

1. “We are unanimously of the view that it would be injurious to the interest of the country to provide for a weak central authority which would be incapable of ensuring peace, of coordinating vital matters of common concern and of speaking effectively for the whole country in the international space”. How far do you concur with this view, in the wake of more than 70 years of India’s independence?

Approach

In introduction, what type of centre we have in Indian polity, and some reasons for why we have adopted strong centre. In main part of the answer, focus on three points mentioned in the question, viz. Peace, common concerns and international space. Write in 2 or 3 lines about some of the failures of strong centre. In conclusion give your stand on whether India should or should not continue with the same pattern of government.

Background

While discussing the federal structure of Independent India, there were debates on whether there should be federalism with weak centre like U.S. or federation with strong centre like Canada. There were many socio-cultural and geopolitical reasons because of which constitution makers preferred the Canadian model of federation in India.

Body

Ensuring peace, coordination on common concerns and international talks were some of the aspects mentioned by constitution makers for not opting federation with a weak centre. After 70 years, we find the rationale of fathers of the constitution valid to utmost extent.

1. Ensuring Peace

Since independence India faced many challenges on security front ranging from integration of princely states, formation of linguistic states to insurgency and continued secessionist tendencies. A weak centre would not have handled the situation as successfully as the present strong centre did.

On the other hand, Emergency provisions given under Article 256, Article 265, etc. were frequently misused in the name of peace and security.

2. Coordination on common concerns:

Seventh schedule in the constitution of India contains the subjects of functions divided into three lists viz. Centre, State and concurrent. Subjects of common concerns such as Armed forces, Intelligence, foreign affairs etc. are enumerated in Centre’s list. These divisions of functions are the main reason behind successful defence of India on borders with hostile countries and against terrorism. Similarly, subjects like Economic and social planning, forests etc. are kept in concurrent list. Success of this list is visible from an example of respective finance commission of the centre and the state and their mutual coordination.

On the other hand, if we observed all three lists, there have been consistent decline in number of subjects in state list and subsequent increase in concurrent and central list. This indicates increasing consolidation of powers in centre’s hands. It is a cause of concern.

3. International space

Strong centre proved a successful representation and arguments in the international space. Be it the war of 1971, or talks related to Indus water, or Tamil issues. It was the centre which successfully gave rights to bordering states.

On the other hand, we have some negative examples also, such as Kerala flood relief aid coming from UAE and other Middle Eastern states were denied by powerful centre.

Conclusion

Thus, an overview of last 70 years of independence, it is obvious that a strong centre successfully maintained the security and integrity of India. But there is need to establish accountability mechanism, so that strong centre will not use its power to coerce the federal units i.e. states.

Best answer: Sumit

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2. Examine the significance of the 1928 Motilal Nehru Committee report as a significant input for the Constitution of India.

Introduction:

When Indians agitated against Simon commission, Lord Birkenhead threw challenge to the Indian leaders to frame proposal of constitutional reforms acceptable for all. In response to this, All Parties Conference held in Mumbai appointed committee under Motilal Nehru to consider and determine the principles of the Constitution for India.

Body:

Nehru report was the first attempt to prepare a Constitution of India. Though, the report was rejected by Muslim league, it had number of recommendations like system of government to be adopted (parliamentary/presidential), voting rights to people (limited franchise/universal adult suffrage) and others which provided vital inputs for members of constituent assembly, to base Indian constitution on certain principles.

- Need to have Strong centre to maintain national unity. Committee had recommended Federal form of Government in India with Residuary powers to be vested with centre.
- Parliamentary system of government to ensure wider representation.
- Separation of powers to avoid concentration and resulting abuse of power. Report recommended separating judiciary from executive.
- Ensure Equality among its citizens without discriminating between rich-poor, men-women, literate-illiterate. Report called for universal adult suffrage which even constitution provided.

- It recommended joint electorate in place of communal electorate as latter would arouse communal sentiments, detrimental to social harmony. As a tool of political justice, Joint electorate system continued in India post-independence.
- Report had provided fundamental rights for citizens, drawing inspiration from Bill of Rights. On same lines, Constitution of India provides for fundamental rights essential for individual growth and vests their protection under Supreme Court.
- Report stood for no state religion. On similar lines, Indian constitution provides equal protection and promotion of all religions (Article 25-28, secularism concept).

Conclusion:

With many of the recommendations ultimately finding place in constitution, it can be said that Nehru Report was in effect an outline of a draft constitution for India.

Best answer: Ankur

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3. Evaluate the significance of preamble to the Constitution of India. Is it a part of the constitution? Substantiate.

Approach –

Introduction - Mention about what is the preamble? where it is taken from? Any historical background of it.

Body – Write it in two parts

- Mention about the significance of the constitution like how it tells the nature of Indian state, objective of constitution, how it is useful to judiciary.
- Tell about the whether it is a part of the constitution or not by different cases like Berubari case, Kesavananda Bharati case, LIC case etc.

Conclusion – according to the demand of the question

Introduction

Preamble refers to the introduction or preface to the constitution. It contains summary or the essence to the constitution. The preamble is based on the objective resolution drafted and moved by Nehru. In our constitution, it is borrowed from US constitution. It is also called as the key to open the mind of framers of constitution.

The significance of the preamble is as follows:

1. The preamble embodies the basic philosophy and fundamental values on which the constitution is based

2. It contains the grand and noble vision of the constitution assembly
3. It reflects the dreams and aspirations of the founding father of the constitution
4. It reveals the source of the authority of the constitution i.e. the people of India in the opening words of it.
5. It tells the nature of Indian state as sovereign, socialist, secular, republic and democratic polity.
6. It specifies the objective of the constitution as justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to its people
7. It is also important in understanding the ambiguous provision of the constitution.
8. It helps the common man understand what our constitution is about, given the simple language, unlike the constitution itself which is tough to understand
9. It helps the supreme court in making judgements regarding whether a particular provision/legislation is in line with the spirit of the constitution

Is it part of the constitution?

Yes, it is part of the constitution now. Though it was not always the case

1. In the Berubari Union case (1960) the supreme court opined that it is not a part of the constitution.
2. In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) the supreme court rejected the earlier opinion and held that preamble is part of the constitution
3. In the LIC of India case (1995), the supreme court reaffirmed its previous opinion that preamble is an integral part of the constitution.

However, two things should be noted

- It is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature.
- It is non-justiciable

Conclusion

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, a member of constitution assembly, was very right when he summed up the importance of the Preamble in following words – “The preamble is most precious part of the constitution. It is the proper yardstick with which can measure the worth of the constitution.” When supreme court struck down article 377 of IPC, it also held one of the provision of the preamble i.e. dignity of individual.

Best answer – khelo india

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4. The Constitution of India is a creative blending of the nationalist voice and the colonial system of governance. Elucidate.**Approach**

- Write 2-3 Lines about Constitution
- Divide answer into 2 parts one emphasising nationalist tinge and other colonial system
- Conclude the answer

Introduction

Indian constitution is the lengthiest constitution in world. The constitution is inclusive and in words of BR Ambedkar is framed by ransacking all the known constitutions, which is why it includes best features available and modified to suit the Indian needs

Blending of National voice:

- Fundamental Rights: Based on Karachi resolution of Congress
- Gandhian Principles of DPSP: Ban against animal slaughter, co-operative societies
- Universal Adult Suffrage: The demand of Ambedkar which got complete support from Nehru
- Economic Planning: Socialist principle of congress
- Preamble: Fraternity, Unity and integrity, secularism, socialism
- Decentralisation: Initially as DPSP in constitution was added as schedule 73 and 74th in Constitution
- Education in mother tongue or Vernacular Language

Colonial imprints

- Nature of democracy: Parliamentary system, which was a colonial legacy, was adopted as the governance system for the independent India.
- Strong Centre: Residuary powers with Centre, emergency provisions, and lack of financial autonomy for states were all borrowed from the colonial era.
- Parliamentary provisions: Annual financial statement, ordinance making powers and certain parliamentary practices were continued from the pre-independence time.
- Non-exclusive domains of legislature, executive and judiciary: Interdependence among the three pillars was a feature of British India.
- Bureaucracy: Indian Civil Service which the Sardar Patel called as Steel frame of India.

Conclusion:

The above features show that our constitution is blend of both nationalist voice and colonial system of governance.

Best Answer: GreenTea and the Extra Mile :

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vat69:

The Indian constitution was formulated after intense deliberation and discussion and derives its power and authority from the people whose representatives penned down the constitution. During parliamentary deliberation cues were taken from both the nationalist movement and the pre-existing colonial structure of governance.

Colonial features of the constitution:

- * Federal government with strong centre
- * Ordinance making powers of president and governor under Article 352, 356 and 360 of the constitution.
- * Residuary powers with centre with respect to concurrent list.
- * Emergency provisions under Articles 352, 356 and 360.
- * Centre to state devolution of financial resources representing a top-down financial approach

Thus Government of India Act, 1935 was the source from which the following features were adopted earning the flak of critics who called them 'Colonial features' which were autocratic in nature.

Nationalist features of the constitution:

- * Provision of fundamental rights in Part III of the constitution
- * Secularism was adopted as a fundamental and architectonic principle of the state and toleration was envisioned.
- * DPSP were incorporated in Part IV of the constitution envisioning socio-economic equality
- * Keeping Gandhi's principle of 'Swarajya' and 'Ramrajya' in mind the 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments were enacted to empower grass root administration
- * Some fundamental duties were included in Art 51(A) of the constitution to be a source of inspiration for the citizens.

Thus it is clear that Indian constitution makers were able to include in the constitution a pragmatic mix of colonial and nationalist features which has stood the test of time.

RPA:

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5. Does in your opinion the basic structure doctrine undermine parliamentary sovereignty? Critically examine.

Introduction

Basic structure as a doctrine was devised by supreme court in Kesavananda Bharati case on April 24th 1973. This doctrine puts restriction on amending powers of constitution guaranteed under article 368 and made basic structure an important element among the Laws of land.

Body

Basic structure doctrine undermines parliamentary sovereignty:

- Restriction on amendment powers: It restricts parliament to introduce new laws or scarp any old laws which are no more required. For instance, preamble states India has a socialist country but since 1991, India has followed capitalism in principles.
- Due process of law: Constitution established “procedure established by law” but it was replaced by “due process of law”, which gives power to judiciary to scarp any laws. Even though not arbitrarily, but still it affects law making power of parliament.
- Against constitution: Preamble of the constitution says people are sovereign (Give to ourselves this constitution) and they passed on this power to elected representatives but judiciary has taken over to itself in name of Judicial review.
- Ambiguous in nature: There is no proper definition or what constitutes basic structure. With passage of time, the contents of basic structure are increasing and over time it is feared that parliament may lose its value and power to judiciary to enact and implement laws.
- There are various instances where it can be proved that judiciary has restricted parliamentary powers like in case of NJAC bill (99th amendment to constitution), Aadhaar bill (diluted provisions of bill), Set aside reservations in promotion and above 50% reservation in states granted by certain state governments.

Basic structure doctrine enhances parliamentary sovereignty rather than undermining it:

- Check on arbitrary use of power: Judiciary does not take away amendment powers or power to make laws, it just places certain restrictions in order to enhance democratic principles.
- Effective and efficient laws: Basic structure helps in increasing culture of debate which helps in bringing effective and efficient laws for welfare of people.

- Democracy: Basic structure has protected and promoted democracy or else India would have become a dictatorship or taken over by armed rebellions like Pakistan, Afghanistan etc.
- Supremacy of constitution: It places restriction on any institution gaining immense power or power over others. It helps in maintaining supremacy of constitution and its principles.
- Political ideology: It prevents India from becoming battle ground for different ideologies or change the country according to specific ideologies or ideologies of party in power.
- Certain instances where basic structure has enhanced parliamentary sovereignty can be, Ordinance for SC/ST act to nullify SC order, placing Fundamental rights and DPSP on equal footing, Triple talaq ordinance to give effect to SC order on Triple talaq etc.

Conclusion

India is the only country with basic structure doctrine, there has been criticism as well as appreciation for the same. There is no such thing as entirely good or entirely bad but we have to decide between which offer more good than the other.

Best answer: Ankita

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6. 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

Answer

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.

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:TheSC 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. Mirzapur Moti: 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 Taj Mahal 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

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 vs UoI, 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 Rajoo Ramakant vs 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 Article 49: recently supreme court has taken the issue of Taj Mahal 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 article 39 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.

7. Critically examine the utility of ordinance making powers in a parliamentary democracy.

Recently, Company Amendment ordinance was promulgated by Government on 2nd Nov 2018.

Article 123/213 empowers the President/Governor to promulgate ordinances during the recess of parliament/state legislature.

Utility of Ordinance;

- 1) As DR BR Ambedkar opined that the mechanism of issuing an ordinance is devised in order to deal with a situation that may suddenly and immediately arise when Parliament is not in session
- 2) To address concern about the people : Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2013 that was issued in response to the protests for Delhi gang rape incident

Issues associated with ordinance:

- 1) The executive power to issue ordinance goes against the philosophy of separation of power between legislature, executive, judiciary
- 2) It bypasses the democratic requirements of arguments and deliberations.
- 3) Re-promulgation defeats the constitutional scheme under which a limited power to frame ordinance has been conferred on President and Governor
- 4) It threatens sovereignty of Parliament and State legislature which have been constituted as primary law givers under constitution

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:

Note: Word limit is breached but structuring and points are covered well

Vignesh Sabari

The power to make laws in a parliamentary democracy lies with the legislative organ. However, Article 123 allows the President of India and Article 213 allows the Governor to promulgate ordinances to deal with the situations that require immediate attention. President (or Governor) promulgates ordinance under the advice of the council of ministers when the parliament (or state legislature) is not in session.

Why is Ordinance making power necessary?

1. The idea intended by the constituent assembly was that this power is necessary to tackle

the situation that demands immediate action. It also commented that this is extraordinary power should be used as a last resort.

2. Government also take the ordinance route to address the urgent matters of public concern like the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2013 that was issued in response to the protests for Delhi gang rape incident

Misuse of ordinance making power:

1. Ordinances are used by governments to pass legislation which is currently pending in Parliament, as was the case with the Food Security Ordinance
2. Ordinances are promulgated when there is no consensus in the parliament. For E.g.: the recent ordinance on altering the Land Reforms Act.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Ordinance reforms are the need of the hour; this extreme power can turn the state to be a leviathan. The ultimate object should be to reduce the undemocratic elements to a minimum (eliminate, if possible) and uphold the democratic values which are the heart and soul of parliamentary democracy.

8. What controls does the centre have over states? Examine in the light of relevant constitutional provisions.

Introduction:

Indian constitution provides for a federal form of government but with a unitary bias. There are certain provisions provided in the constitution, which proves this biasness and are used by Centre to control states.

Body:

The provisions can be divided into three:

1. Administrative
2. Legislature
3. Judiciary

Administrative:

- Public service commissions – Even though the members are appointed by the governor, they are removed only by the President of India.
- Appointment of Governor – Head of the state is Governor, but is appointed and removed by the President. He even holds office during the pleasure of President.

- Emergency provisions – Under Article 352, 356 and 360, Centre assumes enormous powers and becomes unitary in form.
- Article 257 – The executive power of state shall be exercised in such a way that it does not impede executive power of union over state.
- Article 262 – Centre has the power to adjudicate disputes related to inter-state waters.
- Article 263 – The President establishes Inter-State Council when need arises or he feels public interests would be served by such council.
- Residuary powers – Centre has the residuary powers and state has no control over these.
- Schedule 7 – Under list system, union list has more than 100 subjects compared to states which have about 60 subjects.
- Schedule 5 & 6- The President has administrative control over schedule 5&6 areas.
- All India Services- As per Article 312, all members are appointed and removed only by the President.

Legislature:

- International agreements and treaties- Centre has the sole power to enter into international agreement concerning whole or any part of India.
- Resolution by Rajya Sabha- If Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by two-third majority, a subject is transferred from state list to concurrent list for one year.
- Inconsistency over laws- If there is any inconsistency over laws framed by Parliament and states, the laws framed by Parliament prevail.
- Article 3- Parliament, without consent or approval of state, can alter or change the name or boundaries of the state.

Judiciary:

- High court- All judges of high courts are appointed by the President and removed by the Parliament, where state has no role.
- Conditions of services of judges- Remuneration and other service conditions of judges of Supreme court and high court are determined by the Parliament.

Conclusion:

Indian Constitution lays stress on federal form of government. So both state and Centre should work as equal partners for betterment, growth and development of the country.

Best answer: Sumit

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9. Examine the challenges associated with India's federal polity.**Approach:**

This is a direct question. Simply write a short introduction connecting the two keywords, "Federal polity of India" and "Challenges". After intro, directly start challenges. At the end, it would be better to suggest some way forward instead of conventional conclusion.

Introduction

- In a famous Judgment, Kuldip Nayar vs. Union of India, Sc held that, "... though, (Indian) federalism forms the basic structure of Constitution, India is not a federal State in the traditional sense of the term." Therefore this sui generis federation has its unique challenges too.
- Since independence India faced and continues to face these challenges. Some of them are as follows.

Body**Geo-political challenges**

- Statehood demands and secessionist demand: Earlier at the time of independence there were demands of linguistic states, now there are demands based on development and cultural differences, such as Vidarbha in Maharashtra and Bodoland in North east.
- There were Secessionist demands in newly independent India, some of them still exist.
- Misuse of central bias of the constitution: Ranging from emergency articles to governors powers (Article 356, 365, 200 etc.), on many occasions central government did use its powers to coerce the State governments.

Fiscal Challenges:

- Constitution of India provides for fiscal power sharing between all the three tiers of the government but still there are issues.
- Taxation powers to local governments are not devolved in all states. Resource crunch is major reason behind poor performance of third tier.
- There are challenges related to fiscal resource sharing. Some of the developed states who contribute the large share in GDP and government revenue get smaller share in revenue shares distributed by the center, and vice versa.

Developmental issues:

- There is a virtual divide between comparatively more developed states and least developed states.
- Migration of workers from poor northern states to rich southern and western states is another major challenge.
- Educational developments, population, per-capita income and health are other issues which draw a virtual line between better performing southern states and northern states with poor performance.

- Similarly there divide between western and eastern states in the sector of agricultural development are yet to reap the fruits of Green Revolution.

Challenges between and within states:

- Water sharing, territorial disputes are some of the examples of tussles between states. Cauvery water sharing and Belgaum territorial dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka are classic examples of it.
- Issues related to Panchayati Raj institutions, devolution of fiscal and legislative powers to local governments, holding elections to them are some of the challenges within states.

Way forward:

- The Sarkaria Commission on Centre–State Relations (1983–87) observed: “The rule of federal supremacy is a technique to avoid absurdity, resolve conflict and ensure harmony between the Union and state laws. If this principle of union supremacy is excluded..... the federal principle of unity in diversity will be very much a casualty.”
- Therefore, though the strong center is important for governance of India, there should be consultation and cooperation between all the units of federation.
- Interstate council, zonal council and think tank of India that is NITI Ayog are performing this task of consultation and coordination, still there is need to make these meetings and consultations more regular.

Best Answer: Raviraj

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10. 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 5 years.

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.

Solution:

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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11. 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 its 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 reflects by the devolution of power.

Body –

Devolution of administrative powers

1. Self governing rights to religious denominations show the true meaning of democracy as it provides them with freedom to religion.
2. 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.
3. As we have seen that devolution of powers brings better participation, it also gives better results.

For example, Nagaland's community development scheme where locals monitor schools, hospitals etc.

The success of this is unprecedented.

4. Social audit increases transparency and accountability, thus promoting democracy. For eg. Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, where social audit is prevalent in every scheme, it provides better results – being to people living there.

Devolution of financial powers

- With inclusion as the aim, participation of people in the financial sector needs power to be given in their hands regarding their own resources. For eg. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana 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 show democracy because it is spent according to the local needs.
- The collaboration of post and bank in form of IPPB which is also a 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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12. Explain the concept of 'doctrine of separation of powers'. Also examine its significance in a parliamentary democracy.

The term trias politica or separation of powers is coined by Montesquieu in his book "Spirit of Laws". Separation of powers, therefore, refers to the division of government responsibilities into distinct branches to limit any one branch from exercising the core functions of another. The intent is to prevent the concentration of power and provide for checks and balances.

According to Wade and Philips, the concept of Separation of power means three different things:

- Same person should not form part of more than one of the three organs of the government. Example: Ministers should not be made to sit in the Parliament.
- One organ of the government should not control or interfere with the exercise of its functions by another organ. Example: judiciary should be independent or the Ministers should not be made responsible to the Parliament.
- One organ of the government should not exercise the functions of another. Example: Ministers not to have legislative powers.

Democratic government is characterised by the separation of powers:

- There are 'checks and balances' within our political system that limit the power of each branch in order to prevent the abuse of power.
- This system divides the state into three branches – the legislative, executive and judicial branch – and gives each the power to fulfil different tasks. These branches are also known as the 'organs of government'.
- Tasks are assigned to the different branches and their institutions in such a way that each of them can check the exercise of powers by the others. As a result, no one branch or institution can become so powerful as to control the system completely.

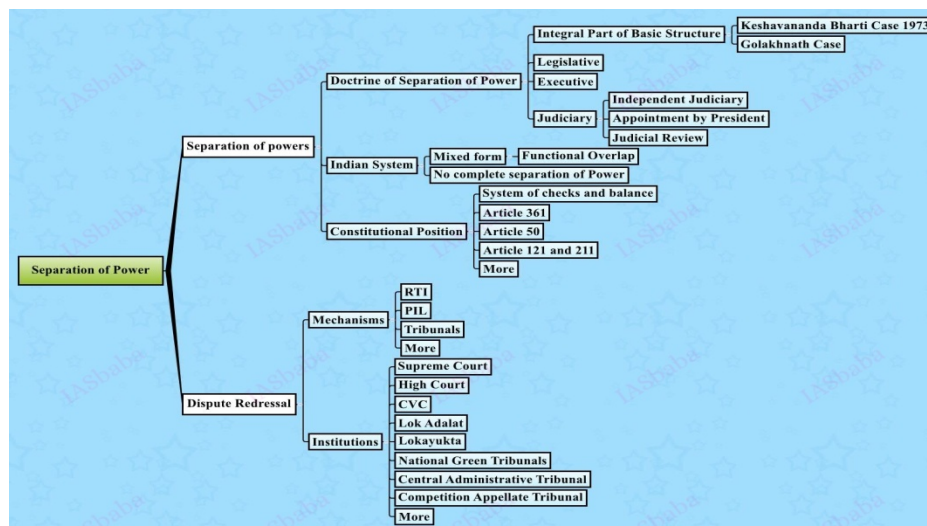
In Indian constitution, the separation of powers is supported through Article 50, Articles 121 and 211 and Article 361. Such steps, along with presence of checks and balances, help in creating a vibrant democracy in the following ways:

1. No single branch can act as hegemony over the others, by influencing their members.
2. No single branch can endanger the democratic principles of the country.
3. It provides a channel of grievance re-addresses for the citizens through an independent judiciary.
4. The executive remains accountable to the legislature for the implementation of policies and consequent results.
5. Helps in creating a feedback channel to the executive where the citizens can put forward their demands in the Assembly, without being afraid of the authorities.

The separation of powers is important because it provides a vital system of ‘checks and balances’:

- Firstly, it ensures that the different branches control each other. This is intended to make them accountable to each other – these are the ‘checks’;
- Secondly, the separation of powers divides power between the different branches of government – these are the ‘balances’. Balance aims to ensure that no individual or group of people in government is ‘all powerful’. Power is shared and not concentrated in one branch.

The separation of powers doctrine also intends to improve the energy and efficiency of government by allowing each branch to specialize, in effect, in order to fulfil its unique function. The main purpose of the separation of powers is therefore to prevent the abuse of power.



Best Answer: Target19

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13. What are quasi-judicial bodies? How do they function? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Quasi-judicial bodies are such institutions which have power of enforcement of law but are not courts. These bodies can inquire, investigate, summon & award legal penalties to any

administrative agency. Generally, these bodies have limited judiciary power in specialized areas.

Body:

Functions:

- These bodies usually have powers of adjudication in such matters as: breach of discipline, conduct rules, trust in the matters of money or otherwise.
- Their powers are usually limited to a very specific area of expertise and authority, such as land use and zoning, financial markets, employment law, public standards, and/or a specific set of regulations of an agency.
- Due to specialised functions, they help in faster delivery of judgements.
- It Provides scope for specialization.
- They help reduce burden of cases on High courts and Supreme court.
- They are affordable, effective and more accessible for common man.
- They work on principles of Natural Justice and delivery of judgements often depend on pre-determined set of rules.

Examples:

1. National Human Rights Commission
2. State Human Rights Commission (established at each state)
3. Central Information Commission
4. State Information Commission (established at each state)
5. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
6. State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (established at each state)
7. Competition Commission of India
8. Appellate Tribunal for Electricity
9. Railway Claims Tribunal
10. Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
11. Intellectual Property Appellate Tribunal
12. Central Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal
13. Banking Ombudsman

14. Income tax Ombudsman

Note: Explain atleast 2-3 from the above.

Conclusion:

Quasi-Judicial bodies were meant to reduce burden on judiciary, but after SC verdict, appeals can be made against the decision of these bodies in High court. Also some of these bodies are just recommendatory in nature with not real powers. Steps have to be taken to give them autonomy and real powers on par with Judiciary to make them effective.

Best answer: Sumit

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14. Examine the existing mechanism for resolution of financial and commercial disputes in India.

Approach:

In this question, keywords are, “examine” and “Existing”. In this question we have to enlist the “existing” mechanism for resolution of financial and commercial disputes in India and then examine them whether they are sufficient/ efficient or not. It is better to end answer with way forward here.

Introduction

India is one of the biggest ‘improvers’ in the 2019 Ease of doing Business study, with its rank shooting up from 100 to 77, among 190 countries. One of the most important factors for doing business is Financial and commercial dispute redressal mechanisms.

Body

Financial and commercial Dispute Redressal mechanisms in India:

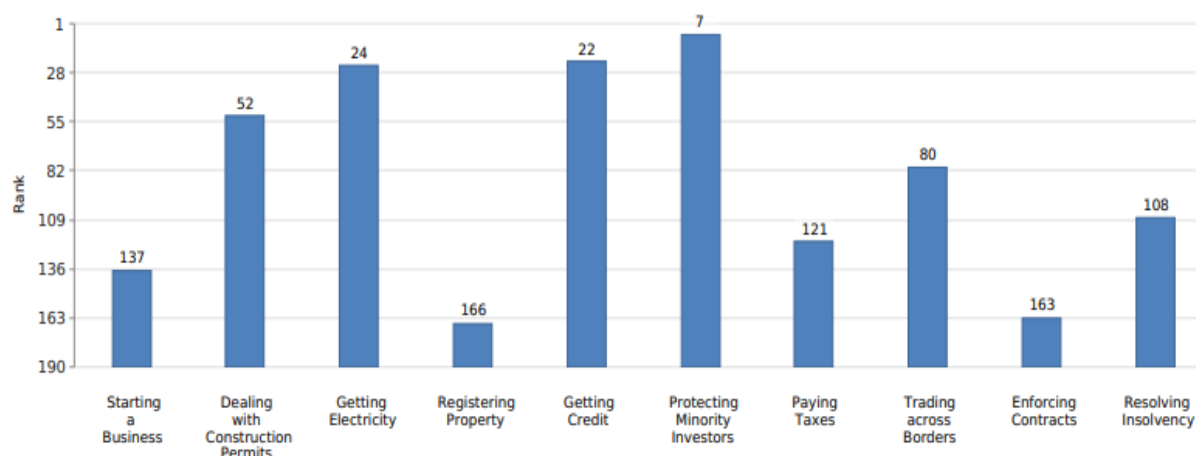
- There has been multiplicity of the laws and authorities for dispute redressal in India. The present government's ambitions of Make in India started consolidation and simplifications of these laws and authorities. Some of them are as follows.
- Primary authority to deal with disputes is local civil court.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code: This has provided for time bound resolution of cases. National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT) and Debt Recovery Tribunal are the authorities to deal with companies and individuals respectively.
- Commercial Courts: Lok Sabha Passed the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division, Commercial Appellate Division in High Courts Bill, 2015, for faster resolution of pending cases with specialisation.
- For further improvements amendment bill is being considered in parliament.

- For Financial resolutions, The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (also known as the SARFAESI Act) allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties to recover loans.
- For international dispute redressals, Singapore International Arbitration Centre entered the Indian space through the Gujarat International Finance Tech-city (GIFT), Gujarat.

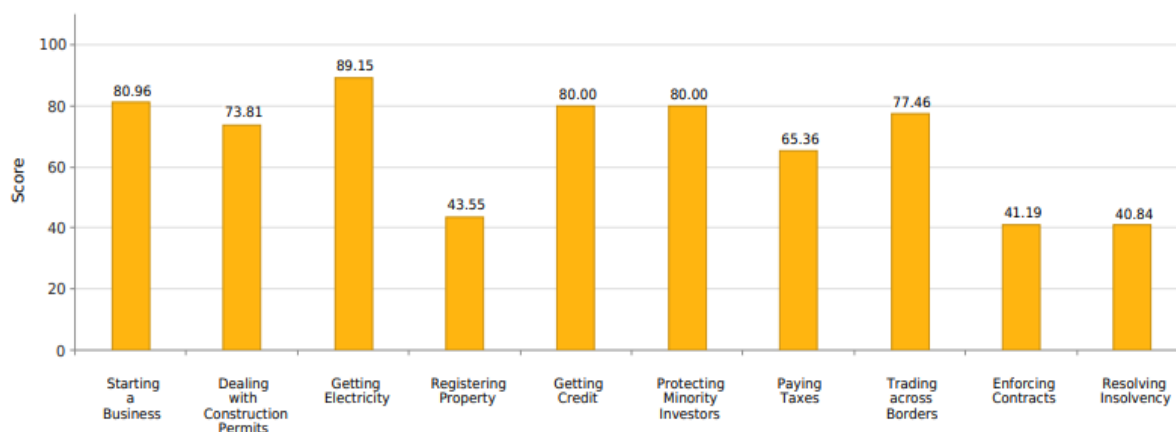
India's performance in dispute redressal is still poor

- Though India's ranking in overall Ease of Doing Business improved, its score on Contract enforcement, resolving insolvency and registering property are serious causes of concern.
- India fares poorly, at rank 163, on enforcing contracts. While enforcing a claim through the courts in Mumbai takes 1,445 days and costs 31% of claim value, OECD nations manage this feat in 582 days at a cost of 21%.
- This poor performance is owing to the lack of trained personnel to tackle the complex issues involved in disputes of a commercial nature in addition to the delays in resolution, costs involved, lack of state level Arbitration/ Mediation Centres, lack of adoption of Dispute Resolution Rules etc.
- This has affected investments to the country and the operation of various companies in India or foreign companies having business relations in India.
- To push India further up on the ladder of doing business with ease, there is urgent need to resolve the issues in dispute redressal mechanisms.

Rankings on Doing Business topics - India



Ease of Doing Business Score on Doing Business topics - India



(Note: These charts are for your understanding, in answer you can simply quote score/rank)
Way forward

- The Government of India recently provided a strong push for Commercial Dispute Resolution by amending the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, to promote institutional international arbitration centres, rationalise fee for arbitrators, conduct of Arbitral proceedings, etc.
- India is committed for speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to make India an international hub of Arbitration and a Centre of robust ADR mechanism catering to international and domestic arbitration, at par with international standards available.
- To achieve this goal, central government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Justice B.N.Srikrishna with mandate to review the institutionalization of arbitration mechanism.

Best Answer: Mugiwara

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15. 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 Lok Adalats. 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, Nyaya Panchayat, Lok Adalat, 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:

Lok Adalats 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).

Best Answer: Chiranjeev Bishwas

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16. 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 –
 - The finance commission (article 280) takes control of distribution of finance between centre and the states.
 - 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 –
 - 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 –

Thus it can be seen that for effective functioning of these bodies, the issues associated with them should be addressed properly. This is so that they can work as watchdog of the system and maintain the accountability.

Best answer- Aspirant 123

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17. How does the scheme of constitutional federalism differ in India vis a vis the USA? Examine

Introduction – Constitutional federalism is a scheme under which constitution provides for dual polity and division of power among them.

Body – The difference in Indian constitutionalism and American constitutionalism are as follows

1. Origin – While India has holding together federation where power is shared among various state and they derive their power from Indian constitution. USA has coming together federation where independent states come together to form a big unit and sacrifice their some powers
2. Citizenship – In India, there is single citizenship i.e. no separate citizenship of states but in USA, there is a dual citizenship states i.e. citizenship of states as well .
3. Representation of upper house – In India, it is based on the population of states for eg UP has 31 members while Sikkim has only 1. But, in USA, equal representation is given to all states irrespective of population.
4. Head of the state – In India, it is nominal and appointed by the centre while in USA, head of state is real and elected by the people.
5. Judicial system– In India, there is integrated judiciary while in USA, state and union level has separate jurisdiction.
6. Federation – In India ,there is federal polity with union bias where as in USA, there is equal federal with rigid division of power.

7. Flexibility–Indian constitution is flexible in term of amending federalism power for eg. Renaming state, redefining state boundaries while USA constitution is rigid.
8. Residual powers – In India, there are vested to centre while in USA, same are given to states.
9. Constitution – In India, there is single constitution while in USA, every state has their own constitution.
10. In India, there is indestructible union with destructible states while in USA, there is indestructible union with indestructible states.

However, critics argue that Indian federalism is not pure federal but quasi-federal (K.C. Wheare). Ivor Jennings has described it as federation with strong centralising tendencies.

Conclusion –Our federation is established and evolved based on history, culture and societal problems. We are also moving towards true federalism through GST council, National development council etc. But we also need to understand the socio – cultural difference between the two countries. Our federation promotes unity in the diversity which needs strong centre to avoid conflicts like water, migration etc.

Best answer – Isaac Ali

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18. Examine the ways in which the Parliament acts as the anchor of public accountability in Indian democracy.

Introduction:

India follows a parliamentary form of government .Parliament consists of representative of people and they are responsible to ensure accountability amongst them so that public trust is maintained.

Body

The accountability is maintained through its various powers and responsibilities:

1) Legislative:

The basic function of parliament is to make laws. Laws are made for the benefit of people and to ensure their aspirations are fulfilled eg; RTE: To allow free education to children below 14 yrs age –This was done to ensure a dignified life to all citizens.

2) Executive:

Parliament exercises power of executive and demands explanation for their actions through Question hour ,zero hour, half an hour discussion, sort duration discussion, calling attention motion discussion, adjournment motion ,no confidence motion , censure motion and other discussions .

The Lok Sabha members can pass a No confidence motion if they have lost the confidence in the CoM

3) Financial:

No tax can be levied or collected and no expenditure can be incurred by the executive except under the authority and approval of Parliament.

Parliament also scrutinises government spending and financial performance with the help of its financial committees

4) Judicial:

Can impeach the President for Violation of Constitution, Can recommend the removal of a judge of SC, Chief election officer, CAG to the president

Limitation of Parliament:

1) Financial control is hindered by the technical nature of grants –laymen parliamentarians can hardly understand them properly and fully

2) Legislative leadership lies with the executive and it plays a significant role in formulating policies

3) Majority support enjoyed by executive reduces the possibility of effective criticism

4) Parliament control is mostly sporadic, general and mostly political in nature

5) Lack of effective opposition is a setback to the accountability

Parliament thus has many powers to hold the government of the day accountable. The need of hour is to utilise those powers efficiently and work to involve voices of civil society.

Best Answer: Christina:

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19. How do law making powers of the state legislative assemblies differ from that of the Parliament? Illustrate.

Introduction:

Under the federal structure of Indian Constitution, the legislative powers are divided between the Centre and the State as per Schedule seventh.

Body:

Differences between respective powers of Centre and the states

Different domains- States can make laws on the state list and concurrent list, whereas Parliament can make laws for Union list, concurrent list and even state list in certain situations (National Emergency and President rule).

Residuary subjects- Only Parliament can make laws on residuary subjects

Precedence- Laws made by the Parliament prevail, when both Parliament and states have made laws on the subjects in concurrent list.

Amendment- Only Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution.

Power of houses- In Parliament, both houses have equal powers in case of ordinary bills whereas in states, legislative assembly has overriding powers in case of ordinary bills.

Joint sitting- In case of a disagreement between houses in Parliament, joint sitting of houses can be held. However, no such provision is there in case of state legislatures.

Provisions related to states- Changing name of states, altering their boundaries, reducing or increasing area of states falls under the purview of Parliament.

Reservation of bill- Governor can reserve a state bill for the assent of President, and President is not obligated to give his assent even when the bill is presented for the second time. However, in case of bill passed by Parliament, President is obligated to give his assent if the bill has been passed for the second time after being returned by him.

Different treatment of bills as per their origin- A bill originating in Legislative Council, if rejected by legislative assembly, becomes dead. This, however, is not the case for a bill originating in Rajya sabha in Parliament.

Conclusion:

Thus, despite being a federal state, more powers have been accorded to the Parliament giving it a unitary bias. To maintain a co-operating and competitive federalism, it is required that Parliament must use its overarching powers judiciously and respect the independence of state legislatures.

Best Answer: Navdeep Kumar

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20. 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 Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha

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 Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- 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 Lok Sabha only. The Rajya Sabha 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 Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- 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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21. 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 Lok Sabha are from criminal background such leaders erode 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 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 Lok Sabha-120 and Rajya Sabha-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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22. Should Member of Parliaments of the Rajya Sabha who aren't directly elected be made ministers in a parliamentary democracy like India? Critically comment.

Introduction -Parliamentary democracy means parliament represents the people and acts as political tool imparting governance on democratic principles. Our parliament enjoys the bicameral houses where the provisions are made based on permanent (Rajya Sabha) and temporary (Lok Sabha) house.

Although Lok Sabha is filled by direct election in every 5 years, the Rajya Sabha filled by the proportional representation and nomination. The ministers also come from Rajya Sabha which has its own set of pros and cons which are as following-

Body-

Advantages

1. State representation – Being an appointee from state, it makes group of ministers more representative this promoting federalism.
2. Inclusion of experts :Gives the opportunity to the experts ,which are nominated by president according to article 80, in literature, art etc.Thus make the council of ministers more efficient.
3. Collective responsibility – allows for accountability of all the ministers irrespective of the house the belong to.
4. Proportional representation: The representatives who got lost in general election ,can get a representation in the cabinet. For egArunJaitleybecame finance minister in spite of losing the election from Amritsar, also can be said about Smritilrani.
5. It is also excellent opportunity for those people who wants to save themselves from the hustle – bustle of the election.

Disadvantages

- 1.Claimed to be backdoor: The representatives who lost the general Lok Sabha election, can be made minister through RS.
- 2.Unsatisfaction between the elected member who wins Lok Sabha election of ruling ppart and still not chosen as ministers.
- 3.Against the definition of democracy: It talks about to the people, for the people, bythepeople, whilethe ministers from Rajya Sabha getelected through elected representatives.
- 4.Claimed to be against accountability: The elected MP as minister holds more accountable to be as minister as they are direct representatives.

Conclusion - The responsible government is one where all representatives can participate to maintain the efficient democracy. While the concerns are valid pertaining to such representation, they hold less merit given the complete picture. All ministers should work solely for development of the nation irrespective of the membership of the house they hold.

Best answer - P29

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23. Various ministries in India work in silos leading to lack of coordination and inordinate delays. What suggestions would you give to resolve this problem?

Introduction:

Coordination is the mechanism through which policies, strategies, plans, peoples, systems, and tools are brought together to achieve a particular goal. Government services are often cross-sectional, interlinked and complementary particularly in the areas of agriculture,

education, trade and mining. One particular service or service provider functioning improperly will affect the entire system.

Poor co-operation results in the following challenges:

1. Certain government initiatives are duplicated and costly.
2. Capacity building efforts are often duplicated and/or inconsistently applied across ministries. One state employee may receive two or three similar trainings while another employee receives none.

Recommendations to solve the problems

- 1) Establish an online software system with multiple entries from different ministries:
The first option of establishing an interactive online IT system is innovative to this context. The system would connect both the technical and high-level decision-makers at the capital and provinces of a particular ministry with their counterparts from another ministry. Such a system would also harmonise the efforts of different departments within one ministry by allowing policymakers to develop policies jointly through interactive tools. This system would accumulate all necessary and relevant documents, guidelines and procedures for the effective operation of government affairs. The system would automatically send emails and text message reminders about upcoming events and deadlines for completing a particular task. The system would be a coordination and cooperation hub across government ministries. All current initiatives and past programmes would be listed in the system to avoid future duplication.
- 2) Establish a coordinating ministry tasked solely with managing inter ministerial relations:
The second option of establishing a coordinating ministry is also promising, since the government body would coordinate plans, policies, programmes and activities between the ministries. This new organisation would monitor the work of all ministries. Singapore has an experience of having a separate ministry dedicated to co-ordination and it could serve as model for policy design
- 3) Establish a regulatory framework to promote inter-ministerial coordination in the existing context: The third option is to establish a regulatory framework designed to enhance coordination among government bodies. A legislative regulation to improve coordination would be drafted and passed, and all ministries would be tasked with its implementation for coordination purposes. This regulation would target the areas where lapses or duplications occur and would encourage ministries to work together.

Conclusion

Poor coordination is major obstacle to effective administration of government services. The steps like Parivesh –for single clearance of projects related to environment are step in right direction.

Best Answer :**P29**

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24. What are your views on the functioning and relevance of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in India's context?**Introduction:**

With emergence of cabinet form of government, the power of PM has increased and PMO has become the centre of power in India democracy. During times of Indira Gandhi, it had gone one step further and was called Kitchen cabinet.

Body:**Functioning and Relevance of PMO:**

- **Faster decision making:** It helps in faster decision making as it involved experienced and powerful decision makers.
- **Implementation:** The orders coming from PMO is taken very seriously and implemented without delay.
- **Stable governance:** In era of coalition government certain things needs to be kept above party politics to provide stable government.
- **Security:** Certain functions like RAW, CBI, ISRO etc. report directly to them and they need to be kept out of politics of the day.
- **Complexity:** increased complexity of governance needs certain set up which can bypass ordinary procedures and get things done at times of emergencies.
- **Specialists:** Certain function needs specialists and also needs to be done away from public eyes for greater good. Ex: Pokhran-II, External intelligence etc.

Criticism of PMO:

- **Cabinet Secretary:** It diminishes the role of Cabinet secretary and secretariat.
- **Concentration of power:** In the hands of few bureaucrats (Non-Elected) and people outside executive.
- **Parallel government:** The executive structure as mentioned in constitution might be overlooked.
- **Collective decision making:** The culture of debates and discussion are absent and leading to High-handedness of one office over other.
- **Dictatorship:** It might lead to rule of PMO rather than council of ministers.
- **Checks and Balances:** The scrutiny of decision taken is not present. There will be no checks and balances since it is above all power structure.

Note: Many people have written about appointments and stressed majorly on Defence and International Affairs. There is Appointments Committee of cabinet which takes care of appointment to all top posts. There are separate ministries for Defence and International affairs. Rather u can mention anything specific for instance Nuclear Command Authority etc.

Conclusion:

A centralizing and powerful PMO is a hindrance to collective responsibility, against parliamentary ethos and democratic set-up of executive but a weak PMO might lead to anarchy, policy paralysis and inefficiency.

Best Answer: No Best Answer

25. The judiciary in India has been tangled unnecessarily into the political narrative. Do you agree? Critically comment.

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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26. 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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27. Do you think political parties should be brought under the purview of the Right to Information? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Right to Information (RTI) Act has played role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the administration, empowering people with information and increase their participation in the governance of the country.

Body:

Central Information Commission (CIC) has passed order for bringing political parties under the purview of RTI act declaring them as public authorities. CIC has based its order on following reasons

- Political Parties are substantially financed by the Central Government.
- Public Character: The criticality of the role being played by these Political Parties in our democratic set up and the nature of duties performed by them.
- Elections are contested on party basis and Political Parties affect the lives of citizens, directly or indirectly and are continuously engaged in performing public duty.

However, political parties are reluctant come under RTI and have cited following reasons

- Political parties are not public authorities as they are not set up under the Constitution or any law enacted by Parliament – they can't be treated as an institution or establishment.
- If political parties come under the RTI it will affect their smooth internal functioning.
- Political rivals will start using RTI tool with malicious intent.
- There are already provisions in the Income Tax Act, 1961, and Representation of the People Act, 1951, which demand necessary transparency regarding financial aspects of political parties. These mechanisms ensure transparency in financial dealings of parties.
- Information about a political body is already in the public domain on the website of the Election Commission.

Bringing political parties under RTI would help in following ways

- Internal democracy in political parties.

- Bring financial transparency given 75% of funds received by political parties today are from anonymous sources. This would help check corporate-politician nexus, role of black money and foreign influence.
- Check corruption and nepotism within the political parties.
- This will be in line with the recommendations of ECI and Law commission for bringing Transparency in the political parties.
- Informed citizen and thus better decision making by voter.

Conclusion:

Political parties play significant role in the functioning of the democracy. It is important to ensure transparency and accountability in their working. Bringing them under RTI is one way to achieve this.

Best answer: Christina

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28. Examine the significance of Finance Commission in the post GST era.

Introduction

Article 280 of the constitution of India provides for financial commission as a quasi-judicial body. GST, as the second important financial amendment after LPG reforms, came into existence after hundred and first constitutional amendment.

Body

Functions of finance commission

- Setting up rules regarding the distribution of the tax revenues between the Centre and the states.
- Determining the principles governing the allocation of Grants-in-Aid to the states and local bodies.
- Determining the magnitude of Grants-in-Aid allocated to the states and local bodies.
- Any other matter referred to the Commission

The significance of finance commission post GST – Fifteen finance commission, chaired by N K Singh, will be first finance commission after GST implementation. The significance of it are as follows

1. As GST has reduced the power of the state to levy tax over many areas, role of finance commission has increased in ensuring more devolution of funds to states
2. Devolution of funds to local bodies need to be ensured

3. While Article 269(1) provides GST council to share the net proceeds from interstate trade, article 270(1) and 270(2) provides that taxes will be levied under the manner prescribed by finance commission. Thus both article show contradiction between sharing of taxes between finance commission and GST council
4. Payment of compensation for possible revenue loss for states for five years is to be calculated by finance commission
5. Recommend payment based incentive to the states based on their efforts for promotion of ease of doing business.

Conclusion

Thus it can be said that it is going to be tough on financial commission which has to keep cooperative federalism, fiscal discipline and share responsibilities intact given the sharing of power between GST council and finance commission is opaque.

Best answer - Juhi Tomar

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29. How would you assess the performance of National Commission of Human Rights in India? What can be done to make it more effective?

Introduction

The national human rights commission is a statutory body established under the provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. It is responsible for looking into cases of excesses which are violating human rights and to strengthen the efforts to uphold the human rights in the country.

Body

Success of NHRC:

- 1) NHRC issued guidelines where in death in police custody has to be reported to NHRC within 48 hrs.
- 2) Vocal in opinion of laws such as TADA (Terrorist and disruptive activities prevention act) and POTA (prevention of terrorism act)
- 3) Suo moto took cognisance of deportation of Rohingya refugees –the commission was of opinion that Rohingya have a fear of persecution. Back in 1994 had taken about issue of safety of Chakma community in Arunachal Pradesh
- 4) Had taken up issue of death of kids due to malnutrition in Odisha-The recommendations were accepted by state government
- 5) Had worked for improving the conditions of denotified tribes.
- 6) Strengthening of women and children rights and improving their condition

Issues with respect to NHRC:

- 1) Recommendations of NHRC are not binding: NHRC has had very little success in getting the victims financial compensation
- 2) Has limited power over armed forces: Can only ask for a report from concerned department – This has handicapped NHRC with respect to involvement of violation of human rights by armed forces
- 3) Private bodies are out of ambit of NHRC

Recommendations which can make NHRC more effective

- 1) Decisions need to be made enforceable
- 2) Can include civil society human rights activist's members for better understanding of situation at hand
- 3) Staff should be recruited independently rather than deputation from government.
- 4) Should remove the barrier of not taking complaints older than a year

Conclusion

The biggest achievement of NHRC has been to raise awareness about need to protect human rights and initiate a dialogue about the same. The journey ahead won't be easy but NHRC need to continue pushing mandate so as to fulfil expectation of people.

Best Answer: Target19

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30. 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, Meira Kumari, Mani Shankar Aiyer, Arvind Kejriwal etc.

Conclusion:

Write a brief conclusion.

Best Answer: Timber.

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31. Illustrate the contribution of Election Commission in strengthening democracy in India.

Approach:

- This is a direct question, where you have to 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 of 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 affects 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 are 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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32. Consumer welfare and protection assume special significance in the era of information explosion. Comment. Also, examine the protective measures available.

Introduction:

Increased mobile penetration, digitization, affordable and accessible data services have brought more number of people under digital net at the same time exposing them to information overflow.

Body:

Excess of anything is likely to have negative effects and same is the impact of information explosion on consumers today.

- In today's Hyper connected world, consumers are highly accessible via mails, mobile and social media.
- They are flooded with information through social media, television and smartphones.
- Despite more number of people coming under digital net, digital and financial literacy still remains low.
- This makes them susceptible to number of things like advertisements that target consumers modifying their behaviour and choices; one that mislead people with false information; data theft and privacy issue; unfair trade practices.
- There is also growth of E-commerce industry leading to new way of buying things.
- In such scenario, it is necessary to protect consumers and promote their welfare through effective laws and regulations with adequate grievance redressal mechanisms.

Various protective measures available:

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 for better protection of the interests of consumers. It provides for the establishment of consumer councils and other authorities for the settlement of consumers disputes.
- Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) to protect the interest of homebuyers.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 lays down standards for food articles to ensure safe food for consumers.
- National body Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) help consumers receive ISI certified products.

- Campaigns such as JaagoGrahakJaago have been launched by the Government of India to raise the awareness among consumers.

Conclusion:

With Consumer protection bill 2018 government aims to further strengthen consumer rights with various new provisions like product liability; unfair contracts; and setting up of a regulatory body. Draft E-commerce policy and draft data protection bill are also positive steps in this direction.

Best answer: Navdeepkumar

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33. Discuss the mandate and significance of National Green Tribunal in India

Introduction –

National Green Tribunal was established in 2010 under National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 to dispose off cases having environmental ramifications. It is headed by a retired judge of the supreme court or being chief justice of high court and almost 20 experts and 20 judicial members.

Body –

Mandate of NGT

1. To dispose of cases dealing with any environment law violation, conservation of forests and natural resources.

Eg

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

The Environmental Protection Act, 1986

The Biological diversity Act, 2002 etc.

Indian forest act, 1927 and wildlife protection act, 1972 are out of purview from this jurisdiction.

2. Recommend penalties and fine
3. Recommend policies for environment protection
4. Disposal of cases within 6 months
5. Enforcement of any legal right relating to environment
6. Giving relief and compensation for damages
7. Has power of civil courts

Significance

- Helps reduce burden on higher courts
- Faster resolution of cases
- Specialised member brings efficiency to justice
- Less expensive than courts
- Fulfills constitutional provision like article 21 i.e. right to clean environment and article 48(a) i.e. protection of environment and safeguarding of forests

- The rapid pace of development is harming the environment. The NGT provides a check and balance for this.
- It takes suo – moto cases like banning the crackers, directing states to speed up action to clean Ganga.

Conclusion – Thus it can be said that NGT acts as equilibrium maker between development and environment. This also helps us in achieving Sustainable development goals 3, 6 and 13. But, we need to fulfil the pending vacancy and bring the remaining environmental laws under its purview

Best answer – Christina

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34. What are quasi-judicial bodies? Why are they important? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

A quasi-judicial body is an organisation or individual on which powers resembling to that of court of law of judge have been conferred in order to adjudicate and decide upon the situation and impose penalty upon the guilty or regulate the conduct of individual or entity.

Body

Importance of quasi-Judicial Bodies:

- 1) Expert Knowledge and Qualified staff
- 2) Responsibility for sensitive decisions
- 3) Flexibility since there is little use made of precedent
- 4) Reduce the workload of judiciary and government departments

Criticism of Quasi-Judicial bodies

Ordinary judiciary is still overburdened as party that loses case more often than not approach the higher judiciary.

Examples of quasi-judicial bodies

1) National Green Tribunal: Has been established under NGT act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environment protection and conservation of forests

Important cases of NGT:

- 1) Banning of Diesel Vehicles in Kerala & Delhi In May 2016, the Kochi circuit bench of NGT banned all diesel vehicles more than 10 years old from operating in 6 cities of Kerala.
- 2) Art of Living Foundation casing fined Art of living foundation for damage to Yamuna flood plains
- 3) NGT is counted among India's relatively few institutions that hold the public trust.

2) National Human Rights Commission:

Has been established under the act of parliament in 1993 for effective readdressed of Human rights issue

Important achievements of NHRC

- 1) Have demanded accountability in case of custodial deaths and have demanded reports within 48 hrs from police station
- 2) Have worked to improve conditions of children and women
- 3) Advised state government in case of malnutrition death

NHRC major achievement has been it has been able to initiate dialogue about human rights issue.

Conclusion

The quasi-judicial bodies are necessary to reduce the burden of courts and provide specialised judgements. The need of hour is to provide them more powers for them to carry out function effectively.

Best Answer: Neha Kumari

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35. 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 rojgarta' 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

Conclusion:

Tourism sector has immense potential for development and if fully tapped can help in creating employment, build forex reserves, improve India's image globally as well as spread the unique Indian way of life throughout the world.

Best Answer: dazy rani

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36. 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.

Best Answer :

Shilpi :

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37. What do you understand by 'vulnerability'? How do structural vulnerabilities arise? Examine.

Introduction:

Vulnerability is the state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked, either physically, mentally or emotionally. It is a state of being in distress. Constant state of vulnerability hampers natural growth, physical and mental well-being of an individual and society. It is both intrinsic and structural.

Body:

Structural vulnerabilities refers to unequal access to resources such as education, employment, health services resulting from prevailing socio-economic, political and environmental factors.

Vulnerable groups: women, old-aged, disabled, Dalits, children, poor and marginalised, Tribal people, religious-linguistic minorities and LGBT community.

Structural vulnerabilities arise as a consequence of following factors

- Social reasons: historical subjugation, discrimination and exploitation of women and people of lower caste. Example: Patriarchy is pervasive and has affected women in every sphere resulting into poor health conditions, female infanticide, domestic violence, wage gap, glass ceiling, lower political representation.
- Economic reasons: Old age people are seen as liability and neglected. Girl child is seen as burden to family and their education is ignored. Tribal people are denied forest rights which affect their livelihood.
- Political reasons: majority-minority conflict leading to political refugees. Ex: Myanmar- Rohingya refugee's.
- Environmental: Poor people with inadequate shelter, food and clothing are most affected in the events of natural disasters and epidemics. Shrinking forest cover puts livelihood of tribes at risk. Climate change puts people of low lying islands and coastal areas at risk.

Above mentioned reasons lead to inequalities in the opportunity to grow thus perpetuate poverty and make people vulnerable.

Conclusion:

Vulnerability is closely associated to the socio political, regional and economic status of the person/community. It is one of the biggest concern in the modern world and can be addressed by reducing the inequality in the society at various levels. Sustainable development with equitable distribution can only be a viable option to reduce vulnerability gap.

Best answer: satvik

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38. Elaborate upon the measures adopted for the betterment of manual scavengers.

Introduction

The obnoxious and inhuman occupation of manually removing human excreta and filth using their hand is called 'manual scavenging'. Manual scavengers are mostly SC/ST people who are employed or forced to clean the dry latrines, gutters and man-holes. According to the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census, 1.82 lakh rural households in India were dependent on manual scavenging for their income. Recent survey by NitiAyog showed a huge increase in manual scavengers although it was banned in 1993.

Body

Measure adopted by government to end this are:-

1) Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation 2013 has helped by rehabilitating thousands of scavengers. The District Magistrate and the local authority are the implementing authorities. Offences under this act are cognizable and non-bailable, and may be tried summarily.

2) The insanitary dry latrines are being destroyed and new sanitary latrines being constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission-rural and urban. The success of Swachh Bharat Mission will show its results in latest surveys in coming years

3) The jobs offered under MGNREGA and skills taught in Skill India will further bring people out of this profession.

4) The fundamental rights article 23, 14 and 15 provide safety from bonded labour and discrimination. Clearly, it has helped in bringing equality

5) The protective gear provided for cleaning manholes will provide protection. Otherwise many times the poisonous gases take lives of these poor people.

6) A 2014 report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) titled "Cleaning Human Waste released" revealed that manual scavenging is plagued by patriarchy as women are forced to do this and paid little. The STEP (support to training and employment program for women) scheme which provides skill to assetless women in traditional **sectors** like handloom etc can fill the gaps.

7) The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) provides cheap credit and skill training since 2007.

8) Rashtriya **Garima** Abhiyan, NGO led awareness campaigns have helped significantly to get dignity of manual scavengers back and get them better jobs.

9) National mission for Safaikaramchari would monitor the act

10) Technological solutions like Bandikoot the robot to clean manhole, sulabh cleaning sewer machine – to clean sewer without human.

In spite of this, some events happened recently

Death of 3 workers while cleaning tank in New Delhi.

Last year, 30 people died in Tamil Nadu due to manual scavenging

Challenges

- Caste factor – untouchability
- Human excreta flows without sewerage
- Law exists only on paper
- Central fund allocation is low

- Sanitation being state subject requires state support

Conclusion

Multipronged effort providing formal literacy, technological and skill development to these people who are illiterate will help them become part of mainstream and contribute in progress of nation. Everyone has right to live with dignity. The problem of manual scavenging in the society persists with ancient time. These government effort will not only help in giving them right to dignity but also fulfilling development goal 3.

Best answer – Neha Kumari

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39. Why is juvenile delinquency on the rise? What measures have been taken to address it?

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is defined as an individual under the age of 18 who fails to abide by the laws.

Body

Leading factors contributing to Juvenile delinquency

1 Poor school attendance: School is not only a place to learn and grow; it is also a structured routine that provides children with a goal to accomplish each day. Children who are not encouraged to learn this type of routine are losing out on establishing good habits. They are also experiencing a lot of free time that can be used to “learn” about other things that will not enhance their lives or their futures.

Failure to accept the routine of attending school actually instils in children that they do not have to comply with societal norms and that they can do as they please.

2 Violence at home: Lashing out at others for violence children experience at home is common. Children subjected to violent actions, or those who witness it to others, are more likely to act out their fears and frustrations. They often have a “don’t care” attitude and this allows them to get into trouble more easily.

3 Peer Pressure: Similar to neighbourhood pressures, peer pressure from direct acquaintances can have an effect on how a child reacts to bad situations. If all of their friends are committing delinquent acts, the child may feel pressured to do the same to be accepted.

4 Socio Economic Factors: Juvenile delinquency is more common in poorer neighbourhoods. While all neighbourhoods are not exempt from delinquent activities, it is believed they happen more in areas where children feel they must commit crimes to prosper.

Theft and similar crimes may actually be a result of necessity and not that of just a petty crime

5 Substance Abuse: Substance abuse in a home or by the child is a very common cause for delinquency. Children who are exposed to substance abuse often do not have the necessities they need to thrive and are forced to find these necessities in other ways. Others, who become dependent on a substance, may also need to commit crimes to sustain their habit.

6) Lack of Moral Guidance: Parental or adult influence is the most important factor in deterring delinquency. When a parent or other adult interacts with the child and shows them what is acceptable behaviour and what is considered wrong, the child is more likely to act in a way that is not delinquent.

It is very important for a child to have a bond with a good adult who will influence their actions and show them the difference between what is right and what is wrong.

Measures taken to address Juvenile delinquency

The office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and Prevention recommend following measures to prevent delinquency

- 1) Classroom and behaviour management programs
- 2) Social competence promotion curriculum
- 3) Conflict resolution and violence prevention curriculum
- 4) Bullying prevention programs
- 5) Afterschool recreation programs
- 6) Mentoring Programs
- 7) School organisation programs
- 8) Community intervention programs

Indian government have taken lot of painstaking efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency but there is still a long way to go for the government .Some special provisions have been

implemented in India for Juvenile delinquents. Observation homes have been established. This intervention is very necessary to get Juvenile back in mainstream.

Best Answer

P29:

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40. 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:

- 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.

- RashtriyaVayoshriYojana- For providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category
- Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities act (SIPDA)- To provide financial assistance to the states for implementation of act.

2. Institutional measures:

- Dedicate department- A separate Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Accessible India Campaign- To help make buildings and other infrastructure disabled friendly.
- SugamyaPustakalya- Online library for persons with disabilities.
- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme- provides for distribution of aids and assistive devices
- Establishment of National fund for Person with disabilities.

3. Educational measures:

- Scholarships- Various scholarship schemes have been introduced for disabled students at different educational levels.
- Reservation- 5% reservation is provided to disabled in higher education.

4. Social measures:

- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme- Promote Voluntary Action by releasing grant-in aid to NGOs.
- Corporate Social responsibility- For enabling and empowering disabled persons

6. Research:

- 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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41. 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 (KDLA) in Maharashtra as panel members for the local Lok Adalat. We also find similar examples from Assam Lok Adalats 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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Shravya Byri

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42. Examine the concept of 'good governance'? What are its various components?

Introduction:

While Governance is the dynamic exercise of management power and policy, Good governance is concerned with the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.

Body:

The concept is related to the responsibility of governments and governing bodies to meet the needs of the masses. The central focus is to see how the government enables, simplifies and authorises its people, regardless of differences of caste, creed, class, and political ideology and take certain decisions which will be in their best interest. It aims to promote and sustain holistic and integrated human development.

- Good governance is significant in public institutions to conduct and manage public affairs and resources to guarantee human rights in free of abuse and corruption, and with due regard for the rule of law.
- It is significant because it promises to deliver on the promise of human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.
- Good governance is thus, a function of installation of positive virtues of administration and elimination of vices of dysfunctionalities.

Elements of good governance:



- Participation - People should be able to voice their own opinions through legitimate immediate organizations or representatives. Example: MP's, Pressure Groups.
- Rule of Law - Legal framework should be enforced impartially, especially on human right laws. Example: independent judiciary.
- Consensus Oriented - Mediates differing interests to meet the broad consensus on the best interests of a community. Example: GST council- centre and states together.

- Equity and Inclusiveness - People should have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being. Example: affirmative policies for women, children and backward classes.
- Effectiveness and Efficiency - Processes and institutions should be able to produce results that meet the needs of their community while making the best of their resources. Example: Aadhar ensuring targeted delivery, eliminating ghost beneficiaries thus optimum use of limited government resources.
- Accountability - Governmental institutions, private sectors, and civil society organizations should be held accountable to the public and institutional stakeholders. Example: elections.
- Transparency - Information should be accessible to the public and should be understandable and monitored. Example: RTI, Draft bills made public to get feedback.
- Responsiveness - Institutions and processes should serve all stakeholders, respond to their grievances. Example: GST council rationalising tax structure and slew of measures keeping in mind MSME sector, PRAGATI Platform.

Conclusion:

Few challenges that are faced in accomplishment of good governance are weak institutions, lack of participation and democratisation, lack of social capital, corruption and other. It is essential to address these challenges to achieve good governance that plays a paramount role in the transformation of predatory state to welfare state.

Best answer: cosmos

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43. Does accountability affect decision making? Critically examine

Introduction

Accountability refers to answerability towards a decision made or a responsibility discharged. In a democratic polity like India, it is expected that public servants exercise decision making powers with accountability. Hitler, in his book MeinKamph, considers the relation between accountability and decision making as the key factor that makes one institution (or political system) more efficient than the others.

Body

Accountability and Decision making - positives

1. Improves quality of decision making - for eg,
 - a. Decision making related to use of Art 356, issue of ordinances greatly improved after accountabilities were upheld by the supreme court through Judicial review
 - b. After enactment of Environmental impact assessment (EIA) provisions, decisions with respect to development projects became more sensitive and inclusive
2. Issues like conflicts of interests, partisanship etc. get addressed in a better manner. Qualities of professionalism and dedication get motivated.
3. Facilitates dispute resolution after the decision has been made.
4. Moral satisfaction to those who exercise power
5. It helps in running the democracy and act a soul for successful governance. The best example is a part 4 A of the constitution fundamental duties, and directive principle of the state policy(part 4) which makes citizen accountable toward abiding the constitution, to preserve the environment, to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood etc which ultimately affect decision making. Accountability and Decision making.
6. Accountability to various parliamentary committees provide government with expert advise which helps in proper decision making.
7. Civil servants are held accountable through code of conduct which prevents transgression of decision making capacity.

Negatives

1. Accountability might act as a deterrent, as acknowledged by ARC reports. The fear of consequences might lead to inactivity from decision makers.
2. Promote red tapism, time delays
3. Back channel mechanism may develop - corruption, informal gratification
4. Accountability affects the free will. Free will gives space of innovation or creativity without the interference of the state. for instance, every year a large number of books like in 2017 god man tycoon was banned, and every year movies scenes are removed from the movie like the recent one Sarkar.

- As recommended by ARC reports, measures like
1. Rewards and prizes should be instated
 2. Performance reviews to be conducted and their use in deciding promotions etc.
 3. Cutting red tapism and codification of procedures can help in enhancing accountability in decision making.

Conclusion

Overall, accountability isn't the silver bullet to ensure efficient decision making. It must also be paired with some level of discretion to allow the system to reap all the positive impacts of accountability while avoiding the negative ones. Thus only this way we can ensure good governance.

Beat answer Mahi meher

Free will is a very important thing for decision making. accountability affect the free will. free will gives space of innovation or creativity without the interference of the state. for instance, every year a large number of books like in 2017 god man tycoon was banned, and every year movies scenes where removed from the movie like the recent one sharkar, because of the accountability toward the state, this in large affect the other people decision to write, published etc which restrain the creativity. and because of the accountability toward the society decision was affected. not even to think for writing or publishing etc section 124 of the IPC is one of such examples, which ensure accountability(by force) by charging under sedition. which effect freedom of speech and expression and affect decision making.

but, we cannot completely deny that accountability affect the decision making in a positive sense also, in fact, it helps in running the democracy and act a soul for successful governance,

the best example is a part 4 A of the constitution fundamental duties, and directive principle of the state policy(part 4) which makes citizen accountable toward abiding the constitution, to preserve the environment, to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood etc which ultimately affect decision making. for a country like India where corruption is in the core, multi-diverse society. etc their accountability affect decision making positively

44. Has RTI been successful in bringing transparency into governance? Critically evaluate.

Introduction

Participation, transparency, legitimacy and responsiveness form the pillars of good governance. The concept of good governance was applied in India through the passing of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment.

Right to Information Act, 2005 forms a basic requisite of good governance and the Act has played and is still playing a major role in bringing good governance by making our system transparent and accountable.

Body

RTI act has ushered in transparency

- 1) RTI Act has lent voice to the aspirations of ordinary citizens in issues of governance. It gave the common people a defining power to shape the government schemes and policies. It empowered the people to question, audit, review, examine, and assess government acts and decisions to ensure that these are consistent with the principles of public interests, good governance and justice.
- 2) Right to Information is the most effective instrument to check corruption where the citizen has the right to take the initiatives to seek information from the state and thereby promotes openness, transparency and accountability in administration by making the government more open to public scrutiny. It also empowered the people to seek definite and direct answer from the officials of their works or lack of it thus facilitating and encouraging the participation of common people in the process of good governance. RTI Act democratized the information and decentralized the power. Power no more remains confined to select few, rather it was made available equally to all the citizens.

- 3) People have showed increased interest in the affairs of government and sought information regarding various issues affecting their lives and well-being. RTI Act empowered the people to seek definite and direct answer from the officials of their works or lack of it. RTI applications have annually increased by 8 to 10 times. A 2009 study estimates that in the Act's first three years alone, close to two million RTI requests were filed in different parts of the country. Thus, there is massive use of the right to know. Of the millions of applications for information, less than 5 per cent have been denied information under various exemption categories. So, accountability has invariably led to efficiency and a sense of responsibility among government officials.
- 4) The Right to Information act is intended to promote accountability and transparency in government by making the process of government decision making more open. Though some departments of the Union government are exempted from this Act but the information can be sought if it is concerned with violation of human rights. Even the information from the private authority can be sought only through the controlling authority and controlling authority will send the notice to the institution concerned under section 11 of the Act.
- 5) The larger use of RTI has been seen in areas of women empowerment, youth development, democratic rights, rights and entitlements of the underprivileged, abuse of executive discretion and strengthening of participative and good governance.

Success stories of RTI

- 1) For many, particularly India's poor and disadvantaged, the simple act of filing an RTI application is empowering, and often leads to tangible results. In 2010, K.S. Sagaria, a resident of Kushmal village in rural Orissa, filed an RTI application seeking information on the number of ponds constructed in his village under the government's national wage employment scheme. The information he received was revealing: the ponds had never been constructed even though money had been allocated and spent. Following complaints from villagers, the local administration was forced to take action and suspend the officials involved in the pond scam.
- 2) In the model district of Mochha, Chhattisgarh, people are using RTI to secure employment, scholarships and pensions for the elderly. They also pressured government doctors and school teachers to show up at work regularly. Villagers in Madhubani district, Bihar used RTI to expose a solar-light scam, leading to charges against 200 corrupt officials.
- 3) In 2007, data obtained under RTI inspired citizens to question elected representatives to stop a scam worth over Rs. 6,000 crores in the Crawford Market redevelopment issues in Mumbai.

- 1) **Attacks on Activists** : There have been quite a few cases where people were killed. Unless the whistle blower protection act is implemented by notifying the rules, things will not change on ground. There has to be a concerted effort by both central & state governments to prevent such attacks.
- 2) Frivolous RTI have been used by politicians to settle score and waste time.
- 3) **Implementation of Section 4**: The people who drafted the RTI act were very pragmatic in including Section 4 in the RTI act. The idea was that proactive disclosure of the most important information by government machinery would reduce the need for citizens to separately seek information. Most studies confirm that more than 50% of the applications filed under the RTI act ask for information that should have been disclosed under Section 4. And more than 60% of the government offices do not have any kind of physical disclosures. Even in places, where the disclosure is made, the information is outdated. Like it is emphasized by a sub-committee of Information Commissioners, section 4 implementation is going to be a crucial piece in the success of the RTI act.
- 4) **Working of the Information Commissions**: The Information Commissions were envisioned as the watch dogs in the implementation of the RTI act. 13 years later, the commissions seem to be going the way of the Judiciary in terms of pendency. In more than 90% of the cases analyzed by the RaaG study, penalty was not imposed where it was supposed to have been imposed. Unless the commissions buckle up and start working effectively, they might become the Achilles heel in the implementation of the act. At the same time, the government should make the process of selection of Information Commissioners more transparent. Close to 60% of all commissioners in the country are retired civil servants.

Conclusion

Since its inception in 2005, one can conclude that RTI has made its impact felt in the functioning of Government bodies and the larger governance discourse, as the staff has become active, conscious, regular, punctual, accountable and responsible. People do feel more empowered. Their bargaining power vis-a-vis public officials has increased manifold. A great change has come in India in the last decade in the power equation between the sovereign citizens and those in power. This change is just the beginning and if it can be sustained and strengthened, our defective elective democracy could metamorphose into a truly participatory democracy within the next one or two decades. Thus the impact of RTI in good governance is palpable.

Best Answer

P29

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45. 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 enrollment 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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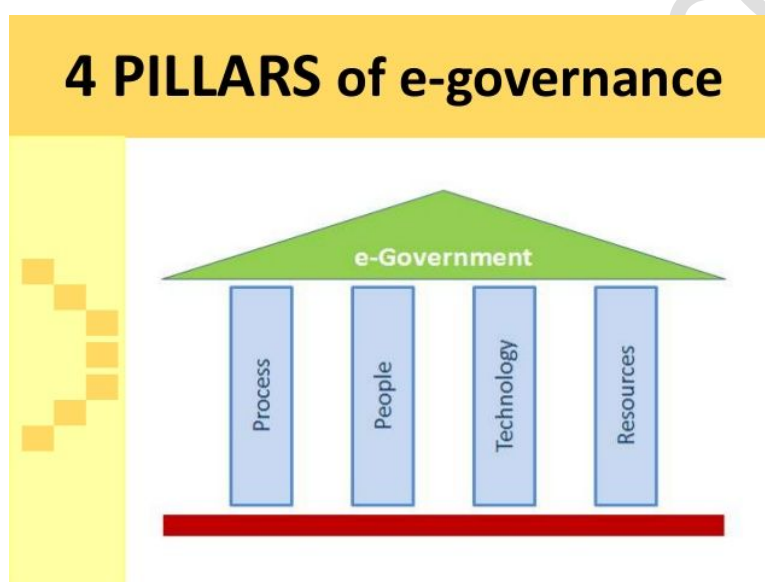
46. Examine the factors that are imperative for the success of e-governance.

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

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Shilpi

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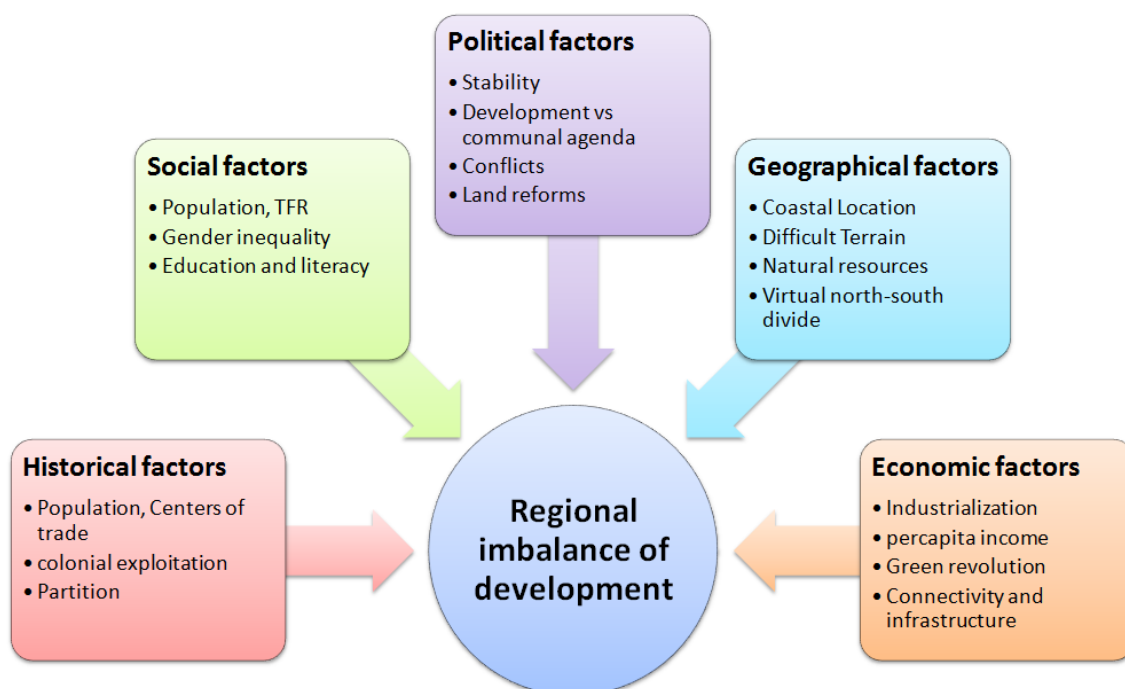
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47. Account for the factors that have led to a regional imbalance of development in India.**Approach:**

- This is a direct question. "Account" is a keyword here.
- In introduction, try to give an idea about the subject matter of the question asked very shortly.
- In body of the answer, explain briefly maximum number of factors responsible for regional imbalance of development.
- An optimist conclusion, with mention of government measures will be sufficient here.

Introduction

- The prevalence of regional disparity is a common phenomenon and present in both developed and developing countries.
- India, being socially diverse and geographically a vast country, is also facing the serious regional imbalance of development. There are many factors that led to this imbalance.
- Right from the independence achieving balanced development for the whole country had been the aim and challenge before the policy makers of India.

Factors responsible for regional imbalance of development in India**Historical Factors**

- There are areas such as Mumbai, Masulipatnam etc. which were centers of trade for long period of time due to which areas surrounding them became more developed than the hinterland India.

- On the other hand colonial exploitation and partition of the country left certain areas such as West Bengal and Assam struggling to climb the ladder of development.

Social Factors

- Population pressure and lack of education are also few of the most important factors responsible for regional disparity.
- High total fertility rate (TFR) and comparatively low literacy rate has virtually divided India into developed south and struggling north.
- Education is an important factor for development of any region, whereas population creates pressure on available resources.

Economic factors

- Industrialisation, Green revolution, imbalanced connectivity and infrastructure are some of the economic factors behind regional disparity in India.
- For example, in Agriculture, mostly western states benefitted from Green Revolution, leaving eastern states in the state of poverty.

Political Factors

- These are another group of factors responsible for regional imbalances.
- Political stability, development agenda played their role in development of Kerala, Goa and such other regions.
- Similarly, Land reforms also played important role in development of regions. Areas where land reforms were not successfully implemented, are still struggling for development.

Geographical Factors

- Coastal location, difficult terrain, availability of natural resources plays important role in development of any region.
- Western States from Gujarat till Kerala and Eastern states Tamil Nadu and Andhra are gainers due to their geographic location. Trade in these states prospered more than interior states.
- Whereas, resource rich states such as Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are suffering from "Resource Curse".
- Similarly, North-Eastern states are suffering deprivation in terms of development due to difficult terrain. Important infrastructure required for development, such as railways and roadways, are difficult to built there.

Conclusion

- Balanced regional growth is necessary for the harmonious development of a nation. Unless it is achieved, a nation cannot say to be developed in real sense.
- Therefore, India is rightly pushing for cooperative and competitive federalism, and decentralisation.

- Make in India, Airport developments, and such other many schemes and programs are working to overcome all these factors.
- Still there is need to do more to achieve New India by 2022.

Best Answer: Abhiroop Biswas

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48. How far can the SHG model help in eradicating poverty? Examine in the light Indian's socio-economic context.

Introduction:

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small groups of poor people who face similar problems. They help each other, to solve their problems. SHGs promote small savings among their members. The savings are kept with the bank. This is the common fund in the name of the SHG. The SHG gives small loans to its members from its common fund.

NABARD estimates that there are 2.2 million SHGs in India, representing 33 million members. Examples: Rupjyoti SHG, Lijjatpapad.

Body:

Poverty is a condition where people's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are not being met. Reducing poverty is of utmost importance and towards this direction SHGs are employed as a developmental tool to alleviate poverty.

Prevailing Socio-economic context:

- Women: lower access to productive resources; lower employment opportunities; poor health indicators.
- Poor social indicators like problem of hunger and malnutrition, IMR & MMR.
- Non-inclusion of people into financial system.
- Unemployment issue and the need to create jobs.
- Need for growth that is inclusive like in Rural areas, including women in economy.

Under such circumstances SHGs are said to reduce poverty in the following way

- With Financial inclusion credit facility to poor is increased. It also saves them from moneylenders.
- Opportunities for self-employment through setting of micro-enterprise.
- Skill development program undertaken by SHGs improves employability of members involved.
- As a result of increased jobs there is rise in income which enhances access to food, health services and overall rise in living standards.
- And with more women participation and their enhanced status address issues such as nutrition poverty and low literacy rate.

Positive correlation between SHGs and poverty can be inferred from the fact that southern states with high number of SHGs (71%) have average poverty rate at 9% as against nation's average of 21%.

SHGs today face issues like

- Ignorance of Members.
- Inadequate Training Facilities in the specific areas of product selection, quality of products, production techniques, managerial ability, packing, other technical knowledge are not adequate to compete with that of strong units.
- Problems of Marketing.
- Lack of Stability and Unity Especially among women SHGs.
- Exploitation by Strong Members.
- Weak Financial Management, poor record keeping.

Conclusion:

Given their significance steps should be taken to address above concerns with effective implementation of programs like DeenDayalAntyodayaYojana. As poverty results from various socio-economic and cultural factors there should be simultaneous focus to ensure access to health, education and opportunities to achieve SDG1.

Best answer: NKY

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49. NGOs can only play a supplementary role to the state in the development process. Elucidate.

Introduction

NGOs or non-government organizations are entities formed by public-spirited individuals which function outside government sector but closely deal with subjects that are of social, economic or political significance

Body

The function of NGOs are as follows –

- They act as service contractors, able to work more efficiently and more effectively than government agencies thereby playing an important role in the socio-economic transformation.
- It brings in accountability and transparency to governance.
- It acts as a human rights watchdog in the society.
- NGOs act as channels for donors to provide international development funds to low-income countries or developing countries

In the new governance paradigm, NGOs have come to play a prominent role in development process. However owing to inherent limitations and nature of development processes their role is essentially supplementary.

1. In a democracy, only an elected government can set the agenda for development. NGOs are motivated by individual opinion while government function based on popular consensus..

2. Development involves a compromise between individual rights and wider social needs. Only the state has a prerogative to take a call on that. Further unlike NGOs, the government is accountable to people for choices it makes in this context.

3. Developmental projects involve substantial monetary outlays and dedicated personnel, such resources can only be made available by the state. In fact many NGOs are themselves funded by the state. Further, implementation require public authority and coercion which are vested only with the state.

4. The NGOs have limited experience and expertise in social sectors as compared to dedicated institutions of government.

5. Due to concerns of national security, economic warfare and international relations that may emerge due to ill intended NGO activism, the legal system of the country itself limits the role of NGOs to a supplementary one.

However despite all these limitations, the NGOs have played some leading roles. For instance, International NGOs like WEF, WWF, IUCN has played exemplary role in innovation, economic co-operation, environmental conservation etc. At home organizations like PUCL, ADR etc has spearheaded the fight for political rights of voters

Conclusion

To conclude, NGOs are important stakeholders in the development process. But they cant not play the role of state . It is the duty of state to maintain welfare state. Their role though supplementary, is of great significance.

Best answer john nash

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50. 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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51. 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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52. Why don't Indian universities and colleges don't feature in the list of top-ranked global institutions? Examine in the light of the areas that warrant immediate attention in India's higher education sector.

Introduction

- India's education system has been at the center of vociferous debate for several years now. Despite the presence of the prestigious IITs and IIMs, Indian educational institutions and universities have had a remarkably poor run when it comes to global institutional rankings.
- India has 49 institutions among the best 1000 universities in the world, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2019. However, all Indian institutes are outside the top 200 global list.
- To reap the fruits of demographic dividend, India needs to immediately pay attention to certain areas in higher education.

Areas of concerns in Higher Education

Broadly, there are two areas in higher education which needs immediate attention; Administrative areas and Academic Areas.

1. Administrative Areas

In Administrative areas, issues such as lack of autonomy to the institutions, Funding and infrastructure issues, appointments etc are plaguing the higher education. Recent headlines of the news about corruption in Medical Council of India, and complexities of UGC are examples of administrative issues which need to be addressed immediately.

2. Academic Areas

In Academic area, there are many issues impeding the performance of higher education institutions. It includes static syllabus which is not in accordance with the modern requirements and lacks the interdisciplinary approach, also includes scarcity of professional teachers, negligible number of foreign faculty, lack of exchange students and such other many issues.

What is being done?

- Initiatives such as VAJRA (to NRI and foreign scientific academic community as visiting professors) are welcome step to address the issue of lack of professional and competitive teachers. It is also a solution to contain brain drain.
- Similarly, to provide funds for research and related infrastructure, Higher Education Funding Authority is established.
- Similarly, RUSA, RISE, IMPRINT and Institutions of eminence are some other steps taken by Central Government to enhance the quality and competitiveness of higher educational institutions.

What more needs to be done?

- New education policy is urgently needed, which should bring an overhaul to Indian Educational system and make it at par with global standards.

- Substitutions to plaguing regulators such as MCI and UGC should be brought as soon as possible.
- Exchange students program should be started on larger scales.
- Interdisciplinary approach to higher educational courses should be adopted on international standards, giving more opportunities for innovative researches.

Conclusion

For a country that aspires to become a major global player over the next quarter of a century, mediocre education is not the way forward. If we aim to dominate the global discourse, we need educational institutions that not only create skilled human resource but also boosts indigenous research and development, power the country's intellectual and entrepreneurial leadership, and instill scientific thinking among the masses.

Best Answer

Timber

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53. How far has the Ujjawala scheme been able to address the problems of rural women? Analyse.

Introduction:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

Body:

The spread of LPG cylinders has been predominantly in the urban and semi-urban areas while household in rural areas are still dependent on fossil fuels for cooking. But there are serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuels.

According to WHO estimates about 5 lakh deaths in India alone due to unclean cooking fuel. Indoor air pollution causes premature deaths due to non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. In such scenario, Ujjwalahas helped rural women in the following way

- Providing clean fuel to women. So far 5 crore free LPG connections to poor women have been provided.

- Overcome health hazards due to use of wood, cow dung in cooking.
- Freed women from drudgery of collecting fire wood and saved her from wild animal attacks.
- Smoke free house to all including children.

However, following challenges exists in meeting its objectives

- Affordability issues: due to higher LPG costs many people with new connections are not buying refilled cylinders after their first one runs out.
- Poor infrastructure for delivering cylinders – bottling plants, dealers and distributors.
- If oil prices continue to rise as they have been doing in recent months, the cost of LPG cylinders will rise even further – making them even more unattractive.
- Much comfort with chullas than using LPG.

Conclusion:

Government has come out with LPG Panchayats and extended beneficiaries beyond BPL. Going forward success of scheme rests on the government's ability to subsidise refills and rural house-holds ability and willingness to pay for them. It is a social investment which government should pursue.

Best answer: Abhiroop Bishwas

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54. Corruption in the medical field is a sad reality. Elaborate upon the factors that have caused corrupt practices to thrive in this noble field.

Introduction

Medical field is considered as noble field because it deals with the life of individual. Doctors are considered as Gods in India. UN agencies considered medical profession and practise as most corrupt in the world.

Body

The types of correction in medical field are as follows

- **Bribes and kickbacks.**
- Theft and **embezzlement.**
- Intentional damage to public goods for private gain.
- Absenteeism.
- Informal payments.
- Use of human subjects for financial gain.
- Institutionalised potential corruption eg selling of seats

Factors that have caused corruption in India are as follows

1. Corruption at apex level i.e. medical council of India

2. Political patronage and ownership of medical colleges
3. Unholy nexus between professionals and pharma lobbies.
4. Lack of awareness among people due to poor socio-economic census.
5. Lack of ethical standards in doctors eg detection of foetus sex, organ mafia at hospital
6. Lack of good facilities hospital adds to the corruption.

Recent steps taken by government in this regard are

- Fair recruitment process through NEET.
- MCI has to be replaced with NMC
- Active vigilance in medical field against unholy nexus
- Health insurance (Ayushman Bharat) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (health facility at decentralised level)
- Access to generic medicine through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushdhi Pariyojna.

Way forward

- Zero tolerance for corrupt practices by government and ways to curb it
- Protection of whistleblower should be robust
- Education in medical ethics should be mandatory.
- The ombudsman should be equipped with adequate infrastructure and resources.

Conclusion

In India 70% of expenditure is borne by consumers and if corruption persists debt will reach to a high level so doctors should try their best to keep this noble profession corruption free. It needs the synchronisation of doctor, government, media and all section of society.

Best answer Dazy Rani

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55. 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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56. 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:

- Uninsurance- 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 upto 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 crore.
- Reduces insurance gap- Providing Rs.5 lakh 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.

No best answer

57. Bring out the role of CVC as an institution to address corrupt practices within the government.

Introduction:

Corruption is considered to be one of the gravest problems of Independent India, the issue is at the core of most of the problems of India. In this respect, Central Vigilance Commission was established in 1964 under the recommendations of Santhanam Committee. It gained statutory status under CVC Act 2003.

Body:

CVC is headed by Central Vigilance Commissioner and has two Vigilance Commissioners. They are appointed by President on recommendations of select committee comprising of Prime Minister as Chairperson, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of opposition.

Role played by CVC as an institution to address corruption:

- It monitors all vigilance activity under Union Government and advises various authorities in Union Government organizations in planning, executing, reforming their vigilance work.
- CVC is “Designated Agency” to receive written complaints for disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office and recommend appropriate action.
- It exercises superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) with respect to investigation under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or offence under CRPC for certain categories of public servants and to give directions to the DSPE for discharging this responsibility.
- CVC examines Civil Works of the Government through Chief Technical Officer: Technical audit of construction works of Governmental organisations from a vigilance perspective; Investigation of specific cases of complaints relating to construction works.
- Advises central government on rules and regulation concerned with anti-corruption.
- It has powers of civil court while conducting enquiry.

In line with the role assigned to it, CVC has proved to be an effective organization in tackling corruption. It has proved its mettle in the past by the following actions-

- It has led to smooth appointment of important officers at various posts in the past.
- It has taken noteworthy action in the past against senior officials, senior personnel and even many politicians.
- It organizes vigilance week every year to create awareness against the menace of Corruption.

Issues associated with CVC

- The Decisions of the CVC are not binding on the organizations or ministries thus seen “toothless tiger”.
- Very low conviction rate has reduced the impact of CVC and its effectiveness.
- There is huge delay in the cases that CVC handles, hence it does not act as an effective deterrent.
- In most cases, the domains and the jurisdiction of the organizations is not clear (UPSC).

Conclusion:

Corruption is one issue that needs effective institutions to tackle. Thus need of the hour is to strengthen CVC with respect to its mandate, the financial independence, increase in the implementation of otherwise the just advisory role of the CVC.

Best answer: Iron Man

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58. Elaborate upon the concept of transparency. Why is considered so vital for effective governance? Discuss.**Introduction**

Transparency refers to sharing of information and working in open manner . It is one of the vital component of good governance .

Body

1. transparency makes public servants to store the information of all their work resulting into an efficient source for defending their interests in bad times and thus motivates them to work fearlessly .
2. Transparency also ensures that all the governance works are done according to rules and regulations .
3. Most importantly this component of governance makes public as evaluator of public officials and ensure that they work in specified manner .
For eg Disbursal of
4. Specifically those who will be affected by the decision making gets information and can easily claim their entitlements leading to an effective public service delivery
5. Transparency is vital for ensuring that public service oriented attitude of civil servants , decline in red tapism and effective delivery of public services .
6. In the sphere of economic governance, transparency helps minimize speculation, thereby maintaining stability & orderliness in economy.
7. In the sphere of technological governance, transparency with respect to already acknowledged patents helps minimize plagiarism.
8. In Disaster management scenarios, transparency in relief efforts helps prevent panic and strife, thereby helping governance.
9. In the sphere of social governance, it acts as a check on state/non-state actors and vested interests trying to create disharmony. e.g.: separatists in Kashmir and Insurgents in North-East have repeatedly been proven incorrect in their claims of 'alien invasion' and atrocities by 'Indian citizens' against 'natives', thereby maintaining social harmony.

Conclusion

To ensure transparency in governance India introduced RTI act in 2005 and it has worked well . But the concept is just limited to information about decision and person responsible for fulfilling entitlement which need further enrichment to make public service delivery effective

Best answer Suraj Sharma

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59. What are the ways to ensure accountability of civil servants? How does accountability help in reducing corruption?**Introduction**

Accountability can broadly be defined as the obligation of those holding power to take responsibility and be held answerable for their behaviour and actions.

Body

Measures to ensure accountability

- 1) Improve transparency around the feasibility of major projects: Make use of technology to digitise the information pertaining to major projects and fix deadlines for projects.
- 2) Clarify what public services citizens get for their money : Strengthen the citizen charter at every major department and also make the utilisation of funds received by every department and how they have been spent every year transparent
- 3) Reward for excellent work and review for failures: Promotion need to be based on excellent work done and not on basis of seniority .Also failures to achieve goals need to be accounted.
- 4) Mandatory Social Auditing : States like Meghalaya have adopted social audit law, should be extended pan India
- 5) Instil code of ethics among civil servants in line of code of conduct
- 6) Clear delegation of roles and responsibilities with commensurate powers and resources: There needs to be a clear basis upon which specific roles and activities are assigned to specific levels of the system. Second, the delegation of roles and responsibilities must be accompanied by the delegation of resources that would allow functionaries to fulfil their roles. In the absence of this, delegation could end up confounding rather than strengthening accountability.

Accountability help reducing corruption

- 1) Timely delivery of services: Citizen is aware about timeline of service delivery and demand answers in case of discrepancies.
- 2) Social audit by citizens make them aware of any misallocation of funds.
- 3) RTI act has helped in bringing many discrepancy of information to public

Conclusion

Thus accountability is very necessary to weed out corruption and ensure the lives of citizen are improved

Best Answer

P29

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60. 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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61. 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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62. What strategic significance does Maldives hold for India? Do you think the recent regime change in Maldives is a positive development for India? Examine.

Introduction

Maldives is an island country near south-west coast of India. A new pro India government in Maldives opened a new chapter in bilateral ties, which had undergone a downward spiral during the last five years.

Body

Strategic significance of Maldives:

1. Geopolitical significance

- Maldives is geographically a small island country comprising of several coral islands. India and Maldives share maritime borders.
- Considering India's neighbourhood first policy, Maldives becomes one of the important factor of India's foreign policy.
- Being a South Asian country, it is also an important member of SAARC.

2. Strategic location

- Maldives is located on strategically important region of Indian ocean also lies on important trade routes.
- Since India aspires to be net security provider, Maldives is a significant country with regard to security in Indian Ocean.

3. Economic relations

- India and Maldives share significant trade relations with respect to fishing, tourism, health and education, etc.
- Recently India announced an assistance of \$1.4 billion through a credit line and budgetary support to the Maldives.

4. Indian Diaspora

- Maldives is home to one of the largest Indian expatriates. It confirms the traditionally close ties between the two countries.

India and regime change in Maldives

- Before the transition of power, the Maldives had drifted away from India's strategic orbit and went closer to China.
- New leadership in Maldives vowed to bring the country closer to India again and also affirmed the government's "India First Policy."
- New regime in Maldives is a positive development for enhancing cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region, particularly in the maritime security domain through coordinated patrols and aerial surveillance.
- Predecessor leadership in Maldives sought China's financial assistance and came out in support of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- By signing a controversial free trade agreement (FTA), and favoring Chinese companies for undertaking major infrastructure projects, previous leadership also discarded closer security ties with India.
- This was viewed in New Delhi as part of Beijing's backdoor attempts to encroach on India's influence in the Indian Ocean.
- Pro-India inclination in Maldives's new government has the potential to ensure a much-needed course correction in the country's foreign policy.
- Both the countries, India and Maldives assured each other of mutual cooperation and not allowing their respective territories to be used for any activity inimical to the other.
- There have been growing concerns regarding China's role in the Maldivian economy through so-called "debt-trap diplomacy."
- New regime wants India to play a bigger role in correcting this anomaly by giving financial support to his country.
- India is equally keen to lend a helping hand so that it is able to regain the space it lost to China.
- Geographical proximity as well as traditional bonds of friendship would invariably put India in the leading position in the policymaking dynamics in the Maldives, but not eliminate China for the same reasons.

Way forward

- To restore institutional credibility of all major institutions and containing growing Islamist radicalization, Cracking down on institutionalized corruption, etc. are few of the major challenges before new regime in Maldives.
- It would require India's constant support to surmount the challenges that the Maldives faces, as it is evident from past experiences of India helping Maldives in Operation cactus or water crisis etc.
- India is in favor of strengthening democratic institutions in the Maldives. She needs to remain careful if it wants to avoid a Nepal-like situation.
- Having a lighter diplomatic footprint is the only way forward in the Maldives.

Best Answer: Abhya Singh

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63. Having so many unresolved issues and irritants with Bangladesh, India's approach towards her eastern neighbour must be carefully calibrated. Comment.

Introduction:

India and Bangladesh share a unique bond and a special relationship rooted in a common cultural heritage, shared principles and values.

Body:

India aided Bangladesh to gain independence from Pakistan in 1971. With passage of time relations between the two nations have seen many ups and down.

Unresolved issues and irritants that remain:

- Water sharing: Teesta River Agreement, Farakkabarriage, Bangladesh objection to the construction of Tipaimukh dam on Barak river in Manipur.
- Migrant's issue: NRC exercise and perception that illegal migrants will be deported to Bangladesh.
- Illegal activities along border: trafficking, drugs dealing and fake currency.
- India's handling of Rohingya issue.
- China factor: growing security and military relations, increasing investment of china in infrastructural projects in Bangladesh is cause of concern for India. Ex: Chittagong port.
- Delivery deficit associated with Indian projects in Bangladesh.

India's approach towards neighbour needs to be carefully calibrated due to following reasons

- India shares longest border of length 4,096 km with Bangladesh.

- Bangladesh's location is a strategic wedge between mainland India and North-eastern states of the Indian Union. Each of these states is land-locked and has shorter route to the sea through Bangladesh.
- The only entry to and exit from the North-eastern region of India is through the Shiliguri Corridor that is within striking distance of Bangladesh. The Shiliguri Corridor is the most sensitive 'choke point' for the Indian Union.
- Security concerns: given the rise in fundamentalism, it is essential to have friendly relations with Bangladesh to prevent anti-India terror or insurgent activities to be carried out from its soil.
- Peaceful neighbourhood is essential for peace, stability and growth of the South Asian region.
- A 'neutral' Bangladesh also ensures containment of an assertive China in this region, including along the strategic sea-lanes of the Bay of Bengal.

Conclusion:

It is important for both India and Bangladesh to be mindful of each other's concerns and address these unresolved issues in a meaningful manner.

Best answer: Arvind Senta

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64. Do you think India should fight the Taliban in Afghanistan? Examine its pros and cons

Introduction

Taliban was propped up in Afghanistan by America & Pakistan to further their agenda in the region (South Asia & Central Asia). Indian should fight Taliban in Afghanistan for the following pros:

Body

1. Its Islamic fundamentalist propaganda is polarizing/dividing/communalizing Indian society, thereby harming the secular & peaceful social fabric of the nation.
2. By radicalizing Indian youth, it's becoming an impediment to our nation being able to reap its fullest demographic dividend.
3. After the exit of NATO forces from Afghanistan, India ought to put boots on the ground to root out this phenomenon and show its military dominance at regional level.

4. India can counter Chinese growing influence in middle east and Afghanistan.

Cons of fighting Taliban in Afghanistan:

1. If our efforts don't yield the desired results within a short span of time, we would be blamed for all ills in Afghanistan, thereby undermining our stature in the comity of nations & global politic.

2. We'd also risk losing our credibility amongst the Afghans, if our efforts fail.
3. Fighting Taliban in Afghanistan may become a drain on our resources, thereby preventing us from reaping our demographic dividend.
4. our aspiration to connect Central Asia will be dented too if we lose there.
5. Bad experience of India in military intervention in Sri Lanka.
6. Taliban is a force within the social sphere of Afghanistan backed by Pashtuns, which considers themselves de- facto rulers. Thus it will be against Panchsheel principles which forbids to interfere in internal matters.
7. It is also against stand of India i.e. force under UN peace keeping forces.

Conclusion

Thus, fighting Taliban in Afghanistan, should be within the framework of a process that's "Afghan owned and Afghan led" so that we safeguard our credibility as well as national interests. A possible way forward would be to reinforce Afghan forces' capabilities via training and strategic & material support.

Best answer Suraj Sharma

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65. 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 Eg; 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 .

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: Aniket Sachan

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66. 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's Hambantotta 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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67. What are India's interests in the ASEAN? Examine the measures taken by the government to strengthen Indo-ASEAN cooperation.

Introduction

- The 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), originally conceived as an economic initiative in 1991, has evolved in terms of geographical expanse and sectoral reach across the three pillars of politico-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.
- India and ASEAN recently celebrated 25 years of their rapidly expanding partnership, also marking 15 years of Summit engagement and five years of Strategic Partnership.

Body

India's interests in ASEAN:

India's age old ties with South-East Asia have been established through culture, trade and religion, thus they carry multidimensional interests. Relations which were earlier seen as lackadaisical, are again assuming renewed vigour.

Economic interests

- India and ASEAN are natural partners in their desire to create a free, open, and inclusive regional trade architecture.
- Bilateral trade increased from USD 12 billion in 2002 to 72 billion in 2012 with a cumulative annual growth rate of around 22 per cent over the preceding 10 years.

Security of the region

- Stronger relations between India and Myanmar have also helped to quell insurgency and extremism in the north-eastern states of India.
- The success of the Act East Policy will be determined by its contribution to security and economic development of Northeast India.

Strategic interests

- India and ASEAN are active participants in the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).
- In a rapidly evolving geo-political scenario marked by China's assertive military, political and economic rise, the AEP has imparted greater dynamism to India's ties with ASEAN.

Socio-cultural interests

- The large Indian diasporas in many Southeast Asian countries help strengthen diplomatic, economic and security relations between India and ASEAN as they contribute to expand and intensify bonds. The Indian diaspora comprises an important instrument of India's soft power.

The measures taken by the government to strengthen Indo-ASEAN cooperation

Strategic and diplomatic measures

- The Look East Policy (LEP) was put in place in 1992. Act East Policy is the successor to LEP, launched at the first East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2014.
- Currently, there exist 30 different dialogue mechanisms between India and the ASEAN states focusing on a range of sectors that include foreign affairs, economy, environment, tourism, etc.

In economic sector

- The India-ASEAN Free Trade pact in services and investments has the potential to reduce India's trade deficit with the region.
- India is also a part of the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which will cover almost 40 per cent of the world's population, 33 per cent of global GDP and 40% of world trade.
- India's two-way trade with ASEAN now stands at approximately USD 76 billion.

People to people contacts

- Exchange programmes have been put in place for frequent interaction between students, senior officials, diplomats, academics, media professionals, etc.
- Many programmes and events are designed to further enhance religious and cultural ties.

Connectivity and infrastructure

- Two major connectivity projects, viz., the Trilateral Highway between north-east India and Myanmar and onwards to Thailand (and Laos and Vietnam) as well as the Kaladan multi-modal transit and transport project, have been under implementation.

Challenges and Opportunities

- India and ASEAN missed out on achieving the two-way trade target of USD 100 billion. There are problems of delays of years and red tapism in project implementation.
- Common concerns and aspirations as well as similar threats and challenges confront the ASEAN countries and India at a time when not only Asia but the whole world is suffering an uncertain and unpredictable phase.
- Connectivity between India and ASEAN, particularly Myanmar and Thailand, has emerged as a significant element in cementing bonds between the two regions.
- Better infrastructure connecting Northeast India and ASEAN has become the sine qua non for stronger economic and trade partnership and vital contributor to prosperity and economic development of the region.
- Relations with ASEAN have become multi-faceted to encompass security, connectivity, strategic, political, space technology, counter-terrorism and anti-insurgency operations, anti-radicalisation, trade and investment, maritime security and defence collaboration, in addition to economic ties.

- Cooperation to curb terrorism especially in the face of the rising influence of the Islamic State has assumed priority.
- The issue of ownership, control, use and exploitation of oil, gas, mineral and fisheries resources in the South China Sea has emerged as a major dispute between China and several ASEAN countries like Vietnam, Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia.
- India is concerned because more than 40 per cent of its trade passes through the South China Sea.
- It is also interested in harnessing fossil fuel resources in the region for meeting its energy needs.
- ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) entered into an agreement with Vietnam to prospect in oil blocks off the Paracel islands which fall within the Exclusive Economic Zone of Vietnam.
- China's increasing intemperance and intractability over the last many years has added to the anxieties and concerns of countries in South East Asia and beyond. They want India to play a more active countervailing role in the region.
- The expression "Indo-Pacific" is being used in foreign policy of the region, instead of the more commonly used "Asia Pacific" to signify that India is a significant player in the region and will need to be included in all discussions and decisions on peace and security of the region.
- A meeting of the Quad (USA, Japan, Australia and India) at the level of officials also gave a strong indication of the interest of these countries in working together to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous region.

Way forward

- India and ASEAN account for about 30 per cent of the global population and a combined GDP of approximately USD 5.1 trillion.
- Together, they would form the third largest economy in the world. Given their combined clout, it is but natural for them to expand their areas of collaboration particularly in view of the rapidly changing and uncertain global and regional scenario.
- Besides geographical proximity, historical commonalities, cultural affinities and commercial interests, India's AEP has been driven by geo-strategic concerns as well.
- It is essential to strengthen collaboration with ASEAN as an organisation as well as with individual Southeast Asian countries.
- This is one of the most dynamic regions of the world today, and it is necessary for both India and ASEAN to actively collaborate to shape the so-called 'Asian century'.
- A stronger partnership and enhanced cooperation should be prioritised by both sides if the full potential of this engagement is to be realised.

(NOTE: This synopsis has been deliberately made comprehensive to cover all the aspects of the Indo-ASEAN relationship as per the demand of the question)

Best Answer:

Gargi Gupta

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69. Despite having the potential to emerge as a powerful economic union, the SAARC has failed to live upto its expectations. Why? Analyse.

Introduction:

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Being founded in 1985, the organization promotes development of economic and regional integration.

Body:

SAARC has potential to emerge as powerful economic union like ASEAN, EU.

- Strong cultural identities between nations likely to ensure effective integration.
- Democracies and open economies in the region.
- With 21% of the world's population and Nations with younger demography, SAARC nations have human resource pool for industrial activities as well as provide market for big companies.
- At a time when global economy is almost stagnant, SAARC with fast growing economies has potential to become powerful economic union.

However, SAARC has failed to live upto its expectations and failure can be seen on various fronts.

- Low trade: South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) has not resulted into increased trade between nations and trade between nations remain at just 3.5% of their total volume of trade.
- Even sub-regional initiatives like BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement have stalled.
- Visa issues remain between countries.
- Irregular summits.
- SAARC satellite modified to South Asian satellite.

Failure is attributed to following reasons

- Regional politics: SAARC nations consider each other as threat. Therefore rather promoting economic interest, countries are busy to maintain balance of power in the region. Example: Demand to grant permanent member status to China, by Nepal, mainly to counter India.
- Historical distrust between the nations like India-Pakistan and bilateral issues (Pakistan-Bangladesh) have affected SAARC negotiations leading to failure of SAARC as a economic unit.

- Politics take front seat than economics: politicians of SAARC nations cater to domestic issues without having broad regional vision. Example: Years to sign and implement treaties (SAFTA).
- Failure of experiment of democracy, except in India, is also responsible for the state of affairs.
- India's inability to play leadership role. Being indifferent to sensitivities of neighbours also furthers mistrust.

Conclusion:

Regional economic integration is stepping stone for deeper global integration. Engagement with neighbours through multilateral institutions (like SAARC) will benefit nation economically as well as politically. South Asian nations need to learn from ASEAN to strengthen their economic integration through SAARC.

Best answer: P29

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70.What is the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)? What importance does it hold for India? Discuss.

Introduction

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. The GCC was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 1981. The purpose of the GCC is to achieve unity among its members based on their common objectives and their similar political and cultural identities, which are rooted in Arab and Islamic cultures. Presidency of the council rotates annually.

Body

Importance for India:

1. Historical ties of Islam and trade dating back to centuries.
2. Being the leading oil & gas producing countries of the world, they play a key role in India's energy security and by extension, our economic security too.
 - a. Saudi is the largest oil exporter to India.
 - b. Qatar is amongst the largest gas producers in India.
3. Some of these countries are alleged as being the nerve centres of non-state actors with nefarious motives. e.g.: D-company, Al-Qaeda, Islamic State, ZakirNaik etc.
4. These countries have large sovereign wealth funds which, if invested in India, can boost our economic growth, helping us maximize our demographic dividend. For eg. Abu Dhabi into NIIF master fund, smart cities and petrochemicals etc.
5. These countries are large markets for Indian exports. Trade with GCC countries is more than EU and ASEAN. Our plans are to further diversify it to the science and technology, tourism, agricultural products and merchandise.

6. These countries are home to the largest Indian diaspora nearly 8 million in the world. Good relations with these countries are thus necessary for the well-being of our diaspora. As diaspora also source of huge remittances nearly 40 dollar billion

7. It's also alleged that appeasing these countries is a 'compulsion' for Indian government to keep certain religious communities happy, for these religious communities look up to these countries are their religious leaders.

Challenges associated –

1. countering terrorism and radicalism in region
- 2.

Conclusion

India initiated a 'Look West' policy to deepen our relations with these countries but the progress has been slow. Engaging in comprehensive dialogs and where feasible, bilateral dialog (such as being done with UAE) would be the way forward.

Best answer Suraj Sharma

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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 continuity 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 reduce 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.

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 .

Best Answer: P29

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

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 can not only commit but also deliver.

Best answer: Ankur

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73. What impact does the change in US immigration policy have on India's IT sector? Examine.

Introduction:

USA, under the new administration, has been changing its immigration policy under its protectionist measures calling for an America First approach in its economic services.

Body:

Stats:

- Out of the total visas, 70 % is being consumed by top Indian MNC companies to cover the IT services.
- Indian IT industry contributes to about 4 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the US, contributing for about USD 5 billion in taxes annually. Nearly 60 percent, or about 65,000, of the total H1B visas are issued to Indian contingent, mostly in the IT sector.

Changes:

- The lottery system could be replaced with new selection method which would allow only the "the best and the brightest" as beneficiaries of the programme. It includes change in the manner visa is allocated between Indian employees of IT firms and Indian students with a US degree, favoring the latter.
- Increased salary eligibility for H1-B visas.
- Spouses of H1B visa holders could lose their permit to work.
- Reserve 20% H1B visas allocated annually for firms that have 50 or fewer employees.

Negative Impact:

- Reduced employment in India- The hurdles in immigration will prompt companies to outsource less work to India. It will hamper employment in India.
- Reduced employment of Indians- It might reduce the employment prospects of skilled Indians in the US.

- Affect profitability- It will add more pressure on India's software services industry in terms of profitability and revenue. To sustain the same level of profits IT companies will be forced to look towards other regions which will require additional investments.
- Impact on service sector- may force IT giants to make fundamental changes in their strategies in terms of hiring, salaries, jobs etc., thus impacting the service sector.
- Inward Remittances from the US : The policy might impact jobs of many Indians, which will eventually result in loss of inward remittances from these people and finally will reduce USD reserves too.

Positive impact:

- Brain Drain can now be converted into brain Gain, as many IT professionals will be working in India only
- IT companies now need to shift their business model from labour cost as the fundamental source of competitive advantage to augmenting Research & Development and improving Intellectual Property.
- If Indian companies invest in other regions it will lead to stable profits as the business will be spread, minimizing the risk.
- India's ambitious plans of Skill India and Digital India will get a push as more skilled manpower will be available for training.

Conclusion:

India's contribution to US economy has been no less significant in terms of taxes paid or students educated. Instead of getting bogged down by foreign policies, Indian IT companies should now diversify their focus to areas like localise and near shore business, leverage new technologies—artificial intelligence, automation, telepresence and augmented reality etc. The Indian IT services should now seize the opportunity to transform and they shall be perceived not as "Indian" or "body shops," but as global technology giants that don't need visas to succeed.

Best answer: NKY

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74. New regional groupings on trade and commerce can be detrimental to India's interests. Do you agree? What measures have been taken by the government to address this?

Introduction:

In recent years, regional groupings on trade and commerce such as Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Trans Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) have been at the centre of trade policy debate worldwide.

It has been debated that these regional groupings may prove to be detrimental to India's interests.

Regional groupings and challenges before India:

Regional Comprehensive and Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- It is ASEAN led initiative which also includes six non-ASEAN members such as India and China. This regional arrangement is opportunity as well challenge before India.
- India has great opportunity to explore market of this continuous geographical area. China's cheap consumer products and TRIPS Plus are the two major challenges before India.
- Free Trade grouping of RCEP may flood Indian market with cheap Chinese consumer goods. And Stringent intellectual property norms under TRIPS Plus will hamper India's generic medicine and pharmaceutical industries.

European Economic Area:

- Currently India's trade negotiations under BTIA are going on with EU. There are two major issues in-front of India in this regard. One is General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) of EU and other is Dispute Redressal Mechanism.
- According a report, only 13% of the Indian firms in EU are prepared for GDPR. And India doesn't have any data protection policy yet.
- Similarly, on front of arbitration, India and EU are not yet on the same page.
- These issues may hamper India's trade with EU.

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):

- Hitherto known as TPP, the new Mega regional group of CPTPP covers many of the countries bordering Pacific Ocean, except US and some other countries.
- If this mega regional grouping succeeds in its objective, there are chances that India may lose because of differential treatment with non-member states.

Failure of SAFTA:

- South Asian countries tried to make a regional free trade area within South Asia as SAFTA, but it failed badly.
- According to WTO regional trade in South Asia is not more than 5% whereas regional trade between ASEAN countries is around 20% of their total global trade.
- Similarly, hostile relations with neighbouring countries, is also a reason behind low regional trade. According to a report it is 20% cheaper for India to trade with Brazil as compared to trade with Pakistan.
- Regional investment in South Asia is less than 1% of overall investment in the region.

Decline in role of WTO and rise of regional arrangements:

- WTO was established to assure rule based global trade and commerce. But recent developments prove the weakening of WTO. India's demand such as finalisation and implementation of Doha Developments, and a agreement for free services in line with FTA (Free trade agreement), etc.

- Similarly, there are vacancies in WTO arbitration court and appointments are being blocked by some developed countries.

Measures taken by the government

- With regard to RCEP, negotiations are going on with ASEAN countries. They agreed for separate negotiations between India and China. Concerns over TRIPS Plus are still a challenge to be addressed.
- With regard to EU, India is pressing hard for BTIA. Srikrishna Commission suggested some measures for data protection, and a bill for data protection policy has been drafted by government of India.
- Concern related to CPTPP can be addressed by strengthening role in RCEP. RCEP can help India to retain and improve trade relations with East Asian and South East Asian nations.
- India's Act East Policy is also a key step towards greater regional integration of Asian countries.
- BIMSTEC is also a great platform to further push for regional trade and cooperation.
- Kaladan Multimodal project, power plant developments, connectivity and infrastructure developments are some of the other measures taken by India to make strong regional trade and strategic relations.
- Recent review of electricity guidelines can be considered as first step towards barrier free trade within the region.

Conclusion:

- India always supported for rule based global trade and commerce, hence these new developments may create challenges before India. But India needs to create compatibilities with the changing world order.
- India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. In the era of protectionism it cannot afford to remain isolated from such regional groupings.
- These groupings may be currently are detrimental to India's interests but Data protection Bill, and all other such measures can make it otherwise also. These groupings are challenge as well as opportunity for India.

Best Answer: Swapnil

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75. How do global sanctions operate? How does it affect India's interests? Comment in the light of US sanctions against Iran.

Introduction:

International sanctions are political and economic decisions that are part of diplomatic efforts by countries, multilateral or regional organizations against states or organizations either to protect national security interests, or to protect international law, and defend against threats to international peace and security.

Body:

Sanctions are imposed by United Nations Security Council or individual country.

- According to the Charter of the United Nations, only the UN Security Council has a mandate by the international community to apply sanctions that must be complied with by all UN member states. They serve as the international community's most powerful peaceful means to prevent threats to international peace and security or to settle them.
- Unilateral sanctions are imposed by individual countries in furtherance of their strategic interests which can range between coercive diplomatic efforts, economic warfare, or as preludes to war.

There are several types of sanctions: Economic sanctions, Diplomatic sanctions, Military sanctions, Sport sanctions.

US sanctions against Iran:

United States withdrew from Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA) and re-imposed sanctions on Iran. These sanctions are mainly on economic front like restriction on Iran's purchase of US currency, Iran's trade in gold and other precious metals and the sale to Iran of auto parts, commercial passenger aircraft, and related parts and services. It makes difficult for companies to conduct business in Iran. It also restricts other nations' trade relation with Iran. In a way nation is isolated globally on economic front and this is likely to create crisis in a country.

How US sanctions against Iran affect India's interest:

- Compulsion to act in line with US sanctions undermines nation's sovereignty in conducting its foreign affairs.
- Since over 17% of India's oil imports are from Iran sanctions necessitate India to diversify its oil market and may lead to increased dependency on Gulf nations given their geographical proximity.
- Potential rise in oil prices and its negative impact on Indian economy (more dollar needed to pay for oil thus weakening rupee) as decline in oil exports from Iran is likely to cause demand-supply mismatch,
- Bilateral relation with Iran may get affected. It is important for India to have friendly relation with Iran given its strategic location in Indian Ocean region, for economic resources like oil & Natural gas and to pursue India's extended neighbourhood policy which aims to improve connectivity with Central Asian nations.
- Arms race in the region may get renewed posing threat to peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Conclusion:

Such international scenarios bring back focus on the need to achieve energy security of nation by diversifying oil market, building strategic reserves and on the need to push

domestic production through appropriate policies. As a rising power, India also needs to maintain strategic autonomy in foreign affairs so as to achieve stable bilateral relation with countries.

Best answer: Arvind Senta

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76. 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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77. 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 ko Janiye" 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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Rahul

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78. Has the UN been relegated to a position of irrelevance in the last few years? Critically analyse.

Introduction:

The United Nations(UN) is an international intergovernmental organization, that was formed after the second world war. As a successor to the league of nations, its formation was driven largely to ensure world peace and prevent a future catastrophe of similar magnitude.

Body:

Lately, questions have been raised over the relevance of the UN due to

- Nuclear Peril- Ineffectiveness of UN's actions in response to North Korea's missiles and nuclear tests and non-compliance of UN's sanctions by countries like Zimbabwe, Libya and Yemen.
- Terrorism- UN has been powerless to enforce even the basic strictures against terrorists it sanctions like Hafiz Saeed and ZakiurRehmanLakhvi.
- Human rights- UN failed to contain Rohingya and Syrian refugee crisis.
- Changing world order- UN is still based upon post World war 2 geopolitics and ignores to account for the emerging global south and G\$ nations UNSC bid.
- Alternate institutions- Groups of nations are now dealing with pressing issues multilaterally making the relevance of UN questionable like G8, SAARC etc.
- New challenges- Cyber security, Global commons etc. have emerged that UN lacks the expertise to deal with.

Despite various failures, UN still holds relevance:

- Climate change- UNFCCC has been instrumental in dealing with issues related to climate change and forming a consensus.
- Human rights- UN peacekeeping operations, UNHRC have helped millions across the globe.
- Terrorism- Various sanctions have been enacted to curb terrorism.
- Global progress- The UN has also made huge contributions to global progress through its agencies, particularly those dealing with refugees, the World Health Organisation and Unicef. By its efforts smallpox has been eliminated, healthcare improved and education promoted.

Conclusion:

In order to strengthen the role of the United Nations, efforts should be made to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is essential to ensure to all Member States of the United Nations the right to equal participation in international affairs and the rights and interests of the developing countries should be safeguarded.

Best answer: Iron Man

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79. What role does World Bank play in the development of LDCs? How does it differ from the role being played by IMF? Discuss.

Background

- The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank both originated at an international conference convened in Bretton Woods, United States in 1944.

- The goal of the conference was to establish a framework for economic cooperation and development that would lead to a more stable and prosperous global economy.
- While this goal remains central to both institutions, their work is constantly evolving in response to new economic developments and challenges.

Body

Role of World Bank in development of LDCs:

- World Bank consists of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and The International Development Association (IDA).
- IDA helps the World's poorest countries. It aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (called "credits") and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.
- World Bank is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 75 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa, and is the single largest source of donor funds for basic social services in these countries.
- There are many examples of developmental work done or being done by WB in various sectors of LDCs, such as AIDS control programme, elimination of certain diseases, etc.
- In environment protection initiatives of World Bank, its partnership in Great Green Wall Initiative for Saharan Africa is remarkable.

Differences in roles played by World Bank and IMF

- The IMF promotes international monetary cooperation and provides policy advice and capacity development support to help LDC and other countries to build their economies.
- The IMF also makes loans and helps countries design policy programs to solve balance of payments problems when sufficient financing on affordable terms cannot be obtained to meet net international payments.
- The World Bank promotes long-term economic development and poverty reduction by providing technical and financial support to LDCs and other countries.
- It also help to reform certain sectors or implement specific projects—such as building schools and health centers, providing water and electricity, fighting disease, and protecting the environment.
- IMF loans are short and medium term and funded mainly by the pool of quota contributions that its members provide.
- World Bank assistance is generally long term and is funded both by member country contributions and through bond issuance.
- IMF members of staff are primarily economists with wide experience in macroeconomic and financial policies.
- World Bank members of staff are often specialists on particular issues, sectors, or techniques.

Similarities between WB and IMF

- The IMF and World Bank collaborate regularly and at many levels to assist member LDCs and work together on several initiatives, such as critical development issues and on the financial resources required to promote economic development in low-income countries.
- The IMF and World Bank have also worked together to reduce the external debt burdens of the most heavily indebted poor countries under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).
- They continue to help low-income countries achieve their development goals without creating future debt problems.
- IMF and the Bank have actively engaged in the global effort to support the Development Agenda or SDGs.
- Each institution has committed to new initiatives, within their respective remits, to support member countries, especially LDCs, in reaching their SDGs.

Conclusion:

From all the above observations it can be concluded that though both the institutions are equally collaborating in many developmental efforts, World Bank is working in wider aspects of developments as compared to IMF. The IMF's fundamental mission is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system. Whereas World Bank has wider socio-economic reach.

Best Answer:**Swapnil**

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80. Discuss the mandate and significant of UNESCO.**Introduction:**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris.

It currently has 186 Member States.

Body:**Mandate:**

The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

Significance of UNESCO:

- That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.

- That ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war.
- That the great and terrible war (World War 2) was a war made possible by the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, and by the propagation, in their place, through ignorance and prejudice, of the doctrine of the inequality of men and races.

In such scenario, Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. In this spirit,

- UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. UNESCO works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education.
- By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations.
- UNESCO fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation.
- UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.

Initiatives of UNESCO: World Heritage Sites, Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, Creative Cities Network, MAB program and World Network of Biosphere Reserves, Global Education Monitoring Report, World Press Freedom Day- May 3.

Conclusion:

UNESCO's founding vision was born in response to a world war that was marked by racist and anti-Semitic violence. Seventy years on and many liberation struggles later, UNESCO's mandate is as relevant as ever. Cultural diversity is under attack (Palestinian issue: US & Israel walk out of UNESCO) and new forms of intolerance (Protectionism, Racism), rejection of scientific facts and threats to freedom of expression challenge peace and human rights. In response, UNESCO's duty remains to reaffirm the humanist missions of education, science and culture.

Best answer: Swapnil

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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 declaration Brasilia	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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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

- 1) **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.

f)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.

2)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

- a) **Access to clean energy** : To develop market for renewable energy , technology packages for rural livelihoods in Assam , Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
- b) **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 in few years since its start has helped countries across world to build sustainable communities and achieve targets.

Best Answer

Sree Lakshmy Vijayan Uma

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