Think Learn Perform (TLP)+ Full Mock GS 2 synopsis | 2021
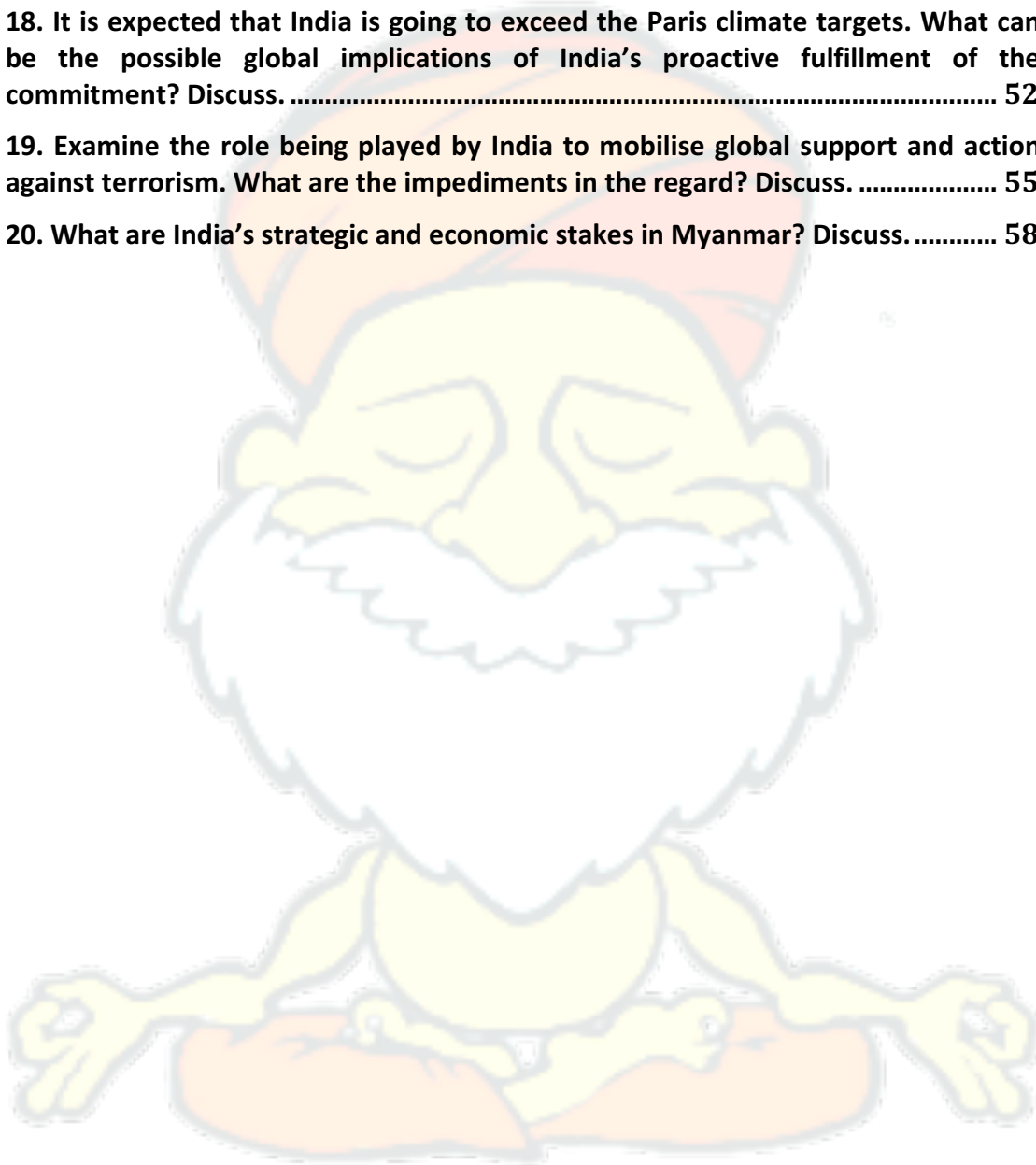
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1. The doctrine of separation of powers is the bedrock of constitutionalism in India. Do you agree? Substantiate with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

In the introduction part candidate can start by introducing a quote regarding constitutionalism in India. In the first half of main body part explain the importance of separation of powers. In the next half part, form 3 sets as Legislature and Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, Executive and Judiciary and tell how different organs of government exercise checks and balances on each other. Candidate can conclude by explaining how separation of power has cherished the constitutionalism in India.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Checks and balance - Organs of Government - Judicial activism - Judicial overreach - Absolutism - Constitutionalism	- Arbitrary excesses - Limitation on powers - Abuse of power - Concentration of power - Independence of judiciary - Constitutional demarcation of power

Introduction

"The essence of constitutionalism in a democracy is not merely to shape and condition the nature of majorities, but also to stipulate that certain things are impermissible, no matter how large and fervent a majority may want them." This quote of George F Will supplements that the doctrine of separation of powers is fundamental for constitutionalism in India.

Body

Separation of powers is the division of the legislative, executive, and judicial functions of government.

- It minimises the possibility of arbitrary excesses by the government, since the sanction of all three branches is required for the making, executing, and administering of laws.
- Whereas Constitutionalism recognizes the need for government with powers but at the same time insists that limitation be placed on those powers.

Hence, separation of powers becomes an effective tool for ensuring Constitutionalism in India. In Indian constitution, the separation of powers is supported through Article 50, Articles 121 and 211 and Article 361.

- Whenever there is a concentration of power in one centre/authority, there is bound to be greater chances of maladministration, corruption, nepotism and abuse of power.
- This principle ensures that autocracy does not creep into a democratic system.
- It keeps away the autocracy besides safeguards individual liberty.
- It helps to maintain the independence of judiciary and helps to create an efficient administration.
- It also prevents the legislature from enacting arbitrary or unconstitutional laws.
- It's not just the case about the constitutional demarcation of power. However, the Supreme Court through its judgment in Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973) also upheld the doctrine of separation of power.

Separation of power forms the bedrock of constitutionalism in India as it forms the efficient system of checks and balances, which ensures a check on the arbitrary use of powers.

Legislature and Executive:

- Constitution of India states that the executive branch of the State (Council of Ministers) shall be collectively responsible to the Legislature (Lok Sabha) i.e. Parliament should supervise the work of the government and hold it accountable for its actions.
- India has a parliamentary form of government where the executive is not separated from the legislature but the members of the council of ministers are members of the legislature.
- We have Member of legislative assemblies in states whereas Members of Parliament at the Centre. These representatives make the laws in their respective spheres.
- The parliament makes laws in general broad terms and delegates the powers to the executive to formulate detailed policy and implement them.

Legislature and Judiciary:

- The judiciary can strike down laws that it considers unconstitutional or arbitrary.

- The legislature, on its part, has protested against judicial activism and tried to frame laws to circumvent certain judgments.
- However, there have been instances where the courts have issued laws and policies through judgments. For example, the Visaka Guidelines where the SC issued guidelines on sexual harassment.

Judiciary and Executive:

- The appointments of the judges are made by the executive.
- The President and the Governors also enjoy the power to pardon, reprieve, etc. These are direct judicial functions.
- Under the system of administrative adjudication, the executive agencies have the power to hear and decide cases involving particular fields of administrative activity.

Conclusion

For a democratic polity and diverse society like India, the strict separation of powers that was envisaged in the classical sense is not practicable. However, the logic behind this doctrine is still valid which forms the bedrock of constitutionalism in India by exercising a system of checks and balances between three organs of government thereby strengthening the constitutionalism in India.

2. Commitment to federalism is a defining feature of the Indian constitution?

Approach

As the tone of question is affirmative is nature, it is necessary to supplement the arguments with relevant data. In the introduction briefly explain what federalism is. In the main body part it is necessary to connect the dots between historical relevance till current development. To do so, divide the main body part in to three constituent units as historical background, constitutional provisions and recent happening. In the next part explain what the challenges to the commitment are. In the next part in brief explain what is necessary to tackle these challenges. Depending on the nature of the question related to federalism, quoting scholars like Granville Austin, K C Wheare will enrich the answer.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Unitary features of India constitution - Doctrine of Pith and Substance - Doctrine of Colourable Legislation - Fiscal federalism - Sarkaria Commission Recommendation - Punchhi Commission Recommendation	- System of government - Elements of federalism - Federation of States - Bicameralism, dual polity, written constitution, division of powers, supremacy of the constitution, rigidity of the constitution, independent judiciary - Basic structure of the Constitution - Cooperative federalism

Introduction

Federalism is a system of government in which powers have been split between the centre and its constituent parts such as provinces or states. In Federalism sovereignty is constitutionally split between at least two territorial levels so that units at each level have final authority and can act independently of the others in some area. The constituent units possess certain level of autonomy depending on type of federation.

Body

Commitment to federalism as a defining feature of the Indian constitution:

1) Historical commitment:

- During Indian freedom movement, the unity between different provinces and states and their support to the movement represent the basic character of Indian federalism.
- Elements of federalism were introduced into modern India by the Government of India Act of 1919 which separated powers between the centre and the provincial legislatures. For the first time, it introduced bicameralism consisting of an Upper House and Lower House.
- Although the Government of India Act 1935 provided for a powerful Centre, it also provided to establish India as a Federation of States.

2) Constitutional Commitment:

- Although the term 'federation' has no where been mentioned in the Constitution, Indian constitution envisages different provision related to federalism.
- Indian federal features comprise dual polity, written constitution, division of powers, supremacy of the constitution, rigidity of the constitution, independent judiciary ,and bicameralism.
- The core of India's federal structure stems from the Seventh Schedule of Indian constitution, which has three lists-Union, state and concurrent.
- The 73rd and 74th amendments which were essentially meant to deepen federalism in India, added three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions- Gram Sabha (village level), Mandal Parishad (block level), Zila Parishad (district level).

3) Continued commitment to federalism:

- In S R Bommai vs Union of India (1994), a nine-judge Bench of Supreme Court held federalism a part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- NITI Aayog has been constituted to actualize the important goal of cooperative federalism and to enable good governance in India to build a strong nation state.
- Implementation of Goods and services tax, constitution and composition of GST council, reiterates India's commitment to federalism.
- Granville Austin in his seminal work 'The Indian Constitution' described Indian federalism as a 'Cooperative federalism' which shows flexible relationship between the federal and state governments exists in which both work together on a variety of issues and programs.

However, several states have complained about the growing crisis of Indian federalism. They argued about the delayed compensation related to GST promulgation of ordinances and the Bills brought by the Centre which encroaches on their area of legislation, which is an assault on the federal structure of the Constitution.

- For instance, in the context of Covid-19 pandemic, refusal of the Central government of its legal commitment to compensate for Goods and Services Tax (GST) shortfall on account of lower revenue.
- Also, recent Farm Acts which allow farmers to sell their produce outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and aim to promote inter-state trade encroach upon the State list. Thereby it is posing challenge to commitment to federalism in India.

- The amendment in banking regulations by bringing cooperative banks under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) supervision challenges commitment to federalism as Cooperative societies come under the State list i.e. list 2 of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- Also the use of central agencies like CBI, ED for the political tussle highlights the friction between the centre and state. It poses a challenge to federalism in India.

It is important to have a clear division of labour, functions, responsibilities and regulatory role of various levels of governments. A relook at the recommendation of Sarkaria commission and Punchhi commission is necessary. However, the rise of criticism to such moves is itself an indication and proof of deep penetration of principles of federalism in India.

Conclusion

A "strong centre" in essential times doesn't mean India is not federal. In this sense, Granville Austin's description of India federalism as 'cooperative federalism' suits the best, as it reiterates the commitment to federalism. A functional, periodic review and subsequent reform of the process of federalization needed to address the current issues; as it will strengthen the principles of federalism thereby ensuring a commitment to federalism as a defining feature of Indian constitution.

3. What is the panchayat devolution index? Discuss? What are its parameters? How do different states perform on this index? Examine.

Approach

As the question is more of straightforward in nature, it is expected to follow the directive and structure the answer accordingly. In the introduction explain the context behind preparation of Panchayat devolution index. In the first half of main body part, explain about who prepares the index and on what parameters the index is prepared. In the next half discuss various points regarding the states performance. Citing a best practice across India will enrich the answer.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Panchayati Raj institutions 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment acts. - Devolution of powers to local bodies - Fourteenth and Fifteenth finance commission recommendations - Self government, Swaraj	- Empowering local governments - Devolution of powers 3Fs i.e. Functions, Functionaries and Funds - Infrastructure, Governance and Transparency - Elected women representatives - Grants under the 14th Finance Commission - Number of elected representatives - Bharat and India

Introduction

Empowering local governments both in the Urban & Rural areas has been on the agenda for most governments. The 73rd & 74th amendments to the constitution have laid down the specific list of functions that can be transferred to the local governments. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj conducts an annual study, the Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI) to rank the states based on the status of devolution.

Body

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj of Government of India has been conducting the annual study on The Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI) since 2006. The study is undertaken to assess where each State stands in the matter of devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRIs) or the rural local bodies. The annual study looks at where the states stand in devolution of powers to the PRIs in terms of the 3Fs i.e. Functions, Functionaries and Funds.

Functions	Functionaries	Funds
Effective transfer of functions as envisioned in the 73rd amendment	Adequate number of functionaries to discharge the functions under the control of elected leadership	Commensurate funds to discharge their functional responsibilities

However, the cumulative index using the normal method seeks to provide indicative ranking of States on four different aspects of functioning of PRIs. The study attempts to measure and rank States according to their achievements in three core aspects of devolution with 3 F's and fourth aspect is the comparative achievement of States in establishing systems of Infrastructure, Governance and Transparency (IGT).

Performance of different states on this index: Recent findings regarding devolution index have been published by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in a document of basic statistics on PRIs, 2019.

- Kerala topped the country in ranking based on Improved Index of Policy, Index of Devolution in Practice and Improved Policy Index adjusted against Practice. It was followed by Maharashtra in second place in all three indices.
- Rajasthan had the highest proportion of elected women representatives (56.49 per cent), followed by Uttarakhand (55.66 per cent), Chhattisgarh (54.78 per cent) and Kerala (52.42 per cent). Only nine States had at least 50 per cent elected women representatives.
- Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of elected representatives at 8,26,458, accounting for 26.65 per cent of all elected representatives of PRIs in the country. It was followed by Madhya Pradesh with 3, 92, 981 (12.67 per cent), and Maharashtra with 2,40, 122 (7.74 per cent).
- Uttar Pradesh also accounted for the highest share of the total grants under the 14th Finance Commission (2015-16 to 2019-20). Over the five-year period it received 17.86 per cent of the total all-India grants. It is followed by Bihar, which got 10.49 per cent and, Maharashtra, which was granted 7.51 per cent of total all India grants.
- Besides, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, these five States accounted for more than 50 per cent of the total all-India grants.
- The statistics also showed that in the past four years, the gap between the amount allocated as Finance Commission grants and the amount actually released has been growing. For instance, in 2015-16 the release percentage was 99.47; however, in 2018-19 it plummeted to 74.09%.

Fifteenth finance commission has stated that the States are squarely obligated to devolve functions, funds and functionaries   the well-known 3F's - to the Panchayats. However, devolution of these 3F's to the local level have experienced a little setback, thereby widening inequity and gap between ' Bharat and India'. Despite these setbacks we have exemplary stories of people/community participation, which have helped to realise the true meaning of devolution of powers at the local level.

- For instance, Chhavi Rajawat, not affiliated with any political party, she was elected the sarpanch of Soda village in Rajasthan in 2010. After becoming the Sarpanch of the village, she has implemented many projects successfully i.e. rainwater harvesting, toilets facilities in most of the houses, etc.
- Popatrao Pawar (Sarpanch), adopted a five pronged approach at Hiware Bazar, situated in the Maharashtra to change the political-socio-economic landscape in the villgae. It resulted in making the Hiware Bazar, "Aadarsh Gram" i.e. Model Village.

Conclusion

The widening inequity and gap between 'Bharat and India' is of serious concern. A holistic change is necessary to change the socio-economic landscape at the local level. In this light, Gandhiji's concept of 'Swaraj' can prove to be a beacon of light to empower rural local bodies in terms of devolution of funds, functions and functionaries, decentralization of powers, and allow people to have a greater say in local area development.

4. Public interest litigation (PIL) has evolved as a critical judicial instrument. Do you agree? What are your views on the increasing recourse to PILs?

Approach

It is a kind of question which tests the knowledge and analysis skill of candidate. In the introduction part simply explain what Public Interest Litigation is. In the first half of main body part explain the evolution of PIL by stating some important case results. In the next half of answer expresses views on the increasing recourse to PIL in both perspectives, i.e. from positive as well as negative perspective. A brief about negative impact is necessary. Candidate can conclude by citing significance and corrective measures in brief.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Judicial activism - Judicial overreach - Fundamental rights - Private interest vs. Public interest - Social Justice - Legal rights, Constitutional rights - Access to justice	- Practice of law, Process of justice delivery - Judicial overreach, Judicial activism - Right to speedy justice - Redressal against violation of legal or constitutional rights - Enforcement of public duties

Introduction

The PIL tradition is an Indian contribution to the practice of law and the process of justice delivery. Public interest Litigation (PIL) means litigation filed in a court of law, for the protection of "Public Interest", such as Pollution, Terrorism, Road safety, Constructional hazards etc. Any matter where the interest of public at large is affected can be redressed by filing a Public Interest Litigation in a court of law.

Body

Public interest litigation (PIL) has evolved as a critical judicial instrument:

- Public interest litigation is the power given to the public by courts through judicial activism. However, the person filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition is being filed for a public interest and not just as a frivolous litigation by a busy body.
- The first reported case of PIL was Hussainara Khatoon vs. State of Bihar (1979) that focused on the inhuman conditions of prisons and under trial prisoners that led to the release of more than 40,000 under trial prisoners.
- As a result of this case Right to speedy justice emerged as a basic fundamental right which had been denied to these prisoners.
- A new era of the PIL movement was heralded by Justice P.N. Bhagawati in the case of S.P. Gupta vs. Union of India. In this case it was held that "any member of the public or social action group acting bonafide" can invoke the Writ Jurisdiction of the High Courts (under article 226) or the Supreme Court (under Article 32) seeking redressal against violation of legal or constitutional rights of persons who due to social or economic or any other disability cannot approach the Court.
- By this judgment PIL became a potent weapon for the enforcement of "public duties" where executive action or misdeed resulted in public injury.
- For instance, The Supreme Court in Indian Banks' Association, Bombay & Ors. vs. M/s Devkala Consultancy Service and Ors held that a private interest case can also be treated as public interest case.

- In Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan the judgment of the case recognized sexual harassment as a violation of the fundamental constitutional rights of Article 14, Article 15 and Article 21. The guidelines also directed for the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

- The idealism and simplicity of the highest court in the country responding to even a petition filed on a postcard is worthy of appreciation. Hence, legal scholar Upendra Baxi has rightly said that Public interest litigations are actually the 'social action litigations'.

Justice Bhagwati has been called the 'father of public interest litigation' in India. PIL's has been admired by other democracies and other legal systems as well. Hence, It is evident that Public interest litigation (PIL) has evolved as a critical judicial instrument. However, there are occasions when PIL professionals may misuse such provisions for their own vested ends or to obstruct legitimate decision making.

Views on increasing recourse to PIL:

1) Recourse to Justice:
- PIL was introduced in Indian jurisprudence to help raise the cause of social justice. The aim of PIL is to give to the common people access to the courts to obtain legal redress.

- Hence, PIL is becoming an important instrument of social change and for maintaining the Rule of law and accelerating the balance between law and justice.

- It made make justice accessible to the poor and the marginalised. For instance, In M.C Mehta vs. Union of India a Public Interest Litigation brought against Ganga water pollution so as to prevent any further pollution of Ganga water. Supreme Court held that petitioner although not a riparian owner is entitled to move the court for the enforcement of statutory provisions, as he is the person interested in protecting the lives of the people who make use of Ganga water.

2) Public Interest Litigations:
- Unfortunately, it has instead become a tool for people to use these as either to gain publicity or for political agenda. Hence, they are more of becoming'publicity interest litigations'.

- PILs these days are being used as a means to further bigotry and communal hate in the name of public interest. Filling of flippant cases has resulted in the

erosion of the sanctity of the PIL system, which has been responsible for some of the most progressive verdicts delivered by various courts.

- In the absence of any robust mechanism to filter genuine pleas from frivolous pleas known as "publicity interest" or "political interest" litigations, irrational petitions have soared in great numbers. The courts place the onus of curbing the menace on litigants' moral conscience.

Frivolous filing of PILs has not only resulted in added burden on judiciary but has significantly led to trust erosion in the entire exercise, even if a frivolous plea is eventually dismissed, the judges have to spend a lot of time in going through the prayer and, on most occasions, hearing the petitioner.

Conclusion

Public Interest Litigation has produced astonishing results which were unthinkable three decades ago. The PIL develops a new jurisprudence of the accountability of the state for constitutional and legal violations adversely affecting the interests of the weaker sections of. However, the Judiciary should be cautious enough in the application of PILs to avoid Judicial Overreach that violate the principle of Separation of Power. Besides, the frivolous PILs with vested interests must be discouraged to keep its workload manageable.

5. Are parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy antithetical to each other? Critically analyse in the light of constitutional provisions.

Approach

As the directive here is critically analyse, it is necessary to give both positives and negatives and provide a fair judgment related to the issue. In the introduction explain the terms parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy. In the first half of main body part explain how they are antithetical to each other whereas in the next half explain how they are complimentary to each other. Candidate can conclude by showing importance of parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy in realising true meaning of democracy.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Judicial Activism - Judicial Overreach - Basic structure doctrine - Collegiums system - NJAC	- Supremacy of the legislative body - Judicial oversteps - Up hold the constitutional values - Directing the guidelines or rules - New socio-economic trends

• Role of legislature and executive	• Personification of democracy

Introduction

Parliamentary sovereignty corresponds to supremacy of the legislative body i.e. parliament over all other government institutions including executive and judicial bodies. Whereas judicial supremacy corresponds to judicial oversteps where the judiciary oversteps the powers given to it, it may interfere with the proper functioning of the legislative or executive organs of government.

Body

Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy antithetical to each other:

- Judicial activism and judicial overreach are the examples where judiciary oversteps its constitutional mandate. For instance, the Vishakha Guidelines where the SC issued guidelines on sexual harassment.
- Meanwhile appointment of judges is done by Parliament. However, consistent delay in suggesting the names of judges through collegiums made inordinate delays in appointment of judges.
- The same stance is observed by honourable Supreme Court by stating that "The Centre has not been delaying the appointment of judges in higher judiciary and delay, if any, was at the collegiums end."
- A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his office by an order of the President. The President can issue the removal order only after an address by Parliament has been presented to him in the same session for such removal.
- There have been conflicts between parliamentary supremacy and judicial supremacy. The best example is of National Judicial Appointment Commission when Supreme Court pronounced its verdict on the 99th Constitution Amendment Act and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), declaring them to be ultra vires the Constitution.

Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy complimentary to each other

- Parliament is the body that personifies democracy in India. It is the ultimate body that it responsible for framing laws by which our country functions and grows.
- Whereas judiciary being responsible to up hold the constitutional values reviews the compatibility of laws to uphold the democratic system in India. Hence, when parliament makes the laws, judiciary reviews them. For instance, the Bank Nationalisation case (1970)
- Besides, Parliament and judiciary both play a coordinating role. For instance, if it is not possible for the parliament to be in a position to make laws then sometimes judiciary fills the vacuum by directing the guidelines or rules. Though it seems a judicial overreach, it becomes an essential tool in the extraordinary situation. For instance, Supreme courts directions regarding conduct of different exam during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The new socio-economic trends are to be kept in mind before making the legal provisions and their interpretation both in strict and liberal sense. However, if sometimes parliament is not able to understand this trend and ends up encroaching upon the individual rights. Then at that time judiciary corrects this flaw.

Conclusion

It is clear that though Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy are antithetical to each other, they are even sometimes complimentary to each other. In the end what matters is that the 'basic structure' of our constitution remains intact and it doesn't becomes a prerogative of one organ of the government to act in unilateral way.

6. Recently, many cases have come in focus wherein the courts have taken cognizance of contempt by common citizens and eminent personalities. What are your views on this trend? Shouldn't judicial forums be indifferent to criticism in the age of social media? Critically comment.

Approach

The question has an assertion, and two interrogations. The assertion is about the recent cases related to contempt of court of Prashant Bhushan and others. The first interrogation asks to provide our opinion regarding such moves taken by the courts in India. The second sub question demands to analyze whether judiciary in India should take stock of those things are not. As the question asks to examine critically, we need to provide both sides of the answer.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Independence of judiciary. - Judicial standards and accountability Bill. - Judicial overreach. - Judicial impact assessment. - Privy Council of UK.	- Judicial activism. - P N Dua v/s Shivashankar case. - Deterrence. - Precedent. - Social Media regulation. - Objective criticism.

Introduction

In the recent past, the tweets of Mr. Prashant Bhushan, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, and Mr. Kunal Kumra a famous comedian shook the nation's legal world. The Supreme Court took those jibes, which were directed towards judges of Supreme Court, as the acts of censuring the court. Hence, the charges of contempt of court were slapped on both of them.

Further, the Madras High Court took stock of an interview of a film star Mr. Surya wherein he was seen criticizing the High Court for allowing the conduction of NEET exam amidst the pandemic.

Body

Such incidents bring to the light, old convention of judicial independence and integrity, which states that the judiciary shall not be influenced by the public opinion in any case;

The current move of the judiciary can be debated from various perspectives;

Need for deterrence: It is an essentiality that the society **provides due respect and reverence towards the judicial institutions and the verdicts given by them**. Else, the verdicts and the opinions of the courts of law will not carry any social weight age. And to protect its respect and decor, it was right on the part of the Supreme Court to punish such criticisms with contempt of court.

This not only sets a precedent for other critiques, but also creates an amount for deterrence among the common people, so that they think twice before taking the courts of law for granted.

Critics had a better way to express their differences: Further, as per the opinion of the Supreme Court, the eminent persons could have **approached the court with**

PILs, review petitions, curative petitions, etc. And, media and the social media is not the formidable channel to air grievances, especially a grievance related to judiciary. In this regard Supreme Court has set a caution among the citizenry, and the verdict of these contempt cases is an awakening to the nation that the judges are not the politicians whose life and position depends on the pleasure and mercy of the people.

Error of fact on the part of judiciary: However, in the case of *PN Dua v Shiv Shankar and others,* the Supreme Court held that mere criticism of the Court does not amount to contempt of Court. Thus, the recent contempt of cases charged those flimsy issues indicates the double speak on the part of judiciary. Also, the verdicts like levying a fine of one rupee can be counterproductive; i.e. instead of preserving the respect and the decorum, the judiciary may become the laughing stock among the citizenry.

Judiciary has got more important jobs to do: Lastly, it is to be note that **nearly 5 crores of cases are pending in India in various courts, and approximately 2 lakh cases are pending in the Highest Court alone.** In such a state of affairs it is not ethical on the part of judiciary to waste its time in dealing with the flimsy cases, while victims of most heinous crimes are looking up for justice since decades.

Judicial forums should be indifferent to the criticisms in the social media;

To begin with it is not just the question of idealism, but also that of pragmatism. In other words, it is **virtually impractical** for the judiciary to scrutinize every comment in the social media and decide on legality of them. And judiciary taking stock of the comments of selected few is **against equality**, and taking stock of every comment would be insane.

Further, to put in the words of **Abraham Lincoln, "we can't please all the people all the time"**. Hence, Supreme Court should learn that there will always be boutiques as well as brickbats for every move and every verdict given. However, they were not coming to the limelight earlier, but now the social media has given a formadible channel to express everyone's opinion. The sooner the Supreme Court learns it, the more the respect it earns from the citizenry.

Added to it, whenever the **right to freedom of expression provided by media and social media was in jeopardy, Judiciary has risen to occasion to protect it in India**. Be, it the cases of movie sensor ship, protests against the novels, gag orders, etc. Now, when the Supreme Court itself is standing to curb the freedom; it is akin to protector being the predator and perpetrator.

Hence, it is better that Judiciary be always the preserver, protector and upholder of freedom of speech. And it should stay aloof of comments done in the social media platforms. As said by David Jordan, **it is the silence which is the best defense**, thus when Judiciary is choosing to defend itself via contempt of court, obviously it is not choosing the best choice.

Turning a blind eye towards all criticisms of judiciary can be harmful;

Firstly, there is no legal flaw in the Supreme Court's decision to charge the critics with the contempt of court. In **Brahma Prakash Sharma v State of Uttar Pradesh**, the Supreme Court had held that in order to constitute the offence of Contempt of Court, it was not necessary to specifically prove it.

Secondly, when more than two third of the Indian citizens in India are legally illiterate. It was good on the part of Supreme Court to set a precedent. This will not only be a lesson for the other social media users, but also a check against the future criticisms.

Thirdly, as said by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar "Even the judge of the Supreme Court is a human with all frailties". Hence, it is impossible for a judge who is also a common human being to carry out his duties impartially if he comes across criticisms every day in and day out. Moreover, in the current age of social media activism, ignorance or silence is treated as an act of defeat and the acceptance of it.

Conclusion

Lastly, the citizens, including those eminent personalities, should have some restraint from throwing jibes and slinging dirt on judiciary. It has to be learnt that every move of judiciary has a legal basis. Moreover they are people of immense knowledge and experience; and given the position and circumstances, they have acted better than we common people would have done in that place.
Hence, having belief over the system and providing due respect to it, will go a long way in improving the jurisprudence in India. And for this every man, including the judges of Supreme Court are the stake holders.

7. Have pressure groups been successful in India? Critically examine. What are the main shortcomings of pressure groups? Discuss.

Approach

There are two parts in the question; the first part asks to analyze the successes and failures of pressure groups in India. As the question asks to examine critically, we need to provide both sides of the answer. And second part of the question demands to explain the limitations of the same.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• Trade Unions. • Think tanks. • Crony capitalism. • Academia. • Policy capture. • Media activism.	• Lobbying. • Protests and petitions. • Voice and Advocacy. • Discussion and debates. • Temple entry. • Upheaval.

Introduction

The ongoing strike by farmers under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha is one of the best examples of pressure groups. Here, around 400 farmer associations came together under one cause, i.e. against the three Agricultural Acts enacted by the government of India.

Hence, pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. It is called so, as it attempts to bring a change in public policy by exerting pressure on the government. It acts as a liaison between the government and its members.

Body

Pressure Groups are successful in India to a large extent;

Hindrance to work: The famous case of Chipko Movement is the first and the best example for the success of pressure groups in India. Here the people of Uttarkhand under the leadership of Sunderlal Bahuguna hugged the trees and prevented them from being cut down. By this they were successful in convincing the government to stop felling the trees in the region.

Protests: This is one of the crucial techniques wielded by the pressure groups to appeal the government about their agendas and grievances. This technique has worked many a time.

Pressure groups like Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sanghatan were successful in protest against the Rajasthan Government. The protest became so popular that the event ensued with the birth of RTI (Right to Information) in India.

Petitions and legal course: Pressure groups approach the courts of law with the Public Interest Litigations, and many groups provide the financial and legal support to plead those cases, so that their agendas get fulfilled by the judicial route.

Ex: Mumbai Kamgar Sabha pleaded in the Supreme Court for the fair wages and bonuses for the workers of Mumbai Municipal Corporation. And in the famous case of Mumbai Kamagar Sabha v/s Abdullabhai and others it ensured justice to all the workers of the Corporation.

Lobbying: It is a peaceful approach where the key decision makers are pressurized via discussion and deliberation to get their work done.

Ex: In the recent Supreme Court Judgment where the Telecom Companies were forced to pay the Aggregate Gross Revenue of 2.5 lakh crores. The ASSOCHAM pressurized the government to intervene, and the amount was lowered by the government.

However there are failures on their part as well;

Narmada Bachao Andolan protested meticulously to stop the construction of dam across the Narmada River. But they were neither successful in stopping the construction nor could fetch proper compensation for the displaced families.

Some caste based pressure groups like **Jats, Patidars, Kapus** are agitating for inclusion of their castes in the OBC category. However, not much success has been achieved by any of them.

Several feminist pressure groups have tried all the means to enable women to enter **Shani Shinganapur and Shabarimala Temple**. Their efforts varied from lobbying with the government, to petition in the court and to protests and hartals. However, they could not convince the temple organizations to change their traditions and mindset.

Several trade unions like the All India Trade Union Congress and Indian National Trade Union Congress are protesting against the **dilution of labor laws in the recent labor codes.** But government is not heeding to such groups.

Hence, it is not that everything the pressure groups try will be a success. And naturally both successes and failures are the part and parcel of them.

Pressure groups face some of the shortcomings like;

Lack of finances: It requires huge funds and finances to mobilize people, plead cases in the courts, to hold prolonged strikes, etc. However, pressure groups survive from the funds and donations contributed from their members, which is not sufficient to sustain their works for a longer period. And unlike political parties and NGOs, they do not have corporate funding. Hence, most of the movements undertaken by these groups are mostly meteorical and die out soon.
Ex: Many pressure groups like the Harijan Sangh, Presidency Associations, Mahajan Sabhas formed during the times of independence have no significance now.

Backlashes from the government: Government is mostly skeptical of these groups. Instead of treating them as a liaison between the government and a section of people; successive governments have looked them as the radical groups formed by the opposition to tarnish the government's image. This tendency is a direct inheritance of British legacy, as we know the INC was banned several times during the freedom struggle.
Ex: The arrests of the activists for alleged involvement in Bhima Koregaon case, and government's mindset over Naxal groups.

Lack of publicity to their agendas: Many agendas and movements of the pressure groups die down because of lack of publicity and public voice to the movement.
Ex: **Voices of Association of victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Victims of Endosulfan in Kerala**, etc is going unheard even today.

Improper strategies: Lack of plans and strategies for pursuing the movements is also one of the causes for the failures of the pressure groups. More often than not, lack of legal awareness will result in them treading the illegal path in order to further their agendas, thus getting blacklisted permanently.
Ex: Major religious and radical terror groups, insurgent groups in the northeast, etc.

Lack of unity: Lastly, difference of opinions, personality conflicts, ego clashes, etc, result in breaking of the pressure groups into smaller outfits which are unable to mobilize the financial and material resources to further their agendas.
Ex: NSCN and its outfits.

Conclusion

Be the failure and limitations as they may, however the pressure groups are the sounding boards, enhancers and amplifiers of public voices. They should be provided with a proper legal, economic, and social opportunities to grow and work peacefully

for the public cause. Further, the government should avoid unnecessary suspicion and imposing legal actions on these groups. Hence, it is high time that India comes up with proper guidelines for the finance and working of pressure groups. In this light the legalizing of lobbying in the USA can be taken as a cue.

8. The constitutional bodies mandated with the role of protecting minorities and backward communities lack the powers and teeth to be effective. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Approach

The question has an assertion, which simply states that the National Commission of Minorities, SCs and STs are toothless tigers. And we have to provide our agreement or disagreement regarding it. Here we are free to take any stand. But it's safe to provide a balanced answer.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Grievance redressal. - Responsive governance. - Human rights. - Equitable development. - Atrocities Act. - Last man first,	- National Commission of SC and STs - National Commission for Minorities. - Compensation, Investigation. - Prosecution.

Introduction

Constitution of India provides for the National Committee for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and National Committee for Other Backward classes to preserve and protect the rights of the backward communities in India.

However, taking stock of the fundamental rights provided by the constitution to preserve and protect the minorities; the government of India has established a National Commission of Minorities under The National Commission of Minorities Act 1992.

Body

As we know these constitutional and legal bodies are vested with wide powers to deal with various issues exigencies and emergencies within their jurisdiction.

- To **investigate and monitor all matters** relating to the safeguards provided for the SC/STs, OBCs and minorities under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government; and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- To **inquire into specific complaints** with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Backward Communities.
- To **participate and advise on the planning process** of socio-economic development of all the backward sections and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;
- To present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, **reports upon the working** of those safeguards.
- To make in such reports recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and **other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development** of the backward communities.
- To discharge such **other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development** and advancement of the respective communities as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

However following are the limitations of these bodies which are making them the toothless entities;

- The Committee to appoint NCSC and ST requires the participation of Leader of Opposition; however, **government's reluctance in recognizing the leader of opposition** has stalled all the appointments in the commissions.
- The Commissions **cannot issue binding directions** or injunction orders and its reports, unlike the decrees of civil courts, could not be enforced and executed.
- As the commission is **not an adjudicatory** it has no jurisdiction over service matters of defense institutions like the Army and Central Police forces.
- Commission's lack **financial autonomy** to carry out independent surveys and studies regarding the backward communities, and the commission appointed by the government to study the same will only be a patting on one's own back.
- The Commission **do not have independent investigation wing**, hence they have to dependent on the government of the day to get to know the veracity of the crime, before recommending the court to take up the cases.
- Though the reports on the status of backward communities are presented by these commissions to the president; they are **hardly debated in the**

parliament. Further, the action taken report provided by the government just says that they are 'under consideration'.

- National Commission of Minorities' voice went unheard during the din and chaos of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Yet, there are many success stories about these commissions;

- Almost in **90% of the cases, the compensations** recommended by these commissions are provided without fail.
- In case of NCSTs - its recommendation to **carry over the previous unfilled reserved seats** to the successive years was agreed to by the government, which is a great success.
- In the wake of **Supreme Court diluting the SC/ST atrocities act**, the government accepted the recommendation of the NCSC and nullified the judgment of the highest court with an immediate ordinance.
- All the commissions have played a major role in planning, deliberating and formulating the **welfare schemes for the backward communities**. Ex: Nai Roshni scheme, USTTAD scheme, Stand UP India, Reservation in promotions etc.
- Today in every department **15% of the budget is earmarked for planning and executing the welfare programs of backward communities**.
- The Constitutional bodies also have mobilized the NGOs and Civil Society Organizations for the uplifting of the backward communities.
- Lastly, they have made a tremendous achievement in creating legal and social awareness among the common people, and have become instrumental in bringing the backward communities to the mainstream.

Conclusion

However, as suggested by Sachar Committee, the minority commission should be provided with the constitutional status.
On the lines of Mandal Commission a National Commission of Backward Classes is being set up which is a welcome set up.
Further, giving the commissions financial autonomy, adjudicating authority, and expanding its jurisdiction into the armed forces will go a long way in providing the tooth to such organizations.

9. As India witnesses rapid digital transformations, the regulatory ecosystem needs to be equipped to handle the emerging cyber threats. Comment. In this light, examine the role and preparedness of regulatory bodies concerned with IT and cyberspace.

Approach

Although stated in lengthy sentences, the question puts forth two demands. One is to comment on the need of strengthening the cyber security machinery in India. The second is to bring out the current status of institutions catering to cyber security, and to examine what more is required.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• Cyber Dome. • Data protection. • Privacy laws. • Fake News. • Deep Fake. • Phishing.	• CeRT India. • NTRO. • CeRT Fin. • NCCC. • Cyber Intelligence. • Antivirus, firewalls, etc.

Introduction

In 2020, India has nearly 700 million internet users across the country. This figure was projected to grow to over 974 million users by 2025, indicating a big market potential in internet services for the south Asian country. In fact, India was ranked as the second largest online market worldwide in 2019, coming second only to China.

However, this comes along with the increased threat of myriad kinds of cyber attacks in India. And hence, it is the time to introspect our cyber security architecture.

Body

Needs for improving the Cyber security in India, are as follows;

The present cyber threat landscape poses significant challenges due to rapid **technological developments** such as Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, 5G, etc

New challenges include **data protection/privacy, law enforcement in evolving cyberspace, access to data stored overseas, misuse of social media platforms**, international cooperation on cybercrime & cyber terrorism, and so on

The report from Global cyber security major K7 Computing also found that Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad **recorded the highest rate of infections amongst Tier-I cities.**

One in two Indian companies have experienced a data breach involving the loss or theft of more than 1,000 records containing sensitive or confidential customer or business information in the past two years. Further, the Covid-19 has only accelerated the cyber attacks, according to Sandip Patel, General Manager, IBM India/South Asia.

Lastly, digitisation in India will dramatically rise in a post COVID-19 scenario which in turn will increase demand for greater cyber security and privacy.

The following institutes are being set up to regulate cyber security in India and they play varied roles, like;

National Cyber Security Coordination Centre (NCCC): The NCCC is mandated to perform real-time threat assessment and create situational awareness of potential cyber threats to the country.

National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC): It is designated as a national nodal agency in respect of critical information infrastructure protection. It aims to protect and safeguard critical information infrastructure (CII) against cyber terrorism, cyber warfare and other threats.

National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) has identified critical information infrastructures like power and energy, transportation, banking/finance and insurance, telecommunication, defense, space, public health, e-governance etc., the NCIIPC guidelines created a broad framework for securing these infrastructures all over the country.

The CERT-In (Cyber Emergency Response Team – India): It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

National Technical Research Organization: It is a technical intelligence agency under the National Security Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office, India. It also includes National Institute of Cryptology Research and Development (NICRD).

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C): It will be apex coordination centre to deal with cybercrimes; it will coordinate with State governments/UTs and closely monitor cyberspace and social media with due emphasis on vernacular content.

Cyber Forensic Laboratory: The Cyber Forensic Laboratory and Digital Imaging Centre functioning under CFSL assists enforcement agencies in the collection and forensic analysis of electronic evidence.

However, the following loopholes have to be plugged;

No law in India defines what cyber threat is and almost all the cyber crimes in India are dealt by the Indian Penal Code which is very old and archaic.

Though there are many institutions that are set up in India, however India lacks in inter department coordination; especially the **coordination between the centre, state and the local cyber security machinery.**

Also, India lacks state of the art cyber threat thwarting technology and the equipments like the **powerful supercomputers, antivirus, honey pots**, etc to thwart the cyber threats at the earliest.

Most of our **police stations lack even the internet connections**, and our police personnel are not trained to even to track the lost and found electronic gadgets. Hence our preparedness at the ground level in grossly inadequate.

Despite presence of all the cyber intelligence, firewalls, etc **India couldn't stop the latest cyber attacks in India like the Wannacry, Petyap, etc**. This shows that though we are prepared, it is not up to the mark.

 Lastly, the common people of India do not have the proper **knowledge and awareness regarding the powerful passwords, security essentials in the gadgets,** separating the official and personal online accounts, etc. This is a large grey area in India's preparedness towards cyber threats.

Conclusion

The draft of National Cyber Security Strategy 2020, that envisages creating a secure cyberspace in India, is ready and is likely to be finalised this year. And the whole nation is looking forward for the best policy ever with proper institutional, legal, technical and behavioural guidelines to tackle the cyber threats that are haunting India.

Along with this, India should also encourage the latest inventions at the grass roots. This can help in not only having indigenous cyber security architecture, but also grooming the best talent in this field. Schemes like Invent India, ASPIRE, etc are on the right direction which are worth appreciation.

10. What impediments does lack of digital maturity amongst different stakeholders play in the implementation of government schemes and initiatives? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

We can introduce the answer with any of the latest reports or survey that point out the level of digital illiteracy present in India. As far as the body of the question is concerned, we need to explain how the digital illiteracy among the citizens is hindering the access to several government schemes in India. Also the question demands to provide various examples to support our argument. We can conclude with the efforts taken by the government to enhance digital literacy in India.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• E governance.	• Targeted deliver.
• Ghost beneficiaries.	• Ignorance.
• Door step delivery.	• Digital Illiteracy.
• Citizen centric administration.	• Digital back.
• Good governance.	• Brokers.
• E government records.	• Common Service centers.

Introduction

As per a report from the Digital Empowerment Foundation in 2019, around 90% of India's population is digitally illiterate. While India is experiencing a digital revolution that may allow us to move ahead in terms of economic growth and development, we also run the risking of creating a new class of digitally-poor citizens.

Further, India has a low internet penetration with only 22% of the owners using mobiles to access social media in comparison to the world average of 75%. In December 2018, internet penetration in urban India was at 64.84% vs. 20.26% in rural India.

Body

Such a huge gap in the digital literacy is affecting Indian citizens in several ways. And it is most disheartening that with the lack of digital literacy, citizens are not being able to avail even the welfare schemes of the government.

The **famous hunger death in Jharkhand** is unforgettable for India, where a girl died of hunger because her family could not get the PDS ration due to mismatch in the biometric authentication. Further, as per Jean Dreze such a death is only the peak of the ice berg, and there are several families who have gone hungry for several months because of malfunctioning of biometry, lack of internet connection, power cuts, etc.

Ministry of social justice and empowerment had made an online authentication for the old age people to avail their pensions, called **the Jeevan Pramaan**. After this many elder citizens have either left collecting pensions, or are paying huge commissions for the cyber cafes to get them.

Many of the amounts deposited via **direct benefit transfers are languishing in the bank accounts**, because the rural people do not know how to use the debit cards given for the Jan Dhan accounts or else, they have to go far away to the cities to draw the amount.

This year the government of India had come up with the idea of making the **FASTags compulsory for all vehicles**. But it could not enforce it as most of the people were ignorant of the very concept of FASTag let alone recharging it online.

Further, most of the agricultural schemes like the **SMS base weather alerts, Soil Health cards, Kisan Credit Card** etc. are not reaching the farmer due to the lack of digital literacy among them to make use of them.

During the recent COVID-19 times, many **metros have stopped the cash transactions and are encouraging the online recharge of the mobility cards**. As a result of it many people especially the elders have stopped commuting in metros in all.

Lastly, many children in the rural could **not attend the free online classes** provide by the government due to lack of mobile phones to access them. This is going to badly affect them not only this year, but also in the long term future.

Conclusion

Hence, it can be said that digital literacy has become a great threat for the overall growth and development for India. To tackle this government of India has come with some of the schemes like The National Digital Literacy Mission and the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan. NDLM has a target to train 10 lakh citizens in selected districts. Subsequently, DISHA came with an additional target of 42.50 lakh candidates across the country.

Along with appreciation for the government efforts, we should learn that it is the onus of every Indians to improve the digital literacy in India, and **each one teach one** program can be taken up on the voluntary basis by the learned citizens to teach the fellow citizens.

11. Legitimacy, accountability and source of foreign funding are the most contentious issues for the voluntary sector in India. Comment. What has been the Government's approach to regulate the voluntary sector? Discuss.

Approach

There are two parts in this question, the first part asks to comment on the caution and suspicion feigned by India towards the foreign funding of voluntary organizations. In the second part, we need to bring out the efforts taken by the government to regulate the sector.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• FERA.	• FCRA.
• FEMA.	• Cancellation of licenses.
• Non-governmental organization.	• Anti-national
• Civil Society Organization.	• Green Peace.
• Remittances.	• Amnesty International.

Introduction

On February 2020, the environmental group Greenpeace said had been forced to shut two of its regional offices in India and had asked many staff to leave due to a block on its bank account after accusations of illegal donations.
This came with a huge clamour for freedom of expression within the country and with a great embarrassment for India in the International platforms.

However this is not the first time that a voluntary organization was being avenged for raising the voice against the government. India has been known for such "shut up or shut down" orders even in the past.

Body

Although they are contentious the legitimacy and accountability of foreign funding are very much essential in India;

It is right on the part of India to suspect on the foreign donations to NGOs because of its **hostile neighbors who smuggle the money through a formal route** but with the wicked agenda of carrying out terrorist activities in India.

Also, there are many instances wherein the **religious institutions abroad use voluntary organizations** to smuggle the finances required for the forceful conversion and proselytizing works in India.

Further, as per one of the former CBI directors, there is **no such thing as free lunch**. Charity especially that of the foreign variety, **comes with stated or hidden agenda**. Large amount of funding for the so-called non-profit or non-commercial sector in India is generated as overseas 'donations' by various organisations that are affiliated to foreign State and non-State actors.

Lastly, FCRA data indicates that the total amount brought forward by the FCRA-NGOs "as unspent money from past foreign donations" is a **"whopping Rs 15,907 crore"**. And more than 50% of this amount is lying with "**about 2% of the FCRA-NGOs**". Thus the whole of foreign funding can be seen as an act of lobbying by few corporates behinds the few NGOs to further a few agendas.

However, the government can be considered a holy cow;

As per International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) subsequent amendments to FCRA is "**a tool to silence**" civil society organisations in the South Asia nation. It poses unnecessary obstacles to human rights defenders in India by "unlawfully obstructing" the work of NGOs.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, expressed concern in October that the FCRA was being used to "**deter or punish NGOs for human rights reporting and advocacy**".

One such example is that Priya Pillai, a member of the environmental watchdog Green Peace, was **prevented from flying to the UK where she was expected to campaign against use of coal mining** that impacts tribal people.

Further, Green Peace was the most targeted voluntary organization under the current government. And this, the experts say was because, the Green Peace was vociferous against the Jaitapur Nuclear plant which was one of the government's flagship projects.

Next came, the crack down on the Amnesty International which, the international media suspects to be a revenge for the NGOs **voice against the incidents of mob lynching in India**.

Following are the steps taken by the government to curb NGO funding;

- Foreign grants received by NGOs are regulated by the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, or FCRA.

- In 2015, the centre **increased e-filing requirements**. NGOs had to make quarterly filings of foreign grants received. They also had to notify within 15 days any changes in bank account, name, address, aims, objectives and key functionaries.

- In order to receive foreign funds, an NGO **has to register with the ministry of home affairs**. It is assigned a unique FCRA registration number, to be renewed every five years.

- Around the same time, the **centre started weeding out duplicate FCRA registration numbers**—over time, several NGOs had accumulated more than one registration number.

- The study by Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP) showed that the **Centre cancelled 10,069 FCRA registrations in 2015 and another 4,943 in 2017**.

- However, along with it also came instances of NGOs being **barred from accessing foreign grants**, and an increase in compliance requirements and scrutiny.

- The latest set of changes adds to this feeling of siege. The first change is that every FCRA-registered NGO **will have to open an FCRA-marked bank account with a designated branch of State Bank of India in New Delhi**.

- These accounts will be the point of entry for all foreign grants. NGOs can subsequently route these funds to their existing FCRA-marked accounts across the country.

Conclusion

Hence several NGOs are of the opinion that the FCRA's amendments are going to kill the voluntary sector in India, with a chilling effect on the philanthropy in the times to come.
Further, they want the government to recall those times of lock-down when the government was helpless and when the voluntary organizations rose to the occasion to help the poor, needy and the migrant population. And they also feel that, if not for the sake of NGOs, at least for the sake of the poor and downtrodden people in India, the government should think of relaxing those laws.

12. In 21st century India, generalist civil services are quite anachronistic. Do you agree? Shouldn't a degree of domain specialization be promoted to create a professional and specialized bureaucracy? Comment.

Approach

Here the first part of the question asks whether the generalist civil services in India are becoming archaic and misfit to the current generation. However, the second part is just an addendum to the first part. It demands to explain whether bureaucrats should be trained with the domain expertise. Here, we are free to take any stand, however the assertions provided by the question are so genuine that it would be absurd to argue that India civil servants do not require domain expertise.

Related Concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• Red Tapism.	• Generalists.
• Status Quo.	• Specialists.
• Meritocracy.	• Domain Expertise.
• Service orientation.	• Staff agents.
• Agents of change.	• Managerial skills.
• Integrity.	• Technical skills.

Introduction

Many committees for civil service reforms have recommended for the specialization of the civil service and to train them for the domain expertise. Because in the growing competition among the nations to exceed on another; the generalist civil servants, who cater to the mere management of the status quo are unable to yield the development and the social change required by the nation.

Hence, committees like the Y K Alagh committee, Hota committee, Kiran Aggarwal committee and even the 14th Finance Commission have recommended for grooming the specialization among the bureaucracy and to make them experts in the domain and the department in which they are often posted.

Body

The current civil servants seem to be anachronistic in several ways;

The generalist civil servants more often than not are motivated to do only the right things and not to do the things right. Hence, as per the Kiran Aggarwal Committee, the civil servants **spend most of their times in lamenting the system**, than changing it.

Many controversies have arisen even amongst the civil servants regarding the specialization and generalization issues. **The defense ministry and the revenue department are worried of an IAS officer becoming the secretaries**. And they want the defense and revenue service specialists respectively.

Further, the **lack of knowledge in personnel management** among the IAS officers has come to the discussion very often and many civil servants were against IAS officers being **appointed as the members of the pay commissions**.

In the field level there are always concerns raised of a generalist **District collector being appointed as the head of DRDA (District Rural Development Agency)**.

Also, the **district health officer, education officer** and other experts consider meeting with the DC as a waste of time. And they consider it a hindrance to consult the DC for every development work taken up in the district.

Even in the Head Quarters, we can see many domain experts brought in for outside for some important jobs like **Nandan Nilekani, Sanajaya Baru, Sam Pitroda,** etc. And even the current government has taken the lateral entry with utmost seriousness.

Hence an iota of specialization is necessary to groom the specialist within the bureaucracy;

14th Finance commission states that **after 5 to 7 years of an official being posted in a department**. He/she should not be moved to any other department. Rather, he/she should be **trained with the departmental needs**, techniques and challenges so that they go on to occupy the helm in the same department.

Further, on the lines of **Foreign Secretary being a Foreign Service officer, the revenue department can be headed by an IRS officer, the CPwD by the IES officer**, etc. This would add a great amount of technical expertise along with the managerial expertise to the department.

Also, as per Ugandhar committee **mid career training** should be given the more importance. And in this more of **domain expertise should be focused**. This is going to help in specializing the generalists.

Added to it, the bureaucrats who are appointed as the **directors and managers of the PSUs should be trained separately** before being posted in the companies. This not only reduces the friction between the generalist chairman of the board and a specialist managing director, but also helps in improving the conditions of the PSUs.

And in the ground level the civil servants should be **specialized in development administration, welfare state, and citizen centric administration** so that they become the harbingers of development and agents of change.

Conclusion

Hence, there is a need to strike a balance between the specialization and generalization of the civil servants. This has two advantages, one, the generalization helps to take any duty and hold any posts when the situations and exigencies call for. Two, the specialist bureaucrats who head a particular department can utilize his domain expertise to bring in necessary progress in the working of the department. Thus, as they adage goes, there is high time that we 'specialize the generalists and generalize the specialist' in the civil service.

13.   What are the key challenges faced by the disabled community in India? Discuss. Comment upon India's legal jurisprudence for the disabled.

Approach

In the introduction candidate can start by citing total number of disabled citizens in India. For the first of main body part it is necessary to explain in detail the challenges faced by the disabled community in India as the directive is discuss. In the next half of main body part it is necessary to express views on India's legal jurisprudence for the disabled as the directive is comment. Citing government initiatives is necessary to enrich the answer. While concluding candidate can connect the dots between significance to make disabled friendly environment and 2030 SDG target.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Different definitions of disability 2011 population census data - Social exclusion - Permanent and temporary disability - Person with disability - Person with benchmark disability - Divyangjan	- Disabilities seen as a liability - Social welfare schemes - Lack of affordable access to proper health care - Inaccessible infrastructure - Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 - Person with disability - Person with benchmark disability - Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan - Divyangajan

Introduction

World health organisation defines disability as an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. In India, the population with disabilities is around 26.8 million, constituting 2.21% of India's total population, if one goes by the 2011 population census data. It is clear that persons with disabilities constitute a significant part of the Indian population.

Body

Despite constituting such a significant proportion of the total population, persons with disabilities live a very challenging life. Their 'disability' is often seen as their 'inability' by many and people in general have preconceived notions about their capabilities.

Key Challenges faced by disabled community in India:

- Social exclusion: The main problem lies in the psyche of a significant mass which considers persons with disabilities a liability, and this leads to social exclusion of disabled community in India.
- Inadequate data and statistics: Difficulty to define disability, Reluctance in reporting disability as disability have led to lack of rigorous and comparable data and statics which further hinders inclusion of persons with disabilities for in the social welfare schemes.
- Healthcare issue: A large number of disabilities are preventable, including those arising from medical issues during birth, maternal conditions, malnutrition, as well as accidents and injuries. However, the health sector especially in rural India incompetent to react proactively to disability. Besides, lack of affordable access to proper health care, aids and appliances aggravates the challenges faced by disabled people in India.
- Education sector: Inclusion of children with mild to moderate disabilities in regular schools has remained a major challenge. Hence, infrastructure at educational institutes is not all inclusive.
- Inaccessible infrastructure: Physical accessibility in buildings, transportation, access to services etc still remains a major challenge.
- Weaker implementation of policies and schemes: It hinders the inclusion of disabled persons. Though various acts and schemes have been laid down with an aim to empower the disabled, their enforcement face many challenges.

Ideally, governments all over the world need to take some progressive steps to make life easier for their citizens with disabilities. Considering the challenges faced by disabled, following legal jurisprudence are available to the disabled people in India.

- Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 separately defines who the "Person with disability" and who the "Person with benchmark disability" are.
- Besides, Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept. Also, the types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21.
- In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability. It increases the quantum of reservation for people suffering from disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes.
- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.

It indicates that India has made necessary provisions for inclusion of disabled in to mainstream through its legal jurisprudence. Besides this legal jurisprudence Government has come up with Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan to make a barrier free and

conducive environment for Divyangjans all over the country which is the nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

However, A study conducted by the Disability Rights India Foundation (DRIF) on the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, across 24 States, has revealed that more than half have not notified the State rules.

- Only ten states have notified the rules.
- However, Rajasthan is recognised as the best State in implementation of Accessible India Campaign.

While writing the foreword to the World Report on Disability 2011, Professor Stephen Hawking stated that "Disability need not be an obstacle to success. We have a moral duty to remove the barriers to participation and to invest sufficient funding and expertise to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities".

Conclusion

We can no longer overlook such a large section of citizens with disabilities who are denied access to health, rehabilitation, support, education and employment, and never get the chance to shine. Hence, it becomes critical to reframe and rebuild our infrastructure in such a way that India realises true meaning of all inclusive development there by taking a step further to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to "leave no one behind".

14. What are the current challenges in India's skilling landscape? Discuss. Examine the need of a modern labour information system to address the problem of skill gap and unemployment in India.

Approach

In the introduction explain the unemployment scenario in Indian economy. In the first half of main body part explain the challenges in India's skilling landscape. In the next half of main body part, cite the need to have a modern labour information system to address the problem of skill gap and unemployment in India. Mentioning the recent government initiatives to address the issue is necessary to enrich the answer. Candidate can conclude by providing a brief way forward in conclusion.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• ASER education survey • ILO reports • Periodic labour force survey • Unorganised sector of India • University-Industry interface • Formal and Informal sector of economy	• Unemployment rate • Pervasive joblessness • Poor training of youth • Insufficient training capacity • Lack of entrepreneurship skills • Low industry interface • Skill India, PMKVY

Introduction

In India at least eight million new job seekers enter the job market every year. However, instead of proving to be beneficial for economy, they are becoming a liability of economy. For instance, According to the last 2018 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate among the urban 15-29-years-old was 23.7%.

Body

This pervasive joblessness is mainly due to the poor training of the youth as only 7% of the people surveyed in the framework of the PLFS declared any formal or informal training.

Challenges in India's skilling landscape:

- Insufficient training capacity: The training is not sufficient to ensure a job for those who got the training-and this is why the employability rate of unskilled youth remains very low.
- Lack of entrepreneurship skills: While the government expected that some of the PMKVY-trainees would create their own enterprise, only 24% of the trainees started their business.
- Besides lack of access to credit is the major reason for not being an entrepreneur. For instance, out of those 24% PMKVY-trainees who started their own enterprises only 10,000 applied for MUDRA loans.
- Low industry interface: Most of the training institutes have low industry interface as a result of which the performance of the skill development sector is poor in terms of placement records and salaries offered. For instance, as per 'Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world ranking of institutes, 2019' only three Indian institutes were placed in the top 200 universities of the world. The

curriculums are outdated and they lack focus on skill development and employability potential.

- The enrolment in skill institutes like ITIs, and polytechnics, remains low as compared to their enrolment capacity. This is due to low awareness level among youths about the skill development programmes. Besides preference to educational curriculum which provides white collar jobs is more among students.

- Employers' unwillingness: India's joblessness issue is not only a skills problem; it is representative of the lack of appetite of industrialists and SMEs for recruiting.

- It's not just the case about unemployment scenario in India. But most of the Indian degrees have no transferrable skill set value in the countries such as Canada. Besides, the current data suggest that only 2.3% of the workforce in India has undergone formal skill training as compared to 68% in the UK, 75% in Germany, 52% in the USA, 80% in Japan and 96% in South Korea.

- In India typically 81% of the labor force is in the informal sector; which actually creates a large section of population unskilled on modern parameters.

The need of a modern labour information system to address the problem of skill gap and unemployment in India:

- As per 'Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world ranking of institutes, 2019' only three Indian institutes were placed in the top 200 universities of the world. We need to change this scenario and needs to make our universities and institutes more industry oriented, so that devolution of information regarding job sector reaches to the job seeking youth.

- Skill deficit arises because of knowledge deficit. For instance, As per the report prepared by NGO PRATHAM, Only 50 per cent of students in Class V can read a Class II-level text. School-going children are also struggling with basic arithmetic skills. More than 56 per cent of children enrolled in Class VIII cannot solve a three-digit by one-digit division problem correctly.

- It show the implementation and execution level gap while delivering the skill sets to the children, who are going to enter in the market in future.

- The main problem of minimum wage legislation in India is its poor implementation. The Act empowers the appropriate government (Central, State or Local) to fix a minimum wage for workers in unorganised sectors. However, often exemptions from the payment of minimum wages have been granted to industries; which lead to exploitation of workers.

- For instance, Minimum Wages in India averaged 96.52 INR/Day from 1996 until 2020, reaching an all time high of 178 INR/Day in 2019 and a record low

of 35 INR/Day in 1997. This is much lower than USA which gives nearly 550 INR/day. Hence, it is also necessary that the worker is well aware about her minimum wages.

- The Economic Survey of 2018-19, released in July, 2019, says "almost 93%" of the total workforce is 'informal'. This creates the problem of no job security and too low wages for the worker. Hence, a more skilled person's prospects to get a much desirable job increase only when she/he acquires advanced skill sets.

- There are 13,553 ITI's across the country. Out of those 13,553 nearly 11,000 are private ITI's. Considering it, the existing skill development capacity stands at 3.1 million whereas new entrants in the workforce are nearly 12.8 million. Hence, asymmetry between capacity and the number of new entrants create a large chunk of population who is unskilled. Hence, it becomes imperative to increase the skilling capacities of the skill development institutes.

Citing this asymmetry of modern labour information system government of India came up with following initiative to change the scenario:

- "Skill India" programme, that aims to train a minimum of 300 million skilled people by the year 2022.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), a dimension of skill India, under which the training fees were paid by the government. Its main tool was the "short-term training", which could last between 150 and 300 hours, and which included some placement assistance by Training Partners upon successful completion of their assessment by the candidates.
- In 2014, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was created to harmonise training processes, assessments, certification and outcomes and, crucially, to develop Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs) — the building blocks of this endeavor.

Conclusion

In the long run, Skill India will also not be enough if government expenditures in education remain low and if, therefore, the ground isn't prepared for proper training. Hence, an all inclusive approach is necessary to close the asymmetry between skills and education. Enhancing expenditure on education and training, evaluation of training Institutes, and conducting Skills survey is necessary to utilise the true potential of Indian youth.

15. How do widely prevalent structural inequities cause problems of hunger and malnutrition? Discuss.

Approach

As the directive here is discuss it is necessary to cover various angles of the issue. In the introduction candidate can start by stating India's performance on Global Hunger Index besides defining structural inequity. In the first part of main body part it is necessary to give kinds of structural inequities that cause problem of hunger and malnutrition in India. In the next half give the government initiatives which try to address the issue. You can conclude by connecting the dots between issue and Goal 2 of SDG.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Over nutrition - Undernourishment - Mid day meal scheme - Tendulkar committee report - Public delivery system - Caste issues, Class issues	- Global Hunger Index - Poverty - Gender injustice - Caste injustice - Class ineqities 'one nation one ration card scheme - Targeted PDS - Poshan Abhiyaan, ICDS, MDM

Introduction

India has been ranked at 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. The glaring structural inequities have aggravated the issue of hunger and malnutrition in India. Structural inequities occurs when the fabric of organizations, institutions, governments or social networks contains an embedded bias which provides advantages for some members and marginalizes or produces disadvantages for other members.

Body

Despite rapid economic growth, declining levels of poverty, enough food to export, and a multiplicity of government programs; malnutrition amongst the poorest in India remains high.

Widely prevalent structural inequities cause hunger and malnutrition:

- Poverty: Though poverty seems an umbrella phenomenon which encompasses hunger and malnutrition. It affects the availability of adequate amounts of nutritious food for the most vulnerable populations. Thereby creates the issue of hunger and malnutrition.
- Gender injustice: There is a correlation between gender discrimination and poor nutrition. Malnourished girls become malnourished adolescents who marry early and have children who become malnourished, and so the cycle continues.
- Caste injustice: Even after 70 years of independence, inequities created by caste discrimination are still prevalent in India. For instance, Adivasis and Dalits are the social categories that are most deprived of basic health facilities among others, reveals the latest NFHS – 4 survey. It thereby aggravates the issue of hunger and malnutrition among them.
- Besides the children belonging to SC, ST castes are suffering from under nutrition, indicating that these are the people at the bottom end of receiving development.
- The prevalence of Anaemia and malnutrition is higher among people belonging to marginalised sections including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes when compared to those from the general category, according to the fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS - 4) which was conducted in 2015 – 2016.
- Class inequities: With respect to India a twin issue of under nutrition and over nutrition is observed. Both swelling its burden of non-communicable diseases, according to a recent. In urban areas, among children under five, 25% were underweight, 29% were stunted and 16% were wasted (low weight for height).

Considering these structural inequities Government of India came up with different innovative schemes and programs which aim to address the issue of hunger and malnutrition as well as it targets to eliminates the structural inequities.

- Government of India launched 'one nation one ration card scheme' to ensure marginalized sections of society such as migrant workers, laborers avail the benefits of scheme irrespective of their location of residence.
- Besides it also ensured Targeted public delivery system which will ensure fixing the corruption and leakage in public delivery system.
- National Nutrition Mission: The government launched National Nutrition Mission (renamed as Poshan Abhiyaan) in March 2018.

- It aims to reduce under nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth weight by 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- National Nutrition Mission is backed by a National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Aayog with the goal of attaining "Kuposhan Mukt Bharat" or malnutrition-free India, by 2022.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana: A centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country.
- National Food Security Act, 2013: The National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Mission Indradhanush: It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme offers a package of six services (Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services) to children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Conclusion

For the poor and marginalised, access to food is impeded by social, administrative and economic barriers. If India wants to be malnutrition free, it will not be achieved only through government intervention. Hence, to tackle this multifaceted problem a multipronged approach is necessary which will also help India to comply with Goal 2 of Sustainable development goal which aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

16. India's decision to stay out of the RCEP arises out of economic compulsions. Elucidate.

Approach

As the directive here is elucidate it is necessary to explain the issue in detail. In the introduction candidate can explain what RCEP is and what its features are in brief. In the first half of main body part explain why it became an economic compulsion for

India to opt out of RCEP. In the next half of main body part, explain about why there is need to review India's stance on RCEP. One can conclude by explaining how it is necessary that India's concerns needs to be addressed and how after that it will be feasible to join RCEP.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• Free Trade Agreement • ASEAN • Rules of origin • Auto-trigger mechanism • Balance of Trade • Trade deficit	• Domestic industry • Lowering and eliminating Tariffs • Rules of Origin, National source of a product • Bilateral trade deficit • Trade bloc • India's Act East policy • Safeguard India's interests

Introduction

 The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is signed by 15 countries led by China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the 10-country ASEAN group. It is billed as one of the world's largest Free Trade Agreement (FTA), accounting for nearly 30% of the global GDP covering 30% of the world's population.

Body

However, India had been a part of negotiations for almost nine years till it pulled out in November 2019, stating that inadequate safeguards and lowering of customs duties will adversely impact its manufacturing, agriculture and dairy sectors which indicates India's decision to stay out of the RCEP arises out of economic compulsions.

Economic compulsions to stay out of RCEP:

1. Safeguards for domestic Industry:
- On the RCEP forum India expressed apprehensions on lowering and eliminating tariffs on several products like dairy, steel etc.
- For instance, countries like Australia and New Zealand pose a threat to the dairy industry in India, which is one of livelihood option of farmers in India.
- India's average bound tariff for dairy products is on 35%. However, the RCEP binds countries to reduce that current level of tariffs to zero within the next 15 years.

2. Lack of Unanimity on Rules of Origin:

- Rules of origin are the criteria used to determine the national source of a product.
- Meanwhile, India is concerned about a "possible circumvention" of rules of origin. As current provisions in the deal reportedly do not prevent countries from routing, through other countries, products on which India would maintain higher tariffs.

3. Adverse Balance of Trade:

- Post-Free Trade Agreement with South Korea, ASEAN countries and Japan trade has increased. However, imports have risen faster than exports from India.
- The fact is supplemented by a paper published by NITI aayog which states that India has a bilateral trade deficit with most of the member countries of RCEP.

4. China factor:

- India has already signed FTA with all the countries of RCEP except China. Trade data suggests that India's deficit with China, with which it does not have a trade pact, is higher than that of the remaining RCEP constituents put together.
- This trade deficit is the primary concern for India, as after signing RCEP cheaper products from China would have flooded the Indian market.

5. Auto-trigger mechanism:

- To deal with the imminent rise in imports, India sought to have an auto-trigger mechanism.
- Auto-trigger Mechanism would have allowed India to raise tariffs on products in instances where imports cross a certain threshold. However, other countries in the RCEP were against this proposal.

However, by staying out, India has blocked itself from a trade bloc that represents 30% of the global economy and world population, touching over 2.2 billion people. With global trade and the economy facing a steep decline due to Covid-19 pandemic the need has arise to review India's stance regarding RCEP.

- RCEP can serve as a bulwark in containing the free fall of the global economy and re-energising economic activity. Besides it also presents an unique opportunity to support India's recovery.
- India's concerns over Chinese goods flooding the Indian market through other markets under the RCEP, without clear guidelines on rules of origin, find clear mention and an entire chapter devoted to it in the final RCEP text of 20 chapters, despite the fact that India is no longer in the grouping.

- There is also a chapter on allowing trade in services (Chapter 8), particularly financial, telecommunications and professional services, which was another key demand by India during the seven years that it continued to negotiate the RCEP.
- In addition, there is a summary of objections by various RCEP members to different parts of the agreement, which are expected to be resolved in the next few years as the treaty goes through ratification processes across the region.
- Several RCEP countries still hope India will reconsider its decision of staying out. For Japan and Australia, the large size of the Indian economy and its negotiating heft would pose a valuable counterpoint to China within the grouping.
- India also needs to realise that RCEP as trade bloc represents 30% of the global economy and world population, touching over 2.2 billion people, and staying out of RCEP may result in suboptimal economic growth without leveraging Asia-Pacific demand.
- India's Act East policy is an optimistic endeavor to expand and strengthen India's relations with the Asian neighbours. However, staying out of RECP is itself a blow to the objectives of Act East policy.
- It is not just because gains from trade are significant, but the RCEP's membership is a prerequisite to having a say in shaping RCEP's rules. This is necessary to safeguard India's interests and the interests of several countries that are too small to stand up to the largest member, China.

Considering India's economic concerns and importance as a market, the RCEP members have left the door open for India for inviting it to be an observer member and also waived a critical 18-month cooling period for interested applicants

Conclusion

The present global economic scenario and its future prospects have opened up a window of opportunity for India to review its decision on RCEP. However, the economic compulsion posed by India needs to addressed thoroughly by the RCEP member countries. Only after that it would be better for India to open the doors of its market for RCEP economies.

17. Without becoming a strong industrial powerhouse, India can't aspire to become a global strategic power. Do you agree? Critically comment.

Approach

As the directive here is critically comment it is necessary to cover both aspects of topic and opine on it. In the introduction candidate can start by explaining India's ambition to be a global strategic power. In the first half of main body part explain the necessity of being a strong industrial powerhouse to be a global strategic power. Whereas in the next half explain about the other ways through which also India can be a global strategic power. Candidate can conclude by explaining how obtaining a golden mean between being an industrial power and other ways will help India to be a global strategic power.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- National Manufacturing Policy - Draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (2020) - National Policy on Electronics 2019 - National MSME Policy - Strategic Power vs. Super Power - Diploamtic channels - Bilateral relations - Regional and Global forums	- Great civilization-states - Thrust to defence production capabilities - Self reliance- Aatmnirbhar - Make in India - National Investment and Manufacturing Zones - Manufacturing's share in GDP - Strengthening our economy - QUAD grouping, G20, South China sea - Stance on Terrorism - Soft powers of Yoga and Aayurveda - UNSC permanent seat - Bharat Shakti ,Vishwa Shakti

Introduction

India has emerged as a critical theatre in a new era of great power competition. Being the world's second most populous country, India sees itself as one of humankind's great civilization-states; hopes to be secure and prosperous and one day spread its influence into all corners of the world after becoming a global strategic power.

Body

A strong industrial powerhouse to become a global strategic power:

- The Ministry of Defence has formulated a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020). The DPEPP 2020 is envisaged as an overarching guiding document to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance i.e. Aatmnirbhar and exports.

- To reduce dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives through domestic design and development. It will thereby promote export of defence production and take a leap in Intellectual property. For instance, currently the same kind of strategic power status is acquired by USA and Russia.

- The National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019), envisions positioning India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing - (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally. For instance, the same kind of strategic power status is currently acquired by China, in terms of manufacturing of electronic equipments.

- As per data in our National Manufacturing Policy, Manufacturing's share in India's GDP has been stuck at 16% since the 1980s. The policy aims to increase the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP from the current 16% to 25% by 2022.

- The National Manufacturing Policy aims to create 100 million additional jobs in the next decade. The draft policy envisages establishment of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZ) equipped with world-class infrastructure that would be autonomous and self-regulated developed in partnership with the private sector.

- It thereby strategies to be a global manufacturing hub. It will reduce the unemployment rate in India. Besides it will increase the flow of money in the economy. Thereby it will give a thrust to be a global strategic power by strengthening our economy. For instance, around 1960's and 70's China was not a global strategic power considering its status of economy and relations with the other Nations. However, currently the world is noticing the rise of china as a global super (strategic) power. It happened becasue China strengthend its economy. For instance, to strengthen its status as a global strategic power, currently China, has started testing the first digital currency in the world.

- Manufacturing sectors share in USA's GDP is nearly 35%, whereas it is Russia's is also nearly 35%. Meanwhile manufacturing sectors share in India's GDP is 16% . With this much of input we can't hope to be a global super

power and hence, it becomes critical for India to be a strong industrial power house first and then we can look to be a global strategic power.

However, it's not always the case to first became a global industrial power house and then be a global strategic powerhouse. For instance, although Israel has strong defence capabilities, its cordial relations with superpowers and its geo-political importance have made it a strategic power. In the same way India can also aspire to be a global strategic power in following ways:

- India's stands at the cross junction of Indo-Pacific trade route. This makes it a major stakeholder in terms of international relations when it comes to the issues such as South China Sea issue. The QUAD grouping is one such example through which India can aspire to be a global super power.

- India is the only country among the G20 nations which is on track to achieve the targets under the Paris Agreement as per the 2020 Climate Transparency Report . Taking a lead in these kind agreements where the vacuum is created by the pulling out of major super power can help India to be a leader in solving the major threat to our habitation.

- On the forums such as SCO and BRICS, India has a good chance to prove its mettle. For instance, India's stance against terrorism is largely applauded by the constituent member countries except Pakistan. SCO even has the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure which is good tool to act against terrorist.

- It's not just about being a industrial power house, but our tourism industry and agriculture sector possess a humongous potential to give a boost to our economy. For instance, The World Travel and Tourism Council calculated that tourism generated ₹16.91 lakh crore (US$240 billion) or 9.2% of India's GDP in 2018 and supported 42.673 million jobs, 8.1% of its total employment.

- Besides India's effort to spread its influence through soft powers such as Ayurveda, International yoga day pose a better chance to be a global strategic power. For instance, Kung fu of China is acclaimed worldwide.

- India also bids for a permanent seat in the UNSC. Though it has been a long time since India is pushing for reforms, getting a seat at UNSC will not only help India to be a global strategic power, but it will also help India to be unbiased player on the international ground.

Conclusion

It is clear that to be a global strategic power India has two ways to follow. However, arriving at golden mean of both the ways is necessary so that the progress doesn't get tilted towards one way. It will cherish the idea of 'New India' by changing world's perception towards India, from being a 'Bharat Shakti' to 'Vishwa Shakti'.

18. It is expected that India is going to exceed the Paris climate targets. What can be the possible global implications of India's proactive fulfillment of the commitment? Discuss.

Approach

As the directive here is discuss, it is necessary to cover various angles of the topic in detail. In the introduction candidate can start by stating the current projections regarding exceeding the Paris climate targets. In the first half of main body part explain about how India is going to exceed those targets. In the next half give both implications i.e. positive as well as negative. You can conclude by showing importance of achieving these targets.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Renewable energy - Non-renewable energy 1992 Rio climate change convention - INDC - Global Temperature Rise - Glacial Retreat - Ocean warming - Ocean Acidification	- First global commitment - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) - Reduce emissions intensity - Carbon sink - BS VI norms - International Solar Alliance - Increasing forest and tree cover by 2030 - Reducing Green House gas emission - One Sun One World One Grid

Introduction

The 2015 Paris Agreement is the first global commitment of its kind to tackle the climate crisis and aims to limit the rise in global temperature by 2100 to below 2°C from pre-industrial levels.. Considering the agreement Countries have typically announced targets for 2025 or 2030. In India's case, its declared targets are for 2030. India has pledged to bring down its emission per unit of GDP by 33-35 per cent by the year 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

Body

The 2015 Paris Agreement urged to state their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). Accordingly India announced its INDC's. Major INDC objectives are as follows:

- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.
- To achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Taking the necessary and right steps further India is looking ahead to exceed these targets way before their deadlines in following ways:

- Between 2015 and 2030, India could drive $401 billion in capex towards a green future, gain 106 GW in energy savings by adopting renewals, and reduce C02 by 1.1 billion tonne per annum, helping her exceed the Paris climate target 2015.
- The progress so far suggests that India could exceed target and may even step -up these targets over time. It aligns the India with global economies and aiming to be carbon neutral by 2050 such the US, JAPAN, Britain, the EU and South Korea intend to achieve 2060.
- India has committed to cut GHG (Green House Gas) emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent, increase non-fossil fuel power capacity to 40% from 28% in 2015 add carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonne CO 2 per annum by increasing the forest cover, all by 2030.
- India has also proposed several pollution control norms. For instance, India to Skip Bharat Stage-V, Stricter Car Emission Norms Advanced to 2020. According to Centre for Science and Environment, the move to BS-VI will bring down Nitrogen Oxide emissions from diesel cars by 68% and 25% from petrol engined cars.
- In the renewable energy sector India is adding the largest solar capacity in the world. The Government of India has set a target of installing of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power. Out of 175 GW India has already achieved the 136 GW capacities.

- Besides following steps and targets are increasing the pace of India's initiatives to exceed the target. For instance, cut in diesel use for cars/ pumps/ rail locos ; natural gas intake at 15 per cent energy mix by 2030 from 6 per cent now; 450 GW renewable capacity by 2030 up from 90 GW now; stringent pollution norms for autos, coal power/ back-up power; the clean Ganga initiative.
- Taking one more step further, the Government of India has called for bids to roll-out the 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) plan. The plan focuses on a framework for facilitating global cooperation, building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources (mainly solar energy) that can be seamlessly shared.

Hence, it is clear that India is definitely going to exceed the Paris climate targets. Even it might step them up in future. However, India's proactive fulfillment of the commitment is expected to have global implications in following ways:

Positive Implications:

- India is the only country among the G20 nations which is on track to achieve the targets under the Paris Agreement as per the 2020 Climate Transparency Report.
- The 2020 Climate Transparency Report shows that the other 19 countries— including the top three emitters China, the US and the EU—were far off from achieving the goals.
- India's progress falls under the "compatible" category. This shows that India is going to take lead in the initiative.
- It will not only make India a global leader but it will also make India the most serious country which has showed a way to the world countries to achieve the targets.
- In this way India will also fill the leadership vacuum created by the major global economy.
- In fact India has already taken the necessary step to be a global leader in the renewable energy sector by creating International Solar alliance in collaboration with France.

Negative Implications:

- The true potential of technologies related to renewable energies is not realised yet. In this scenario, investing so much resource in the renewable energy might hamper India's trade relation with technologically advanced

nations. For instance, India's relations with German auto-car makers might get hampered.

- Infrastructural bottleneck created by the monopolisation of fossil fuel technologies across the globe pose a critical challenge to development of India's energy sector. For instance, even if we produce surplus energy to export and the receiving nation does not have adequate infrastructure to use it then it will not be of any use.
- It might also lead to reduction of trade with those technologically advanced countries who are less developed with respect to emerging renewable technologies.

Though India exceeding its Paris climate targets has negative implications, it does not mean that we should stop doing the right work. As rightly said by our former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that, "We have to prove to the disinherited majority of the world that ecology and conservation will not work against their interest but will bring an improvement in their lives."

Conclusion

Climate change has posed great challenge to the survival of humanity. Paris climate agreement is a step in the direction to reduce the impact of climate change and thereby to save our 'mother earth'. From the beginning India has shown its commitment to work to save the earth. A collaborative approach intertwined in 5 P's i.e. people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership will help to save the earth and ensure survival of humankind on earth.

19. Examine the role being played by India to mobilise global support and action against terrorism. What are the impediments in the regard? Discuss.

Approach

As the directive here is discuss, it is necessary to cover various angles related to the issue. In the introduction candidate can explain about how grave the threat of terrorism is. In the first half of main body part explain the steps taken by India to mobilise global support and action against terrorism. In the next half write the challenges to these steps. Candidate can conclude by showing how the scenario is changing on the international table.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
- Cross border terrorism - State sponsored terrorism - Naxalism - Regionalism, communalism - UN security council - Financial Action Task force - UN designated terrorist list	- State-sponsored cross-border terrorism - FATF blacklist - Afghan peace process - Afghan led, Afghan owned and Afghan controlled - CCIT - Operation sunshine, surgical strike

Introduction

Terrorism, despite being an 'ism' is a grave threat to humankind due to its violent nature. India, a victim of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism, has been at the forefront in highlighting the serious threat to international peace and security emanating from terrorism. Hence, it took a step forward long before the major world powers and put forth the threat posed by terrorism on international table.

Body

Considering it as a grave threat, India is trying to mobilise a global support and action against terrorism in following ways:

- With the objective of providing a comprehensible legal framework to counter terrorism, India proposed to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) the adoption of the "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism" (CCIT).
- Being a member of FATF (Financial Action Task Force), India has been pushing for Pakistan to get on the FATF blacklist for its failure to take "credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustainable measures" against terrorist activities.
- In Afghan peace process, India has not opposed the U.S.-Taliban talks, it has not been a part of the reconciliation process. However, Indian stand in the Afghan peace process is that the peace process must be "Afghan led, Afghan owned and Afghan controlled".
- By reiterating it at Doha meeting, Indian government showed that it is non-committal on talks with Taliban. Its therefore a sign that India doesn't recongnises Taliban's unlawful terrorist activities and continued with No Boots On The Ground In Afghanistan.

- Recently, India's annual resolution on the issue of counter-terrorism was adopted by consensus in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- Besides after the recent killing of French teacher, India expressed its stance as "There is no justification for terrorism for any reason or under any circumstance."
- It's not after the attack of 26/11 but even after the attack of 9/11, India has consistently pushed for adoption of unanimous definition of terrorism on international table.
- However, India has not always played its cards through diplomatic table. It has also acted in swift way to answer the terrorism in its own language by standing eyeball to eyeball. For instance, Operation sunshine-2 conducted in collaboration with Myanmar and India's surgical strike in Pakistan occupied Kashmir region are such examples.

Despite being consistently vocal on the international table to take action against terrorism, India has faced numerous challenges due to geo-political interests of different nations.

Impediments to mobilise global support and action against terrorism:

- Right from the independence, major impediment to mobilise global support and action against terrorism is the state sponsored terrorism of Pakistan. It is not just a threat to India's security but it also challenges India's sovereignty in one way or other.
- Rise of China on the global level has become a grave threat to India's mobilisation efforts. For instance, India's bids at the UN to list Masood Azhar, chief of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) as a global terrorist is consistently blocked by China being a veto wielding member at UN security council.
- The conclusion and ratification of the CCIT remains deadlocked due to opposition from three main blocs i.e. the United States, the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), the Latin American countries etc. The negotiations of the Comprehensive Terrorism Convention are deadlocked because of differences over the definition of terrorism.
- Besides the trend of terrorism is also changing on the global sphere. For instance, earlier the terrorism was mostly associated with the religious tone. However, now terrorism has weared the clothes of regionalism, nationalism too.

- In Global Terrorism Index 2019, India has moved to the seventh position from the previous year's eighth position. However, A report compiled by NITI Aayog has questioned the methodology adopted by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), to rank India as the seventh worst terrorism affected country as the funding source and the list of donors of IEP has not been revealed.

Despite these impediments the global scenario is showing signs of change to counter terror.

- For instance, in a significant development in 2019, India has been invited to the inaugural plenary of the foreign ministers' conclave of the OIC, a powerful grouping of Muslim majority nations. The OIC has usually been supportive of Pakistan and, often sided with Islamabad on the Kashmir issue.
- However, the invitation shows a significant change in the discourse against terrorism. It clearly shows that India's mobilisation efforts are taking a real shape.
- Given the linkages of transnational terrorism, India and Gulf counter parts came up with India-Gulf Counterterrorism Cooperation.
- At the formal groupings such as BRICS also anti-terror moves are taking place. For instance, During the Informal BRICS Meeting, on the margins of G20 Osaka Summit (28-29 June, 2019), India along with other BRICS members underlined their resolve to make the international financial system entirely hostile to terrorist financing.

Conclusion

To create an effective mechanism to counter terrorism it is necessary that countries should agree upon a definition of terrorism. Countries should not look from the prism of their self-interest rather look into the issue through a broader perspective of solving the problem of global terrorism. To counter terror India has always showed its commitment in one way or other. However, it is necessary that a global consensus arise where all nations stand united to tackle the problem of terrorism.

20. What are India's strategic and economic stakes in Myanmar? Discuss.

Approach

As the directive here is discuss, it is expected to cover various angles of the topic. In the introduction candidate can start by citing historical links of India with that of Myanmar. In the first half of main body part candidate needs to explain about the

strategic stakes, whereas in the next half explain about the economic stakes. It is beneficial to provide necessary steps to improve relations with Myanmar, besides citing major government initiatives.

Related concepts:	Keywords in the answer:
• Look East Policy • Act East Policy • Insurgent Movements in North East • Drug trafficking • Military Junta • Rohingya Refugee Crisis • ASEAN, BIMSTEC, SAARC	• People-to-people contact • Suppression of democracy • Insurgency-prone region, NSCN-K • String of pearls • Act East policy • Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport • Asian Trilateral Highway project • ASEAN–India Free Trade Area • Developmental Assistance, Humanitarian Assistance • Bridge between India and ASEAN

Introduction

India-Myanmar relations are rooted in shared historical, ethnic, cultural and religious ties. Bilateral relations between India and Myanmar relations have stood the test of time. The geographical proximity of the two countries has helped to develop and sustain cordial relations and facilitated people-to-people contact. India and Myanmar share a long land border of over 1600 km and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. A large population of Indian origin (about 2.5 million) lives in Myanmar.

Body

Myanmar encompasses the political, economic and socio-cultural relations that exist between the two neighboring Asian countries. Political relations have improved considerably since 1993, overcoming tensions related to drug trafficking, the suppression of democracy and the rule of the military junta in Myanmar. However, strategic and economic stakes of India in Myanmar are the cardinal aspects of bilateral relations.

Strategic stakes in Myanmar:

- Myanmar becomes India's gateway to South-East Asia as it shares borders with 4 Indian states - Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

- However the border is located along a remote, underdeveloped, insurgency-prone region which is poorly guarded, highly porous, and proximate to opium producing area. For instance, National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K), has consolidated its position in Myanmar and it is a security threat to India.

- The influx of sizable numbers of Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state as a refugee has raised security concerns for India. For instance, Indian security agencies estimate the numbers of such refugees to be around 40,000.

- These geo-strategic realities encompass our broader interests in the Indian Ocean region. For instance, To tackle the Chinese 'string of pearls' initiative, India's strengthened relation with Myanmar will help India to have a greater control and watch over the Bay of bengal region as Andaman and Nicobar islands are near to the Coco island which is under the control of Myanmar.

- India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise (IMBAX) is aimed at building and promoting closer relations with armies.

- Also on the international table, Myanmar has been supportive of India's stand in various international organisations. Besides, India has supported Myanmar's association with SAARC as an observer, a status Myanmar formally acquired in 2008.

- Myanmar's membership of ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Mekong Ganga Cooperation has introduced a regional/sub-regional dimension to bilateral relations and imparted added significance in the context of our "Act East" policy.

Economic stakes in Myanmar:
- The bilateral trade between two Nations has grown from $12.4 million in 1980-81 to $2.18 billion in 2016-17.

- Indian companies such as Essar, GAIL, and ONGC Videsh Ltd. have invested in Myanmar's energy sector.

- Cooperation in the banking sector is crucial for investment and trade. It is moving ahead constantly. For instance, United Bank of India and EXIM Bank have representative offices in Myanmar.

- India is building the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport, a road-river-port cargo transport project, to link Kolkata to Sittwe in Myanmar and then from Myanmar's Kaladan river to India's north-east. As shown in the following Map 1.

Map 1: Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport corridor

- Expanding the relations further, Asian Trilateral Highway project is being implemented by India, Myanmar and Thailand. The road is expected to boost trade and commerce in the ASEAN–India Free Trade Area, as well as with the rest of Southeast Asia.
- India has offered to help Myanmar developmental assistance in the areas it wants rather than be prescriptive. For instance, India has already extended $2 billion in soft loans.
- The developmental assistance is not related to only one sector, however, it is expanded in the areas of education, health, agriculture, agro-processing, up-gradation of roads, small power projects and livelihood activity.

However, the assistance is not limited to the developmental assistance, as it is expanded to humanitarian assistance too.

- For instance, India has responded promptly and effectively in rendering assistance following natural calamities in Myanmar like Cyclone Mora (2017), Komen (2015).
- India also offered to provide support in capacity building in disaster risk mitigation as well as in strengthening Myanmar's National Disaster Response Mechanism.

Myanmar is the only country that can act as a bridge between India and ASEAN. Myanmar is India's gateway to Southeast Asia and could be the required impetus to realize India's Act East Policy. Hence, improving relation with Myanmar in following ways is of utmost importance.

- Myanmar is an emerging consumer market of 60 million people who have demands for products ranging from personal care to beverages to smart phones. India can leverage these export opportunities in the context of drawbacks occurred due to staying out of RCEP.
- Manufacturing high-end smart phones, exporting cement, furniture, FMCG, energy, telecommunications, healthcare, creating townships, low cost

housing development, ports and logistics, rural electrification etc. are the critical sectors where India can extend its presence in Myanmar.

- On international table it is generally said that 'India promises and China delivers'. India needs to change this perception on International table. For instance, India's Kaladan Multimodal Transit and Transport project and India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway have seen much delay over the past couple of years which needs to be given a impetus for completion.

Conclusion

As a bridge between India and South east Asian countries, Myanmar has loomed large on India's diplomatic horizon. The 5B's as 'Buddhism, Business, Bollywood, Bharatnatyam, and Burma teak' have the potential to enhance the relations between two Nations to the next level. Enhancing economic partnership with Myanmar needs to be a priority in India's Act East Policy which will benefit New Delhi in enhancing ties with Southeast Asia.