



TLP 2023

Daily Answer Writing



Phase 1 (GS-2)
Compilations

1. Analyse the impact of policies and politics of china on indias interests including its economic and strategic implications ?

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about impact of Chinese policies and politics on indias interest strategically and economically.

Introduction

China's policies have a significant impact on India in various areas including trade, diplomacy, and regional power dynamics. China is India's largest trading partner, but their trade relationship is often imbalanced, with India running a significant trade deficit. Strategically China's Belt and Road Initiative and its military presence in the Indian Ocean region have also raised concerns for India's security and regional influence.

Body

Economic impact of Chinese policies in India.

- China's economic policies have had both positive and negative impacts on India. On one hand, Chinese investment has helped spur economic growth and job creation in India. On the other hand, India's trade deficit with China has widened, as China exports more to India than it imports.
- Additionally, some Indian industries, such as electronics and small-scale manufacturing, have faced increased competition from cheaper Chinese imports. The two countries have also had ongoing border disputes and political tensions, which can negatively impact economic relations."

Positive impact of Chinese economic policies On India

- The positive impacts of Chinese economic policies on India include,
- Investment and Growth: Chinese investment in India has helped spur economic growth and job creation, as well as improve infrastructure in various sectors such as telecommunications, transportation, and real estate.
- Technology Transfer: Chinese companies bring with them advanced technology and expertise, which can help modernize and upgrade India's economy.
- Increased Trade: The increased trade between India and China has opened up new markets for Indian businesses and has had a positive impact on the country's overall economic growth.
- Joint Ventures: Joint ventures between Indian and Chinese companies have led to the creation of new products and services, boosting innovation and competitiveness.
- Overall, while China's economic policies have had some negative impacts on India, they have also brought significant benefits, such as increased investment, growth, and technological advancement."

Negative impact of Chinese economical policies on India-

- The negative impacts of Chinese economic policies on India include,

- **Trade Deficit:** India's trade deficit with China has increased over the years, as China exports more goods to India than it imports. This has had a negative impact on India's balance of trade and its overall economy.
- **Competition in Domestic Markets:** Chinese imports, especially in sectors such as electronics and small-scale manufacturing, have created intense competition for Indian industries and businesses, leading to decreased profits and job losses.
- **Political Tensions:** The ongoing border disputes and political tensions between India and China have had a negative impact on economic relations between the two countries, leading to reduced trade and investment flows.
- **Influx of Chinese Products:** The flood of cheap Chinese products into India has had a negative impact on small-scale and cottage industries, which have struggled to compete with the low-cost imports.
- **Overall,** while China's economic policies have brought some benefits to India, the negative impacts have outweighed the positive effects, leading to growing concerns and tensions between the two countries.

Chinese policies impact on India strategically-

China's policies have had a significant impact on India's strategic position in several ways,

- **Border Disputes:** China's territorial claims and aggressive actions in the region, particularly along the India-China border, have led to ongoing border disputes and tensions between the two countries, affecting stability and security in the region.
- **Military Imbalance:** China's military build-up and modernization efforts have created a strategic imbalance in the region, as it has significantly outpaced India in terms of military capabilities.
- **Economic Dependence:** India's dependence on Chinese imports, particularly in the electronics sector, has created strategic vulnerabilities for India, as a disruption in trade relations could have significant economic impacts.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** China's strategic partnerships with Pakistan and other countries in the region have been a source of concern for India, as they have the potential to alter the regional balance of power.
- **Overall,** China's policies have had a significant impact on India's strategic position, affecting regional stability, security, and economic interdependence. India must adopt a well-rounded and nuanced strategy that addresses these challenges, while also seeking to foster economic cooperation and stability with China."

Conclusion

India's policy towards China should be a balanced one, considering both the economic and strategic implications. Economically, India should aim to reduce its trade deficit with China, while also creating favorable conditions for Indian businesses to compete with Chinese imports. Strategically, India should focus on strengthening its economic and military capabilities to better protect its national interests and address security concerns in the region.

2. Discuss the impact of the political developments in West Asia on India's energy security and suggest ways to address these challenges.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about India oil import and then highlight how disruption in west Asia will impact the India and its energy security also suggest some measures to reduce the dependencies.

Introduction

West Asia is India's largest source of crude oil, accounting for more than 70% of India's total oil imports. Any geopolitical tensions, conflicts or disruptions in oil-producing countries like Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE can lead to instability in the global oil market and affect the oil prices, which in turn can impact India's energy security.

Body

- **Volatility in the Middle East:** Political instability and conflict in the region can lead to disruptions in oil supplies, causing spikes in global oil prices and affecting India's energy security.
- **Dependence on Imports:** India's dependence on imported oil from West Asia makes it vulnerable to price volatility and supply disruptions, which can have a significant impact on the country's economy and energy security.
- **Competition for Resources:** The increasing competition for energy resources in West Asia can lead to higher prices and greater competition for supplies, making it more difficult for India to secure the energy it needs.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Geopolitical tensions between countries in the region and major energy-importing countries, including India, can also affect energy security by creating uncertainty and instability in energy markets and potentially disrupting oil and natural gas supplies.
- **Changing Global Energy Dynamics:** The changing global energy dynamics, including the rise of alternative sources of energy and the decline of traditional oil-producing countries, can also impact India's energy security.

Measures to tackle the challenges to ensure energy security of India:

- **Diversifying Energy Sources:** Diversifying India's energy mix to reduce dependence on a single region and to minimize the impact of supply disruptions in the event of political instability or conflict in West Asia. This can include investing in renewable energy, exploring alternative sources of oil and gas, and improving energy efficiency.
- **Strengthening Domestic Energy Production:** Encouraging domestic energy production, including oil and gas exploration, to reduce India's dependence on imports.
- **Improving Energy Efficiency:** Improving energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy to reduce demand for energy, reduce the impact of supply disruptions, and reduce the country's dependence on imported oil and gas.

- **Enhancing Diplomatic Efforts:** Engaging in diplomatic efforts to ensure stability in the region and to secure India's energy supplies, including negotiating energy security agreements with key energy-producing countries and engaging in multilateral energy forums.
- **Building Strategic Reserves:** Building strategic reserves of oil and gas to ensure that the country has adequate supplies in the event of disruptions in West Asia, and to reduce the impact of spikes in global oil prices.
- **Encouraging Private Investment:** Encouraging private investment in the energy sector, including investment in renewable energy and exploration and production of oil and gas, to promote domestic energy production and reduce dependence on imports.
- **Implementing Energy-Efficient Technologies:** Implementing energy-efficient technologies, including smart grid systems, energy storage systems, and electric vehicles, to reduce energy demand and improve energy security.

Conclusion

India's energy security is closely tied to the political developments in West Asia, and the country must take a strategic and proactive approach to address these challenges and secure its energy supplies. This may include diversifying its energy sources, developing domestic energy production, and engaging in diplomatic efforts to ensure stability in the region.

3. **Evaluate the role of international institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO) in addressing global health challenges and its implications for India's interests and engagement in these fora.**

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of India and WHO partnership or how WHO is globally responsible. Also highlight Implication on India and how India benefits from engagement.

Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) plays a crucial role in addressing global health challenges by providing leadership and coordination in the international response to public health issues.

Body

Some of the ways the WHO contributes to addressing global health challenges include:

- **Monitoring and assessing the global health situation:** The WHO collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on public health issues and trends to inform policy and decision-making.

- Developing health standards and guidelines: The WHO develops evidence-based standards and guidelines that serve as a basis for national health policies and programs.
- Supporting disease control and elimination: The WHO provides technical assistance and support to countries in controlling and eliminating diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and polio.
- Emergency response: The WHO leads and coordinates international health responses to emergencies such as outbreaks of infectious diseases and natural disasters.
- Research and innovation: The WHO conducts and supports research and innovation in areas that impact global health and provides a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices.

As a member of the WHO, India has a vested interest in engaging with the organization to address health challenges and promote its national interests. Some of the implications of India's engagement with the WHO include:

- Access to information and knowledge: By participating in WHO programs and initiatives, India gains access to the latest information and knowledge on public health issues and trends.
- Influence in setting health standards and policies: By engaging with the WHO, India has the opportunity to participate in the development of health standards and policies that impact its population and influence the global health agenda.
- Technical assistance and support: Through its engagement with the WHO, India can receive technical assistance and support in areas such as disease control and elimination, emergency response, and research and innovation.
- Strengthening regional and global health cooperation: By participating in the WHO and other international health fora, India can build relationships and partnerships with other countries to strengthen regional and global health cooperation.

Conclusion

Overall, the WHO plays a critical role in promoting and protecting global health by providing a unified and coordinated approach to addressing health challenges at a global level.

4. **Discuss the role of India in promoting regional stability and security through its participation in the shanghai cooperation organization (SCO).**

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about india's role in promoting regional stability and security through participation in shanghai cooperation organization.

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent international intergovernmental organization. It covers 40% of the global population, nearly 20% of the global GDP and 22% of the world's land mass. It plays a strategically important role in Asia due to its geographical significance this enables it to control Central Asia hence India's role in promoting stability is crucial.

Body

The establishment of the SCO coincided with the broadening of India's strategic vision.

- With the defeat of the Taliban, a window of opportunity opened to connect with Afghanistan and the CARs. Since its inception, India had evinced interest in joining the grouping because of its stake in peace and stability in the region.
- At the Astana summit in 2005 India was accorded Observer status in the grouping.
- SCO is Part of India's stated policy of pursuing "multi-alignments".
- From the Indian perspective, the strategic and geographical space in which the SCO straddles is extremely important. The security, strategic, economic and geopolitical interests are also closely intertwined with developments in this area
- The challenges of terrorism, radicalism, and instability pose a grave threat to Indian sovereignty and integrity
- India requested access to intelligence and information from SCO's counter-terrorism body, the Tashkent-based Regional Anti-Terror Structure (RATS).
- A stable Afghanistan is in India's interest, and RATS provides access to non-Pakistan-centred counter-terrorism information
- With the landlocked states of Central Asia, and Uzbekistan even doubly landlocked, accessing these resources becomes difficult. In this regard, India has prioritized the construction of the International North-South Transport Corridor. SCO, it will help India to connect with South Asian states.
- The Central Asian region is richly endowed with vital minerals and natural resources.
- The major interest is in energy cooperation. But India will also have to deal with an assertive China, which will push its Belt and Road Initiative.
- SCO membership will help India to be a major pan-Asian player, which is currently boxed in the South Asian Region.
- Central Asia is part of India's extended neighbourhood. India's relations with countries in the region have enormous potential for enhancing ties in areas such as economy, security, policy, investment, trade, connectivity, energy, and capacity development.
- One reason is simply that India does not share common land borders with the region, but another factor has been the infrequent visits at the highest level between India and Central Asian states.
- India's membership in the SCO will provide an opportunity for the leadership of India, including prime ministers, to meet with their counterparts from Central Asia, Russia, China, Afghanistan, and others regularly and frequently. India's participation in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) will be an added advantage to make this partnership more fruitful.

- India has demonstrated its keen interest in strengthening multi-faceted relations with Central Asia through Prime Minister's historic visit to the five Central Asian Republics in July 2015.
- Several agreements were signed and new initiatives were launched. The TAPI gas pipeline is an example of a mutually beneficial project.
- In the future, India's development experience, particularly in promoting agriculture, small and medium enterprises, pharmaceuticals, and information technology, can be of immense benefit to Central Asian countries.
- Indian PM raised issue of radicalization as well. In the acronym that the PM gave, called, "HEALTH", the alphabet "T" stands for countries that stand against terrorism.
- It is important to note that radicalization is an issue that bedevils the Central Asian Region in a very big way. India also called for an international conference on terrorism, the SCO can take a lead in that.
- Also in his 'HEALTH' acronym, the alphabet 'A' refers to alternative energy. It is here that he speaks about India's experience in terms of focusing on renewable energy. Prime Minister also touched upon regional cooperation and spoke about how India is willing to share its expertise in all these areas.
- Focus on Afghanistan (as a matter of fact, this is very significant), even though Afghanistan is not a member of the SCO, but India has a contact group on Afghanistan, and the Prime Minister underlined what India's fundamental position on Afghanistan is.
- Finally, it is important to note that the SCO provides an opportunity for the Indian leadership to connect with the leadership of the Central Asian countries.

Conclusion

India's membership of the SCO has given a big thrust to its regional policy. Indian policy is rooted in the region and has a regional outlook. The Central Asian members have welcomed India's participation as they share a wide perception of common concerns and interests. An active role by India will strengthen regional stability and security in the region

5. Evaluate the impact of regional grouping such as SAARC and BIMSTEC on india's engagement with its neighbour and suggest ways to enhance their effectiveness.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about impact of regional grouping such as SAARC and BIMSTEC on india's engagement with neighbour. In second part write about ways to enhance their effectiveness.

Introduction

In Indian foreign policy there is continuous shift right from the time of the 1990's as "Look-East Policy", is converted to the now "Act-East Policy". Even now, with BIMSTEC

being promoted. Both SAARC and BIMSTEC has enormous impact on India's neighbourhood policy.

Body

Importance of SAARC -

- South Asia is important for India's national interest: Because South Asia, that is India's neighbourhood, is important for India's national interests. This is best captured in the current government's 'neighbourhood first' policy.
- SAARC, a pan south Asia reach: SAARC is the only intergovernmental organization with a pan-South Asia reach. India can judiciously employ it to serve its interests in the entire region.
- Weakened SAARC means heightened instability: A weakened SAARC also means heightened instability in other promising regional institutions such as the South Asian University (SAU), which is critical to buttressing India's soft power in the region.

Importance of BIMSTEC for India-

- India shifted its diplomatic energy from SAARC to BIMSTEC: In recent years, India seems to have moved its diplomatic energy away from SAARC to BIMSTEC. This resulted in BIMSTEC, after 25 years, finally adopting its Charter earlier this year.
- BIMSTEC is better than SAARC charter: The BIMSTEC Charter is significantly better than the SAARC Charter. For instance, unlike the SAARC Charter, Article 6 of the BIMSTEC Charter talks about the 'Admission of new members' to the group. This paves the way for the admission of countries such as the Maldives.
- However no flexible formula like 'ASEAN Minus X': Notwithstanding the improvements, the BIMSTEC Charter, to boost economic integration, does not contain the flexible participation scheme of the kind present in the ASEAN Charter.
- This flexible scheme, also known as the 'ASEAN Minus X' formula, allows two or more ASEAN members to initiate negotiations for economic commitments. Thus, no country enjoys veto power to thwart economic integration between willing countries.
- Obstructionist attitude of Pakistan within SAARC: Given the experience of SAARC, where Pakistan routinely vetoes several regional integration initiatives, it is surprising that BIMSTEC does not contain such a flexible participation scheme.
- A flexible 'BIMSTEC Minus X' formula might have allowed India and Bangladesh or India and Thailand to conduct their ongoing bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations under the broader BIMSTEC umbrella.
- This would have eventually strengthened BIMSTEC by enabling the gradual and incremental expansion of these binding commitments to other members. India should press for this amendment in the BIMSTEC Charter.

Ways to enhance effectiveness of SAARC and BIMSTEC -

- It is also important to point out here that the SAARC shouldn't only be confined to summit level meetings. SAARC is much beyond that.
- Over the past 34 years, a whole range of mechanisms have evolved in areas such as agriculture, space research, remote sensing satellites (the South Asian satellite was launched by India recently).

- A whole range of sectors have had mechanisms to promote a more integrated SAARC.
- Even the establishment of the South Asian University is an example, where in the past ten years, the number of applications received have doubled. Thus, there are a whole range of mechanisms that together make up the idea of SAARC.
- Within SAARC, it is only the summit level meetings that have not happened so far. Also, there have only been 18 SAARC summit level meetings in the past 34 years, thus it is not the first time that the summit meetings have been delayed (although this time, it has been inordinately delayed).
- Also, it is important to note that Pakistan is not the only country that gets disconnected if India moves away from SAARC to BIMSTEC. Afghanistan is also a country that gets affected.
- Also, BIMSTEC can never be SAARC. As a matter of fact, the foreign minister has himself said that we need to be far more generous to our neighbour (this opens the space for the possibility of some back-door channels between India and Pakistan as well).
- So, BIMSTEC is not really an alternative to SAARC. As a matter of fact, the charter of BIMSTEC says that it is a bridge between SAARC and ASEAN.
- The organic unity of South Asia that has evolved, and the entire process of 'regionalization' that has happened under the SAARC over the past 34 years, is much stronger compared to the work done under BIMSTEC.
- BIMSTEC has had only 4 summit level meetings in about 22 years. Thus, the BIMSTEC is not meant to do what the SAARC is supposed to do. Also, it does not have the stature of what the SAARC is supposed to do.
- The SAARC has its own relevance, but yes, there is a certain policy direction which one observes that India is giving towards putting the SAARC on hold on one hand and encouraging the potential of BIMSTEC on the other.
- BIMSTEC should not end up as another SAARC: For this, its member countries should raise the stakes. A high-quality FTA offering deep economic integration, something that Prime Minister Narendra Modi also advocated at the last BIMSTEC ministerial meeting would be an ideal step.
- India should try make the organizations flexible to ensure peace and prosperity in the region: Likewise, India should explore legal ways to move successful SAARC institutions such as SAU to BIMSTEC.
- These steps will give stronger roots to BIMSTEC and enable erecting a new South Asian regional order based on incrementalism and flexibility, ushering in prosperity and peace in the region.

Conclusion

Since South Asia cannot repudiate regionalism, reviving SAARC by infusing political energy into it and updating its dated Charter will be an ideal way forward. However, in the current scenario, this is too idealistic. So, the next best scenario is to look at other regional instruments such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sect-oral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

6. At a time when Pakistan is facing a severe economic crisis what should be india's strategy towards Pakistan? Do you think Pakistan's call for dialogue and engagement should be taken on a serious note by India ? Critically examine.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about india's strategy towards Pakistan as Pakistan is facing worst economic crisis . does Pakistan's call for dialogue is genuine or fake examine it critically.

Introduction

Undoubtedly, Pakistan has been experiencing its worst economic crisis amidst food shortages, flash floods, and poverty. According to the State Bank, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves last week dropped to \$4.3 billion, the lowest level since February 2014 hence Pakistan has called for dialogue with India .

Body

- Pakistan's economy has hit rock bottom, leaving its citizens struggling to meet basic needs such as food and energy.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for "serious and sincere talks" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on "burning points like Kashmir." Mr. Sharif said that Pakistan has learned its lesson after three wars with India and stressed that now it wants peace with its neighbour. It is up to us to live peacefully and make progress or quarrel with each other and waste time and resources,
- Meanwhile, the Pakistan PMO, in a series of tweets, clarified that PM Sharif had made it clear that talks with India will be possible only when the neighbour reverses the abrogation of Article 370 that grants autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir.
- With three wars with India, and they have only brought more misery, poverty, and unemployment to the people. We have learnt our lesson, and we want to live in peace with India, provided we are able to resolve our genuine problems,"
- Pakistan, which is battling a severe economic crisis, public discontent due to flour crisis and fuel shortage among others, is also faced with rising instances of terror attacks by the Three-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which had ended a ceasefire with the country's security forces late last year.
- "India is our neighbour country, we are neighbour . Let's be very blunt, even if we are not neighbour by choice we are there forever and it is up to us for us to live peacefully and progress or quarrel with each other and waste time and resources.
- "[India] usurped whatever semblance of autonomy was given to Kashmiris in their Constitution Article 370. They revoked that in August 2019, and minorities over there are pained, grossly mishandled. This must stop so that a message can go around the globe that India is ready to have talks, and we are more than ready," said Mr. Sharif.

- he said that both the countries have engineers, doctors, and skilled labourer. "We want to utilize these assets for prosperity and to bring peace to the region so that both nations can grow."
- "Pakistan does not want to waste resources on bombs and ammunition. We are nuclear powers, armed to the teeth, and if God forbids, a war breaks out, who will live to tell what happened?" he said.
- PM has consistently maintained that Pakistan & India must resolve their bilateral issues, especially the core issue of Jammu & Kashmir, through dialogue and peaceful means," the Pakistan PMO tweeted.
- "However the Prime Minister has repeatedly stated on record that talks can only take place after India has reversed its illegal action of August 5, 2019. Without India's revocation of this step, negotiations are not possible," it said, adding "The settlement of the Kashmir dispute must be in accordance with the UN resolutions & aspirations of people of Jammu & Kashmir.
- India in November last year had lashed out at Pakistan for raking up the issue of Kashmir during a United Nations debate, terming it as "desperate attempts to peddle falsehoods".
- Pakistan's plans for economic development-Pakistan, and especially its army leadership, seem to be greatly inspired by China's economic rise and believe that Pakistan can benefit enormously from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship of Xi's Belt and Road Initiative.
- The CPEC's phase-II, which was signed between Pakistan and China in February this year, revolves around the creation of special economic zones, industrialization, and information technology with the Gwadar deep-sea port as the regional connectivity hub.
- Meanwhile, work on the third industrial revolution, which involves cyberspace connectivity by fibre optic cables, subsea cables, Huawei 5G wireless connections, and BeiDou satellite navigation system, with special resolution rights for Pakistan, would be carried forward under CPEC phase-II.
- The fourth industrial revolution, which emphasizes on artificial intelligence (AI) and data, has already begun in Pakistan. With the help of Chinese companies, the country is building data centers. In August 2020, the Pakistan Air Force established a national nodal agency for AI and its applications, called the Centre of Artificial Intelligence and Computing (CENTAIC).
- However, to accomplish all these goals, Pakistan needs to have peace with India.

Why should India resume talks-

- What does India get in return? If the LoC becomes a soft border, India's two-front war strategy and the Cold Start doctrine against the Pakistan Army, which has not been war-gamed, will not be put to test.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory will achieve normalcy and the Indian Army can reduce counter-terror operations.

Conclusion

Resuming the dialogue will substantially reduce the Indian Army's strength, and with the ensuing savings, India could invest in the emerging dual use technologies. Therefore, if understood from this perspective, peace with Pakistan would be a win-win not only for the two nations but for the region as well.

7. Evaluate the impact of institutional measures such as Right to information act and the Lokpal and lokayukta act on enhancing transparency and accountability in the public sector .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about impact of RTI act and Lokpal and lokayukta act on enhancing transparency and accountability in public sector .

Introduction

Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI Act), Lokpal and lokayukta act was enacted to empower the citizens to seek information from Public Authorities. Thereby it promotes transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, and makes Indian democracy work for the people in real sense.

Body

Major impact of achievements of RTI Act, 2005.

- Increased responsiveness: Greater access of the citizen to information, led to increased responsiveness of government to community needs.
- For example, for about two years, every time, Suvarana Bhagyawant case in which she got the certificate within eight days.
- Awareness of rights: RTI has led to awareness of rights and responsibilities as citizens among people.
- This led to increased accountability of officials through RTI and litigation.
- In 2007, data obtained under RTI inspired citizens to question elected representatives to stop a scam worth over Rs. 6,000 crores in the Crawford Market redevelopment issues in Mumbai.
- Discharge of duties: Information through RTI has led to legitimate discharge of their duties by officers. It raised the standards of public services
- Led to Culture of obligation: RTI has developed an obligation at village, district, state or national level to disclose information to the people.
- Thus it enhanced transparency among various government bodies at all levels of the government.
- For e.g Villagers in Madhubani district, Bihar used RTI to expose a solar-light scam, leading to charges against 200 corrupt officials.
- Empowered poor communities: RTI empowered poor communities to raise their voices on the basis of information and demand for their rights from the government.
- This ensured the government being answerable to the poor.
- It plugged the incidence of corruption and plugged leakages.
- Proper grievance mechanism: RTI provided for Central and the State Information Commissions to hear grievances related to RTI.
- Informed Citizenry: RTI enabled healthy democracy and also contained corruption and held Governments accountable to the people.
- In the model district of Mocha, Chhattisgarh, people are using RTI to secure employment, scholarships and pensions for the elderly.

Impact of lokpal and lokayukta act -

- This Bill was passed by Parliament in July 2016 and amended the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.
- It enables the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha to be a member of the selection committee in the absence of a recognized Leader of Opposition.
- It also amended section 44 of the 2013 Act that deals with the provision of furnishing of details of assets and liabilities of public servants within 30 days of joining the government service.
- The Bill replaces the time limit of 30 days, now the public servants will make a declaration of their assets and liabilities in the form and manner as prescribed by the government. 2/5
- It also gives an extension of the time given to trustees and board members to declare their assets and those of their spouses in case of these are receiving government funds of more than Rs. 1 crore or foreign funding of more than Rs. 10 lakh

Way forward -

- In order to tackle the problem of corruption, the institution of the ombudsman should be strengthened both in terms of functional autonomy and the availability of manpower.
- The appointment of Lokpal in itself is not enough. The government should address the issues based on which people are demanding a Lokpal. Merely adding to the strength of investigative agencies will increase the size of the government but not necessarily improve governance. The slogan adopted by the government of “less government and more governance”, should be followed in letter and spirit.
- Moreover, Lokpal and Lokayukta must be financially, administratively and legally independent of those whom they are called upon to investigate and prosecute. Lokpal and Lokayukta appointments must be done transparently so as to minimize the chances of the wrong sorts of people getting in.
- There is a need for a multiplicity of decentralized institutions with appropriate accountability mechanisms, to avoid the concentration of too much power in any one institution or authority.

Conclusion

Since the implementation of the RTI, lokpal and lokayukta act it has established itself as an important tool in handling corruption and inefficiency in the Government. Issues and loopholes in RTI, lokpal and lokayukta should be removed through proper amendment to further the objectives of transparency and accountability.

8. Analyse the role of civil services in promoting democratic values and practices and suggest ways to improve their performance in this regard.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about election process and the involvement of the technology in it then highlight some measures to improve with use of technology.

Introduction

The important role of civil services in a democracy are administration, policy formulation, and policy implementation for the betterment of society and the nation.

Body

Civil service promoting democratic values:

- **Implementing Policies and Programs:** Civil servants are responsible for implementing policies and programs that are in line with democratic values and practices, such as ensuring equal treatment for all citizens and protecting individual rights and freedoms.
- **Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:** Civil servants play a critical role in promoting transparency and accountability in government operations, including providing access to information and responding to public inquiries.
- **Upholding the Rule of Law:** Civil servants are expected to uphold the rule of law and ensure that all citizens, including those in positions of power, are held accountable to the same legal standards.
- **Providing Neutral and Impartial Services:** Civil servants are required to provide neutral and impartial services to all citizens, without regard to political beliefs or affiliations.
- **Promoting Public Trust:** Civil servants must act in the public interest and demonstrate integrity, impartiality, and a commitment to serving all citizens, in order to promote public trust in government and democratic institutions.
- **Instruments of Social Change and Economic Development:** Effective policy execution will result in beneficial improvements in ordinary people's lives. A government can only declare a scheme successful when the promised goods and services reach the intended recipients.
- **Welfare Services:** The services provide a variety of welfare programs, including social security, the welfare of the weaker and more vulnerable members of society, old-age pensions, poverty reduction, and so on.

Measures to improve the role of civil services:

- **Encouraging Public Engagement:** Encouraging civil servants to engage with the public and actively seek out public input in policy and program development, to ensure that government services are responsive to citizens' needs and expectations.
- **Fostering a Culture of Service:** Promoting a culture of service within the civil service, encouraging civil servants to view their role as serving the public, rather than just following orders.
- **Ensuring Diversity and Inclusiveness:** Encouraging diversity and inclusiveness within the civil service, and ensuring that all citizens, regardless of background or beliefs, are treated fairly and equitably.

- **Professional Development and Training:** Providing ongoing professional development and training programs to civil servants, including training in democratic values and practices, to ensure they are equipped to serve the public effectively.
- **Encouraging Political Neutrality:** Implementing measures to ensure that civil servants maintain political neutrality and impartiality, including strict codes of conduct and measures to prevent political interference in their work.
- **Strengthening Transparency and Accountability:** Implementing measures to increase transparency and accountability in government operations, including regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms, and providing citizens with access to information and opportunities to provide feedback.
- **Protecting Whistleblowers:** Providing protection for whistleblowers and ensuring that civil servants are able to report unethical or illegal behavior without fear of retaliation.

Conclusion

Improving the role of civil services in promoting democratic values requires a combination of policy and cultural changes, as well as ongoing training and support for civil servants. It is important to create an environment in which civil servants are empowered to serve the public effectively and in line with democratic values and practices.

9. Analyse the challenges faced by the civil services in promoting transparency and accountability in governance and suggest ways to overcome them.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of E governance and then write the positive outcome of the E governance also mention some of drawbacks in the end suggest some measures.

Introduction

There are several challenges faced by civil services in promoting transparency and accountability in governance such as red-tapism, ineffective implementation of rules and laws, very low level of awareness of rights and duties among citizens.

Body

Challenges:

- **Political Interference:** Political interference in the work of civil servants can undermine their ability to act in the public interest and promote transparency and accountability in government operations.
- **Lack of Resources:** Civil services may lack the resources needed to implement effective transparency and accountability mechanisms, including staff, funding, and technology.

- **Resistance to Change:** Some civil servants may be resistant to changes in the way they work that are aimed at promoting transparency and accountability, including new reporting and monitoring requirements.
- **Lack of Public Awareness:** Civil services may struggle to promote transparency and accountability if citizens are not aware of their rights and how to access information and provide feedback.
- **Inadequate Legal Framework:** The legal framework for promoting transparency and accountability may be inadequate in some countries, making it difficult for civil servants to implement effective measures.
- **Corruption:** Corruption can undermine transparency and accountability in governance, as civil servants may be influenced by bribery, nepotism, or other forms of corruption.
- **Cultural Attitudes:** Cultural attitudes and norms may discourage transparency and accountability in some countries, making it difficult for civil servants to promote these values.

To overcome the challenges:

- **Strengthening Legal Framework:** Strengthening the legal framework for transparency and accountability, including the right to information and freedom of expression, to ensure that civil servants have the tools they need to promote these values.
- **Enhancing Public Awareness:** Raising public awareness about transparency and accountability in governance, including the rights of citizens to access information and provide feedback, to help citizens hold their government to account.
- **Encouraging Political Will:** Encouraging political will to support transparency and accountability initiatives, including measures to prevent political interference in the work of civil servants and to protect whistleblowers.
- **Providing Adequate Resources:** Providing adequate resources to civil services, including staff, funding, and technology, to ensure that they are able to implement effective transparency and accountability mechanisms.
- **Fostering a Culture of Transparency:** Fostering a culture of transparency within civil services, encouraging civil servants to be open and transparent in their work, and to welcome public scrutiny.
- **Encouraging Collaboration:** Encouraging collaboration between civil services, government leaders, and citizens, to promote transparency and accountability, and to ensure that all stakeholders have a role to play in promoting these values.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of transparency and accountability initiatives, and to make changes as needed.

Conclusion

Overcoming the challenges requires a sustained effort from all stakeholders, including civil servants, government leaders, and citizens. It is important to take a comprehensive approach, addressing legal, cultural, and resource challenges, and working together to create a more transparent and accountable government.

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10. Analyse the impact of e governance initiatives such as e-filing of taxes and online tracking of public services on reducing corruption and promoting transparency?

Approach

In this question candidates need to analyse the impact of e governance initiatives such as e filing of taxes and online tracking of public services on reducing corruption and promoting transparency .

Introduction

E-governance is ubiquitous and broad,nearly every form of government service and its delivery have the potential to fall within the remit of e-tools and services. Government platforms provides transparency portals with information on various government activities and helping reducing corruption and promote transparency.

Body

Electronic governance or e-governance implies government functioning with the application of ICT (Information and Communications Technology). Hence e-Governance is basically a move towards SMART governance implying: simple, moral, accountable, responsive and transparent governance.

- The development of e-government has not necessarily been driven by policy goals to prevent or reduce corruption. Nevertheless, an important consequence of the increased use of effective e-government tools is reduced interface with government officials, as well as better documentation.
- This is relevant to the private sector because companies' bribery risk assessments often include information on the level and frequency of interactions with public officials in connection with business activity.
- Such interactions are often classified as potentially presenting increased bribery risks often warranting risk mitigation measures.
- The alternative to such measures is to reduce or eliminate personal contact with government officials. The presumption is that by removing face-to-face exchanges with public officials, opportunities for bribery will decline or cease altogether.
- The evolution of the concept of e-government, related definitions and its scope are outlined below, followed by the correlation between corruption and e-government
- Its purpose is to reduce corruption and increase accountability. It also enables a Citizen Centrist Administration where citizens can participate effectively.

Importance of E-Governance in digitization era:

- Transforming lives: The government has been trying hard for digitization to induce economic inclusiveness and social transformation, through initiatives like, 'Digital India', 'Make in India' and Skill India.
- India, as a result, is gearing up for an era of increased digitization. E-governance is important to distribute various benefits of economic growth due to digitization

to all the sects of society. Blending technology and citizen centricity, catalyzing, government operations to create a safer, more efficient and sustainable society.

- Good governance: The complex nature of governance in India demands a holistic approach. Shedding old methods and embracing new technologies in governance, would lead to faster, smarter and more pro-active government needed in the age of digitization catering its citizens.
- Modern problems : With world moving towards new era of digitization, it is necessary for government to adopt modern methods of governance to tackle new threats of modern time like cyber fraud, fake news etc.
- Ease of Business: It is important for making doing business for economic growth of the country. Timely approval of projects and tracking of the projects and policies is important and can be made easy through E-governance.
- Ease of services: E-governance include the digitization of land records, single-window handling of grievances and maintenance of essential services; easing tax payments and government dues; along with internet based delivery of services. It led to faster work culture with reduction in inefficiencies and better services to Indian citizens.
- Real Time Governance: With the help of E-Governance, the government can swiftly resolve citizen grievances and monitor infrastructure projects, incidents and weather & climatic events across the state in real time, leveraging technology services.
- Cost Reduction: Most of the Government expenditure is appropriated towards the cost of stationary. Paper-based communication needs lots of stationary, printers, computers, etc. which calls for continuous heavy expenditure. Internet and Phones makes communication cheaper saving valuable money for the Government.
- Transparency: Use of ICT makes governance transparent. Most of the information of the Government is made available on the internet. The citizens can see the information whenever they want to see. E-governance helped in reducing corruption by online track of various government activities.
- Accountability: As the governing process is made transparent the Government is automatically made accountable. Accountability is answer-ability of the Government to the people.
- Many e-government initiatives introduce technology to improve efficiency and avoid potential human bias. Electronic tax filing (e-filing) is an important example, as developing countries increasingly adopt online submission of tax declarations to replace in-person submission to tax officials.
- Firms that e-file have lower compliance costs, spending five fewer hours each month on fulfilling tax obligations.
- Among firms previously more likely to evade, e-filing doubles tax payments, likely by disrupting collusion with officials. Conversely, among firms less likely to have been evading, e-filing reduces tax payments, suggesting that officials had previously required them to pay more.
- These firms also pay fewer bribes, as e-filing reduces opportunity for extortion. In all, the results indicate that e-filing reduces compliance costs and makes the distribution of tax payments across firms arguably more equitable.

Conclusion

Governance is a challenge in a country as vast, diverse and rapidly developing as India. That's where new technologies intervene and enable large-scale transformation and help in the implementation of ambitious government plans. E-governance thus is important to make governance effective and easy catering to the needs of people.

11. Examine the role of technology in promoting transparency and accountability in election processes and suggest measures to improve it.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about election process and the involvement of the technology in it then highlight some measures to improve with use of technology.

Introduction

Free and fair elections are the bedrock of any healthy democracy. In India the robust electoral machinery and the processes have ably been aided and strengthened by technology.

Body

Transparency and accountability with use of technology:

- A major push to use of technology in the Indian elections came with the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs). It entirely disrupted the way the elections were conducted.
- Use of EVMs was not simply the replacement of sturdy ballot boxes and ballot papers. It was a paradigm shift for everyone including the transparency and accountability for the voters.
- The use of Election Photo Identity Cards for voters at the time of voting has again been a technological intervention to achieve the goal of fair elections.
- It is another matter that other proofs of identity are also allowed on the day of poll to absolutely ensure that no one is deprived from exercising his franchise.
- Use of suitable software has also ensured cropping of the elector's image on the electoral roll. This ensures prohibition of forged voting on the day of poll.
- Linking of electoral roll with Aadhar database would further buttress the integrity with transparency of the roll and thus purity of the election process.
- Now, with centralized monitoring system through a portal with GPS facility, the vehicle with EVM management has become far clear.
- With introduction of Sugam portal- another technological intervention- all the permission processes have been made absolutely transparent.
- Like Sugam portal, there is another Portal called Samadhan which is used to monitor the complaints received from different quarters. The action taken on every complaint is recorded and is visible to all the stakeholders it sets the accountability.

- The Election Commission has been using another technological marvel- video conferencing – very extensively for monitoring of the entire election process. The Commission has been taking innumerable meetings with the election machinery in the field through video conferencing for accountability.
- Commission has introduced 'Cvigil' app which can be used by the citizens for posting their complaints directly. The still photographs and videos can be uploaded. The app is in public domain.

Measures to improve:

- Voter Verification: Implementing secure and reliable methods of voter verification, such as biometric identification or online voter roll management, to prevent fraud and ensure the accuracy of election results.
- Secure Systems: Ensuring that voting systems and online platforms are secure and protected against hacking, tampering or any other form of interference.
- Accessibility: Providing accessible technology for all eligible voters, including those with disabilities, to enable them to participate in the election process.
- Cybersecurity Training: Providing training for election officials and staff to help them identify and prevent potential cyber threats, and implement best practices for security.
- Cybersecurity Training: Providing training for election officials and staff to help them identify and prevent potential cyber threats, and implement best practices for security.
- Independent Auditing: Conducting independent audits of the technology used in the election process to ensure the integrity of the results and identify any potential vulnerabilities.

Conclusion

The massive technological intervention in conduct of election at every stage has certainly made it more credible. It has helped in creating level playing field for all the players in the game leading to free and fair elections- sine qua non for a true democracy.

12. Evaluate the success of e-governance initiatives in increasing public participation in policy-making and decision-making processes and suggest ways to further improve it.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of E governance and then write the positive outcome of the E governance also mention some of drawbacks in the end suggest some measures.

Introduction

The use of technology for e governance has made it easier for citizens to engage with their governments and participate in policy-making processes, but in others, digital divides and lack of access to technology have hindered their success.

Body

Success of E governance:

- **Increased Accessibility:** E-governance initiatives can provide wider access to information and increase transparency in policy-making processes, enabling citizens to more easily engage with their government.
- **Convenience:** Technology makes it easier for citizens to provide feedback, make suggestions and participate in decision-making processes from the comfort of their own homes, without having to physically attend meetings.
- **Improved Efficiency:** E-governance initiatives can streamline the policy-making process, reducing the time and resources required for government to consult with citizens and incorporate their feedback.

Drawbacks of E governance:

- **Digital Divide:** The success of e-governance initiatives is dependent on access to technology and the digital literacy of citizens. A significant portion of the population may be excluded if they do not have access to the internet or the skills to use technology effectively.
- **Security and Privacy:** E-governance initiatives can also raise security and privacy concerns, as sensitive information may be at risk of being compromised.
- **Infrastructure:** Lack of basic infrastructural facilities like electricity, internet, etc. Initiatives like BharatNet and Saubhagya are steps taken in this regard.
- **Cost:** e-Governance measures are costly affairs and require huge public expenditure. In developing countries like India, the cost of projects is one of the major impediments in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

Suggestions:

- **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Providing access to technology and digital literacy training to all citizens, particularly in disadvantaged communities, to ensure equal participation in e-governance initiatives.
- **User-Friendly Platforms:** Designing e-governance platforms that are user-friendly and accessible to all, including those with disabilities.
- **Encouraging Active Participation:** Providing incentives and opportunities for citizens to actively participate in policy-making and decision-making processes, such as through online forums, surveys and town hall meetings.
- **Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:** Providing transparent and accessible information on the policy-making process and decision-making outcomes, and making it easy for citizens to hold their government accountable.
- **Addressing Security and Privacy Concerns:** Implementing robust security measures to protect sensitive information and ensuring that citizens' privacy is protected in e-governance initiatives.
- **Collaborating with Stakeholders:** Engaging with stakeholders, including civil society organizations and private sector entities, to increase public participation in policy-making and decision-making processes.

- Evaluating and Improving: Continuously evaluating and improving e-governance initiatives to ensure they are effective in increasing public participation and meeting the needs of citizens.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while e-governance initiatives have the potential to increase public participation in policy-making, their success depends on a number of factors, including access to technology, digital literacy, and the effective management of security and privacy concerns.

- 13. Discuss the role and powers of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in regulating competition in the Indian market. How effective has the CCI been in promoting healthy competition and protecting consumers from anti-competitive practices? Examine.**

Approach

Start with basic intro on the CCI, and simply write different role and powers and then examine how much CCI has been effective in its work with giving different example.

Introduction

Competition Commission of India aims to establish a robust competitive environment. Through proactive engagement with all stakeholders, including consumers, industry, government and international jurisdictions.

Body

Role and powers:

- To eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- To give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority
- To undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.
- Consumer Welfare, to make the markets work for the benefit and welfare of consumers.
- Ensure fair and healthy competition in economic activities in the country for faster and inclusive growth and development of the economy.
- Implement competition policies with an aim to effectuate the most efficient utilization of economic resources.

Work and judgements of CCI for promoting healthy competition:

- Google: CCI imposed a fine of ₹10 million upon Google in 2014 for failure to comply with the directions given by the Director General (DG) seeking information and documents.
- The commission ordered an antitrust probe against Google for abusing its dominant position with Android to block market rivals. This probe was ordered

on the basis of the analysis of a similar case in the EU where Google was found guilty and fined.

- Cement companies: CCI imposed a fine of ₹63.07 billion (US\$910 million) on 11 cement companies for cartelisation in June 2012.
- It claimed that cement companies met regularly to fix prices, control market share and hold back supply which earned them illegal profits.
- BCCI: CCI imposed a penalty of ₹522 million (US\$7.6 million) on the BCCI in 2013 for misusing its dominant position.
- The CCI found that IPL team ownership agreements were unfair and discriminatory and that the terms of the IPL franchise agreements were loaded in favor of BCCI and franchises had no say in the terms of the contract.
- Telecoms: CCI ordered a probe into the functioning of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) following a complaint filed by Reliance Jio against the cartelization by its rivals Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India and Idea cellular.
- Airlines: CCI imposed a fine of ₹258 crores upon Three Airlines in 2015. Competition Commission of India (CCI) had penalized the three airlines for cartelisation in determining the fuel surcharge on air cargo.
- The Commission has adjudicated more than 1,200 antitrust cases i.e., case disposal rate is 89 % in antitrust cases.
- It has also reviewed more than 900 mergers and acquisitions till date, cleared most of them, within a record average time of 30 days.
- The Commission has also come up with several innovations like the 'Green Channel' provision for automated approval on combinations/transactions and cleared more than 50 of such transactions.

Challenges:

- With the advent of Web 3.0, AI, IoT, Blockchain and other technological developments, and emergence of issues like data protection and privacy, search bias, platform neutrality, deep discounting, hostile takeovers, confidentiality, etc, the need for a robust competition law.
- In spheres such as telecom, internet and big-technology, CCI's functions also overlap with other regulatory bodies such as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- CCI has been called a 'Toothless regulator' by critics. Most of the orders of the CCI are under appeal before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) or under challenge in the high courts or the Supreme Court.

Conclusion

Currently India's Commission needs to update its definition of market now. There is a need to look into different new spaces like digital space and ensure that there are no monopolistic/duopolistic tendencies leading to price rises and supply side manipulations.

14. Analyse the role of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in regulating the securities market in India. How effective has SEBI been in promoting investor protection and market integrity? Examine.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by writing basics on SEBI and explain its role in later part. Also, as per the demand examine its work and effectivity towards investors and market.

Introduction

In April, 1988 the SEBI was constituted as the regulator of capital markets in India under a resolution of the Government of India. Initially SEBI was a non-statutory body without any statutory power. It became autonomous and given statutory powers by SEBI Act 1992.

Body

Role of SEBI:

- To review the market operations, organizational structure and administrative control of the stock exchanges.
- To overlook the registration and regulation of working of market intermediaries such as merchant bankers, portfolio managers, stock broker etc.
- To overlook the registration and regulation of Mutual Funds, Venture Capital Funds and Collective Investment Schemes.
- Prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices in the securities market. Prohibition of Insider Trading and to educate and train the investors.
- To regulate securities market intermediaries: SEBI has the power to regulate the intermediaries for proper functioning of the market. In order to do so it can also restrain persons from accessing the securities market and even prohibit any person from such access.
- To investigate: If SEBI has reasonable grounds to suggest that the any particular transaction or transactions are dealt in a manner which is detrimental for the investor, then it can order anyone to investigate such transactions.

Functioning of the SEBI:

- Corporate debt and securitization market: Despite numerous attempts the debt market volume has increased but it has failed to attract sufficient liquidity.
- Talent pool and market intelligence: In 2012 SEBI had 643 employees whereas US security and exchange commission alone had 1000 people. As we all know human resource is the most important resource for an organisation.
- Enforcement process: The statutory powers of SEBI are at par with a civil court SEBI has made various regulations.

- Deepening capital market: The number of participants in the capital market has not risen much. Still a large section of society does not deal in security market.
- SEBI has done a lot to encourage people to participate in capital market such as abolishing entry load on mutual funds, simplifying KYC norms but it needs to take some stronger steps to deepen participation in capital market.
- Matching up to global standard: Capital markets are growing and the size of SEBI as compared to security market is not sufficient to properly regulate the capital market like its peers (regulators of US and UK) it needs to established self-regulatory organisations. SRO can focus on routine decisions and SEBI can work on more important issues.

Way forward

- The regulator needs to develop a vibrant corporate debt market and securitization market but these largely remain part of over-the-counter market.
- It should work deeper participation in equity by pension, superannuation and gratuity funds, developing a vibrant retail debt segment and reducing the cost of transaction.
- SEBI need to strengthen its surveillance and enforcement functions it needs to ensure that violations do not go unnoticed whether small or large.
- SEBI needs to increase its human resource in both quality and quantity. It needs to significantly improve its market intelligence, technology and talent pool in order to improve its performance.
- There is need of an attitudinal change, indeed, hundreds of inputs about the market being full of crooks necessitating a crackdown and severe intervention would be received.

15. Analyse the impact of the National Food security Act on addressing malnutrition and food insecurity in India .How have various states implemented the provisions of the act and what challenges have they faced ? Discuss .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about impact of food security act on addressing malnutrition and food insecurity in India ,In second part of answer write about how states implemented this act and issues they faced .

Introduction

The National Food Security Act, 2013 aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two-third of the country's population. The enactment of this landmark legislation, brought a paradigm shift in approach to food security, from welfare to rights-based approach

Body

Impact of NFSA in eliminating hunger and malnutrition-

- According to a UN report number of undernourished people in India has declined by 60 million between 2006 to 2019.
- Improved access to food grains have improved the hunger outcomes amongst the poor and underprivileged.
- Wide coverage of the 2/3rd population have increased resilience in the poor against income shocks.
- Stunting in children under 5 years of age, according to the UN report have decreased from 47.8% in 2012 to 34.7% in 2019.
- Monetary compensation has compensated against wage loss during pregnancy. PWLM can now access to healthier food options like fruits, vegetables etc.
- The awareness generated by the Asha workers have increased the number of infants who were exclusively breastfed from 11.2 million in 2012 to 13.9 million in 2019.
- However, there is still a long way for India to reach nutritional sufficiency as:
- Number of women in reproductive age suffering from anaemia grew from 165.6million in 2012 to 175.6 million in 2019.
- The CNNS have highlighted prevalence of hunger/malnutrition in India children.
- The number of obese adults in India grew from 25.2 million in 2012 to 34.3 million in 2016.
- Institutional infrastructure for delivering the provisions of the food bill is poor.
- Widespread corruption has siphoned off the benefits to ghost beneficiaries and middlemen.

Implementation of NFSA by states -

- After consulting with states, the State Ranking Index for NFSA was created to track the implementation of the NFSA and other reform measures across the country.
- The Index emphasizes the initiatives made by States and UTs, fosters cross-learning, and scales up reform initiatives by all States and UTs.
- The amount of hunger, if any, malnutrition, or both, in a certain state or union territory is not, however, reflected by this statistic.
- Three major pillars that span the full NFSA implementation through TPDS are the foundation of the Index.
- The NFSA, which assesses coverage, targeting, and Act provisions, forms the first pillar.
- The second pillar analyses the delivery system while considering the distribution, transportation, and last-mile delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops (FPS).
- The department's nutrition activities are the subject of the third and final pillar.
- The effective implementation of the NFSA remains with the states/UTs and as governance differs from state to state, the effectiveness of the implementation would also differ in each state.

Challenges states faced while implementing NFSA-

- Lack of Transparency: According to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit conducted in 2016, the wrong people were benefiting from the NFSA.
- It accuses many states of implementing the NFSA despite owning the information that their beneficiaries list is spurious.

- Leakages in PDS: a leakage indicates that the food grains do not reach the intended beneficiaries. The leakages may be of three types:
- pilferage during transportation of food grains
- diversion at fair price shops to non-beneficiaries
- exclusion of entitled beneficiaries from the list.
- Storage: According to the CAG audit, the available storage space was inadequate for the allocated quantity of food grains.
- Quality of food grains: people often complain that the quality of the food grains is not up to the mark and that the grains sometimes have to be mixed with other grains to be edible. Complaints stating that the grains also consist of non-food particles such as pebbles have also been registered.

Ways to increase the effectiveness of NFSA-

- The usage of Information Technology throughout the process from acquisition of the food grains to distribution will aid in enhancing the effectiveness of the process.
- For example, in January 2021, the DigiLocker facility has been advocated for adoption in the PDS. This is to help make e-ration cards accessible for the beneficiaries anytime from anywhere under the One National One Ration Card Scheme.

Conclusion

Food bill has revolutionized the access to food grains; however, the need is to move towards nutritional security and not just food security. Further the structural bottlenecks in the implementation food bill should be corrected by leverage of technology.

16. With increased Specialization in every sphere of economy do you think it is necessary to establish quasi judicial bodies under various ministries, Examine

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write their opinion about the need of establishing quasi judicial bodies under various ministries .

Introduction

A quasi-judicial body is a body which has powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge such as an arbitrator or tribunal board. With increasing specialization in economy There is need to establish more quasi judicial bodies under ministries .

Body

- A quasi-judicial body is an entity such as an arbitrator or tribunal board which has powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge.

- It is obliged to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions from them so as to provide the basis of an official action.
- Their powers are usually limited to a very specific area of expertise and authority, such as land use and zoning, financial markets, public standards etc. National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, etc. are examples of quasi-judicial bodies.
- They primarily oversee the administrative zones. The courts have the power to supervise over all types of disputes but the quasi-judicial bodies are the ones with the powers of imposing laws on administrative agencies.
- These bodies support to lessen the burden of the courts. Quasi-judicial activity is restricted to the issues that concern the particular administrative agency. Quasi-judicial action may be appealed to a court of law.
- These organizations generally have authorities of settlement in matters like breach of discipline, conduct rules, and trust in the matters of money or otherwise.
- Their powers are usually limited to a particular area of expertise, such as financial markets, employment laws, public standards, immigration, or regulation.
- Awards and judgement of quasi-judicial bodies often depend on a per-determined set of rules or punishment depending on the nature and gravity of the offence committed.
- Such punishment may be legally enforceable under the law of a country it can be challenged in a court of law which is the final vital authority.

Need to establish Quasi-Judicial Bodies under various ministries -

- As the welfare state has grown up in size and functions, more and more litigation are pending in the judiciary, making it over-burdened. It requires having an alternative justice system.
- Ordinary judiciary has become dilatory and costly.
- With scientific and economic development, laws have become more complex, demanding more technical knowledge about specific sectors.
- The conventional judiciary is suffering from procedural rigidity, which delays the justice.
- Further, a bulk of decisions, which affect a private individual come not from courts, but from administrative agencies exercising ad judicatory powers.
- The Quasi-judicial bodies are popular these days, owing to their positive impact. The advantages of quasi-judicial bodies are as follows:
- Cost-effective: tribunals are cost-effective in comparison to the conventional judicial processes. The cost-friendly nature of the tribunals encourages people to seek justice and redress their grievances.
- Hassle-free: the tribunals do not require lengthy or complex procedures for submitting of applications. These bodies are accessible, free from technicalities and they proceed more rapidly and efficiently under expert supervision.
- Sharing of workload: The tribunals by taking up many cases reduce the workload of the judiciary. For example, the National Green Tribunal adjudicated on matters concerning the environment and pollution.
- Speedy justice: they are more efficient and provide speedy redressal of grievances.

- Expert knowledge: A tribunal consists of experienced and knowledgeable individuals who easily understand the technicalities of the case brought before them thereby providing the right solution to the problem.

Conclusion

Quasi-judicial body is a good concept as it reduces the burden on Judiciary but there are some loopholes there in this system also. Govt should choose individuals with both technical and legal knowledge and providing them with power to take decisions will be a booster to this organ of Government.

17. What is the difference between Regulatory bodies and Quasi-Judicial bodies? If appeal lies against their decision in judicial courts, then do these quasi-judicial bodies serve any purpose? Explain.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by writing on basic difference and then highlight how it does the partial justice under serve its purpose also in the end highlight the need and how it serving the purpose by alternate view.

Introduction

Regulatory bodies and quasi-judicial bodies are the two broad categories of statutory bodies. Both of them are formed with the help of a statute that is basically an act passed by the legislature.

Body

Difference between Regulatory and quasi-judicial body:

- As the word regulatory suggests these bodies perform certain regulatory roles on the other hand quasi-judicial have a limited power to interpret law.
- Regulatory bodies have a regulatory role, they are independent bodies that are formed by a legislative act (statue) to set certain standards in different field and further perform different operations to enforce those standards.
- The quasi-judicial body can be an individual or body having powers similar to that of the court. They can adjudicate a case and decide the penalty for the guilty. They are different from judicial bodies in the fact that they don't follow the strict judicial rules of evidence, CRPC and CPC.

Recommendary, toothless and appeal in courts serves partial justice:

- Their powers are usually limited to a very specific area of expertise and authority, such as land use and zoning, financial markets, public standards etc. National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, etc. are examples of quasi-judicial bodies.
- Most of these bodies are recommendary in nature, like NHRC and CIC. They can't even award compensation or relief to the victims directly, but can only recommend. These bodies also lack enforcement mechanism & compliance to rules.

- A person can again appeal in the court against the decision of the Quasi-judicial and regulatory body. This fades away the advantage of cost and time provided by the regulatory and Quasi-Judicial body.

Independency, expertise in their functioning reduces the burden of courts it serves the purpose of their formation:

- **Lessen the burden of court:** These bodies reduce the burden of judiciary which is having huge number of pending cases.
- **Expertise:** Generally, members of the bodies have necessary expertise and specialisation in the particular area which help immensely in cases. Thus expertise is a major advantage.
- **Accessible:** These are easily accessible to common people and moreover these involve very low cost as compared to judiciary.
- **Flexibility:** Judiciary generally refer to its old judgements but quasi bodies have flexibility to operate. They have flexible approach in dealing with the cases hence are approached frequently by the people.
- **Suo moto Power:** Some of these bodies are having Suo moto power that is they can enquire on their own on proceedings. For example, National Human rights commission can initiate proceedings on their cases based on reports from media or their knowing of human rights violations.
- **Autonomy of Functioning:** They are fully independent in their functioning outside the purview of executive. For example, NHRC can ask state governments for information related to any incident in lieu of Human rights violation happened in state.

Conclusion

Regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies are crucial for proper functioning of the government. They play an integral role in making every sector of the government robust. Govt should choose individual with both technical and legal knowledge and providing them with power to take decision will be a booster to this organ of Government.

18. The fights between central government and state government on implementation of various developmental programs ultimately costs dearly for the common man? Critically examine

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by giving idea of federalism or centre state disputes and then highlight how it costs the common citizens and also provide alternate views as per the demand of question.

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 many times it leads to dispute due to which common man suffers.

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Body

Welfare policies, schemes & dispute around cost beneficiaries:

- Health Sector: Central government's initiative of Ayushman Bharat to provide Universal health coverage was hindered by some states for example West Bengal refusing to join scheme left many beneficiaries out of services.
- 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 was opposed by some states it impacts loss of holistic education to common man.
- Agricultural marketing Sector: The recent Farm Acts which allow farmers to sell their produce outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and aim to promote inter-state trade.
- 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.
- Aadhaar based schemes: Similarly West Bengal government's case in 2017 it was filed under Article 32 of the Constitution challenging the validity of the 'Aadhaar Act'. These activities strangled development schemes based on Aadhaar.
- 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 in oxygen and hospital infrastructure in overall it impacts welfare of people.

Such disputes, fights represent the devolution in authority also it facilitates common man:

- After initial challenges of Pandemic, 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.
- West Bengal, Delhi, Telangana and Odisha who were staying out of the Ayushman Bharat programme better entitlement-based health scheme in states.
- National education policy was viewed by Tamil Nadu government as a policy against social justice, federalism, pluralism and equality.
- As per the few oppositions ruled state government farmers the law was framed to suit big corporations who seek to dominate the Indian food and agriculture business and will weaken the negotiating power of farmers.

Way forward

- The inter-state tribunals, the NITI and other informal bodies have served as vehicles of consultations between the Union, states and UTs in such situations.
- These bodies have been instrumental in tackling difficult issues democratically through deliberations while upholding the cooperative spirit between the Union and states.

- Politically motivated fights must be abandoned and must not be entertained by the institutions. Instead, determined efforts must be made to resolve them within the political arena.
- The States must restrain themselves while defying the implementation of Central laws, if done it might lead to the breakdown of constitutional machinery.

19. How does the Representation of People's Act regulate campaign financing and expenditure during elections? Examine.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by giving idea of RPA Acts and its provisions related to expenditures and funding-finance write points on candidate and party level.

Introduction

The Constitution empowers Parliament to make provisions for elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. In order to exercise this power, the Parliament enacted laws such as the RPA Act 1950 and RPA Act 1951.

Body

Expenditure by candidate:

- Under Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, every candidate shall keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure incurred between the date on which they have been nominated and the date of declaration of the result.
- All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the ECI within 30 days of the completion of the elections.
- An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification of the candidate by the ECI for up to three years, under Section 10A of RPA, 1951.
- Recently, the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies was increased from Rs 54 lakh-Rs 70 lakh (depending on states) to Rs 70 lakh-Rs 95 lakh, by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Election funding-finance:

- As of now, the sources and uses of party funds are opaque not just to the public and the regulators but also to party members.
- Much of this comes as secret contributions from profit seekers wanting unjustifiable preferences in purchase and construction contracts, or appointments and postings, or policy changes designed to aid them vis-a-vis some competitor.
- Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 which secured at least 1% of votes polled in the last General Election to the Lok Sabha or the State Legislative Assembly are eligible to receive Electoral Bonds.

- However, all registered political parties have to submit a statement of their election expenditure to the ECI within 90 days of the completion of the elections.
- It is mandatory for the political parties to submit to the ECI a list of donations they received above Rs. 2,000. Political parties cannot receive more than Rs 2000 as cash donations.
- Now, political parties are eligible to accept contributions from foreign companies defined under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

Concerns Regarding Expenditure and financing of the elections:

- False Disclosures: Even after the provision of the declaration of expenditure in the RPA act, candidates do not disclose all expenditure and provide wrong and incomplete information.
- Contradicting to its Basic Idea: The central criticism of the electoral bonds scheme is that it does the exact opposite of what it was meant to do: bring transparency to election funding.
- Compromising Right to Know: The Supreme Court of India has long held that the “right to know”, especially in the context of elections, is an integral part of the right to freedom of expression (Article 19) under the Indian Constitution.
- The RPAs lack clear provisions and guidelines on the matters related to the misuse of official machinery that gives an unfair advantage to the ruling party at the time of elections and leads to the misuse of public funds for furthering the prospects of candidates of a particular party.

Conclusion

The RPA, 1951 provides for the expenditure monitoring mechanism which ensures the accountability and transparency of the candidate and party but it needs to be more agile to reduce role of money and misuse of money power for election benefits.

20. How does the Election Commission of India discharge its constitutional mandate to conduct free and fair elections in the country? What challenges does it face? Analyse.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by writing on role of ECI and its constitutional mandate. Also highlight how it ensure the free and fair election also mention challenges faced by ECI.

Introduction

The holding of free and fair elections is the sine-qua-non of democracy. To ensure the conduct of elections in free, fair and in an impartial manner, the constitution-makers incorporated Part XV (Articles.324-329) in the constitution and empowered Parliament to make laws to regulate the electoral process.

Body

Ensuring free and fair elections in India:

- Election Commission ensure free and fair election by enforcing and maintaining a model code of conduct before elections and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
- The Commission had gone to the extent of disciplining the political parties with a threat of de-recognising if the parties failed in maintaining inner-party democracy.
- It upholds the values enshrined in the Constitution viz, equality, equity, impartiality, independence; and rule of law in superintendence, direction, and control over the electoral governance.
- It conducts elections with the highest standard of credibility, freeness, fairness, transparency, integrity, accountability, autonomy and professionalism.
- It ensures participation of all eligible citizens in the electoral process in an inclusive voter-centric and voter-friendly environment.
- The Commission approaches the government well in advance to obtain the names of senior officers for the purpose of appointment as observers before any election.
- Commission via SVEEP, ECI engages more and more voters in the electoral process and ensure their ethical and inducement-free participation in voting.

Challenges:

- Misuse of Government Machinery: Misuse of official machinery: The issue of advertisements at the cost of government and public exchequer highlighting their achievements, disbursements out of the discretionary funds at the disposal of the ministers, use of government vehicles for canvassing etc.
- Distorting Informed Decision Making of Voters: Unregulated populism that offers and distributes 'irrational freebies' during election campaigns causes voters to be biased, especially the unprivileged, since freebies can sway them and affect the informed decision-making process for choosing their representatives.
- Lack of Independent Staff: Since ECI does not have its own staff, it relies on those of the Central and State Governments whenever elections are held.
- Politicisation of social media: social media reflects public opinion, that is a currency of democracy. But one of the most common criticisms of social media is that it creates echo chambers where people only see viewpoints they agree with.
- No Statutory Backing for Enforcing Model Code of Conduct (MCC): As far as enforcing Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other election-related decisions are concerned, there is no clarity regarding the powers of Election Commission of India (ECI) to enforce them on ground.
- Phenomenon of fake news and misinformation – an important aspect of the role that social media are likely to play in the elections is the phenomenon of fake news and misinformation. The social rupture caused by such campaigns, including heightened insecurity for marginalised sections of society, is phenomenal.

- Use of bots and unfair means to trend on social media – The immediacy of the engagement, with deep penetration through the device of posts going viral, sometimes, allegedly, owing to the deployment of bots, creates challenge in conducting free and fair election.

Conclusion

The powers of the EC are enormous and all-encompassing which even exceed the powers of the executive in all election-related issues during the course of the election period. Thereby giving it effective tools in dispensing free and fair elections, only thing that lacks is will and integrity on the part of responsible officials.

21. How are appointments to constitutional bodies such as Union Public Service Commission and the State public service commission made, and what is the role of the government in this process ? Explain.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how the appointments are made at bodies such as Upsc, and State public service commission and what is role of government in this process.

Introduction

Under the Constitution, the President has power to make numerous constitutional appointments. But in reality he exercises this power on the proposal of the Cabinet. Cabinet decides who is to be appointed and at what place.

Body

Appointment and Eligibility of members-

- Article 316 of the Indian Constitution provides for provisions regarding the appointment of the chairman and the members of the U.P.S.C. and S.P.S.C.
- The Chairman and other members of Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions are appointed by the President of India and the Governor of the State respectively.
- Although no specific qualification is mentioned in the Constitution, but it mandates that 50% of the members of U.P.S.C. should be the ones who have held government office for at least 10 years.
- The President of India and The Governor of State are empowered by the Constitution of India to determine the conditions of service of the Chairman and other members of the Union Public Service Commission and the State Public Service Commission respectively, at the time of their appointment.
- The person to be appointed as the members of the Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions should not hold any office of profit under the central or the state government.

- The composition of the Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions.
- The U.P.S.C. and S.P.S.C. both consist of a Chairman and other members.
- The Commissions consist of 9 to 11 members including the chairman (though the number is not defined anywhere, and it changes from time to time and decided by the president in case of U.P.S.C. and by the Governor in case of S.P.S.C.).
- The current sanctioned strength of the Commissions is 11 (i.e., one Chairman and ten members).

Appointment of chairman and acting chairman-

- In case, the office of the Chairman becomes vacant, the President shall appoint another member of the Commission as the acting chairman to perform the functions of the chairman in his/her absence.
- The governor can also appoint one of the members of the S.P.S.C. as an acting chairman if any of the following conditions prevail:
 - The office of the chairman of the commission becomes vacant;
 - The chairman of the commission, due to absence or for any other reason, is unable to perform the duties of his office.
- The acting chairman will perform the functions of the chairman until the chairman returns to its office.

Composition of Union Public Service Commission-

- Appointment of Members: The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India.
- Term of Office: Any member of the UPSC shall hold office for a term of six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Reappointment: Any person who has once held the office as a member of a Public Service Commission is ineligible for reappointment to that office.
- Resignation: A member of the Union Public Service Commission may resign from his/her office by submitting the written resignation to the President of India.
- Removal/Suspension of Members: The Chairman or any other member of UPSC shall only be removed from his/her office by order of the President of India.
- The President can suspend the Chairman or any other member from his/her office in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court.
- Conditions for Removal: The Chairman or any other member of UPSC may be removed if he/she is adjudged an insolvent.
- engages during his/her term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his/her office is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.
- Regulating the Conditions of Service: In the case of the UPSC, the President of India shall:
 - Determine the number of members of the Commission and their conditions of service.
 - Make provisions with respect to the number of members of the staff of the Commission and their conditions of service.
- Restriction of Power: The conditions of service of a member of UPSC shall not be amended after his/her appointment that may lead to his/her disadvantage.
- Power to Extend Functions: The Legislature of a State may provide for the exercise of additional functions by the UPSC or the SPSC as respects the services of the

Union or the State and also as respects the services of any local authority or other body corporate constituted by law or of any public institution.

Government role in this process -

- In the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission, the President and, in the case of a State Commission, the Governor of the State may by regulations determine the number of members of the Commission and their conditions of service.
- Make provision with respect to the number of members of the staff of the Commission and their conditions of service:
- Provided that the conditions of service of a member of a Public Service Commission shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Conclusion

The Public Service Commissions form a basic structure that ensures and protects the meritorious nature of the Indian civil services. However, there could be some changes and reforms to modify these commissions to work more efficiently.

22. Should the public conduct of MPs and MLAs be subject to parliamentary scrutiny? Why or why not? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving short description on legislators conduct in public and then simply address whether there is requirement of any scrutiny also provide other side of arguments.

Introduction

In a bid to assert their superiority over the rest, some MPs or MLAs go overboard and do misconduct in public. Some even threaten voters with dire consequences if they are not voted to power. Therefore, to ensure civility in political speeches and expressions, parliamentary scrutiny seems necessary in some situation.

Body

Necessary of parliamentary scrutiny:

- The parliamentarian representing their constituencies in the Parliament/legislative body have time and again brought ill-repute to the institution with their incivility.
- Creating public nuisance, making unacceptable remarks and disrupting law and order are some of the major allegations they face. For example, communal sloganeering during pro CAA rallies in Delhi.
- Hate speeches are found tantamount to incitement of any offence, whether it's hated speech or treason, they are already punishable under Indian law if made outside the legislative house but parliamentary scrutiny will stand more effective.

- Parliamentary Committee while scrutinizing reports will be usually exhaustive and provide authentic information on matters related to misconduct of legislators.
- As parliamentary scrutiny through committee will be 'closed-door' and members will not be bounded by party whips, the parliamentary committee work on the ethos of debate and discussions.
- Nevertheless, free speech has to be distinguished from hate speech. Hate speech made by a legislator sometimes may not amount to offence, but some public check will have to be there even if it does not amount to an offence.

Parliamentary scrutiny will unfairly restrain legislators from making political speeches:

- The policing of public speeches will severely impact the ability of opposition voice to check the Executive and will thus be a detriment to accountability.
- Free speech of legislators protects the integrity of deliberations and is a shield against executive suppression of inconvenient voices.
- Freedom of expression is generally regarded as the foundation of a liberal democracy.
- Unfairly restraining legislators from making political speeches will strike a serious blow to democratic structure.
- Parliamentary Committees help by providing a forum where members can engage with domain experts and government officials during the course of their study. Scrutiny of legislators conduct in public should be left to state police.
- Reduced working hours of Parliament getting increased day by day due to frequent disruptions in the house in such situation role of committees in legislation process increases.

Conclusion

The credibility of legislatures is defined by the conduct and behavior of their members. Therefore, MPs and MLAs are expected to observe the highest standards of discipline and decorum, both inside and outside the Houses.

23. The disruption of parliamentary proceedings has a huge socio-political cost. how? Explain with the help of suitable examples. what measures would you suggest to enforce accountability for frequent disruptions ?

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about how the disruption in parliamentary proceedings has huge socio-political cost. explain with help of some examples and and suggest some measures to enforce accountability .

Introduction

Disruption is replacing discussion as the foundation of our legislative functioning. In a representative democracy like ours, Parliament is supposed to be the voice of the people and people's disenchantment with the Parliamentary system would risk the relevance of this 75 year old institution of our society.

Body

A decline in the productivity of Parliament impairs its ability to effectively perform the duties that have been entrusted to it by the Constitution,

- Opposition protests and ruling party vindictiveness have resulted in the fall of parliamentary standards.
- Parliamentary discussion is a manifestation of a representative kind of democracy in operation, in the sense that representation of the people directly questions the government on matters of governance.
- Reduced working hours of Parliament: The Parliament working hours are getting reduced day by day due to frequent disruptions.
- Erosion of faith in Parliament and Fall of parliamentary standards.

Socio-economic cost of disruptions -

- Disruptions and ineffective functioning lead to a reduction in the trust of people in Parliament.
- Wastage of taxpayers' money-Parliament not functioning to its fullest potential is the blatant wastage of taxpayers' money.
- The disruptions have led to a loss of more than Rs 133 crore to the exchequer,
- With Parliament being disrupted routinely, Members of Parliament (MPs) are not able to ask ministers tough questions during question hour to assess the work that their ministries are doing.
- According to government's estimates, each minute of the Parliament costs Rs 2.5 lakh.
- With disruptions eating into the time available for Parliamentary business, adequate time is not available for debating legislation.
- As a result, Bills either get passed without effective debate or remain pending in Parliament.
- With Parliament meeting for a fewer number of days and with its productivity falling on account of disruptions, MPs are not able to raise matters of urgent public importance and bring it to the attention of the government.
- It is easy to identify political controversies which lead to Parliamentary disruption. However these political controversies are only the symptoms and not the cause of disruption.
- In every democracy there would be contentious issues and the strength of a democracy would be demonstrated by the quality of debate and deliberation on such issues.
- For debate and deliberation to happen, Parliamentary procedure would have to evolve to enable political parties on different sides of the issue to set the agenda for debate and discuss the issue in detail on the floor of the house.
- In any Parliamentary democracy, Parliament influences and is influenced by public opinion. It is an institution where ideas are discussed and political and ideological differences ironed out through debate and consensus building.
- If disruptions in Parliament continue then slowly but surely it would lead to people slowly disengaging with the institution of Parliament.

Measures to enforce accountability for frequent disruptions -

- Code of Conduct: To curb disorder in Parliament there is a need for strict enforcement of code of conduct for MPs and MLAs.

- These ideas are not new. For example, the Lok Sabha has had a simple code of conduct for its MPs since 1952. Newer forms of protest led to the updating of these rules in 1989.
- The Lok Sabha Speaker should suspend MPs not following such codes and obstructing the Houses' business.
- Increasing Number of Working Days: Recommended by the 2001 conference, there should be an increase in the working days of Parliament. It resolved that Parliament should meet for 110 days every year and state legislative assemblies for 90 days.
- This would also require Parliament to meet for more number of days in a year and sit for longer hours. This would ensure that even if the proceedings are disrupted there is still enough time for deliberations.
- In the United Kingdom, where Parliament meets over 100 days a year, opposition parties get 20 days on which they decide the agenda for discussion in Parliament. Canada also has a similar concept of opposition days.
- Democratic Participation: Not all disruptions in the Parliament are necessarily counter-productive. Thus, the government of the day needs to be more democratic and allow the opposition to put their ideas in free manner.
- Proposals in Individual Capacity:
- In 2019, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson mooted an idea of evolving a 'Parliament Disruption Index' to monitor disruptions in Parliament and state legislature.
- In the Lok Sabha, some members proposed automatic suspension of members who cause disruption and rush to the Well of the House. But the proposals are still in a nascent stage.
- Productivity Meter: The overall productivity of the session also can be studied and disseminated to the public on a weekly basis.
- For this, a "Productivity Meter" could be created which would take into consideration the number of hours that were wasted on disruptions and adjournments, and monitor the productivity of the day-to-day working of both Houses of Parliament.

Way ahead-

- An attempt must be made by parliamentarians to tamp down on this hostility with the onus on doing so being more on the ruling party and its representatives.
- There are enough tools, mechanisms, structures and precedents in India's parliamentary history that can be relied upon by the current set of legislators to bring back useful deliberation.

Conclusion

Democracy is judged by the debate it encourages and sustains. More strengthening of the Parliament is the solution to prevent disruption of its proceedings. There should be a deepening of its role as the forum for deliberation on critical national issues.

24. What do you understand by zero hour ? what is its significance ? explain with help of suitable examples

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about zero hour ,in second part of answer write about its significance and explain with the help of suitable examples .

Introduction

Zero Hour is the time when Members of Parliament (MP's) can raise Issues of Urgent Public Importance. For raising matters during the Zero Hour, MP's must give the notice before 10 am to the Speaker/ Chairman on the day of the sitting.

Body

Zero Hour' is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Thus, it is an informal device available to MP's to raise matters without any notice 10 days in advance. This is because, generally, the matters are of public importance and such matters cannot wait for 10 days.

- While the dictionary meaning of 'Zero Hour' is "the critical moment" or "the moment of decision", in parliamentary parlance, it is the time gap between the end of Question Hour and the beginning of the regular business.
- The other rationale behind naming it so can be attributed to the fact that it starts at 12 noon.
- The emergence of Zero Hour can be traced to the early sixties, when many issues of great public importance and urgency began to be raised by members immediately after Question Hour, sometimes with prior permission of the Chairman or some other times without such permission.
- A practice started developing that as soon as the Chairman declared "Question Hour is over" a member would be on his feet to raise a matter which he considered or felt to be of utmost importance to be brought to the attention of the House, and through the House, to the Government, and which could not brook any delay nor could it await to be raised by following the normal available procedures.
- The Zero-Hour proceedings started stealing the limelight in the media, thereby encouraging more and more members to take resort to this quick and handy device.
- Zero Hour is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.
- During the sixties, members of parliament used to raise many pressing issues of national and global import after Question Hour.

- On such an occasion, a member raised an issue about announcements of policy made by ministers outside the parliament when parliament was in session.
- This act caused an idea among other members who called for another provision for discussing important matters in the House.
- Rabi Ray, the ninth Speaker of the Lok Sabha introduced certain changes in the proceedings of the House to create more opportunities for the members to raise matters of urgent public importance.
- He proposed a mechanism to regulate the proceedings during the 'Zero Hour', raise matters in a more orderly manner and optimize the time of the House.
- For the Rajya Sabha, the day starts with the Zero Hour and not the Question Hour as it is for the Lok Sabha.

Example: Zero Hour

- Shri Ravneet Singh, MP of Ludhiana had raised a debate in the Lok Sabha related to the controversial Farm Laws in the Budget session of 2021.

Significance of zero hour -

- The zero hour is the brainchild of Indian parliamentary system it came into existence in 1962 as mentioned above the ministers are not liable to reply to the issues raised in the zero hour .
- These critical issues are raised to attract the attention of the nation and the government .the zero hour provides a forum for MPs to discuss topics that are not included in the days agenda or are yet to be considered in the house .
- The zero hour allows for impromptu debates on pressing issues and provides and opportunity for the government to be held accountable on matters of public interest .
- Zero Hour used as mechanism aimed at bolstering the democratic system of the country.
- It is essence of the functioning of the Indian Parliament and play a pivotal role in bringing the important national issues to the table, seeking accountability.
- Over the past 70 years, the MP's have successfully used the devices to question the government's functioning. In the past, it has exposed several irregularities related to the country's finances and brought important data into the public domain.

Conclusion

An important Parliamentary instrument, the Zero Hour, has held accountable the government on urgent public welfare issues since the 1960s. Despite the fact that the parliamentary session and sitting are frequently disrupted by Zero Hour, it has repeatedly highlighted and held the government accountable for crucial problems.

25. "Independence can be meaningful only if it becomes an instrument for the expression of our culture." What do you understand by this quote? Explain.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting recent exchange of words between executive and judiciary and then write about issues and share the views on existing system.

Introduction

All nationalist political parties and freedom fighters had a single aim, to get independence and to drive the British away. But what independence means and how we are going to develop our country and our people, are the most important issues. In this light, Deendayal Upadhyaya made this famous quote.

Body

Independence and expression of our culture:

- As per Pandit Deendayal Bhartiya cultures main feature is that it views life as an integrated whole, as against the Western culture, where life is treated as various parts which are mended together.
- Deendayal Upadhyaya firmly advocated that "one culture policy" is this policy that can preserve the unity and integrity of India and can solve all our problems. The base of our culture is diversity and plurality.
- Deendayal emphasized Independence is closely related to one's own culture. What one means by independence is being dependent on one's traditions, religion, life style, behaviour, history, principles etc.
- So, independence must give freedom for each person to express his/her culture. It shouldn't be curtailed. Only then, independence of India will contribute to our progress in future.
- Build a culture like any thing is to unleash creativity and invention the first step in innovation. For creation and innovation, Independence should be emphasized and developed before creativity, because the one is an enabling condition of the other.
- Folks should not be forced by the government or by any other agencies to follow a culture. So, independence must give freedom for each person to express his/her culture. It shouldn't be curtailed. Only then, independence of India will contribute to our progress in future.
- Certain cultural practices may not be useful in later phases of a country. Forcing to stick to the old culture/ traditions and not being adaptive is a loss of cultural independence.
- Independence can be summarized as the amalgamation of all the elements that create what we are at a given point of time. Not being able to adapt ourselves like this is a loss of cultural independence.

Expression of any culture must restrain:

- Fake news spreading false news implicating anyone in violent activities.

- In the era of developing thoughts and new culture, it is rather difficult to identify and classify any content as obscene or indecent.
- Several secessionist groups and anti-state elements use this right as a free pass to spread their rebellious ideas among people and cause disruption

Conclusion

Cultural values of life which are the source result as well as measure of our national life and are also extremely valuable for the entire world. To acquaint the world with this culture should be our supreme national goal.

26. In your opinion, what are the three most important qualities of great leader ? why ? substantiate your response.

Approach -

In this question candidates are expected to write about important qualities of great leader and why these qualities are important .and substantiate their thoughts .

Introduction

Effective leadership is crucial for the growth of any state or organization . A good leader has long vision of future and knows the path which can help achieve the goals of organization .

Body

A good leader has long vision of future and knows the path which can help achieve the goals of organization . A good leader needs to have some necessary abilities ,

- Leadership is defined as the action of leading a group of people performing a particular task.
- It involves the art of motivating people so that they will strive willingly and enthusiastically toward the achievement of group goals.
- Leaders act to help a group attain objectives through the maximum application of its capabilities.
- In today's world the role of leader is also to instil values – whether it be concern for quality, honesty and calculated risk taking or concern for followers.

Following are the three most important qualities of leader ,

Inclusiveness :

- A leader needs to cater to everyone's need in the group he/she leads and realizes the need to take everyone together. the quality of including many different types of people and treating them all fairly and equally.
- Gandhi Ji was able to lead mass movement because he was not seen as leader of a section of people but of all people of India from diverse backgrounds .

Farsightedness :

- Farsightedness in a leader is the ability to envision and articulate a successful future in a compelling and inclusive way. It's one of the essential qualities we look for in a leader.
- If a leader can't tell us where he or she believes we can go, what we can accomplish together, we hesitate to follow him or her. A good leader does not have myopic vision for future but acts in a way to ensure good of people in long duration .
- Martin Luther King was far-sighted. If you only read or listen to his “I Have a Dream” speech, and know nothing else about him, you'll know that's true.

Responsible-

- Responsible leadership refers to leaders who are deemed to properly and justly meet role, normative, ethical, and moral obligations they have with respect to defined stakeholders, and are willing to be held accountable for the consequences of their actions and behaviors.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri took moral responsibility of train accident and resigned from his job to set a high precedent of government office .
- A leadership based on inclusiveness and participatory decision making can be more engaging and democratic
- Inclusiveness not only builds trust between the leader and the community but it also effectively grooms the next line of leadership.
- With inclusive leadership one can develop and strengthen mutual respect among the diverse perspectives found in a community.

Conclusion

An effective leadership not only directs the present generation of community members towards productivity, but it also offers essential foundations for grooming progressive, inclusive and empathetic leadership in the generations to come. This is what then keeps on transforming society for better.

27. What are the effects of social media addiction on Indian youth? Is social media depleting the values of the young generation ? critically examine.

Approach -

a simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about what are the effects of social media addiction having on Indian youth and is this addiction depleting values of young generation. examine it critically .

Introduction

Young individuals spend excessive time on these applications with Facebook and Instagram having largest user base in India, with growing dependency on social media it leads to depletion of moral values in youth .

Body

Social media has become a part and parcel of our day-to-day life. It's affecting us even without us noticing.

- Many surveys show that social media the impact on their children's values and moral development and hinder the development of morals and healthy values
- Social media was started with the intent to create a forum to allow people from different social and cultural backgrounds to interact regardless of location and time. But, unfortunately, there's a lot more negative impact on the youth from social media than positive.
- Youngsters have become so addicted to scrolling infinitely on Instagram, refreshing constantly for new content, checking likes & comments, updating every minute of our lives on social media.
- They get influenced by other people's posts, their success stories. This might make them feel insecure and dejected. They end up hating their own lives.
- The constant craving for likes, followers, comments, subscribers is really bad, it leads to losing confidence when you don't get them and why are we constantly looking for someone's approval or attention.
- Youngsters follow these memes and influence's and get inspired by them and we start assuming what we are doing is morally right though it is not.
- People act differently online, compared to how they would in real life. Which makes people act in an immoral way while still viewing themselves as a moral person.
- Not least the low level of agreement that social media can enhance or support a young person's character or moral development.
- Whilst parents acknowledged that positive character strengths, including moral virtues such as love, courage, and kindness, are promoted through social networking sites, they were reluctant to agree that these sites could have a positive impact on their child's character."
- We can deduce from the results that parents attitude towards social media is largely negative, 40% of them agree that social media hinders a young person's character or moral development, they were concerned or extremely concerned about social media having a potentially damaging impact on children.
- Parents who use social media have found that it lacks important positive characteristics for youth such as self-control, humility, and honesty, rather they see a lot of anger and hostility on these social media sites.
- It's not that we should completely stop social media, rather we should use it for the betterment of our character, we can use it to gain knowledge or even to enjoy some healthy humor.
- There's a lot of negativity spreading across these social media so don't get easily influenced by such content.

Benefits of Social Media-

- Social media is allowing the democratization of knowledge and broader communication.
- The rise of the virtual world provides voiceless people unprecedented opportunities to assert themselves and experience a sense of belonging.

- Social Media has also evolved as a tool to counter the hegemony or narrative of traditional players.
- Social Media has also bridged the distance.
- Today Social Media has empowered common people to directly interact with the government and avail government services directly.

Way forward-

- Social media is not going away, so by learning more about this relationship we should be able to maximize the benefits of social media use and avoid the pitfalls
- Exploring the relationship between social media and virtues in more depth, and hopefully offer a more constructive outlook on how social media might impact on a person's character and moral values.

Conclusion

Depletion of moral values will have large ramifications on society at large hence big tech firms and everyone must be held accountable for their actions which have wide social ramification.

28. What are the recent issues regarding the appointment of senior judges in the judiciary? What are your views on the current mechanism of judicial appointments? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting recent exchange of words between executive and judiciary and then write about issues and share the views on existing system.

Introduction

Latest statement from executive calling the collegium system of judicial appointments “opaque” and “not accountable” has revived the debate on judicial appointments. Remarks coming from both sides, has lit up the headlines in the last few days.

Body

Issues regarding appointment at higher judiciary:

- The Centre reportedly sent back 20 files to the collegium for reconsideration, expressing strong reservations about those recommendations.
- According to sources, 11 of the 20 cases were fresh cases, while the other nine were reiterations made by the top court collegium.

Concerns related to collegium System for the Appointment of Judges:

- Incentive for dissent lost: The collegium system has created a hierarchy amongst judges, with its members wielding much greater influence than other judges.

- Ignored constitution: Constitution certainly favours what may be called a “wider deliberative and consultative process” in the appointment of judges. There is great merit in this provision.
- Monopolized process: Wisdom cannot be the monopoly of a few chosen ones in the apex court. This omission is a violation of an express provision of the Constitution.
- No reforms were made after the fourth judges’ case: After striking down the NJAC, the court did nothing to amend the NJAC Act or add safeguards to it that would have made it constitutionally valid. Instead, the court reverted to the old Collegium-based appointments mechanism.
- Non-transparency and opaque: (No official procedure for selection + lack of a written manual for functioning + selective publication of records of meetings+ no eligibility criteria of judges) = bring opacity in collegium’s functioning.
- Ignores judicial guidelines: Inconsistent with the view of the SC in the Second Judge’s case, 1993, where it laid that, seniority amongst Judges in their HC and on all India, basis is significant and should be given due consideration while making appointments of Judges to the SC.
- Promotes nepotism: Sons and nephews of previous judges or senior lawyers tend to be popular choices for judicial roles. Thus, it encourages mediocrity in the judiciary by excluding talented ones.
- No seat in the collegium for any non-judge: neither from the executive, the Bar or anywhere else who could question the collegium.
- Delaying: However, it becomes a concern when government’s objections suggest an indirect motive to delay the appointment of particular nominees.

Way forward

- The NJAC needs to be amended to make sure that the judiciary retains independence in its decisions and re-introduced in some form or the other.
- A written manual should be released by the Supreme Court which should be followed during appointments and records of all meetings should be in the public domain.
- Apart from reforming the collegium system, the quality of judges can also be improved through the implementation of All India Judicial Services (AIJS).
- We do have highly eminent judges in our high courts and their opinion in the appointment of Supreme Court judges must count.
- Thus, India needs to restore the credibility of the higher judiciary by making the process of appointing judges transparent and democratic.

29. What ways does the lack of inter ministerial coordination affect the governance quality ?is there mechanism in place to deal with the issue ? examine.

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about ways in which lack of inter ministerial coordination affect governance quality .in second part of answer write about mechanism by which this issue will be solved .

Introduction

Coordination is the mechanism through which policies, strategies, plans, peoples, systems, and tools are brought together to achieve a particular goal. Government services are often cross-sectional, interlinked and complementary particularly in the areas of agriculture, education, trade, and mining. One particular service or service provider functioning improperly will affect the entire system

Body

Governance is a collaborative effort that requires disconnectedness between the government and various institutions of civil society, as well as within the various departments of the government. Absence of the latter has plagued administration for a long time.

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

Mechanism to deal with the issue -

- Problems today are multidimensional in nature (Eg swach bharat has MoRD, MoWR and MoUD involved) that require collaboration to succeed. Poor coordination is a major obstacle to the effective administration of government services. The steps like
- PARIVESH –for single clearance of projects related to the environment,
- PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)- a unique integrating and interactive platform.
- The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

- PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony), with a view to improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants.
- Information sharing mechanisms, that ensure two way communication as a matter of routine rather than the norm are required. This will greatly help governance as ,
- It will ensure more transparency as information will be accessible from any point.
- It will bring more participative governance where every advice from various ministry would be looked after.
- sharing of information reduces delay in implementation of projects.
- It will reduce red tapism and corruption.
- It will lead to more effective implementation of government initiatives.
- It will ensure a sense of team work and co-operation among ministries.

Conclusion

Poor coordination is a major obstacle to the effective administration of government services. The steps like PARIVESH, PRAGATI, PRAKASH, for single clearance of projects related to the environment are stepped in the right direction.

30. What are your thoughts on the ongoing protests against the vizhinjam port? In order to reconcile national interests with those of the locals ,what recommendations would you make ?

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about why protests are happening on vizhinjam port ,what are demands of locals and give recommendations to reconcile national interests with those of locals .

Introduction

Fisher-folk have been protesting against the project for the past four months, alleging that its construction is causing massive sea erosion, taking away their livelihood and dwellings.

Body

The Vizhinjam Port project was first conceived in 1991, to be developed in a public-private partnership. Adani was the sole bidder for the project and the contract was signed in 2015 .

- Work started in December 2015 and the first phase of the port was expected to be completed by December 2019, but has been delayed owing to protests, shortage of stones for the breakwater and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- For four months, fishermen in the region have been protesting against its construction. They state that the construction of the port will result in widespread sea erosion, and destroy their houses and livelihoods.

- The agitators have been alleging the unscientific construction of groyne, the artificial sea walls as part of the upcoming port, was one of the reasons for the increasing coastal erosion.
- Their seven-point demands are:
- Conduct an impact study and shelve the project till the report is out.
- Rehabilitation of families who lost their homes to sea rage.
- Compensation for loved ones in fishing accidents.
- Financial aid to fisherfolk on days weather warnings are issued.
- Subsidise kerosene.
- A mechanism to dredge the Muthalappozhi fishing harbour in Anchuthengu.
- Effective steps to mitigate coastal erosion.
- Earlier this year, the government passed two orders to build 750-square-foot flats to rehabilitate those living in the Valiyathura godowns and give them Rs 5,500 as rent, till their new homes are ready, said the ports minister's office.

Recommendation to reconcile national interests with those of locals -

- While several government reports have claimed that there will be no environmental impact of the port, owing to the protests the Kerala government in October also constituted a four-member expert committee to study the impact of the project on coastal erosion.
- The government would also consider the outcome from the high court before deciding further action. The agitators had given an assurance at the high court that they would not obstruct the construction.
- The government also instituted a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to monitor the environmental and social impact of the port in real-time.
- The government also remained ambivalent about whether it would accommodate the VAC's nominee on the panel constituted to conduct a social, environmental, and livelihood impact study.
- The port falls just 10 nautical miles from the international shipping line, very close to the East-West shipping axis and is well-positioned to capture more business from other maritime hubs like Sri Lanka, Dubai and Singapore. It also promises huge economic growth for the state.
- The proposed port has a natural depth of 18 metres, which can bring in large vessels and in effect, bigger consignments. The port is to have 30 berths, and will be able to handle giant "megamax" container ships.
- The Adani Group has said the ultramodern port, located close to major international shipping routes, will boost India's economy and halting it will have big impact on keralas reputation .
- Its location is also of strategic importance, the project's supporters have claimed. The port is expected to compete with Colombo, Singapore, and Dubai for a share of trans-shipment traffic.
- According to the Vizhinjam International Seaport website, the port's advantages are "availability of a 20m contour within one nautical mile from the coast; minimal littoral drift along the coast, hardly any maintenance dredging required; links to national/regional road, rail network; and proximity to international shipping routes."

- The CAG had said that the standard concession period for PPP projects was 30 years, but the Vizhinjam project concessionaire had been given an extra 10 years, which would allow it to reap an additional revenue of Rs 29,127 crore.

Conclusion

Vizhinjam port will not only work as port to handle transshipment traffic but it will give India upper hand strategically and will contribute enormously to India's economy.

31. Discuss the merits and demerits of the 'first past the post' electoral system with appropriate examples from around the world.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting FPTP, and simply as question demands present both side of arguments with reference to the different world scenarios.

Introduction

In the FPTP system, the entire country is divided into small geographical units called constituencies. Every constituency elects one representative, where a voter votes for one candidate.

Body

Merits of FPTP system:

- Simple and familiar voting method: It is simpler than other voting methods like the PR method, which is followed in countries like the Netherlands, Israel etc. India follows the Proportional Representation system to indirectly elect the president, vice president of India.
- Easy and Convenient: It is easier to conduct the FPTP system than PR in a large country like India. PR is a complicated system and is suitable for small countries.
- Voters know their representatives: In FPTP, candidates know their own representatives, unlike in the PR system. Therefore, in FPTP, candidates can hold the representatives responsible. FPTP is currently used to elect members of the House of Commons in the UK, both chambers of the US Congress and the lower houses in both Canada and India.
- Broad-based political parties: In severely ethnically or regionally-divided societies, FPTP is praised for encouraging political parties to be 'broad churches'. In FPTP Malaysia, for example, the governing coalition is a broad-based movement, and fields Chinese candidates in Malay areas and vice versa.
- Smooth functioning of the Parliamentary government: The parliamentary system requires that the executive has a majority in the legislature. The makers of the Constitution felt that the PR system may not be appropriate for giving a stable government in a parliamentary system like India's.

Demerits of FPTP system:

- Communal division of votes: Due to the nature of the First Past the Post System (FPTP) voting system, it may lead to the communal division of votes.
- FPTP is not truly representative: FPTP System is not truly representative, as a candidate who gets less than half the votes can also win the election. For example, in 2014, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP won 336 seats with only 38.5% of the popular vote.
- Smaller parties have lesser chances of winning in the FPTP system: Moreover, smaller parties are forced to align with the interests of national parties, which beats the purpose of local self-government and federalism.
- Exaggerating 'Regional Fiefdoms': In some situations, FPTP tends to create regions where one party, through winning a majority of votes in the region, wins all, or nearly all, of the parliamentary seats. This has long been put forward as an argument against FPTP in Canada.
- Encouraging the Development of Ethnic Parties: FPTP can encourage parties to base their campaigns and policy platforms on hostile conceptions of clan, ethnicity, race, or regionalism. For example, Malawi multi-party elections of 1994.
- Open to the Manipulation of Electoral Boundaries: This was particularly apparent in the Kenyan elections of 1993 when huge disparities between the sizes of electoral districts - the largest had 23 times the number of voters as the smallest.
- Excluding Women from Parliament: Women made up eleven percent of the parliamentarians in established democracies using FPTP. This pattern has been mirrored in new democracies, especially in Africa.

Conclusion

The larger point is if we artificially try to make the political system fairer, the natural competitiveness gets distorted and that is why India should generally prefer FPTP, both on the grounds of voters' convenience and a natural competitiveness being allowed in the system.

32. Analyse the importance of the opposition leader in India's parliamentary system.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about importance of opposition leader in India's parliamentary system.

Introduction

The LOP is leader of the largest party that has not less than one-tenth of the total strength of the house. It is a statutory post defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act.

Body

The Leader of the Opposition is a member of parliament who leads the largest party, or coalition of parties, that is not in government,

The important Functions performed by Leader of opposition ,The tasks of the Leader of the Opposition include:

- Chairing meetings in which the opposition discusses policies and examines bills
- Presenting alternative policies to those of the government
- Selecting members of the opposition to be shadow ministers
- Leading the shadow Cabinet
- Acting as the chief opposition spokesperson
- Leading the opposition in a federal election.

Significance-

- It is also said that the Leader of Opposition is called the 'Shadow Prime Minister'. The Leader should be ready to take over if the government falls in any adverse circumstance.
- In case of a vacant position of such Leader of the Opposition, It will weaken India as the Opposition will not be able to put up a unified front against the ruling party.
- The leader of the opposition plays an important role in bringing cohesiveness and effectiveness to the opposition's functioning in policy and legislative work.
- It also helps in bringing neutrality to the appointments of institutions of accountability and transparency such as CVC, CBI, Lokpal, CIC, etc.
- The LoP also plays an important role in bringing cohesiveness and effectiveness to the opposition's functioning in policy and legislative work.
- The other role of the leader of the Opposition is to watch for the violation of the rights of minorities. They can also demand debates on such crucial issues, when the government is trying to slide away without parliamentary criticism.
- The Public Accounts Committee is there whose chairmen are is Leader of the Opposition to check the expenditure of the ruling party.

What reforms are needed-

- There arises a problem when no party in opposition secures 55 or more seats. In such situations, the numerically largest party in the opposition should have the right to have a leader recognized as leader of the opposition by the speaker.
- Besides, the 10% formulation is inconsistent with the law 'the salary and allowances of leaders of opposition in Parliament Act, 1977' which only says that the largest opposition party should get the post.

Way Forward-

- No matter whosoever gets the majority, the LoP is critical to effective functioning of the opposition in the Parliament.
- Now that there is a law recognizing the LoP, passed by the Parliament, it has to be enforced and
- LoP plays a crucial role in bringing bipartisanship and neutrality to the appointments in institutions of accountability and transparency – CVC, CBI, CIC, Lokpal etc.
- It can't be overlooked or undermined, no matter what the flexibility or ambiguity that exist in the legal framework.

Conclusion

Under India's almost unique system of state, the Leader of an Opposition features very special responsibility towards the Parliament and to the state. While he remains a critic he must during a sense be, a partner and even a buttress of the Govt to which he is opposed. This dual responsibility he must discharge with fidelity.

33. Does the Parliament seem to have lost its luster as the temple of democracy in recent years ? critically examine.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how does parliament seems to have lost its luster as temple of democracy in recent years . examine it critically .

Introduction

As an institution, Parliament is central to the very idea of democracy and was assigned a pivotal role in our Constitution by the founding fathers of the republic. It is responsible for legislation and should engage in discourse and debate on issues that concern the nation and the citizens.

Body

Parliament is the temple of democracy which provides the highest forum to discuss, debate and decide issues for the well being of the people,

Significance of parliamentary debates-

- These debates provide a forum for MP's to express their opinions and concerns, and contribute towards making policy.
- It allows parliamentarians to voice the interest of the people of their constituencies.
- Better policy formulation, Diverse views, and assist in informed decision making.

Indian Parliament as the temple of democracy has declined in the recent years,

- There are mainly two reasons for this decline. Parliament does not meet or work long enough. And there are institutional constraints on its performance while working.
- Incomes and assets apart, the Criminalization of politics is a reality. ADR, Association for Democratic Reforms, reports that 43 % of sitting MP's have criminal records as of 2019, compared to 34% of the MP's in the 2014 .
- The 'competitive hooliganism' is common sight in parliament in recent years .
- There are institutional constraints on the performance of MP's as well. The allocation of time for MP's to speak is proportional to the strength of their political party in the house and its leadership decides who gets to speak and for how long.
- The speaker of the Lok Sabha or the chairman of the Rajya Sabha have little discretion in the matter. The only other opportunities for MP's are during question hour or zero hour.
- In zero hour, the speaker or the chairman have the discretion to invite an MP to speak, but time is too little and speeches are often drowned out in pandemonium

- In India, the anti-defection law stipulates that a three-line whip can be violated only if more than one-third of a party's MP's do so. This is the unintended consequence of a law that might have mitigated one problem but created another, which is emasculating our Parliament as an institution.
- The excruciatingly slow process of legislating big policy decisions, with months and even years of acrimonious stalemate in parliament, interspersed by the all too rare breakthrough.

Indian parliament stood the test of time -

- Despite the decline in reputation in recent times, the Indian Parliament continues to reflect the deepening of democracy.
- In the past 75 years, the Indian Parliament has many achievements to its name despite its growing unpopularity.
- The parliament reflects the deepening of democracy, which has also had an impact on its functioning. This has, however, led to a fundamental re-imagining of the British parliamentary system and its procedures that the Indian Constituent Assembly opted to follow after independence.
- At the same time, the Parliament has only fitfully lived up to its responsibility of deliberating on and crafting legislation and ensuring accountability and transparency in government.

Steps need to be taken to improve functioning of parliament -

- Parliament can amend its rules to give MP's more clout when confronting the government and to enable its committees to play a larger role in the legislative process.
- For greater knowledge and subsequent legal review, every legislative proposal must include a full analysis of social, economic, environmental, and administrative impacts.
- In order to supervise and coordinate legislative development, a new Legislation Committee should be established in Parliament
- In order to keep the values of our parliamentary democracy we should elect only morally trained representatives; and the members of the Parliament and State Assemblies should set themselves as an example for the public, especially the youth.

Conclusion

The parliament is frequently referred to as the "temple of democracy." It is because it is one of the highest institutions in which representative democracy is implemented. Its work is crucial to India's government and the fulfillment of the preamble's promise.

34. Was the higher judiciary's intervention necessary to reform cricket administration in India? Critically comment.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting issues around Lodha committee and cricketing governance. Also candidates shall give alternative arguments as per demand of question.

Introduction

Cricketing performance is often associated with national pride, the systemic issues, like corruption, nepotism, spot fixing, etc. have dented it severely in the recent past. As a result, Supreme court intervened in the matter for reforming.

Body

Judicial intervention necessary for reforms:

Politicization-

- There are huge number of politicians flocking BCCI to be a part of cricket administration in spite of neither being a cricket fan nor having enough time for its administrative issues.
- For example, a former agricultural minister was more known as ICC chairman and BCCI president than his ministerial role.
- There is lack of transparency in the functioning of the BCCI and more often than not, the richest cricket organization is engaged in political squabbles with least concern for the welfare of the game, the players and the passionate fans.

Representation-

- When one state has more than one association, it means that it has more representation in the Board. This leads to underdevelopment of sport uniformly in all parts of the country.

Support from state:

- BCCI receives some indirect subsidies from the government, in the form of tax benefits, security at sporting events free of cost, land for stadiums, etc.

Corruption and scandal-

- Powerful reflection of the larger failings afflicting India today: rampant cronyism, poor governance, and the absence of accountability. For example DDCA case, goa case etc.

BCCI as public servant-

- Transparency and accountability of association is basic right of the people. They may be private in nature, but they are performing a public function. So, they are liable for IPC.
- Board has appropriated unto itself a unique ability to make substantial encroachments into civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.

Its external interference and violation of their autonomy:

- Intervention can be seen as Judicial overreach and interference with the legislative and executives' ability to operate properly.
- Judicial Overreach is what happens when judicial activism oversteps its bounds and becomes judicial adventurism. In BCCI case the court exceeded its jurisdiction.
- The BCCI president, secretary, and other office-bearers are elected on the basis of its bye-laws. So, the Lodha committee has no authority to make the recommendations.

- If they have violated the rules or otherwise shown themselves to be unfit for their positions, they should be removed through the proper prescribed procedure.
- When Judicial activism helps in strengthening the people's faith in the judiciary, the very act of overreach destroys it. As it appears an act of 'tyranny of unelected' in a democracy where elected representatives' rule.

Conclusion

BCCI, irrespective of its legal status, must act in a transparent and accountable manner as a trustee of the game. Indian courts judicial time can otherwise be utilized for hearing various important matters relating to public importance pending before the court.

35. The doctrine of separation of power is one of the most important cornerstones of the India's constitutional democracy. Elucidate .

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write doctrine of separation of power and how this is important cornerstone of India's constitutional democracy .

Introduction

The separation of power is model of governance in which power are distributed among various units of governance. vibrant democracy always longs for clear demarcation of power .

Body

The principle of separation of powers states that the executive, legislative, and judiciary powers of government should be divided into different branches and not concentrated in one.

- These departments should be separate and distinct because of the corrupting nature of power. If the body that made the laws could also enforce them and adjudicate disputes, it would likely do so in a preferential manner, undermining the rule of law and basic fairness.
- Power, in other words, must be checked, or it will be abused, and it is important to be imperative for the smooth functioning of a vibrant democracy.
- Democratic government is characterized by the separation of powers:
- There are 'checks and balances' within our political system that limit the power of each branch in order to prevent the abuse of power.
- This system divides the state into three branches – the legislative, executive and judicial branch – and gives each the power to fulfil different tasks. These branches are also known as the 'organs of government'.
- Tasks are assigned to the different branches and their institutions in such a way that each of them can check the exercise of powers by the others. As a result, no

one branch or institution can become so powerful as to control the system completely.

- In Indian constitution, the separation of powers is supported through Article 50, Articles 121 and 211 and Article 361. Such steps, along with presence of checks and balances, help in creating a vibrant democracy in the following ways:
- No single branch can act as a hegemony over the others, by influencing their members.
- No single branch can endanger the democratic principles of the country
- It provides a channel of grievance redressal for the citizens through an independent judiciary.
- The executive remains accountable to the legislature for the implementation of policies and consequent results.
- Helps in creating a feedback channel to the executive where the citizens can put forward their demands in the Assembly, without being afraid of the authorities.
- The separation of powers is important because it provides a vital system of 'checks and balances':
- Firstly, it ensures that the different branches control each other. This is intended to make them accountable to each other – these are the 'checks';
- Secondly, the separation of powers divides power between the different branches of government – these are the 'balances'. Balance aims to ensure that no individual or group of people in government is 'all powerful'. Power is shared and not concentrated in one branch.

Judicial Pronouncements Upholding Separation of Powers Doctrine-

- Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973): In this case, the SC held that the amending power of the Parliament is subject to the basic features of the Constitution. So, any amendment violating the basic features will be declared unconstitutional.
- Swaran Singh Case (1998): In this case, the SC held the UP Governor's pardon of a convict unconstitutional.
- In Indira Nehru Gandhi V Raj Narain, Ray, CJ observed that in the Indian Constitution there is a separation of powers in a broad sense only. A rigid separation of powers as under the American Constitution or under the Australian Constitution does not apply to India.
- In P Kannadasan V State of Tamil Nadu, it was held, "the Constitution has invested the Constitutional Courts with the power to invalidate laws made by Parliament and the state legislatures transgressing Constitutional limitations.
- Where an Act made by the legislature is invalidated by the Courts on the basis of legislative incompetence, the legislature cannot enact a law declaring that the judgement of the Court shall not operate; it cannot overrule or annul the decision of the Court.
- But this does not mean that the legislature which is competent to enact the law cannot re-enact the law. Similarly, it is open to the legislature to alter the basis of the judgement.
- The new law or the amended law can be challenged on other grounds but not on the ground that it seeks to in effectuate or circumvent the decision of the court. This is what is meant by "checks and balance" inherent in a system of government incorporating separation of powers.

Checks and Balances-

- The strict separation of powers that was envisaged in the classical sense is not practicable anymore, but the logic behind this doctrine is still valid. The logic behind this doctrine is of polarity rather than strict classification meaning thereby that the centre of authority must be dispersed to avoid absolutism. Hence, the doctrine can be better appreciated as a doctrine of checks and balances.
- The doctrine of separation of powers in today's context of liberalization, privatization and globalization cannot be interpreted to mean either "separation of powers" or "checks and balance" or "principles of restraint", but "community of powers" exercised in the spirit of cooperation by various organs of the state in the best interest of the people.

Conclusion

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

36. The president of India's recent comments regarding timely and affordable justice highlight an essential aspect of judicial reforms.comment .

Approach -

In this question candidates should write about importance of timely and affordable justice is essential aspect of judicial reforms .

Introduction

Speedy and affordable Justice is not only a fundamental right but also a prerequisite of maintaining the rule of law and delivering good governance. Hence, appropriate reforms as needs to be taken in order to have a robust justice system ensuring timely justice.

Body

Inordinate delay, cost of legal processes and inaccessibility are impeding the effective delivery of justice to the common man.

- Equal Justice: Accessible and Affordable Justice has been enshrined in DPSP under article 39 (A).However, due to various structural and systematic challenges, the aspiration to meet this objective looks blur.
- High Pendency of Cases: The total pendency of cases in the several courts of India at different levels, sums up to a total of about 3.7 crores thus increasing the demand of a better and improved judicial system.
- The National Court Management, a report of the Supreme Court in 2012, studied the data of pendency of cases and vacancy of judges.
- It showed that in the last 3 decades, the number of cases increased by 12 folds while the number of judges increased only by 6 folds.

- Widening Gap: The gap between the number of judges and cases is widening. In the next 3 decades, the number of cases is expected to rise by approximately 15 crores requiring a total no of judges about 75000.
- In fact, currently the 25 high courts have the strength of less than 1200 judges.
- Article 39 (A) of the Constitution directs the State to ensure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way.
- Though 'access to justice' has not been specifically spelt out as a fundamental right in the Constitution, it has always been treated as such by Indian courts.
- In Anita Kushwaha v. Pushpa Sadan (2016), the Supreme Court held unambiguously that "life" implies not only life in the physical sense but a bundle of rights that also means right to access justice.
- Further, the court pointed out four important components of access to justice. It pointed out the need for adjudicatory mechanisms. It said that the mechanism must be conveniently accessible in terms of distance and that the process of adjudication must be speedy and affordable to the disputants.
- The Government has undertaken several measures to make available affordable, quality and speedy justice to the common man. The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act .
- To ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunities.
- For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been set up from the Taluk Court levels to the Supreme Court. During the period from April, 2021 to November, 2021, 60.17 lakhs persons have been provided with free legal services and 132.37 lakhs cases (pending in courts and disputes at pre-litigation stage) have been settled through Lok Adalats.
- Legal Aid Clinics have also been set up in jails, observation homes, juvenile justice boards which are manned by panel lawyers and para legal volunteers of legal services authorities.
- Further, to enable equitable access to justice, National Legal Services Authorities (NALSA) has also launched Legal Services Mobile App on Android and iOS Version to enable easy access to legal aid to common citizens.
- The Government has launched two important legal empowerment initiatives which includes Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) programme to link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. 3840 pro bono advocates have been registered under the programme and 1440 cases have been registered by the beneficiaries.
- The other initiative is the Tele-law: Reaching the Unreached, being run by the Government which provides legal advice to public including persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987, at pre-litigation stage by the Panel Lawyers through the Common Service Centers (CSCs) at the Panchayats. Tele-law has served more than 13.7 lakh beneficiaries till date.

Way Forward-

- Streamlining the Appointment System: The vacancies must be filled without any unnecessary delay.
- A proper time frame for the appointment of judges must be laid down and the recommendations must be given in advance.
- The Constitution of the All India Judicial Services is also an important factor which can definitely help India establish a better judicial system.
- Use of Technologies: People are becoming more and more aware of their rights and which is why the number of cases filed in court are also increasing.
- To deal with that judicial officers need to be trained, vacancies for the judges must be filled up expeditiously and in addition the use of technology particularly artificial intelligence must be encouraged.
- Dispute Resolution: The adjudication of disputes within a short time frame is important to ensure the trust of the people within the judicial system.
- Out of Court Settlement: Resolving every case within the court premises is not mandatory; other possible systems must also be accessed.
- Alternate dispute resolution (ADR): As stated in the Conference on National Initiative to Reduce Pendency and Delay in Judicial System- Legal Services Authorities should undertake pre-litigation mediation so that the inflow of cases into courts can be regulated.
- The Lok Adalat should be organized regularly for settling civil and family matters.
- Gram Nyayalayas, as an effective way to manage small claim disputes from rural areas which will help in decreasing the workload of the judicial institution.
- Village Legal Care & Support Centre can also be established by the High Courts to work at grass root level to make the State litigation friendly.

Conclusion

The fundamental requirement of a good judicial administration is accessibility, affordability and speedy justice, which will not be realized until and unless the justice delivery system is made within the reach of the individual in a time bound manner and within a reasonable cost.