetic mutation (Lizard, spiders, butterflies)
- Nesting skills
- Domestication

Conclusion
Adaptation of species in urban areas is often referred to as "Urban Darwinism". Darwin discovered the principle of nature; survival of the fittest. This may be the reason behind how certain species successfully adapted urbanisation.
Being human, a species the highly developed brain, we must create infrastructure which will not only help us but also accommodate other species too.
Best Answer: Ramendra

166. It is estimated that India will experience a strong heat wave during the summer season. What threat does it pose to people? What first aid should be given to a person suffering from a heat stroke?

Introduction

A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western parts of India. Heat Waves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even extend till July.

If the average global temperature rose by more than one degree Celsius from the present, India could "annually" expect conditions like the 2015 heat wave that killed at least 2,000, according to the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,' commissioned by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Body

The extreme temperatures and resultant atmospheric conditions adversely affect people living in these regions as they cause physiological stress, sometimes resulting in death. Children, the elderly and those with pre-existing morbidities are particularly vulnerable.

Threat posed by heat waves:

- The health impacts of Heat Waves typically involve dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke.
- The Lancet Countdown 2018 report sounds a warning that rising temperatures will enable the dengue virus and malaria to spread farther and faster.
- Lancet Countdown 2018 report also mentions that India lost nearly 75 billion hours of labour due to heat waves in 2017.
- The agriculture sector is more vulnerable compared to the industrial and service sectors because workers there are more likely to be exposed to heat. This has worrying implications for rural employment and the well-being of a large section of the population (nearly 49%) that depends on farming.
- Food insecurity due to lowering of productivity due to extreme temperatures.
- It may further intensify the water scarcity and could lead to increased water disputes.

First Aid for heat stroke:

While waiting for the paramedics to arrive, initiate first aid with the aim to lower the body temperature.

- Move the person to an air-conditioned environment or at least a cool, shady area and remove any unnecessary clothing.
- Fan air over the patient while wetting his or her skin with water from a sponge or garden hose.
- Apply ice packs to the patient's armpits, groin, neck, and back because these areas are rich with blood vessels close to the skin, cooling them may reduce body temperature.
- Do not use ice for older patients, young children, patients with chronic illness, or anyone whose heat stroke occurred without vigorous exercise.

Way Forward

Increased exposure to heatwaves needs a policy response, nationally and globally. Long term measures should be taken to address the issue in the wake of global warming and climate change:
- Afforestation drives to increase green cover.
- A further reduction in the share of coal in the energy mix through sustained support for renewable energy, particularly solar photovoltaic, must form the cornerstone of national policy
- It is vital that India gets more ambitious about cutting back on carbon emissions, even as
  It presses for the fulfillment of the climate finance obligations of developed countries under the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC.
- This must be matched by a shift away from use of fossil fuels for transport, and the induction of more electric vehicles.

Conclusion

Heat waves are a serious issue affecting the lives of people in a multidimensional manner. Therefore, keeping in mind its growing exposures it needs to be tackled through increased awareness among the people, identification of heat hot spots, and advance implementation of local Heat Action Plans.

Best answer:

Saumya Singh

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167. "People always lose in war. There are no winners". Comment.

Introduction:

Wars are often fought to resolve conflicts, to show power or even for a righteous cause. The end result may have one winner or both sides calling a truce or even

some peace agreement. However, the actual result is not so rosy which is accompanied by severe losses.

People always lose in the war:
- Loss of lives- War results in deaths of civilians and soldiers. This loss can never be repaid.
- Loss of infrastructure- Huge infrastructure losses, especially near border regions.
- Economic loss- Resources meant for welfare are diverted for war, which results into economic backwardness.
- Cultural loss- Culture of both nations takes a setback.
- Social loss- Social tensions, conflicts and wartime crimes impact the social fabric of the country.
- Loss of liberties- There is a compromise of civil liberties and human rights during war time.

World war I and II have shown what a devastating impact wars can have on the people. Even the winning countries like those of Europe suffered on economic and social front. It is thus important to resolve the conflicts through negotiations to avoid mutual losses of both nations.

Best answer: Point_Nemo
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168. What are war ethics? Do you agree with the saying, that 'Everything is fair in love and war'?

The purpose of war ethics is to help decide what is right or wrong, both for individuals and countries, and to contribute to debates on public policy, and ultimately to government and individual action. War ethics also leads to the creation of formal codes of war (e.g. the Hague and Geneva conventions), the drafting and implementation of rules of engagement for soldiers, and in the punishment of soldiers and others for war crimes.

The ethics are meant to ensure war is morally justifiable through a series of criteria, all of which must be met for a war to be considered just. The criteria are split into two groups: "right to go to war" (jus ad bellum) and "right conduct in war" (jus in

bello). The first concerns the morality of going to war, and the second the moral conduct within war.

Everything is fair in love and war. The ends justify the means when it comes to love and war. When you are fighting a war it is important to do what you have to in order to win the war. You can't expect someone to play fair in war when their survival is on the line. When going for love it is also important to do as much as you can for the people that you love.

Everything is not fair. We do not live in a world with no rules, and many of those rules are there for a reason. If we just allowed ourselves to be ruled by passion without thinking, the world would be in chaos. Yes, it's important to stick to what you believe in, whether it be to fight for your loved one or your country, but logic and reason are just as fundamental and necessary as passion and strong beliefs. Countries that drop bombs on innocent people and militia who kill innocent people on the basis of religion, Lovers who rape other young girls, lovers who throw acid or physically abuse girls can never be correct.

Conclusion:

Just because you are put into a dangerous situation or a situation that feels do or die (like love) doesn't mean that you should abandon all your morals. We as a human being must respect the other beings even in crisis situation like war.

Best answer: Ritik
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169. "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so."Enunciate.

Introduction
Law which was made by nation, constitution or an entity to govern in the way it expects, where as ethics deal with subjective moral conscious of an individual at societical level. Later one denotes subjectivity which includes actions as well as thoughts and former one avows its objective essence to actions only.
Body
The above quote by Immanuel Kant makes a distinction between ethics and law.
Laws are externally enforced upon a society and deter potential crime. Ethics, on the other hand, serve to guide individual conscience by enabling people to separate right from wrong.
Thoughts lead to actions. In law, the legality of actions is adjudged. Similar purpose for thoughts is served by ethics.

For example, a person who thinks about killing another person is not guilty in law as he does not deprive the other person of his right to life. However, simply by harbouring thoughts of murder, he is ethically guilty. Similarly, men who think of violating a woman's dignity are guilty from an ethical point of view, even though they may not be considered legally guilty until they actually perform that act.

On the other hand, Kant's statement may not always hold true, as ethics reflect the society's mindset, which changes with time.

For example, Adultery was a criminal act in India till very recently, by law as well as ethics. Now it is decriminalised by law (Supreme Court judgment) but large section of the Indian society still consider it unethical.

Conclusion

Ethics and laws are complementary to each other. Most laws are derived from ethics, and both of them reinforce each other to create a stable, harmonious society. The purpose of both is to create a just, equitable, rule-based environment for humans to thrive in and flourish.

Best Answer: Chiranjeev Biswas

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170. "Always recognize that human individuals are ends, and do not use them as means to your end." – Immanuel Kant.

Introduction

Immanuel Kant's theory of morality, the categorical imperative, states that it is immoral to use another person merely as a means to an end and that people must under all circumstances betreated as ends in themselves. This is in contrast to some interpretations of the utilitarian view, which allow for use of individuals as means to benefit the many.

Body

Kant said that rational human beings should be treated as an end in themselves and not as a means to something else. The fact that we are human has value in itself.If a person is an end-in-themself it means their inherent value doesn't depend on anything else - it doesn't depend on whether the person is enjoying their life, or making other people's lives better. We exist, so we have value.

This idea applies to us too. We shouldn't treat ourselves as a means to our own ends; instead we should respect our inherent worth. This can be used as an argument against euthanasia, suicide and other behaviors that damage us.

Taking the example of slavery where human beings are treated as "means" for achieving the "ends" that is profit motive. Human intrinsic worth i.e. dignity is not respected and they are exploited for petty gains. This lead to inequality in society where one section of people exploiting other section for self-motive. Some people justify the slavery on the premises that it was based on contract between master and slave. But this argument does not hold ground because slave did not accept to slavery on free will and they might not be in their right state of mind thinking rationally and make a decision.

Another simple example of exam time friendships where one befriends an intelligent student just to take her help to pass exam and then ditch her and go away with old friends after exams. This will hurt the dignity of student as she is just being used as a means to achieve the end. On the other hand they could have been friends for forever enjoying the company of each other and helping each other in times of need. In this case the intrinsic value of intelligent student was respected.

Conclusion

Kant philosophy of human individuals as end in itself endorses the golden rule of "treating others as one's self would wish to be treated". As no one would wish to be used simply as a means, therefore one should not also use other human beings as means to achieve their ends. This philosophy can be of great help in resolving the ethical dilemmas where there is debate between relative importance of means and ends.

Best answer:

Point_Nemo

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171. Do you think today's capitalist idea of 'Human Resource' goes against this philosophy?

Introduction

Capitalism is a philosophy about free market, free flow of ideas and labour and the forces of demand and supply in the market.

Body

Today's human resource capitalism is different from traditional notion of capitalism:
- Protectionism- Residence as a criteria for job, visa restrictions etc on movement of skilled labor.
- Fixed remuneration- Remuneration are fixed based on living standards in the country and other emerging trends rather than on market capacity and skills of labor.
- Subsidization- Subsidies are supplied to promote certain kind of labor, like for agriculture and manufacturing sector.
- Gender inequality- Women's share in labor is far less than men despite being qualified. There is difference in wages for the same skillset that defies core capitalism principle.
- Skilling- Government's efforts to skill labor force to provide them a competitive edge is against capitalism.
- Innovation- Innovation is often suppressed for sake of profit making.

Conclusion

Although today's notion of capitalist human resource is different but the ultimate aim is same that is profit. Capitalists want to increase productivity and suppress any dissents among laborers so give training or skills to them which aims at maintaining work culture in an organization.

Best Answer: Point-Nemo
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