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Q.1) Do you think federalism resonates well with the idea of a welfare state? Critically comment.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the federalism in introduction. Then explain with examples how federal structure creates roadblocks for welfare policies also as question demands to critically comment candidates have to present counter arguments how federalism with local government helps to implement welfare ideas.

Introduction–

Federalism is a system of government in which powers have been divided between the centre and its constituent parts such as states or provinces. It is an institutional mechanism to accommodate two sets of politics, one at the centre or national level and second at the regional or provincial level.

Body

Federal structure restricts the welfare policies & there implementation various sectors like:

- Health Sector: Central government's initiative of Ayushman Bharat to provide Universal health coverage is also hindered by some states refusing to join the centrally sponsored scheme
- New Education Policy: Central government wants Uniform standards of education across the country so as to ensure accessibility and equity in access to education across the country.
- Agricultural marketing Sector: Lack of unified agricultural market along with state's reluctance to adopt Model APMC Act and their lack of enthusiasm to join e-NAM platform has restricted Centre's capabilities to objective of doubling farmer's income by 2022.
- Pandemic policy: There has been accusations and counter accusations by states and Centre in the efficacy of national lockdown, who should be accountable for the second wave of covid, deficiencies I oxygen and hospital infrastructure in overall it impacts welfare of people.

Federalism resonating with idea of welfare state:

- The federalism phase also witnessed further decentralisation of Indian politics as the 73rd and 74th Amendments. This strengthened the ground for the Welfarism and empowerment the people at the grassroots.
- After initial challenges, the Union government ceded adequate space and autonomy to the states for strengthening their healthcare facilities, managing the localised lockdowns, and implementing social security measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.



- The core objectives of Indian federalism are unity in diversity, devolution in authority, and decentralization in administration. Through federalism, the State pursues the goal of common welfare in the midst of wide diversity in socio-cultural, economic spheres.
- In Cooperative federalism the Centre and states share a horizontal relationship, where they “cooperate” in the larger public interest. It is an important tool to enable states’ participation in the formulation and implementation of welfare policies. For example Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) MGNREGA, NFSA, National Health Rural Mission.
- While all policy-makers and economists believe that “true” cooperative federalism is the way forward, they underline the need for the Centre to include states more aggressively in the decision-making process to strengthen welfare state idea.

Conclusion

What is seldom recognised is that the degree of federalism in India has depended largely on two variables: the nature of political coalitions at the Centre and role of States in such coalitions (the period 1996 to 2014 for example), and the cultural diversity of regions. Hence, what is needed is a federal coalition that looks beyond the legal-constitutional aspects of federalism to preserve the idea of a plural India in terms of both culture and politics.

Q.2) How is a state budget different from the national budget? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the difference between state budget and union budget. Also try to give examples and explain it.

Introduction

Budget is the government’s blueprint on expenditure, taxes it plans to levy, and other transactions which affect the economy and lives of citizens. Meanwhile Understanding of state government finances is becoming more and more important.

Body

Difference between state and central budget:

- The receipt of the state budget is different from the Union budget. This budget consists of tax and non-tax revenues collected by the state, which is then shared with the share of central taxes. For example Sale of lotteries.
- Under Article 202 of the Constitution of India, a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for each financial year has to be laid before the State Legislature. This Statement is known as the “Annual Financial Statement” (AFS) or “Budget”.
- It should be noted here that States have some degree of autonomy with regard to their budgets. So, there can be differences across States in many aspects.



- For example States opt for their own presentation formats as per practice and convenience. Also, sources of revenues may vary from State to State and similar variations can be seen in expenditure profiles.
- Similar to Union Government, State governments are also required by constitution to present a few essential documents for budget process.
- State Governments also present a number of other documents which help explaining the budget, as well as can be used to highlight specific details of the budget. For example Gender Budget Statement, Child Budget Statement, Outcome/Performance Budget Statement, Statement on Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and tribes.
- Article 203 of the Constitution mandates that the estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State are voted by the Legislature.
- A word transcript of the speech that the finance minister makes while presenting the budget in the State legislature or Vidhan Sabha.
- The information required to be presented and voted by the Parliament and the State Legislatures remains the same.
- The severe strain on state finances over the past year seems to have led state governments to be much more cautious than the centre in budgeting additional spending.
- In contrast to the expansionary stance of the Union government, state governments seem to have taken a more conservative approach in planning their budgets.
- Together the states are more important than the Centre in increasing India's GDP. But RBI finds states cutting down expenditure and getting more indebted in its report which will hurt India's growth and job creation.

Conclusion

The trouble is states have found it difficult to raise revenues. They are confronted with low tax buoyancies, shrinking revenue autonomy under the GST framework and unpredictability associated with transfers of IGST and grants. Unrealistic revenue forecasts in budget estimates thereby leave no option for states than expenditure compression in even the most productive and employment-generating heads.

Q.3) Do you think judicial overreach can be antithetical to the idea of democracy? Critically analyse.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about what is judicial overreach. Then simply explain how it's antithetical to working and idea of democracy also critically analyse the judicial overreach.

Introduction–

Judicial overreach is a term commonly used when the judiciary seems to have overstepped its mandate. It is when the judiciary starts interfering with the proper functioning of the



legislative or executive organs of the government, i.e., the judiciary crosses its own function and enter the executive and legislative functions.

Body

Judicial overreach is considered undesirable in a democracy:

- Although this is a matter of perspective, there are many examples that are widely regarded as cases of judicial overreach in India. For example Imposition of Patriotism in National Anthem Case, Ban of Firecrackers, Proactive Censorship in case of Jolly LLB 2 (Movie).
- In the times of Pandemic Judicial officers and lawyers micro-managing the day-to-day affairs of the Covid crisis in the country. Government officials are having to brief the bench about the prevailing circumstances for hours instead of being allowed to act in real-time.
- It means the Court has violated the doctrine of separation of powers by taking on the functions such as law enforcement, policy making or framing of laws or interfering in day to day activities of the executive.
- It destroys the spirit of the constitution as the democracy stands on the separation of powers between the organs.
- It creates a conflict between the legislative and the judicial system.
- It diminish trust of the people in public institutions which can be dangerous for democracy.
- Results in tyranny of unelected as Judges assume central role in day to day decision making.
- Entertaining all PILs results in over burdening the Judiciary, which can otherwise be utilized for clearing the pending cases before courts.
- Frequent interventions tend to weaken the functioning of those two wings of the constitution, which are expected to perform by themselves.
- Interfering with the proper functioning of the legislative or executive organs of government is undesirable in any democracy.

Promotes transparency and accountability in Governance:

- Article 142 enables superseding the executive and the legislative for upholding citizens' rights and implementing constitutional principles when the executive and legislature fails to do so.
- As the guardian of the constitution Article 142 provides its power to fill the statutory vacuum.
- To do "complete justice" it has often overridden the laws made by Parliament such as cases Union Carbide Case, Ban on liquor sale on highways case decision was taken to avoid accidents due to drink and drive.
- It also sets out a system of check and balance and controls to the other branches of the government. For example In Vishakha v State of Rajasthan case, Supreme Court laid down the guidelines to protect a woman from sexual harassment at its workplace.
- Bandhua Mukti Morcha Case the Hon'ble Court gave its landmark judgment on bonded labour system of India



- In Olga Tellis Case where Right to livelihood was declared part and parcel of the right to life.
- Helps in the protection of the spirit of the constitution by giving a wider definition to various articles of the constitution such as: Article 14, article 19, article 21 and article 32 etc.
- Prevents arbitrary state action and curbing citizen's fundamental rights by state. Ensures checks and balances on the Executive (Eg: 2G Allocation, Coal Scam etc.)

Way forward:

Judiciary should maintain judicial restraint it not only recognizes the equality of the other two branches with the judiciary, but it also fosters that equality by minimizing inter-branch interference by the judiciary.

Conclusion

Voltaire said, "With great power comes great responsibility". It is clear that the responsibility to uphold powers within the constitutional frameworks lies with all stakeholders. However, courts will have to choose to overlook (politically) motivated fallacies and uphold the Constitution's vision, which undoubtedly deplores overreach, by all pillars of the constitutional framework.

Q.4) Why is the role of the opposition considered critical for a democratic polity like India? What can be the fallouts of the lack of strong and vocal opposition? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about opposition in the introduction then highlight the role of opposition also address the few fallouts due to lack of strong and vocal opposition with Indian context.

Introduction–

Parliamentary democracy is characterised by a system of mutual accountability of the ruling party and opposition party and a much-crucial deliberative process. The Opposition plays a crucial role in preserving the true essence of the democracy and raising the concerns of a larger number of people of the country. However, today, India's parliamentary opposition is not merely fragmented but also in disarray.

Body

Role of opposition in the democracy:

- The role of the opposition is to ensure that any government maintains the constitutional guardrails.



- Whatever a government adopts as a policy measure and legislation, the opposition views it from an essentially critical gaze.
- Moreover, in parliament, the opposition goes beyond merely following the government and raises, demands and appeals for the specific needs of their constituencies, amendments and assurances using various parliamentary devices.
- The opposition reacts, questions, scrutinises the government on a day-to-day basis in parliament and its committees and outside the parliament, in the media and among the masses.

There seems to be hardly any Opposition party with a vision or strategy for its institutional working or for the Opposition as a whole in India it has several fallout:

- A weak opposition is far more perilous than a weak government; an irresponsible government in combination with a timid opposition spells doom.
- A weak opposition simply refers to the opinions/demands of a large populace (who did not vote for the ruling party) left unaddressed.
- India's current government has drawn severe criticism from multiple quarters such as international rankings on democracy, human rights and press freedom, an ever-increasing number of sedition cases and spiralling UAPA cases. These instances clearly indicate an ineffective and weaker opposition as well.
- The opposition parties are always stuck with clustered forms of representativeness they make limited to some specific social groups and are unable to extend this umbrella beyond a few identities.
- Failure of the opposition in the past few years has also been its failure to set the political agenda vision and persuade fence-sitters to their side.
- Failure to raise concerns and national importance issues in the parliamentary departmental committees.

Way forward:

- The flaws of the election process need to be removed – including the power of money that causes the voter to swing sides in the quest for money.
- There is a need to revive and reconstitute parties in villages, blocks and districts as opposed to dictating from the top.
- In order to strengthen the role of the opposition, the institution of 'Shadow Cabinet' can be formed in India.

Conclusion

A powerful opposition is necessary to check the power of the ruling party as dissent is extremely important for mature democracies to function properly. However, for the success and survival of democracy, an effective Opposition is also categorically imperative.



Q.5) What is the underlying political philosophy of creating the upper house of the parliament or the Rajya Sabha? Explain.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the rajyasabha in the Introduction with giving it's background highlight the underlying political philosophy of creating upper house also students need to explain with the help of examples.

Introduction

Rajya Sabha, also called the Council of the States, was constituted on April 3rd in year 1952 under Article 79 of the Constitution of India. It is called the upper house of the Parliament and represents the federal character of the legislature by having members elected by the state legislatures and the Union Territories with the legislature.

Body

Philosophy of creating the upper house:

- **Beginning in India:** In India, bicameralism started in 1918-19 with the introduction of Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. It was further continued by the Government of India Act, 1935. When the Constitution of India was drafted, initially the upper house was called 'Council of States'.
- **Rationale behind the Upper House:** The history of mankind tells us that it was the rich and powerful, who were involved in decision-making. Later on, when the ideas of democracy and universal adult suffrage took root, the poor started to get represented in the legislature.
- **Safety Valve of India's Federal Polity:** Rajya Sabha also acts as a means to institutionalise the federal principle of power-sharing between the Centre and states.
- **Interest of different section:** The upper house was constituted to balance the interest of these two groups. It was supposed to be the voice of the rich as compared to the lower house, which articulated the views of the poor.
- **Promotes deliberation:** Eminent members like Gopalaswami Ayyangar vehemently supported the idea of the upper house as another house to deliberate the bills and policies of the government.
- **Oversight on hasty decision-making:** At the same time, Rajya Sabha, despite being a weaker house, has tried to act as a check on the bills originating in the Lok Sabha. Lok Sabha, by its very nature, is a house with a brute majority of the ruling coalition. Rajya Sabha, with its varied composition, sobers the voices of majoritarianism, should they escape the notice of the lower house.
- **Highlighting the National Issues:** Rajya Sabha has focussed more on the larger issues plaguing India, rather than the hot topics. One important factor contributing to this tendency is the permanent nature of the house. Like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill, negotiations around the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreements around Agriculture subsidies (see inset) as Agriculture is primarily a State subject.



- Expert Opinion: Rajya Sabha has also an added benefit of nominated members in the house, wherein the President nominates twelve members of Rajya Sabha from eminent walks of life and having special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service under Article 80.
- Cooling down the Politics: Any legislation at such time might be prone to errors due to swayed emotions. Therefore, sometimes it is beneficial to let the issue cool down and discuss all the dimensions of an issue so that the principle of natural justice is upheld in the legislations.
- Even though the ups and downs of Indian politics, the Rajya Sabha has remained a vanguard for political and social values, a melting pot of cultural diversity. Also, along with Lok Sabha, it is a flag-bearer of the sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic called India.

Conclusion

Thus, Rajya Sabha should not be seen as a 'disruptive' wing of the legislation and efforts should be made to enable Rajya Sabha to retain its significant role in Indian democracy.

Q.6) Do you see pressure groups as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy? Critically comment.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the pressure groups and critically comment whether they ensure the broader and participative democracy provide the both alternative sides.

Introduction–

A 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

Ensuring broader and more participative democracy:

- Pressure groups are agents of political socialisation of different community and social groups they have role in strengthening the democracy.
- Pressure Groups bring the demands and needs of the people to the notice of the decision-makers. The process by which the claims of the people get crystallized and articulated is called interest articulation. e.g. Narmada Bachao Aandolan.
- Pressure groups play a vital role in the legislative process, not only as important structures of interest articulation, but also as active agencies engaged in lobbying with the legislators for securing desired laws or amendments in laws and policies of the government.



- Pressure groups play a leading role in the formulation of public opinion. Each pressure group is continuously engaged in evaluating all such laws, rules, decisions and policies which have a direct or indirect bearing on the interests it represents.
- For example with the gains made in mass media and education level, various experts and members of these farmers organizations during farm protest who constantly raise their issues and opinions through media, social media and interviews. Through this, they have tried to influence public opinions and government ideas.

Many times instead of serving a useful purpose in the political administrative process, they are reduced to work for narrow selfish interests and hampers the democratic process:

- Political motive: Instead of the pressure groups exerting influence on political process, they become tools and implements to subserve political interests.
- Narrow selfish interests: Some Pressure Groups promote narrow selfish interest. Unlike the pressure groups in the developed countries of the West, where these are invariably organised to safeguard economic, social, cultural interests, etc. In India these groups are organised around religious, regional and ethnic issues. Many a time factors of caste and religion eclipse the socioeconomic interests.
- Misuse of power: Instead of the pressure groups exerting influence on political process, they become tools and implements to sub serve political interests.
- Instability: Most pressure groups do not have autonomous existence; they are unstable and lack commitment, their loyalties shift with political situations which threatens general welfare. They many a times resort to unconstitutional means like violence. Naxalite movement started in 1967 in West Bengal is one such example.
- Propagating extremism: Pressure groups can allow too much influence over the government from unelected extremist minority groups, which in turn could lead to unpopular consequences. They many a times resort to unconstitutional means like violence. For example recent Republic Day-Red Fort incidents in Delhi.

Conclusion

Democratic politics involves taking decisions through consultation, debate, discussions etc. Pressure groups can form good channel of communication between citizen and government but at the same time their vested interests if any needs to be checked so that true meaning of democracy can be fulfilled i.e. "participative democracy".

Q.7) It is argued that having a large number of ministries good impedes governance. But it can also be argued that it brings in efficiency by decentralising decisions and accountability? What do you think? Share your views and arguments.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the different government model in the introduction then simply highlight the both side of arguments also give the suggestion to be followed by large ministry setup for good governance.



Introduction

Minimum government, maximum governance refers to reducing the role of government where it is in excess (minimum government) and making a citizen friendly and accountable government (maximum governance). The objective is to make government efficient and inclusive, reduce red-tapism thereby improving ease of doing business etc.

Body

Large ministry decentralized governance:

- Reduces the burden on top executives: This reduces the time at the disposal of top executives who should concentrate on other important managerial functions.
- Facilitates diversification: A centralised enterprise with the concentration of authority at the top will find it difficult and complex to diversify its activities and start the additional lines of manufacture or distribution.
- Executive Development: Experts will get the opportunity to develop their talents by taking initiative which will also make them ready for managerial positions.
- Better control and supervision: As a result they have thorough knowledge of every assignment under their control and are in a position to make amendments and take corrective action.

Issues in having multiple ministries and departments:

- Problem of Co-Ordination: More ministry of authority creates problems of co-ordination as authority lies dispersed widely throughout the organisation. Currently Almost full strength (78/81) of the Council of Ministers with the recent reshuffle. Inefficiency as the work doesn't get demarcated clearly. This results into lack of accountability. Lack of coordination results into delays and red-tapism.
- Require Qualified Personnel: Number of ministry becomes useless when there are no qualified and competent personnel. Duplication of work
- More Financial Burden: Decentralisation requires the employment of trained personnel to accept authority, it involves more financial burden and a small enterprise cannot afford to appoint experts in various fields. Wastage of public money. More Capital Expenditure than Revenue.
- Uniform policies not Followed: Hinders the process of service delivery to citizens.
- Overstaffing at the headquarters for most institutions and ministries, and shortage at the field level. Lack of mobility between different arms of the civil services.

Way forward

- Reduce the decision making layers to the minimum while allowing for faster means of information sharing/dissemination.
- Simplification of procedures.
- Leveraging technology to bring in transparency in public interface.
- Accountable methods for effective delivery of goods/services.
- A robust public grievance redress system.



Conclusion

The overall objective should be to reduce duplicity, streamline the work process, improve synergy, through exchange of information/data, between various departments within a ministry. The bureaucrats too need to work in tandem so that the coordinated efforts result into productive results. Departments and ministries with overlapping jurisdiction should be merged, but it should not be the only agenda.

Q.8) What are some of the most important initiatives taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to conserve and augment India's water bodies? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to discuss/widely cover some of the most important initiatives taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to conserve and augment India's water bodies.

Introduction:

Water scarcity is one of the serious concerns for countries across the world. In 2019, Chennai made international headlines when the civic bodies declared 'Day Zero', as the city ran out of water and all the reservoirs dried up.

Some of the most important initiatives taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to conserve and augment India's water bodies:

The Government of India has created the Ministry of Jal Shakti by integrating the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Department of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, with a goal of integrated water resources management under one umbrella, so that all the issues relating to water are dealt with in a holistic manner.

Some of the most important initiatives taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to conserve and augment India's water bodies includes:

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Indian government launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in 2019. It is a nation-wide water conservation campaign that aims at encouraging citizen participation to promote water conservation at the grassroot level.
- Jal Shakti is monitoring Interlinking of River (ILR) programme with the mission of ensuring greater equity in the distribution of water by enhancing the availability of water in drought prone and rain-fed area.
- On the World Water Day, March 22nd 2021, the government launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' with the theme 'Catch the rain, where it Falls When it Falls' under which, the government focuses on creation/ maintenance of water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures, renovation of various traditional water bodies tanks, reuse and recharge of bore wells, watershed development and intensive afforestation.



- Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Har Ghar Jal Scheme (National Water Conservation Scheme 2019-20) was launched to ensure water security and providing safe water to all Indians with the aim to provide drinking water supply for all rural households in the country by 2024.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission is set to stress on local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, management of waste water for sustainability of source as well.
- Focus is on various water conservation efforts like point recharge, desilting of minor irrigation tanks, use of grey water for agriculture and source sustainability.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission will connect with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

Conclusion:

A report by NITI Aayog, a government think-tank, said that if methods for water conservation in India were not adopted, another 20 cities including Bengaluru, Delhi and Hyderabad, would run out of groundwater in the next few years. The only solution to avoid this grim situation, is to adopt universal methods of water conservation, which could be replicated across households.

Q.9) What are the challenges associated with targeting for distributing government initiatives? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the basic challenges and problems associated with targeting the government scheme beneficiaries also explain it with the suitable examples.

Introduction

Government schemes aim at welfare of people via distribution of benefits. However, most times the benefits do not reach the intended beneficiaries rendering the schemes ineffective.

Body

- Ghost Cards: Another indicator of inaccurate classification of beneficiaries is the existence of ghost cards in several states. "Ghost cards" are cards made in the name of non-existent people.
- Double Counting Error: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have issued a large number of excess ration cards over the number of households. If the overall APL-BPL break-up of the ration cards in circulation is assumed, it is possible to arrive at estimates of leakages of BPL quota of grains through this mode of corruption.
- Unreliable SECC: Most of the government initiatives depend on either land records which are often patchy or on a dated database based on 2011 numbers: the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC).



- For the PMJDY payment, BPL and non-BPL households record similar receipt transfers. For example, nearly half of poor women are unlikely to receive PMJDY transfers.
- Overstating in survey: Respondents had a vested interest to overstate the extent of their deprivation in order to be identified as beneficiaries of welfare schemes.
- For example Data from round-3 of the DCVTS-3 report, suggests that 21 per cent of farm households received transfers through PM-KISAN. However, 42 per cent of such households belonged to the wealthiest.
- Politicization and patronage: Tendency of politicians to abuse targeted programs by converting them into instruments of patronage.
- Social exclusion: Targeted programs create tensions between those who are excluded. For example lack of disabled friendly infrastructure, social discrimination, does not help in assimilating the disabled community with the mainstream society.

Conclusion

Technology-based evidence based reforms is needed for effective targeting of the social schemes. It can be further strengthened by the increased public participation through social audits and participation of SHGs, Cooperatives and NGOs in ensuring the transparency at ground level.

Q.10) Food security is a much broader concept than only the access and availability of food. Comment. Do you think the current government measures address the issue of food security in a broader sense of the definition.

Approach-

Candidates need to comment on how the food security is a much broader concept than only the access and availability of food. Also give your thoughts on how far the current government measures address the issue of food security in a broader sense of the definition.

Introduction:

Every year over 10 million people die of hunger and hunger related diseases. Nearly six million of these are children under the age of five; that is one child's death approximately every six seconds. Understanding how this still occurs amid the ever-increasing social enlightenment of the 21st century—and under the auspices of a vigilant global developmental community—is one of the key challenges of our time.

Food security is a much broader concept than only the access and availability of

Food

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations suggests, that food security is the product of food availability, food access, stability of supplies and biological utilisation.



- Considering the dimension of availability; food is provided through one of two means—domestic production and/or imports. This requires thought and consideration to be given to the physical availability of food at farms and in local markets.
- Food access entails ensuring people have adequate access, both physical and economic to food through growing it; purchasing it; being gifted it; bartering or trading for it *etc.*
- Food security is a much broader concept than only the access and availability of food. It also includes stability of supplies and biological utilisation.
- When talking of stability, although not a new idea, the realisation that food security can be lost as well as gained is of increasing concern within the food security debate. As a result, the notion of risk management is gaining much credibility as a tool in the fight against hunger.
- Consumed food must have a positive nutritional impact on people. It entails cooking, storage and hygiene practices, individuals' health, water and sanitations, feeding and sharing practices within the household.
- The notion of biological utilisation is simply the ability of a person to optimally or at least effectively, absorb the food they eat. In turn research has shown that this ability is closely related to a person's health status which, in turn is also predicated on important non-food inputs.

The current government measures to address the issue of food security includes:

- The government has created an electronic national agriculture market (eNAM) to connect all regulated wholesale produce markets through a pan-India trading portal.
- The introduction of mid-day meals at schools is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided Schools.
- Integrated Schemes on Oilseeds, Pulses, Palm oil and Maize (ISOPOM).
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- National Food Security Mission.
- With such measures, the current government measures do address the issue of food security in a broader sense of the definition to a certain extent.

Conclusion:

Understanding and promoting food security is as much about coming to grips with its nemesis—food insecurity. India needs to adopt a policy that brings together diverse issues such as inequality, food diversity, indigenous rights and environmental justice to ensure sustainable food security.



Q.11) How did the Indo-China war of 1962 shape India's defense and foreign policy in the coming years? Explain.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the background of Indo china war. Then simply highlight the defence and foreign policy due to impact

Introduction

Recent face-off between India and China in Galwan valley has awaken the memory of 1962 war. China attacked India over multiple points across the border in 1962, leading to a month-long standoff between 10,000 to 20,000 Indian soldiers and 80,000 Chinese troops. Unprepared for the offensive, India lost nearly 4,000 soldiers in the war and suffered its most humiliating defeat.

Body

- The aftermath of the war saw sweeping changes in the Indian military to prepare it for similar conflicts in the future, and placed pressure on Nehru, who was seen as responsible for failing to anticipate the Chinese attack on India.
- Indians reacted with a surge in patriotism and memorials were erected for many of the Indian troops who died in the war.
- The war also put an end to Nehru's earlier hopes that India and China would form a strong Asian Axis to counteract the increasing influence of the Cold War bloc superpowers.
- According to James Calvin, India gained many benefits from the 1962 conflict. This war united the country as never before. India got 32,000 square miles (8.3 million hectares, 83,000 km²) of disputed territory even if it felt that NEFA was hers all along.
- It would more than double its military manpower in the next two years and it would work hard to resolve the military's training and logistic problems to later become the second-largest army in the world. India's efforts to improve its military posture significantly enhanced its army's capabilities and preparedness.
- However, since 1962 there have also been many instances when China had to face setbacks after initiating aggression against India.
- The Nathu La conflict is better known as the India-China war of 1967. In a strong message to China that the mistakes of 1962 won't be repeated, India landed a stern blow on the PLA's pride at the Nathu La post in Sikkim.
- In 1993 and 1996, the two sides signed the Sino-Indian Bilateral Peace and Tranquility Accords, agreements to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control.
- During the 1962 war, India was left isolated. Barring Western countries like USA and UK, none came to India's aid, though India considered herself as the leader of the Non-aligned Movement.
- Seeking to balance the other side, each country has forged relationships that act as a counterpoint to the other; most notably, Beijing's "all weather friendship" with Islamabad and Delhi's partnership with Moscow.



- The rivalry has also led both sides to compete for influence in their peripheries, especially in Burma and Nepal, and to resent the spread of the other's influence close to their borders.

Conclusion

India and China are two growing Asian powers and hence a clash of interests is inevitable. The key is to keep it manageable and not allow it to flare up into another border war. It will be tough test for our diplomacy in the prevailing situation.

Q.12) Explain the factors that created instability in Punjab in the 1980s. How did the government respond? Discuss.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the insurgency led instability in the Punjab. Then how government responded with different operation to defeat movement.

Introduction

The Insurgency in Punjab, from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, was an armed campaign by the Sikh militant nationalist Khalistan movement. In the 1980s, the movement had evolved into a secessionist movement after the perceived indifference of the Indian state in regards to mutual negotiations.

Body

Factors created instability in Punjab:

- The insurgency in Punjab originated in the late 1970s, was a threat to the unity and integrity of India due to the militant Sikh ethno-nationalism known as Khalistan movement.
- Bhindranwale then joined the Akali Dal to launch the Dharam Yudh Morcha in 1982, to implement Anandpur Sahib resolution.
- Bindranwale also increased the level of rhetoric on the perceived "assault" on Sikh values from the Hindu community.
- Pakistani elements too that supported the Khalistani movement in order to weaken the country.
- Failing to get the Anandpur Resolution implemented, he declared his intention to carve out a semi-autonomous homeland for Sikhs in the Punjab region of India.
- In 1983, to escape arrest, he along with his militant cadre occupied and fortified the Sikh shrine Akal Takht.

Response:



- Hence, Operation Blue Star was launched between 1st June and 6th June 1984, with the aim of getting rid of Bhindranwale and his demands.
- There were two components to the operation, Operation Metal, which was the invasion of the temple complex, and Operation Store, which was restricted to the state's countryside.
- This operation helped to eradicate Khalistani extremism, resulting in the death of Bhindranwale.

Conclusion

Though the Golden Temple was restored and made free of militants and arms, the operation was criticised by Sikhs the world over, since it was carried out at their holiest site of worship. The long-term result of the operation left the Khalistan movement defeated. It also left India united, and Punjab free of militancy, and ensured that the Golden Temple is free of violence, guns and ammunition.

Q.13) With the help of suitable examples, explain the significance of parliamentary committees for the effective functioning of the legislature.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about Parliamentary committees and its constitutional role. Also as question demands highlight the role of PSC for effectively functioning of the legislature with suitable examples.

Introduction

The Parliamentary committees are established to study and deal with various matters that cannot be directly handled by the legislature due to their volume. They monitor the functioning of the executive branch and provide legislature with various policy input, playing an important role in Indian democracy.

Body

Significance of parliamentary committee for effective functional of legislature:

- Ensures all parties voice their opinion: All committees have MPs representing different parties, in roughly the same proportion as their strength in Parliament
- Feedback from multiple stakeholders: When bills are referred to these committees, they are examined closely and inputs are sought from various external stakeholders, including the public. They help in reshaping institutions which may not be functioning as required. For example Parliamentary committee on Medical Commission of India.
- Less burden of populist posture: By virtue of being closed-door and away from the public eye, discussions in committee meetings are also more collaborative, with MPs feeling less pressured to posture for media galleries. For example, the Consumer



Protection Act, 2019, overhauling the 1986 law. An earlier version of the Bill had been examined by the Committee on Food and Consumer Affairs.

- Put pressure on government: Although committee recommendations are not binding on the government, their reports create a public record of the consultations that took place and put pressure on the government to reconsider its stand on debatable provisions.
- Scrutiny of public funds: The Public Accounts Committee scrutinize the government accounts and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. Thus reduce chance of mispending and also validate government's spending statistics. For example JPC formed on the 2G scam, Coal scam have helped assess violations made by the executive.
- Ensure answerability: The Committee on Government Assurances committee scrutinize the various assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., given by ministers, from time to time report on the extent to which such assurances have been implemented. They verify the promises made in parliament by the executive to their actual course of action eg. Committee on Government Assurances.
- Expertise: Committees allow use of input and suggestions of various expertise on subject matter of law thereby helping to formulate better policies and laws. For example, the Committee on Health and Family Welfare studied the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.

Conclusion

Committees have substantially impacted Parliament's efficacy in discharging its roles, their performance affects the Parliament as an institution that makes laws, holds the Government accountable, and gives sanction for public spending, still there is scope for strengthening the Committee system for overall effectiveness of Indian parliamentary system.

Q.14) Compare and contrast the emergency provisions of the Indian constitution vis a vis that of Canada.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the emergency provision in India and then simply compare and contrast emergency provisions of Canada and India.

Introduction

The emergency provisions have been contained in Part XVIII of the Indian constitution, from Articles 352 to 360. The rationale was to enable the central government to deal with abnormal situations and thus help safeguard integrity and sovereignty of India.

Body



Canada invoked the Emergencies Act, to be used for the first time in the country, in a bid to end the anti-vaccine mandate protests taking place across the country and blocking parts of the capital Ottawa.

Comparison and contrast emergency provision of the India and Canada:

- The Emergencies Act of Canada can be invoked in parts depending upon the emergencies. The act covers four emergencies: public welfare emergency, public order emergency, war emergency and international emergency.
- The Indian constitution stipulates three types of emergencies National Emergency, Constitutional Emergency and Financial Emergency.
- The Emergencies Act has been invoked for the first time in Canada. Article 352 emergency has been proclaimed three times so far- in 1962, 1971 and 1975. Under article 360 financial emergency never was imposed in India despite economic recession or any other financial crisis.
- The Emergencies Act of Canada can be invoked in parts depending upon the emergencies. This emergency in India can be imposed either for the whole of India or could be restricted to certain territories (42nd amendment act).
- The application of the Public Order Emergency in Canada expires after 30 days of its declaration unless it has already been revoked or the decision to continue it has been taken in accordance with the act. The Parliament also has the right to revoke the act. Also, any regulations or orders passed under the act can be challenged in Canadian courts.
- In India Emergency can be revoked at any time by the President by passing a subsequent proclamation to this effect. If approved by both the houses, the Emergency continues for 6 months and can be extended to an indefinite period with an approval of the Parliament for every six months.
- While a proclamation of Emergency is in force, the normal fabric of the Centre-State relations undergoes a basic change.
- Canada- Emergency can be declared by provincial, territorial and municipal governments. India- Declared by President on the advice of executive.

Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that the emergency provision vary from one country to other depending on the political setup. It is observed that unitary polity/constitutions like the India empowers the national government to proclaim emergency while federal polity like Canada empowers the provincial and local governments to declare emergency as well. Our emergency provisions are in conformity with the quasi federal nature of our polity with substantial safeguards to prevent abuse.

Q.15) What are India's concerns with respect to the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on the issue of fishery subsidies? Are India's concerns justified? Analyse.

Approach-



Candidates need to mention India's concerns with respect to the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on the issue of fishery subsidies. Also, the candidate needs to analyse if India's concerns are justified or not.

Introduction

WTO negotiations aimed at disciplining fisheries subsidies are based on the 2001 Doha mandate, supplemented by a more detailed one agreed at the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Conference. These mandates call for WTO Members to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing. Members also agreed that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed Members should be an integral part of the fisheries subsidies negotiations, taking into account the importance of this sector to development priorities, poverty reduction, and livelihood, and food security concerns.

India's concerns with respect to the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on the issue of fishery subsidies

- India has rejected the latest draft text on fishery floated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) this week, saying it is imbalanced, weak and unfair, and doesn't address its concerns on food security and livelihood of small fishers, instead favouring developed nations.
- It is unacceptable to India because it fails to uphold the much-needed sustainability of fisheries.
- Going by the estimates put out by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), nearly two-thirds of the \$35-billion subsidies go to enterprises engaged in commercial fishing.
- On the other hand, the developing countries' subsidies, just a fraction of it, are aimed mostly at facilitating livelihood security for the fisheries-dependent coastal communities.
- To correct this imbalance, India has proposed that the rich countries stop subsidising fishing in distant waters beyond their exclusive economic zones (EEZ) for 25 years. This would give time to the other countries to build their own sustainable fisheries capabilities.

Are India's concerns are justified due to the following reasons:

- India is in favour of stopping IUU (illegal, unreported, unregulated) fishing and supporting sustainable fishing by checking harmful subsidies.
- However, the text is tilted heavily towards advanced fishing nations letting them maintain their subsidies for high-sea fishing.
- At the same time developing countries are denied adequate carve-outs that could hurt both livelihood and food security interests.
- India will oppose developed nations' proposal of forging government-to-government access agreements wherein two countries can sign a pact for fishing activities. India is critical of such agreements as they will lead to exploitation of least developed nations.



- India is also of the view that developed nations should assume more responsibility for the huge amounts of subsidies and should cut it down to reduce overfishing.

Conclusion

Subsidies do not lead to trade distortions on their own. Subsidies for food security needs to be treated differently than the subsidies for exports.

Q.16) In your opinion, what should be India's response to the Russian aggression in Ukraine? Substantiate your views.

Approach-

Candidates need to give his opinion regarding What India's response to the Russian aggression in Ukraine should be and he should substantiate it or provide evidence to support or prove the truth of it.

Introduction

In the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the situation is both fluid and volatile. A session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was held to try to resolve the Ukraine crisis caused by Russia's invasion of its neighbour. The United States backed resolution to censure Russia was supported by United Kingdom and France. China, another permanent member absented itself from the voting. India and the UAE also did not vote. India called for an immediate cessation of violence and a return to dialogue."

What India's response to the Russian aggression in Ukraine should be:

By abstaining from any overt criticism of Russia, India seemed to revert to its erstwhile stance of neutrality, if not equidistance from Cold War antagonists, America and Russia. It's in best favour of India to maintain "independent, neutral and balanced" position during the vote due to the following reasons:

- India's long-standing friendly relations with Russia cannot be denied or dumped overnight.
- Russia, besides being an established friend, remains India's major arms supplier and strategic partner.
- As member of the Security Council and one of the world's largest countries and economies, India has an additional, mediative role to play, which it cannot compromise or squander by taking sides in a hasty, premature, or precipitous manner.
- By abstaining, India retained the option of reaching out to relevant sides in an effort to bridge the gap and find the middle ground with an aim to foster dialogue and diplomacy.
- Firstly, India is dependent on both Russia and Ukraine for a lot of its energy supplies. A developing economy like India would obviously be on the receiving end if the war continues for a long period.



- Undoubtedly, the war in Ukraine has put the foreign policy makers of India in a tough situation where they face a dilemma of whether to stick to its non-aligned path of neutrality or whether to voice its concerns against the Russian aggression that is unprecedented in Europe after the Second World War.
- All these factors have created enormous pressure on the Indian leadership as they need to act proactively as the crisis unfolds.
- The best option for India, considering its stakes in the war, should be to avoid getting entangled in favour of a particular side and continue its balancing act. India's multi-vector foreign policy doesn't allow it to choose sides in a particular crisis as it requires the support of both Russia and US on a number of issues- getting permanent membership of the UNSC is an example in this case. An independent foreign policy will also provide the space for India to meditate on the crisis and play a major role in solving it peacefully via multilateral platforms.
- India's stance will also depend on what course the Russian military action takes in future. If Putin chooses to escalate the crisis horizontally or vertically then it would become increasingly difficult for India to stay non-aligned, especially if the US chooses to impose extraterritorial sanctions.

Conclusion

Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting that may appear at this moment. It is a matter of regret that the path of diplomacy was given up. We must return to it. For all these reasons, India has chosen to abstain on this resolution and shall continue to do so.

Q.17) In a globalised world, events occurring beyond the borders have domestic repercussions. In this light, examine the possible implications of Russian aggression against Ukraine on India.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about Ukraine crisis and then simply write implications of it on India in current and future scenario also suggest wayforward.

Introduction

The Ukraine crisis has crossed a critical point, with Russia following up its recognition of rebel regions in eastern Ukraine (Donbas region)- Donetsk and Luhansk. The conflict is now the largest attack by one state on another in Europe since the Second World War, and the first since the Balkan conflict in the 1990s.

Body

Implications of Russian aggression against Ukraine on India:



- India's imports of petroleum products from Russia are only a fraction of its total oil import bill and thus, replaceable. But getting alternative sources for fertilizers and sunflower oil may not be as easy.
- Exports to Russia account for less than 1% of India's total exports; pharmaceuticals and tea could face some challenges, as will shipments to CIS countries.
- Freight rate hikes (due to increased risk in global trade) could make overall exports less competitive too, but it is the indirect impact on the trade account that is more worrying.
- The surge in crude oil prices will increase India's inelastic oil import bill, and gold imports could increase and keep the rupee under pressure. As a result, trade and current account deficits may be jeopardised, although forex reserves are healthy.
- India imports more than 80% of its oil requirement, but the share of oil imports in its total imports is around 25%.
- Rising oil prices could speed up already rising inflation. Oil-related products have a share of over 9% in the WPI basket.
- Also, sanctions on Russia by the West could impact its trade with the India in strategic issues such as S400.
- The prospective Russian invasion of Ukraine comes amidst India's military tensions with China and Delhi's continued dependence on Moscow's military supplies. Shift of West and USA from Indo Pacific to European Baltic region.
- It also comes at a time when Delhi is trying to build an international coalition against China's brazen attacks on the territorial sovereignty of its Asian neighbours.
- Huge challenge of evacuation of Indian citizens students from the Ukraine that is around 20000 and other Ukraine bordering warton region.

Wayforward

- It will have to balance the pressure from one strategic partner to condemn the violation of international law, with that from another to understand its legitimate concerns.
- Delhi must talk continually to all sides, and engage with all of its partners, keeping in mind that there is no justification for the violation of any country's territorial sovereignty.
- India must also make it clear to coercing countries that their "with us or against us" formulations are hardly constructive.

Q.18) Welfare policies can't ensure sustainable social transformation unless they ensure social empowerment. Elucidate.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the social empowerment and how welfare policies were unable to ensure sustainable social transformation. Therefore suggest measures ideas how with social empowerment welfare policies can ensure sustainable social transformation.



Introduction

Social Empowerment means all the sections of society in India, have equal control over their lives, are able to take important decisions in their lives, and have equal opportunities. Without empowering all sections of society equally, a nation can never have a good growth trajectory.

Body

Welfare policies unable to ensure sustainable social transformation:

- Unequal Distribution of Wealth and Non-inclusive growth: In the last five years, only 1% of the wealthiest in India increased their share in wealth of around 60% and the richest 10% in India own more than four times more wealth than the remaining 90%.
- Dismal condition of Education and Health: On comparison with similarly placed emerging economies, India spends way too low in the education and health sector.
- Education status in India: Independent India retained the largely colonial superstructure of primary, secondary, and tertiary education, which emphasis on rote learning and obsession with marks in the exams.
- Health status in India: Even after many government schemes, both the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate remains high. There is a high prevalence of malnutrition in Indian children, reflected in a high percentage of Child stunting, wasting and underweight.

Welfare policies through social empowerment ensuring sustainability:

- Education and health care are not only vital for quality of life, they have much to contribute to social empowerment and social change.
- India needs to broaden its base in the spheres of education, healthcare and women's equality to foster social empowerment.
- There is a need for proper utilization of funds by plugging the loopholes arising from procedural and institutional bottlenecks.
- The mantra of availability, affordability, and assurance must be followed for improving status and performance of Health care in India.
- Road to sustainable social empowerment goes through breaking away from shackles of poverty, patriarchy, and Caste both in the public and private spheres.
- Many schemes and programs related to employments, such as, MGNREGA, Aajivika, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antodaya yojana, etc. Along with schemes involving subsidies, food security, Ayushman Bharat, Ujaala, etc ensure empowerment but need to recalibrate it for sustainability.

Conclusion

The Objectives of State as per preamble of Indian constitution are Justice, Equality, Fraternity and Liberty. These objectives point towards social empowerment of the vulnerable and hitherto socially disadvantaged section. Social empowerment will help in political and economic progress of our country and in turn help us all. The India envisaged by our



forefathers is a socially empowered India and with many political-economic awareness Interventions which we must carry forward in right direction.

Q.19) What is your interpretation of secularism when it comes to educational institutions. Substantiate your views.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about their interpretation of secularism when it comes to educational institutions and provide evidence for it.

Introduction

Secularism has been a much used (and abused) term in India's popular, particularly political, lexicon for the last seventy years. It has meant "all things to all people," making it difficult for common people as well as political commentators to arrive at a precise definition/meaning of it.

Interpretation of secularism when it comes to educational institutions:

The Collins dictionary defines secularism as a system of social organization and education where religion is not allowed to play a part in civil affairs. When it comes to educational institutions, secularism can be interpreted from the following:

- The Indian state may engage with religion negatively to oppose religious tyranny. It may also choose a positive mode of engagement. Thus, the Indian constitution grants all religious minorities, the rights to establish and maintain their own educational institutions, which may receive assistance from the state.
- Article 28 which authorizes educational institutions maintained by different religious groups to impart religious instruction.
- Article 29 and Article 30 that guarantee certain cultural and educational rights to the minorities. Article 29 states that there shall be no discrimination among citizens on the ground of religion, race, caste, language, or any of them.
- Article 30 that states that all religious or linguistic minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- One way of reducing religious discrimination is to work together for "mutual enlightenment ". Education is the only way of helping change the mind set of people. Hence secularism should ensure education is used in the similar manner to mutually enlighten.

However, there are several issues that highlight secularism in terms if educational institutions in a negative way:

- Schools, colleges, and universities have failed to inculcate the concept of secularism in the minds of the young educated people, the thirst for knowledge and truth and a mutual feeling of respect.



- The defective faulty and ill-functional educational institutions which have made believe to be a part of groups and communities, have drastically failed to cultivate critical thinking and a universal humanitarian approach among the young people.

Conclusion

In education, everyone should seek the best way to live together. Schools, colleges, and universities should promote value-education and a humanitarian approach to make the younger students understand and religious traditions of each and every religion in the country. The State should grant assurance to every individual irrespective of their religious barriers that he has the right to freely profess, practise, and propagate his religion and freedom of conscience as per the law of the land

Q.20) How does politicisation of appointments to constitutional posts affect democratic governance? Analyse. (10 Marks)

Approach-

Candidates need to write about politicization of the Constitutional post also analyze how it is affecting the Democratic governance.

Introduction

Politicization is a practice in which the political party winning an election rewards its campaign workers and other active supporters by appointment to constitutional or government posts and with other favours it's known as patronage system.

Body

Constitutional bodies are those bodies which are mentioned in the constitution and receive their power and authority from the constitution. For eg. UPSC, CAG etc.

Politicization of appointment affect the Democratic governance:

- Constitutional posts are vested with such important responsibility and function which helps them in ensuring the accountability. With making the political appointment the agenda of such bodies are sacrificed.
- During the last few years, the governors of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and, of course, West Bengal have played their roles in such a way as to make them highly controversial without necessarily adding to the glory of the office.
- Due to political posting there are delays in conducting the inquiry and in delivering judgements. Also, there is a perception that the Commission tends to confirm the government's position on most cases.
- National commission for SC and ST: The atrocities and backwardness of majority of people under SC are still continuing even after 70 years of independence. They have



failed to secure the forest rights, welfare of ST's which can be seen in their social indicators.

- For example incidents like dalit lynching in Una, Gujarat; caste related honour killings in Haryana shows that the NCSC or NCST as been ineffective in delivering.
- Majority of State service commissions have been embroiled in controversies like corruption, nepotism etc.
- Despite playing the most important role CAG has gone through challenges due to it's political appointment there are many task unexamined by the CAG under pressure of the government.
- Election Commission being the supreme authority to conduct free and fair elections many times come under hammer of the government. For example "directive" from the PMO has raised concerns about the independent functioning of the Commission, whose autonomy successive CECs have sought to protect zealously.

Conclusion

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

Q.21) Do you think electoral code of conduct can be enforced more strictly? Why or why not? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the electoral code of conduct substantiate your view whether it should be enforced strictly or not.

Introduction

The electoral Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the election Commission of India to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, in order to ensure a free and fair election.

Body

Purpose of Enforcing it strictly:

- Free and fair election is the soul of democracy. To safeguard and further strengthen our democracy code of conducts must be made legally enforceable.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) will get certain executive power to check unethical behavior of political parties.
- It helps EC in keeping with the mandate it has been given under Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives it the power to supervise and conduct free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.



- Currently MCC does not specify the type of punishment that may arise from a violation of its provisions. There is no classification of violations based on the severity of the act with statutory status there will be some development.
- The absence of specific norms on exercising its powers can lead the EC to arbitrariness and individual bias. For example Mayawati was banned from public meetings by the EC for 48 hours, due to her appeal to Muslims whereas other politicians were appealing openly. Enacting a law will give EC full autonomy to take action unbiasedly.

Enforcing it strictly not a good idea:

- Morality cannot be enforced by law. To follow code of conduct in true spirit and to not adopt any circumvention of law, one has to imbibe political morality in himself/herself.
- Code of conduct can be followed only by moral conviction. For this one must have moral principles and ability to do moral analysis. Law alone will not be sufficient.
- Chief Justice Earl Warren once remarked: "In civilized life, law floats in a sea of ethics." Without development of political ethics making code of conduct legally enforceable will not be sufficient.
- Politicians have devised ingenious ways to circumvent the code of conduct. For instance wearing clothes of particular colour; using encrypted sentences in campaign speeches etc.
- Digital companies like Facebook are run by companies located overseas. Holding them accountable has been difficult for Indian agencies.
- Social media has blurred distinction between private and public. New age tools like live webcasting, making election campaign related stuff go 'Viral', bringing in celebrities 'influencers' etc. have made implementation of MCC a complex task.
- Moral erosion and criminalization of politics has rendered all codes of conduct ineffective. With enforcement of code of conduct there will be number of election litigation and election disputes it will halt the Democratic representation process.
- According to EC, elections must be completed within a relatively short time or close to 45 days and judicial proceedings typically take longer, therefore it is not feasible to make it enforceable by law.

Conclusion

Dr. Rajendra Prasad once remarked, "The future of our nation will not depend on whether it is ruled by this law or that, but on the men who rules it." Hence development of morality is more important than legislation.

Q.22) Do you think India's policy of strategic autonomy or non-alignment is just a prettified language for ducking hard choices? Critically comment.

Approach-



Candidates need to comment or give his views critically (covering both positive and negative sides) about India's policy of strategic autonomy or non-alignment being just a prettified language for ducking hard choices.

Introduction

India's choice of non-alignment as the definitive feature of its foreign policy during the bipolar Cold War era arguably represented India's intention to practice strategic autonomy, by projecting an aversion to war, alliances, and power politics. The recent unfolding geopolitical milieu has clearly prompted India to re-examine its status in the international system, and reflect upon the central undercurrent of its foreign policy orientation: the practice of strategic autonomy, whether through non-alignment in the bipolar Cold War era, or multi-alignment in the emerging multipolar era.

India's policy of strategic autonomy or non-alignment is just a prettified language for ducking hard choices: critical examination

- The articulation of non-alignment and India's objectives for pursuing the policy of strategic autonomy have since been subjected to varied misinterpretations.
- From few callings, it "immoral" and wrongly identifying it as "neutrality," to perceived notions of India breaking its vows of non-alignment by signing the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with the Soviet Union in 1971, India's ability and willingness to practice strategic autonomy through non-alignment has often come under scrutiny.
- With the end of the Cold War and the coming of a brief unipolar era, non-alignment began to encounter carpers who questioned its relevance, and the lure of practicing strategic autonomy came under scrutiny as well.
- Through the practice of strategic autonomy, India strives for an ideal traction giving it "maximum options in its relations with the outside world."
- It is expected "to enhance India's strategic space and capacity for independent agency," allowing maximum flexibility and manoeuvrability to increase the options for India's choices to promote and protect its interest.
- However, the practice of strategic autonomy is bound to come under circumstantial limitations.
- Strategic autonomy articulated as non-alignment during the Cold War era imbibed the idea that alliance-driven power politics in any iteration would be detrimental to the development of a newly independent nation such as India.
- The transformed geopolitical environment after the Cold War saw India adapt the practice of strategic autonomy to fully exploit the opportunities the globalized world had to offer.
- Ridding itself of its non-aligned past, India now espouses "alignment based on issues" rather than ideology, thereby maintaining "decisional autonomy."
- It is interesting to note that India's non-alignment, and hence its practice of strategic autonomy, have been questioned because of both its closeness to the Soviet Union during certain phases of the Cold War, and currently its strategic congruence with the United States.



- However, these foreign policy orientations on India's part rather represent the practice of strategic autonomy, to protect India's core interest in the face of exigent geopolitical scenarios.
- Currently, India has found strategic convergence with a number of countries, which see a joint interest in managing the ramifications of a rising and aggressive China. Whether the Quad is a "concert of powers" or a budding "Asian NATO" remains in the realm of conjecture.
- However, India's alignment with like-minded countries toward evolving a "free, open, inclusive and rules based" Indo-Pacific also happens at a time when India will have to simultaneously navigate its way through its complex relationships with countries like China and Russia, and multilateral groupings like the BRICS and SCO.

Conclusion

India has come to "discover the benefits of working with different powers on different issues" in the multipolar world, which he likens to "having many balls up in the air at the same time and displaying the confidence and dexterity to drop none."

Q.23) What are the key changes in the design of government policies that have ensured better reach of benefits to the intended populace? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Students are expected to write about recent changes in the public administration policy making how it is working towards the efficient targeting of beneficiaries. Need to give suitable example of initiatives by government.

Introduction

Bureaucracy is often considered to be rigid not lending themselves too well to adaptation but recent changes in public administrations around the world are now under intense pressure to be flexible effective result oriented.

Body

Key changes in government policies recently:

- E-Governance effectively delivers better programming and services in the era of newly emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs), which herald new opportunities for rapid social and economic transformation worldwide.
- Legal RReform: The Central Government has scrapped nearly 1,500 obsolete rules and laws with an aim to bring about transparency and improve efficiency.
- Decentralization: Centralised Planning Commission was abolished, replacing it with the think tank called the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), which would usher in an era of "cooperative federalism".



- Aspirational Districts Programme: It was launched in January 2018 to transform the lives of people in the under-developed areas of the country in a time bound manner.
- Participation: A vital cornerstone of good governance is participation by all sections of society. This includes men and women, vulnerable sections of society, backward classes, minorities, etc. For example at PRI and municipal local bodies.
- Responsiveness: Institutions and processes made serve all stakeholders, respond to their grievances. Example: GST council rationalising tax structure and slew of measures keeping in mind MSME sector, PRAGATI Platform.
- UID: The unique identification project was conceived as an initiative that would provide identification for each resident across the country and would be used primarily as the basis for efficient delivery of welfare services.
- Public Distribution System: Computerization of the PDS is envisaged as an end-to-end project covering key functional areas such as supply chain management including allocation and utilization reporting, storage and movement of food grains, grievance redressal and transparency portal, digitization of beneficiary database, Fair Price Shop automation, etc.
- JAM Trinity: DBT by leveraging the JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobiles) trinity and the technological prowess offers to drastically improve the benefit delivery system in the country.

Conclusion

In current times, the last mile delivery of services is being taken up in a vigorous manner through tools like E governance, DBT, Social Audit etc. Need is to further strengthen the existing measures to ensure a smooth delivery of benefits and improve governance in the country.

Q.24) The basket of basic necessities of the poor has expanded in the last two decades. Do you agree? Do you think the current welfare schemes reflect this transformation? Critically examine.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the multiple necessities of the poor in the today's time with respect to multidimensionality of the poverty. Then highlight the few government initiatives to tackle it. Also as question demands to critically examine students should highlight the loopholes in poverty alleviation schemes.

Introduction

Poverty is a state or condition in which a person lacks the resources for a minimum standard of living. Traditionally, the term poverty refers to lacking enough resources to provide the basic necessities of life – food, clean water, shelter and clothing. But modern economists extend the basket of basic necessities to include access to health care, education and even transportation for example multidimensional poverty index.



Body

Reasons for expansion of basket of the poor:

- Economic growth does not always reduce poverty or deprivation. Several studies have found that economic growth is not strongly associated with a reduction in other deprivations, such as child malnutrition or child mortality.
- Poverty as multidimensional: Poor people describe ill-being to include poor health, nutrition, lack of adequate sanitation and clean water, social exclusion, low education, bad housing conditions, violence, shame, disempowerment and much more.
- For example, an area in which most people are deprived in education requires a different poverty reduction strategy from an area in which most people are deprived in housing conditions.

Welfare schemes reflecting the new transformed needs:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:
- National Rural Urban Livelihood Mission:
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:
- Integrated Child Development Program, Midday Meal scheme etc are also providing food to the needy sections like children and women.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

Despite such new transformed schemes is Incidence of extreme poverty:

- While a large number of poverty alleviation programmes have been initiated, they function in silos.
- There is no systematic attempt to identify people who are in poverty, determine their new transformed needs.
- The resources allocated to anti-poverty programmes are inadequate and there is a tacit understanding that targets will be curtailed according to fund availability.
- There is no method to ensure that programmes reach everybody they are meant for.
- Lack of proper implementation and right targeting of new scheme. For example due there is right to education policy with different schemes but due to digital divide and pandemic there is learning loss.
- There has been a lot of overlapping of schemes. Every year a huge number is added to the population pool of the country. This renders the scheme ineffective.

Conclusion

If the hurdles are addressed with effective implementation of decentralized planning and localized initiative, it can surely give positive results. We have to address the structural loopholes and build movement in masses for the inclusive growth and prosperous society.



Q.25) Explain the significance of regional connectivity with neighbours for India's strategic and economic interests.

Approach

Candidates need to comment or give his views critically (covering both positive and negative sides) about India's policy of strategic autonomy or non-alignment being just a prettified language for ducking hard choices.

Introduction

From a policy of strategic insulation and neglect during much of the Cold War, and a reluctant embrace of regionalism thereafter, India's regional policy has now shifted irreversibly towards strengthening cross-border relations. Progress has been significant (reviewed ahead), and even unprecedented, including the laying of new pipelines, building electricity networks, upgrading port, rail, and airport infrastructure, and reinvigorating people-to-people exchanges.

The significance of regional connectivity with neighbours for India's strategic and economic interests

This sorry state of connectivity today reflects decades of geostrategic divergence, political nationalism and economic protectionism.

- The first and most important driver of the new connectivity policy is a geostrategic response to China and its unprecedented linkages across the subcontinent. Breaking into what was India's sphere of influence, Beijing has massively expanded its diplomatic, economic, and political footprint across South Asia.
- The second driver of India's connectivity policy is economic growth and the disproportionate size and centrality of its market in the region. Rising consumption levels and infrastructure modernisation are rapidly shrinking South Asia's geography. Conversely, with decreasing time and cost to trade, there are also increasing incentives to deepen cross-border economic relations.
- The third and last driver of the connectivity approach is shaped by a cultural vision that claims to reactivate India's past centrality as a civilisational power.
- Complementing the geostrategic and economic factors examined above, this "Indic" approach to connectivity has strived to activate new people-to-people contacts across the region.
- Today, the demand for regional cooperation is higher than ever and the opportunities far more meaningful than they were 10 or 20 years ago.
- India will have to make informed choices to articulate why, where, and on what terms connectivity matters in the region.
- Most importantly, an effective Indian connectivity strategy will hinge on expert knowledge, research and data on the region.
- Thanks to China there is now a growing interest in India's neighbouring countries and the neglected field of South Asian studies is experiencing a slow revival in universities, think tanks, and diplomatic and military training institutes but far more is needed.



- Sambandh, Brookings India's regional connectivity initiative, attempts to address these demands and challenges by supporting a more strategic Indian approach to enhancing regional connectivity.
- Sambandh's research strives to support policymakers and other stakeholders to sequence connectivity initiatives, identify priorities, monitor implementation, and increase effectiveness.
- The focus is on India's regional neighbourhood, the first concentric ring of the strategic mandala theory.
- India's global priorities—whether in the wider Gulf region, the Indian Ocean, or Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific—are bound to falter unless the country connects first with its immediate periphery.

Conclusion

Connectivity is vital. It does more than just enhance trade and prosperity. It unites a region. India has been at the crossroads for centuries. We understand the benefits of connectivity. There are many connectivity initiatives in the region. If these have to succeed, we must not only build infrastructure, we must also build bridges of trust.

Q.26) Explain the legal and institutional measures in place to ensure the effective utilisation of public funds in India. What are the key challenges in this regard? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to explain the legal and institutional measures in place to ensure the effective utilisation of public funds in India and then discuss the key challenges in this regard.

Introduction:

Properly managed accounting system helps ensure proper control over funds. Accounting policies and procedures are designed to compile accounts fulfilling legal/procedural requirements that govern financial control. Accounts are an essential part of financial management of activities. On the basis of accounts, the Government regulates the shape of its financial and fiscal policies. Efficient utilisation of public funds is necessary for judicious use of financial resources to satisfy the needs of the present society in such a way that it doesn't compromise the capability of societies of future generations to meet their own needs.

The legal and institutional measures in place to ensure the effective utilisation of public funds in India

Properly managed accounting system helps ensure proper control over funds. Accounts are an essential part of financial management of activities. On the basis of accounts, the Government regulates the shape of its financial and fiscal policies. On the basis of accounts, the Government regulates the shape of its financial and fiscal policies.



- All the loans raised by the Government by issue of public notifications, treasury bills (internal debt) and loans obtained from foreign governments and international institutions (external debt) are credited into consolidated fund of India. All expenditure of the government is incurred from consolidated fund of India and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorization from the Parliament.
- The Contingency Fund of India records the transactions connected with Contingency Fund set by the Government of India under Article 267 of the Constitution of India. This fund acts more or less like an imprest account of Government of India and is held on behalf of President by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs.
- In the Public Account constituted under Article 266 (2) of the Constitution, the transactions relate to debt other than those included in the Consolidated Fund of India. The receipts under Public Account do not constitute normal receipts of Government. Parliamentary authorization for payments from the Public Account is therefore not required.
- The CAG protects public funds from the reach of arbitrary power and, in that sense, is an important and most useful dignitary of the state.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is the sole regulator of the pension industry in India. Its major objectives are to provide income security to the old aged by regulating and developing pension funds and to protect the interest of subscribers to pension schemes.

The Key challenges in this regard

- Systemic feebleness, manifested as shortage of trained, regular staff for various important roles like programme management, finance/accounts and frontline service provision; this contributed to weaken the capacities of the government apparatus in the States for implementation of Plan schemes.
- Lack of sufficient staff in government offices
- Improper technological penetration at grassroot level or ineffective decentralization of financial power
- Corruption leading to diversion of funds to unauthorised sources.
- Poor accountability mechanism preventing their effective monitoring and utilization.
- Ineffective decentralization of power
- Populist politics in the country, Crony capitalism, favouritism and misuse of office, lack of coherence in planning, etc.
- Expenditure rush during the month of March, popularly known as 'March Rush', which leads to unplanned and improper fund expenditure, to prevent lapsing of funds that have remained unutilized.
- Diversion of funds to other purposes.
- The deficiencies in decentralized planning being carried out in the schemes, resulting due to insufficient staff for undertaking planning activities, inadequate attention to their capacity building and minimal role for community participation in the planning process.

Conclusion



Efficient utilisation of public funds requires a number of reforms for good governance such as decentralisation of power, plugging legislative loopholes, strengthening the public Institutions like CVC and RTI, enhancing administrative accountability and making society more democratic. These reforms could make society more sustainable in the long run.

Q.27) What are the emerging security risks in the Indo-Pacific? How is India strategizing to counter those? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to explain the emerging security risks in the Indo-Pacific. Also discuss how is India strategizing to counter those.

Introduction:

The different reactions in Asia to the Russian invasion will affect a geopolitical landscape already experiencing a deep transformation taking place around the concept of the Indo-Pacific. The war in Ukraine might also divert the EU's interest in the short term but there is consensus on the fact that the Indo-Pacific will still be among its priorities.

What are the emerging security risks in the Indo-Pacific?

- It is relatively accepted today (primarily among Western nations) that the Indo-Pacific has no set strategy to contain China, the containment concept has largely been driven by China's rise and its aggressive expansion.
- Indo pacific is the confluence of both these oceans and the ever-increasing maritime trade that brings the nation-states together irrespective of their ideological differences or dogmatic changes.
- The liberal trading order has encountered protectionism in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- The cheaper imports from China are on a steady growing scale which is not appealing for the domestic economy in developing economies.
- One cannot argue for increased imports from China as this directly jeopardizes the trading and services in the domestic economy. Looming trade war tensions although quite on the downswing owing to many other vital international attentions.

How is India strategizing to counter those?

- The idea of a free and inclusive Indo pacific stands to promote trade and simultaneously extends its strategic vision upon the security concerns of the littorals.
- Being a major power in the region and at the same time having a greater chunk of Indian Ocean to be on its controlled maritime zone provides India with the strategic advantage to be a rule maker rather than a rule follower in the region.
- India's role in the Indo-Pacific is considered crucial by countries such as Australia, Japan, and the United States. However, despite New Delhi's presence in the Indian



Ocean, maritime security has actually remained outside of India's strategic interests, concerns, and thinking, due to its continental threats.

- The Indo-Pacific therefore is a new domain in India's foreign policy engagements, representing a shift in New Delhi's strategic environment—expanding its threats solely from its continental borders to its maritime space.
- In the South Asian region, India inherited strategic advantage owing to the geopolitical privilege it enjoys by having a shared border with the maximum states in the region unlike any other power in the same region.
- This geostrategic backup has helped this great nation to be evolved as a net security provider around its strategic domain.
- One of the main reasons to be cited as a cause for India's increased engagement in the Indian ocean on the side-lines of quadrilateral cooperation (India, USA, Japan and Australia) and the Indo-Pacific is the long due presence of the Pakistan rhetoric in its foreign policy.
- The continental way of thinking is rigorously turning towards a more maritime induced active engagement which is factually visible through the continuous engagement in these two areas.
- Providing naval assistance and ensuring smooth flow of goods and services through its controlled waters India has been protecting the status quo. The bilateral relations between both nations have also developed in diverse fields.
- Through its Indo-Pacific initiatives, along with partnering with nations to secure its strategic interests, India is now actively presenting collaborative initiatives to address regional challenges, such as infrastructure development and non-traditional threats, among others.
- At a broader level, these partnerships help India secure strategic interests, offer options to mitigate its own capacity challenges, and lend credibility toward its role and profile as a world leader in the wider geopolitical competition.

Conclusion

The Indo-Pacific construct has provided an opportunity for India to maximize its strategic interests while responding to changes in the security environment. Despite political enthusiasm between New Delhi and its partners, however, the pace of implementation and the road map to realizing the Indo-Pacific vision remains limited. As the key partners move forward, countries must acknowledge and accept that their Indo-Pacific visions will never align completely with each other. New Delhi and its partners must continue to underline the broader and foundational principles of democracy, rule of law, and other shared interests while focusing on issue-based partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.



Q.28) Inclusion and equity are the most important yardsticks for measuring the impact of good governance. Do you agree? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the good governance and how inclusion and equity is important for measuring good governance explaining it with examples initiative related to equity and inclusiveness.

Introduction

Good governance can be referred as an effective and efficient process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented keeping the amelioration of citizens as the topmost priority. Equity and Inclusiveness are important aspect in good governance.

Body

Inclusion and equity as yardstick to measure impact of good governance initiative:

- To increase the equity and inclusiveness focused interventions in the field of health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water management, financial inclusion and skill development is carried out.
- The government takes care of interests of all its citizens and special care is given for most vulnerable groups such as minorities, SC/STs, women, etc. So that they don't feel side-lined from the mainstream.
- For example Aspirational Districts Programme to transform the lives of people in the under-developed areas of the county in a time bound manner.
- People get opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being. For Example affirmative policies for women Maternity benefit law, children poshan abhiyan and backward classes.
- The government implemented different welfare policies like PDS, NRHM, MGNREGA, Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, etc. Which are very influential for good governance.
- A society's well being depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society. For example Aadhar ensuring targeted delivery, eliminating ghost beneficiaries.
- Inclusiveness requires that interests, aspirations and opinions of all individuals and groups living in a society must be taken into consideration while formulating certain policies and programmes meant for the society.
- Some of the features of the present politics in India are use of caste and religion to influence the population. These aspects work against the principle of equity and can be used as a tool to incite violence against a particular section of society.

Conclusion

As a practice of good governance, it has been always incorporated in India to – 'wiping every tear from every eyes' to the latest objective of 'Sabka sath sabka vikas'. Through innovative



partnerships with an international organization, civil societies, and private companies, equity and inclusiveness can be attained.

Q.29) Why is transparency important for democratic governance? What are its benefits? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the transparency and its importance for democratic governance. Highlight its benefit with suitable examples.

Introduction

Transparency is the condition of openness of system where no aspect whether related to information, principles, actions, rules etc is hidden from the stakeholders in terms of accessibility.

Body

Importance of transparency for democratic governance:

- Democracy, accountability and participation: Absence of, or inaccessibility to, information often creates a sense of disempowerment, mistrust and frustration.
- For example RTI Act achieved its prime objective of bringing about a qualitative change in the democratic governance.
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness: Greater transparency can also bring benefits to government themselves, directly or indirectly. Therefore, transparency is also considered to be a key component of public policy and efficiency.
- For example Helps in Social welfare reduces poverty, inequality gap and promote egalitarian society. Eg- Disha App and my gov.
- Against corruption: Free and guaranteed access to information enables citizens, the media and law enforcement agencies to use official records as a means to uncover cases of corruption and maladministration. Lack of Transparency creates opaqueness in decision making which lack objectivity, eg – Bofors scam in defense.

Benefits:

- Inclusion of various sectors: voice of marginalized sections of the society, gender inclusion and financial inclusion can be considered.
- Openness benefits citizens: Open governments are built on robust and inclusive engagement between citizens and governments. Fluid two-way communication between citizens and governments allows governments to better understand citizens' true needs and to respond to those needs.
- For example transparency works against favoritism, crony Capitalism and nepotism.

Conclusion



Transparency centrally defines the processes, mediums and commitment a government chooses as the basis of how it shares information with its citizens. It is necessary to guarantee good governance. Information is valuable to the electorate for democratic processes to function successfully.

Q.30) What are the key risks associated with the implementation of e-governance projects? Present a brief analysis with the help of a case study.

Approach-

Candidates need to explain the key risks associated with the implementation of e-governance projects? Also present a brief analysis with the help of a case study.

Introduction:

The “e” in e-governance stands for “electronic.” The term refers to the use of ICTs to convert and support a governance system’s techniques and structures. The emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has provided means for faster and better communication, retrieval of data and utilization of information to its users. e-Governance is basically the application of ICT to provide government services to the citizens through internet. In developing countries like India, where literacy level is very low and even most of the people are living below poverty line, people are not even aware about the benefits of e-Governance activities and people do not use Information and Communication technologies to a much extent, there exist a number of problems to implement e-Governance activities.

Explain the key risks associated with the implementation of e-governance projects?

- There are a large number of obstacles in implementation of e-Governance in India. Understanding the risks associated with e-governance is essential since it is one of the most critical components of project management in the digital world.
- Risk concerning e-governance is mainly associated with arising issues with IT, which is, unfortunately, a common occurrence. We can say that IT illiteracy is a major obstacle in implementation of e-Governance in India. So, first of all Indian people must be made aware about the usage of Information Technology.
- The diversity of people in context of language is a huge challenge for implementing e-Governance projects as e-Governance applications are written in English language.
- Even if the users of Internet are growing but still there is a major part of Indian population which is not able to access e-Governance activities for variety of reasons.
- Another set of risks can be labelled as hazards when overseeing a project virtually. These hazards can be mistrust, cliques, uninformed managers, and the allure of other exciting but unrelated work.
- Per capita income of India is low as compare to the other countries. Therefore, people cannot afford on-line services provided by the government which is a challenge for implementation of e-governance.



- The implementation of public administration functions via e-Government requires that the user must be confident and comfortable while using the technology.
- A critical risk in implementing e-Governance is the privacy and security of an individual's personal data that he/she provides to obtain government services.
- Nonetheless, the resolution of risks and issues still depends on precise mitigation strategies executed quickly and efficiently.

A brief analysis with the help of a case study

E-governance aims to improve governance processes and outcomes through new technology tools, such as AI, Blockchain, dashboards, and collaborative business intelligence (BI). They are used to monitor developmental projects. We can do a brief analysis of risks associated with the implementation of e-governance projects with risk associated with these tools as explained below:

- Despite the benefits of AI in e-governance, there are some risks related to it. For example, a lack of knowledge in operating the adopted ICTs can make managing projects difficult. If data has been incorrectly entered, it may undermine the quality of the decisions made by a project management team.
- AI affects project management in specific ways. In big data and business analytics, gathering data using simple approaches could be time-consuming and incapable of capturing accurate data. Consequently, such risks may undermine the efficiency of implementing e-governance in project management.
- Blockchain is another tool used to record all transactions and digital events in the internet world. Risks to take into consideration to e-governance technology are a lack of scalability and continuity, which affects the project reliant on Blockchain.
- Other risks involve cryptographic essential management functions, and likewise algorithms, as improper management of cryptographic key-pairs could result in unauthorized access to an organization's information management system.

Conclusion

As the usage of Information Technology is growing very fast, Indian government is making many efforts to provide services to its citizens through e-Governance. Although Indian government is spending a lot of money on e-Governance projects but still these projects are not successful in all parts of India. Unawareness in people, local language of the people of a particular area, privacy for the personal data of the people etc. are main challenges which are responsible for the unsuccessful implementation of eGovernance in India. Government must take some actions to make the people aware about the e-Governance activities so that people may take full advantage of these activities and eGovernance projects can be implemented successfully. The participation of people can play a vital role in implementation of e-Governance in India.



Q.31) Examine the factors that have led to severe economic distress in Sri Lanka. What lessons can be learnt from the ongoing crisis? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the Sri Lankan economic crisis and Indian assistance to it. As question demands need to write about the factors responsible for ongoing crisis and lesson learnt from it.

Introduction

India recently extended a \$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka to assist the island nation through its worst foreign exchange BOP crisis and enable it to procure food, medicines and other essential items. The nation is facing significant fuel and gas shortages, and high inflation in essential goods.

Body

Factors that led to severe economic distress:

- Pandemic led to job losses and reduced incomes. All key foreign exchange earning sectors, such as exports and remittances, along with tourism, were brutally hit.
- Declining Foreign Reserves: Fears of a sovereign default rose by the end of 2021, with the country's foreign reserves decreasing to \$1.6 billion. But Sri Lanka managed to keep its unblemished foreign debt servicing record.
- Government Inaction: The lack of a comprehensive strategy to respond to the crisis then, coupled with certain policy decisions including the government's abrupt switch to organic farming widely deemed "ill-advised", further aggravated the problem.
- Sri Lanka's Fertiliser Ban: In 2021, all fertiliser imports were completely banned and it was declared that Sri Lanka would become a 100% organic farming nation overnight.
- Shut-down: Garment factories and tea estates could not function, as infections raged in clusters.
- Fuel shortage: Sri Lanka is also facing five-hour rolling electricity blackouts as thermal generators have run out of fuel.
- Food hoarding: The government declared emergency regulations for the distribution of essential food items. It put wide import restrictions to save dollars which in turn led to consequent market irregularities and reported hoarding.
- Downgraded rating: Three international rating agencies have downgraded the island since late last year, on fears it may not be able to service its \$51 billion sovereign debt.
- Spiralling debt: The debt issue did not begin in 2020. Since the end of the ethnic war in 2009, Sri Lanka was struggling to keep its economy afloat.

Lessons learnt from crisis:

- It would be best to raise domestic tax revenue and shrink government expenditure to limit borrowing, particularly sovereign borrowing from external sources.



- Thus, there is a need for ambitious fiscal consolidation based on high-quality revenue measures, raising income tax.
- The country's heavy dependence on imports for essential goods should be reduced like sugar, pharmaceuticals, fuel, pulses and cereals worsened the crisis.

Conclusion

There is a need to step up our people-centric developmental activities while scrupulously staying clear of any interference in Colombo's domestic affairs. Nurturing the Neighbourhood First policy with Sri Lanka is important for India to preserve its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region.

Q.32) Do you think the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine has belittled the importance of international sanctions in checking unilateral actions. Why or why not? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the International sanctions with defining it. And must give both side of arguments on whether Russian aggression write off the international sanction as a diplomatic tool.

Introduction

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

Body

International sanctions on checking unilateral actions:

- Military action isn't the only option for countries that are in the midst of a political dispute. Instead, economic sanctions provide an immediate way for the world to crack down on rogue countries without putting lives on the line.
- As a tool of foreign policy, they are being vastly preferred over military action or quiet diplomacy.
- Their expanse as a foreign policy tool appears to be growing at a relentless pace, in terms of scale, scope and complexity.
- Due to sanction on North Korea Panmunjom Declaration was signed agreeing to greater cooperation between the two nations

Overuse and frequent use of sanction belittling the importance:

- International sanctions were imposed on Russia during the Crimea crisis then also Russian did military intervention in Ukraine in 2022.



- Russia is looking at ways to bypass the sanctions by using a non-dollar “rupee-rouble” payment mechanism and alternatives to SWIFT messaging system.
- In reaction to sanction by USA Iran announced that it would no longer comply with obligations under the 2015 agreement under which it agreed to restrict its nuclear-sensitive activities.
- The efficacy of unilateral sanctions is challenged by ambiguity, lack of detail, and conflicting laws involving sanctions.
- Global supply chains may be cut by the imposition of sanctions this impacts the common citizens for essential importing.

Conclusion

Enforcement of Sanction should be with global consensus and prudently used protocols must be must have justified exemptions so that the wider population is not denied the supply of essential goods and services, such as foodstuffs, medical supplies, etc.

Q.33) What is BIMSTEC? What are its aims and functions in handling challenges in the Bay of Bengal region? Explain.

Approach-

Candidates need to explain about BIMSTEC and its aims and functions in handling challenges in the Bay of Bengal region.

Introduction:

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand. Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym ‘BIST-EC’ (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).

Aims of BIMSTEC in handling challenges in the Bay of Bengal region

- The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.
- Unlike many other regional groupings, BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization.
- Starting with six sectors—including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries—for sectoral cooperation in the late 1997, it expanded to embrace nine more



sectors—including agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change—in 2008.

Functions of BIMSTEC in handling challenges in the Bay of Bengal region

- To accelerate the economic growth and social progress in the Bay of Bengal region through joint endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership.
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, technical and scientific fields.
- To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional and technical spheres.
- To maintain peace and stability in the Bay of Bengal region through close collaboration in combating international terrorism, transnational organized crimes as well as natural disasters, climate change and communicable diseases.
- To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.
- To endeavour to eradicate poverty from the Bay of Bengal region.
- To promote trade and investment as a major contributing factor for fostering economic and social development in the region.

Conclusion

BIMSTEC is the natural platform for India to implement its regional connectivity, Neighbourhood First and Act East policies. It can allow India to push a constructive agenda to counter Chinese investments, and follow best practices for connectivity projects based on recognised international norms. Now is the time not just to deliberate, but also to deliver. Now is the time to translate promises into performance.

Q.34) Do you think India's recent evacuation efforts in Ukraine were unnecessarily politicised? Critically comment.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the Indian operation of evacuating the students from Ukraine in introduction. Then comment on how politicization of operation was done as question demands to critically comment need to present alternative view also.

Introduction

Just after tension between Russia and Ukraine heightened, with war erupting in Ukraine after the Russian military launched a series of attacks Operation Ganga by central government was launched as evacuation mission to bring back all the Indian nationals who were stranded in Ukraine.

Body



Politicization of rescue operation:

- Naming the mission as operation Ganga with considering the UP election was ongoing. Also addressing the electors with the efforts taken by central government about the mission in election rallies.
- Sending the Cabinet minister to the bordering nation of Ukraine and also receiving the students at the New Delhi airport was seen as politicization by ruling establishment.
- The Indian government has vastly exaggerated its claims of evacuating Indian students from Pesochin in war-ravaged Ukraine, students and educational consultants have alleged. As students at pesochin and many other area were not treated well.
- It is not that India doesn't have experience in evacuating its people. It has managed evacuations from war zones on a far larger scale in the past as shown in the media.
- Ministers made students who were evacuated from war-torn Ukraine chant slogans in favour of the government. Government was criticized for self congratulatory ecstasy.

Evacuation was based on principle of impartiality without creating political optics:

- Humanitarian action in India is always guided by the principles of humanitarian assistance, i.e., humanity, neutrality and independence.
- It was MEAs Alacrity and dynamism to hasten the evacuation process, because there were around 20000 Indian student massive number face difficulty at border checkpoints, sending students to embankment sites and clearing the immigration.
- India has a long history of conducting such evacuations and it has conducted 23 such evacuations since 1962-63, always such evacuation were done on huge scale and always it's big responsibility for government and it's legitimate to publicize the efforts taken by efficient mission.

Conclusion

India needs to have structural change in healthcare academics to make Indian university attractive for Indian students. Also we should think bringing back our citizens as a duty of the government of the day so it should not be seen as favor.

Q.35) What is NATO? Discuss the role of NATO's involvement (or the lack of it) in shaping the events in present day Europe.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the NATO in the introduction and then simply highlight how NATO's role is shaping the European continent in current situation try to give example.

Introduction

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. It



was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere.

Body

Role of NATO's involvement in shaping the Europe:

- The United States viewed an economically strong, rearmed, and integrated Europe as vital to the prevention of communist expansion across the continent.
- Article 5 of the treaty proclaims that an armed attack against one or more of them (NATO members) shall be considered an attack against them all this gives the security and confidence to the European countries.
- Military cooperation, and the security it brings the development in parallel with economic and political progress.
- The threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine has placed heightened importance on the United States' and NATO's defences across eastern Europe, which for decades have acted as a buffer between Russia and the West.
- US pressure on NATO in 2008 to recognise Ukraine's membership aspirations and its encouragement for a change of government in Ukraine in 2014, provoked the Russian annexation of Crimea and today war with Ukraine.
- US NATO pressure may eventually led to the present crisis for example for Germany, the Nord Stream 2 (NS2) Russia-Germany gas pipeline was the cheapest recently called off.

Conclusion

Geopolitics, however, is a long game, and the larger context of the U.S.-China rivalry could, at some point in the not too distant future, reopen the question of how Russia fits into the European security order.

Q.36) Do you think the Russian aggression against Ukraine further eroded the of the UN? Substantiate your views.

Approach-

Candidates need to substantiate how Russian aggression against Ukraine further eroded the credibility of the UN.

Introduction:

The Russian Federation is now past the initial stages of its widespread military invasion of Ukraine. Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, unleashing airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending in troops and tanks from three sides in an attack that could rewrite the global post-Cold War security order.

The Russian Aggression Against Ukraine Further Eroded the Credibility of the UN



- The tragedy unfolding in Ukraine has attracted worldwide sympathy and support for Ukraine, its leadership and the people of Ukraine. The rule of law and democracy must be respected and defended.
- Russia has invaded a free and democratic country. They are killing innocents in the thousands. They are blowing up historic buildings, residences, hospitals, schools and critical infrastructure.
- Vladimir Putin will soon be investigated for war crimes. And yet Russia is allowed to remain in the United Nations, and holds a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. That is indeed a big question.
- The Russian Federation continues to treat its international legal commitments with contempt through its practices; flouting the international prohibition on the use of force and intervention, whilst also disregarding its obligation to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states.
- The Russia's invasion of Ukraine is one of the greatest challenges ever to the international order "because of its nature, intensity, and consequences.
- The UN Security Council exists, and security in the world doesn't for anyone. This definitely means that the United Nations is currently unable to carry out the functions for which it was created.
- Only one state is to blame for this – Russia, which discredits the UN and all other international institutions where it still participates.
- Russia tries to block everything constructive and use global architecture in order to spread lies and justify the evil it does.
- The world sees it and will hopefully draw conclusions. Otherwise, there will be only one institution left in the world to guarantee the security of states. Namely – weapons.
- The UN General Assembly has voted on a draft resolution which expresses grave concern at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, particularly at the reports of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by Russia, including gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights. Through this draft the UN seek to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.

Conclusion

The UN has struggled with its usefulness in recent years, but this takes the cake. It's time to kick Russia out of the UN, or the members might as well pack up and go home.

Q.37) Adherence to fundamentalism has little correlation with one's education or socioeconomic status. Critically comment.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the fundamentalism and explain it. Then provide both side of arguments fundamentalism due to lack of education and worst socioeconomic conditions also highlight other factors leading to fundamentalism.



Introduction

Fundamentalism refers to one's unwavering belief in the infallibility of the religious / philosophical scriptures in all matters of faith, religion and philosophy. The attachment or belief is such strong that the believer takes a militant stand sometimes.

Body

Fundamentalism due to lack of education or poor socioeconomic status:

- Many fundamentalists are characterised as intolerant of those with views in opposition of their own or those with secular beliefs this is due to lack of secular education.
- Lack of quality education leading to blindly follow rules and regulations and beliefs propounded by religion. For example madrasa or gurukuls or church based study.
- Uneven development, class divisions, poverty and unemployment aggravates insecurity in the common men which make them vulnerable to political manipulation.
- The failure to adopt the scientific and technological education and thus, insufficient representation in the public service, industry and trade etc has led to the feeling of relative deprivation among marginalized section due to which they get influenced.

Fundamentalism despite good economic status and education:

- Many top highly educated personalities have propounded the fundamentalism such as Osama bin laden.
- Large number of well educated people support and speak the same way as the fundamentalist leaders speak and advocate against the scientific thought or new ideas.
- It is often accused of sensationalism and disseminates rumours by social media and mainstream channels which sometimes resulted into further communal tension.
- Technological advances, such as TV, cable television and satellite transmission, have facilitated the rise of 'e-religion'.

Conclusion

Today, religious fundamentalism poses greatest threat to the peace and development of society and nation. Government should adopt multipronged approach like equitable development of minorities, poor population, strengthening education system moral values, teaching humane essence of different religions, creation and broadening access to employment opportunities to all.



Q.38) Do you think economic and political instability in the neighboring countries can create security threats for India? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Students are expected to give basic information on neighborhood instability like Pakistan and Sri Lanka and explain how it will impact the India's security what will be threats.

Introduction

Sri Lanka is facing its worst-ever economic downturn while Pakistan is witnessing an intense political struggle. While Taliban hardliners continue to tighten their iron grip on Afghanistan there is civil war-like situation in Myanmar this type of surrounding can impact our security.

Body

Economic and political instability and threats to security of India:

- India is expected to closely monitor the developments in neighborhood given its long history of issues with its neighbour.
- With socio-cultural identities cutting across the borders and recent instability it is a bit obvious that there are some contentious issues with the neighbours.
- Pakistan actively supporting various terrorist groups to carry out another Pulwama-like incident in the India with new establishment it can push such acts more.
- Political instability and disorder in its periphery impacts India's security directly or indirectly. Proxy war between India and Pakistan adds to this security risk.
- Instability situation can give rise to active support to radicalise the youth of not just Kashmir but also Punjab and Northeast India is very detrimental to India's demographic dividend.
- The issue of drug smuggling is also destroying the social fabric of Indian society due Pakistan Myanmar vicinity and to India being in the middle of the 'Golden Crescent' and 'Golden triangle'.
- One major threat perception is related to the Rohingya Muslim community and Tamilians entering Indian borders illegally due to persecution and difficulties in their home country this can create refugee crisis.
- The situation has worsened due to the changed demographic profile of many Border States and shift in ethnic balance of communities as a result of illegal migration for example Assam.

Conclusion

India should show the farsightedness for regional integration and multilateralism. Since changing geography is not possible India should be prepared for any instability and unforeseen adventure by the neighbouring country while also exploiting all the diplomatic and peaceful channels to resolve disputes.



Q.39) Do you think the shifting global focus towards Europe as a fallout of ongoing Ukraine crisis can create a security void in the Indo-Pacific region? What will be its possible implications for India? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to give their views on the possibility of shifting global focus towards Europe as a fallout of ongoing Ukraine crisis in creating a security void in the Indo-Pacific region. Also discuss be its possible implications for India.

Introduction:

The war in Ukraine and the ensuing economic sanctions imposed on Russia will cause far bigger shifts for Europe's economy and markets than previous crises like the coronavirus pandemic. Inflation, reduced growth, and in some countries even another recession is just some of the risks facing the economies of emerging Europe as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The shifting global focus towards Europe as a fallout of ongoing Ukraine crisis and creation of a security void in the Indo-Pacific region

- In light of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, European leaders have been forced to rapidly accelerate plans to reduce their outsized dependence on Russian energy.
- Attention has focused on the sea change in European attitudes to security threats, the defence spending that Russia's aggression has produced, and the sobering challenge Russia's invasion poses to accepted international rules and norms.
- But the Ukraine crisis has wider implications, affecting the Indo-Pacific region.
- Although the crisis in Ukraine directly affects European security, its effects will ripple across the Indo-Pacific region.
- China is unlikely to follow Russia's power play and attack any of its neighbours any time soon.
- However, Russia's willingness to wage open war on Ukraine will weigh on the minds of Asian policymakers as they make decisions about boosting their own defence spending, seeking security guarantees from the U.S., and joining multilateral security coalitions.
- The war in Ukraine, now in its seventh week, defence cooperation and several other aspects that are at the heart of the bilateral ties emerged as the focus at the talks that come as the world grapples with challenges emerging due to one of the worst wars in Europe in decades and the pandemic that started two years ago.
- Russia's action has highlighted the limits of NATO's reach and resolve in the European theatre, leaving one wondering how far NATO, or its member states, would be willing to involve themselves in a conflict in the Indo-Pacific region where most Western nations have fewer stakes.

Its possible implications for India



- India has become adept at balancing its relationships with major powers such as the U.S., China and Russia.
- Rapidly expanding ties and growing defence relationship between India and US, and India joining QUAD group led by the US has led to a strategic shift in Russia's foreign policy, pushing it to align with China.
- It also has a trilateral relationship with the U.S. and Japan and another one with Russia and China.
- India has been recently diversifying its defence relations with US, Israel, etc, leading to a reduction in Russia's share of Indian defence imports.
- Both India and Russia have a difference of opinion in understanding the concept of the Indo-Pacific.
- Russia opposes the term Indo-Pacific as the term is primarily a US-led initiative aimed to contain China and Russia.
- Russia does not accept the concept of QUAD. Instead, Russia supports the concept of Asia Pacific.

Conclusion

The Indo-Pacific strategy may be an afterthought as the Ukrainian crisis unfolds. Nevertheless, the conflict in Europe will have a bearing on how Asian policymakers think about their own security in the wake of Chinese assertiveness and Beijing's sovereignty claims in Asia. India should pursue and facilitate Russia's engagement in the Indo-Pacific. Russia's active engagement in the region would contribute to making the Indo-Pacific truly "free and inclusive".

Q.40) One of the key components of the strategy to counter the threat emanating from a China-Pakistan axis is to strengthen border infrastructure. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates need to highlight threats related to China and Pakistan and highlight on China Pakistan axis. Also write about the importance of Border security infrastructure to tackle the China Pakistan axis.

Introduction

Relationship between China and Pakistan developed over the 1970s and '80s. Countering India was one of the key pillars. It opens a two-front war possibility for India to tackle it India should strengthen its security apparatus on borders.

Body

Threat to India's security ecosystem on borders:



- Pakistan is able to sustain cross-border terrorism despite a domestic Balance of Payments crisis, using Chinese funds and material (including Chinese-made grenades).
- They're able to combine their efforts in destabilizing border management by exploiting open & porous borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Passing of CPEC through POK affects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.
- Pakistan is all set use BeiDou for both military purposes on borders, ending their dependence on the US-based Global Positioning System.

Strengthening border infrastructure to tackle China Pak axis:

- Border road infra helps in maintaining peace and stability by controlling the security concerns related to inter-region and intra-region issues.
- Creating infrastructure: India is also constructing some critical bridges to cut down time for troop movement such as Dhola – Sadiya bridge.
- India has joined hands with Japan to aggressively develop infrastructure projects in North east to contain China.
- To increase capability tender for purchase of six Border Surveillance Management Systems (BSMS) to cater to the needs of Indian Army's peace time requirements for countering the infiltration attempts from Pakistan.
- BOLD-QIT is a project to install technical systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which enables the BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kinds of sensors in the unfenced riverine area of Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- The UAVs and other surveillance gadgets already under installations have significantly reduced the incidents taking place due to human error.
- The mini UAVs are also intended to carry out reconnaissance in Jammu and Kashmir for counter insurgency along with the LoC with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control with China.

Conclusion

The traditional approach to border management on Pakistan and China borders, i.e. focussing only on border security, has become inadequate. India needs to not only ensure seamlessness but with the adoption of new technologies for border control and surveillance and the development of integrated systems for entering, exchange and storage of data, will facilitate the full proof border security without endangering security personnel and internal security of India.

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