

## 1. How do lack of inter ministerial coordination and sluggish information sharing impede governance? Analyse.

### 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.

### Body

Governance is a collaborative effort that requires interconnectedness between the government and various institutions of civil society, as well as within the various departments of the government. Absence of the latter has plagued administration for a long time. The penchant of departments to work in silos, and the absence of a holistic outlook has led to failure in regularly sharing information between different arms of the government. This can cause the following problems:

1. Delay in decision making leading to a reactive rather than proactive government. (cross border attacks despite credible information warning so )
2. Duplication of effort (multiple department and govt schemes working on same lines, eg Ministry of Panchayati Raj and District Rural Development Agencies). These government initiatives are costly where the blame of problem is put on another department. Such attitude leads to loss of faith in governance and ineffective policy management for benefits of people.
3. Wastage of resources (multiple agencies, middle heavy bureaucracy) .
4. Failure to institutionalize expertise (Investigative agencies deal with different crimes and doesn't share info, opposition to National Counter Terrorism Centre etc)
5. Capacity building efforts are often duplicated and/or inconsistently applied across ministries. One state employee may receive two or three similar training while another employee receives none.
6. Delay in delivery: There is overlapping of procedures like clearances, approvals etc. which takes time and delays delivery of services. Confusion regarding jurisdiction is considered an important bottleneck in enforcement agencies.

Information sharing mechanisms, that ensure two way communication as a matter of routine rather than the norm are required. This will greatly help governance as

- it will ensure more transparency as information will be accessible from any point.
- it will bring more participative governance where every advice from various ministry would be looked after.

- sharing of information reduces delay in implementation of projects.
- it will reduce red tapism and corruption.
- it will lead to more effective implementation of government initiatives
- it will ensure a sense of team work and co-operation among ministries

Problems today are multidimensional in nature (Eg swach bharat has MoRD, MoWR and MoUD involved) that require collaboration to succeed.

### Conclusion

Poor coordination is a major obstacle to the effective administration of government services. The steps like:

Parivesh –for single clearance of projects related to the environment,  
PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)- a unique integrating and interactive platform. The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony), with a view to improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants

Etc are steps in the right direction.

## 2. Why haven't women been successful in forging a robust pressure group for the furtherance of women rights in India? Critically analyse.

### Introduction

Generally a pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. Women pressure groups defending the common interests of woman. They are a vital link between the government and the governed. They keep governments more responsive to the wishes of the women community.

### Body

#### Reasons for Women haven't successful in forging a robust pressure group for the furtherance of women rights in India.

Sadly, women in India have faced significant violations of their human rights for centuries. From rape and domestic violence to forced labor and denial of educational opportunities, the struggle for rights and empowerment is a daunting one for Indian women. In the world's second-largest country, hundreds of millions of women are still affected by some of these issues. Women's rights are vital to the success and growth of developing nations, making projects that empower Indian women vital to the well-being of the entire country.

- Women's Pressure Groups in India have proven to be one of the most difficult movements to organize, because they represent such a large and varied segment of society. While all women share an obvious bond through their gender, their interests vary depending on characteristics such as age, race, religion, and political affiliation.
- Political participation of women: while women comprised 49 percent of the voting population, there are only 11.6 percent women parliamentarians in the country.
- Cultural attitudes, the difficulties in raising sufficient campaign funds and inadequate support from political parties were some of the challenges to form women Pressure groups.
- In the Indian context promoting the interests of the marginalized, such as women can be seen a threat to an existing social order
- While Indian women and girls technically have constitutional rights equal to men in many regards — including citizenship and access to primary education — the reality is often radically different. Socially, women can be regarded as lesser humans, and face frightening levels of sexual assault and violence.

#### **Some of the Women Organisations committed to improving the lives of women in India.**

- **Commit2Change:** About 64 percent of young girls will drop out of school before the 8th grade in India. In order to combat these high drop-out rates and the lack of educational opportunities for Indian girls, Commit2Change seeks to provide education for orphaned girls and other at-risk young women in India. Commit2Change believes that education is one of the best avenues for young Indian girls to avoid cycles of poverty, provide better access to and information about nutrition, and greatly improve the entire country's GDP.
- **Sayfty:** Rape is an issue of massive proportions in India: an Indian woman is raped every 20 minutes, and approximately one in ten rapes are committed against women under the age of 18. Because laws against rape in India do not provide women with nearly enough protection, the organization Sayfty emerged to equip women with tools that help keep them safe from acts of sexual violence, and educate women in matters of self-defense. While the ideal is that women would be free from the threat of physical violence without having to live in fear, organizations like Sayfty help to empower Indian women by equipping them with knowledge and tools that will help to keep them safe.

#### **Conclusion**

The concept of women empowerment throughout the world has its roots in women movement. There was an increase in women empowerment movement worldwide in the 20th century. The status of women differs enormously from region to region. Women's status can be improved in terms of their rights, obligations and their participation in decision making, in education, employment and income.

### 3. Critically evaluate the role played by caste based pressure groups in Indian politics.

#### 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. With Caste system being main feature of Indian society, caste based PG's have evolved in India. Some examples of caste organisations are Scheduled Caste Federation, Backward Caste Federation, etc.

#### Body

##### Positive role played by caste based pressure groups in Indian politics

- Deepen Democracy - They provide vital link between the government and the governed.
- Political empowerment – Caste based assertions and political bargaining power has increased for many backward castes. Eg: OBC reservation.
- 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. Voice is given to the marginalised sections as they cannot be ignored in the first-past-the-post electoral system.
- Strengthen democracy as these PG's encourage people's political participation. 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.
- Fissure in society – reinforcing caste and community consciousness. Ex: Lingayats in Karnataka.
- Increased social unrest and social animosity. Ex: caste based violence bhima-koregaon.
- Law and order issue with their agitation turning violent. Ex: Jats for reservation, Karni Sena protest against Padmavat.
- Violent protests obstructing development through protests.

- Political class agreeing to demands under pressure. 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.

**4. The governance mantra in contemporary free market economy is that the government has no business to be in business. In a politico-economic milieu like this, how are labour rights protected? Are there proactive and powerful pressure groups for the furtherance of labour interests in India? Discuss.**

### Introduction

A free market economy is a type of economy that promotes the production and sale of goods and services, with little to no control or involvement from any central government agency. The economic system is primarily based on supply and demand. Order and power in a free market are decentralized, with individuals making all of their own voluntary economic choices.

### Body

- In a free market economy, firms and households act in their own self-interest to determine how resources get allocated, what goods get produced, and who buys the goods. A free market economy is functions in an opposite manner as a command economy works, where the central government gets to keep the profits and choose how to use them.
- The government's role in the economy is limited (e.g. to preventing monopolies, allowing fair and equal access to markets for all, protecting the nation and its markets through military means).
- As India's Prime Minister has said recently, Government's job is that of a facilitator to create new opportunities and in the government system, the fewer the laws the less suffocated businesses feel.

A free market protects the rights of workers by allowing the workers to decide what's best for themselves.

- The basis of a free market is voluntary interaction in which both parties engage in a consensual agreement. Because of this, in a free market, almost any exchange would be win-win.
- At the same time, an unregulated, free market would not protect the rights of workers. Free markets are subject to manipulation, mis-information, asymmetries of power & knowledge, and foster wealth inequality.

- Also in a free market, a competitive environment creates an atmosphere of survival of the fittest. This causes many businesses to disregard the safety of the general public to increase the bottom line.
- Regulation is aimed at balancing free market's virtues against its pitfalls as although some aspects of the market may be self-regulating, other things, such as environmental concerns, require government intervention.

In India, there are 44 labour laws under the purview of Central Government and more than 100 under State Governments, which deal with a host of labour issues. Unfortunately, these labour laws protect only 7-8 percent of the organised sector workers employed at the cost of 93 percent unorganised sector workers.

Following are some of the Central legislations passed under different articles of the Constitution-:

- Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- Industries (Regulation and Development) Act of 1951.
- Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- Factories Act of 1948.
- Contract labour Act 1970.
- Trade Unions Act 1926.

In addition, the multiplicity of statutes, there are concerns around the protection of the workforce and effective implementation of statutes.

As a part of its ease of doing business initiative, the government will be subsuming a total of 44 labour laws into four codes — on wages, social security, industrial safety and welfare and industrial relations. Further, the Union Cabinet has cleared the Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, earlier it approved the Code on Wages Bill.

- A pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. They are a vital link between the government and the governed.
- Trade unions/Labour Unions are a form of pressure groups who cater to the demand of workers and labours of the industries. Alternatively, they are also known as labour groups.
- Some of the most important functions of the trade union are as follows:
  - Increasing Co-operation and Well-being among Workers
  - Securing Facilities for Workers
  - Establishing Contacts between the Workers and the Employers
  - Trade Unions working for the Progress of the Employees
  - Safeguarding the Interests of the Workers
  - Provision of Labor Welfare.

- In India, different trade unions represent different political parties. Examples- The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), All India Trade Union Congress (Communist Party of India)
- Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and Hind Mazdoor Sangh are also labour unions which are proactive and push for labour interests in India. Recently, they played a key role in influencing the government towards not signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership(RCEP) to safeguard the interests of labourers in India.

### Conclusion

Pressure groups, different as they are from political parties, exist and function to influence the policies of the government to attain their specific/particular interests. Their role, in modern democracies like India is, indeed, significant towards the empowerment of proletariat section of population.

### 5. Political parties constituted on religious lines are antithetical to the principles of secularism. Do you agree? Critically comment.

#### Introduction

Gandhiji while commenting on religion and politics observe that combining religion in polity is inevitable. So, the political parties constituted on religious lines are not antithetical to secularism but in a way strengthen secularism. However, in contrast, Nehru saw mixing religion with politics tantamount to promoting communalism and goes against secularism.

#### Body

Political parties like Rashtriya Hindu Mahasabha, Akali Dal etc., are formed on religious lines which questions secularism in India which is also a basic feature of the constitution.

#### Antithetical to the principle of secularism:

As per the constitution, India is a secular state and specifically provides for the separation of politics from religion. Political parties fight elections to attain power democratically so as to form the government. Thus, they should be separated from religion as well.

As supreme court hearing a PIL noted that, when the political parties are formed in the name of religion, their allegiance will always be for that particular religion and hence can never be secular.

Even if we look historically, religious political parties in pre-independence India like All India Hindu Mahasabha and Muslim league were responsible for the destruction of secular fabric of the nation and increased communal clashes.

Further, Post-independence, the activities of religious political parties were responsible for communal events like Anti-Sikh riots, Babri masjid demolition etc., which shows that political parties based on religion is always a threat to secularism.

As the supreme court as well as the Election commission of India has banned seeking votes based on religion which is seen as anti-secular. The political parties formed in the name of religion is in a way the same practice also anti-secular.

When political parties want to change the structure, system of government, judiciary and laws of a state in accordance with the principles and beliefs of a particular religion among many religions, people of other faiths in such a state perceive discrimination on the basis of religion. This is antithetical to secularism. It happened in Israel.

**Not antithetical to secularism:**

Indian concept of secularism has a positive connotation wherein every individual is provided with the freedom to profess, practice and propagate their own religion as a fundamental right which also includes forming a political party and dissemination of ideas through the same.

Indian constitution confers a fundamental right to form religious associations under Article 27. If that is not antithetical to secularism, then the formation of political institutions on religion is not antithetical to secularism as well.

Instead of being antithetical, political parties based on religion will fight for their rights and in turn will pressurize the government to be partial to all religions. Thus, they in turn will be strengthening secularism acting as pressure groups.

Most secular countries have religion based political parties, and, many of them are in power, or in ruling coalition. E.g. Ruling party in UK having alliance with a Christian party. Although many political parties in Europe have prefixed the word "Christian," like Germany's Christian Democratic Union etc., there appears to be no intention to change the basic structure of the state's existing system and laws on Biblical doctrines.

**Conclusion**

Religion per-se is not the threat to secularism. One can form a party on religious lines, but it should not profess ideas that could harm the integrity, sovereignty, peace of country. Religion should be viewed as an ideology rather than as a group of people with similar interest. Every religion has the concept of secularism embedded in them and the parties misusing the same is the issue which is to be rectified.