

UPSC CSE (Main) 2019

General Studies Paper-II

- Q1. Do you think Constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. (150 words) [10]**

Approach to question:

1. **Independent Judiciary:** The judiciary acts as a check on the executive and legislative branches, ensuring that their actions are in line with constitutional provisions.
2. **Legislative Oversight:** The Parliament exercises control over the executive through various mechanisms, including question hours, debates and committee scrutiny.
3. **Executive Accountability:** The President and Governors are accountable to the legislature, which can impeach or remove them for misconduct.
4. **Judicial Review:** The judiciary has the power of judicial review, enabling it to strike down laws that are unconstitutional and prevent any abuse of power.

Answer:

The Constitution of India is a remarkable document that doesn't strictly adhere to the principle of strict separation of powers but rather emphasizes the idea of "checks and balances". This nuanced approach allows different branches of government to exercise control over each other, promoting a balanced and functional democracy. In this concise analysis, we will explore how the Indian Constitution achieves this through various mechanisms.

Points:

1. **Overlapping Functions:** The executive, legislature and judiciary functions often overlap, ensuring coordination and preventing any branch from becoming too dominant.
2. **Independent Judiciary:** An independent judiciary acts as a check on the other branches, ensuring their actions align with constitutional provisions.
3. **Legislative Oversight:** The Parliament exercises control over the executive through questioning, debates and motions of no-confidence.
4. **Executive Accountability:** The President and Governors are accountable to the legislature, allowing for their removal in case of misconduct.

Through overlapping functions, an independent judiciary, legislative oversight, executive accountability,

cooperative federalism and independent constitutional bodies, India maintains a democratic system that safeguards citizens' rights and prevents the concentration of power. This approach enables the smooth functioning of the democratic process in India.

- Q2. "The Central Administrative Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority". Explain. (150 words) [10]**

Approach to question:

1. **Adjudicatory Powers:** The CAT possesses the authority to adjudicate on matters related to service disputes, promotions, transfers, disciplinary actions and other issues concerning central government employees.
2. **Independence:** The CAT functions independently of the executive branch and exercises its powers with autonomy. Its decisions are binding and enforceable, similar to those of a judicial authority.
3. **Judicial Review:** The CAT has the power of judicial review and can examine the validity of executive actions, ensuring they are in accordance with the law and constitutional provisions.

Answer:

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was originally established to address grievances and complaints of central government employees. Over time, it has transformed into an independent judicial authority, playing a crucial role in resolving a wide range of issues concerning central government employees. This evolution can be understood through the following points.

Points:

1. **Jurisdiction Expansion:** The CAT's jurisdiction now covers service disputes, promotions, transfers, disciplinary actions and pension disputes, resembling that of a judicial authority.
2. **Quasi-Judicial Nature:** The CAT operates in a quasi-judicial manner, following principles of natural justice, conducting hearings and delivering reasoned judgments.
3. **Independence:** The CAT functions independently, free from undue influence, ensuring impartiality in decision-making.

4. **Binding Decisions:** CAT's decisions are legally binding on both the central government and employees involved, reinforcing its judicial authority.
5. **Judicial Review:** The CAT possesses the power of judicial review, examining the validity and legality of executive actions.

The CAT's transformation into an independent judicial authority has been facilitated by its expanded jurisdiction, quasi-judicial nature, independence, binding decisions, power of judicial review, appellate process, contribution to legal interpretation and specialized expertise.

Q3. What are the methods used by the farmer's organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods? (150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

1. **Protests and Rallies:** Farmers' organizations organize large-scale protests, rallies and demonstrations to highlight their concerns and demands, putting pressure on policy-makers to address their issues.
2. **Lobbying and Advocacy:** Farmers' organizations engage in lobbying efforts, reaching out to policy makers, politicians and government officials to advocate for policies that benefit farmers and address their grievances.
3. **Policy Research and Recommendations:** These organizations conduct research, analyze agricultural policies and propose alternative solutions. They provide policy makers with evidence-based recommendations to shape policy decisions.

Answer:

Farmers' organizations in India utilize diverse methods to advocate for their rights and demands, aiming to influence policy-makers and secure favorable policies. These approaches range from public demonstrations to policy research and legal action. In this concise analysis, we explore the various methods employed by farmers' organizations and their potential effectiveness.

Points:

1. **Protests and Rallies:** Large-scale protests, marches and road blockades draw attention to farmers' issues, applying pressure on policy-makers and gaining media coverage.
2. **Lobbying and Advocacy:** Direct engagement with policy makers, politicians and officials aims to influence decision-making through discussions and presentations.
3. **Policy Research and Recommendations:** Farmers' organizations conduct research, providing evidence-based policy recommendations to policy makers.
4. **Media and Public Outreach:** Utilizing traditional and social media platforms, farmers' organizations raise awareness and garner public support.

5. **Legal Action and Petitions:** Seeking justice and policy changes, farmers' organizations resort to filing petitions and lawsuits.

Farmers' organizations employ a multifaceted approach to influence policy-makers, including protests, lobbying, research-based recommendations, media outreach, legal action and collaborations. The effectiveness of these methods depends on factors such as unity among organizations, public support, political dynamics and policy-makers' responsiveness.

Q4. From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain. (150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

From the resolution of contentious issues regarding the distribution of legislative powers by the courts in India, two principles have emerged: the Principle of Federal Supremacy and Harmonious Construction.

1. **Principle of Federal Supremacy:** This principle establishes that in case of conflict between the laws made by the central and state governments, the central law prevails.
2. **Harmonious Construction:** This principle advocates for a harmonious interpretation and construction of laws to avoid conflicts between the laws made by the central and state governments.

Answer:

In the context of resolving contentious issues regarding the distribution of legislative powers, Indian courts have established two vital principles: the Principle of Federal Supremacy and the Principle of Harmonious Construction. These principles are instrumental in maintaining a balanced distribution of powers between the central and state governments. Here is a detailed explanation of these principles.

Points:

1. **Principle of Federal Supremacy:** Central law prevails in case of conflicts between central and state laws.
Upholds the supremacy of the central government in its legislative domain.
Avoids fragmentation and ensures uniformity in matters of national importance.
2. **Principle of Harmonious Construction:** Emphasizes harmonious interpretation of laws to reconcile conflicting provisions.
Strives to give effect to both central and state legislation.

The principles of Federal Supremacy and Harmonious Construction have emerged as crucial tools in resolving disputes over legislative powers in India. While Federal Supremacy upholds the authority of the central government, Harmonious Construction ensures a

balanced coexistence of central and state laws. The application of these principles by the courts fosters cooperative governance and maintains the delicate balance between central and state governments, upholding the principles of federalism and the unity of the nation.

Q5. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism?

(150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

1. **Inclusive Secularism:** India's approach to secularism embraces religious diversity and recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of all religious communities.
2. **Positive Secularism:** India's secularism emphasizes the state's responsibility to promote religious harmony and actively intervene to eliminate discrimination and religious inequalities.
3. **Balancing State and Religion:** The Indian Constitution seeks to maintain a separation between state and religion while acknowledging the importance of religion in the lives of its citizens.

Answer:

France can draw valuable lessons from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism, especially considering the challenges it faces in balancing secular governance with religious diversity. Here are key points that France can learn from India:

Points:

1. **Inclusive Secularism:** India's approach embraces religious diversity and identities, encouraging accommodation and respect for all religious communities.
2. **Constitutional Protection:** The Indian Constitution explicitly guarantees religious freedom and prohibits discrimination based on religion, offering a strong legal foundation for safeguarding religious rights.
3. **Positive Secularism:** India's secularism goes beyond separation, actively promoting religious harmony and addressing religious inequalities.
4. **Accommodation of Diversity:** The Indian Constitution recognizes and accommodates diverse personal laws and practices, allowing for cultural and religious pluralism.
5. **Balancing State and Religion:** India maintains a separation while acknowledging the significance of religion in citizens' lives, fostering a delicate balance.

By adopting elements from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism, France can create a more inclusive, rights-based and harmonious society. Embracing religious diversity, protecting religious rights, promoting religious harmony and engaging in meaningful dialogue with religious communities can help address the challenges of

secular governance while respecting the identities of all citizens.

Q6. Despite consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

1. **Income Inequality:** High levels of income inequality persist in India, with a significant wealth gap between the rich and the poor.
2. **Regional Disparities:** There are substantial regional disparities in development outcomes, with certain states and regions lagging behind others. Unequal access to education, healthcare and employment opportunities contribute to imbalanced development across the country.
3. **Social Exclusion:** Marginalized communities, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and religious minorities, face social exclusion and discrimination, limiting their access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

Answer:

India's consistent high economic growth has not translated into balanced and inclusive development, as evidenced by its low indicators of human development. Several critical issues contribute to this elusive nature of inclusive development in the country. India ranks 132 out of 191 countries and territories in the Human Development Index 2021-2022.

Points:

1. **Income Inequality:** Persistently high income inequality widens the wealth gap between the rich and the poor, limiting access to quality education, healthcare and basic services, hindering inclusive development.
2. **Regional Disparities:** Substantial regional disparities in development outcomes exist, with some regions progressing rapidly while others lag behind in infrastructure, education, healthcare and employment opportunities.
3. **Social Exclusion:** Marginalized communities face discrimination and limited access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities, exacerbating inequalities and impeding inclusive development.
4. **Gender Inequality:** Gender disparities persist in education, employment and decision-making, limiting women's participation in society and contributing to imbalanced development.
5. **Inadequate Social Infrastructure:** Insufficient investment in education, healthcare and sanitation restricts opportunities for human capital development, particularly in rural areas.

Addressing these issues requires comprehensive policy interventions focused on reducing income inequality,

bridging regional disparities, promoting social inclusion, empowering women, improving social infrastructure, revitalizing the agricultural sector, strengthening governance and promoting sustainable development practices.

Q7. There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on non-food essential items squeezing their food – budget. Elucidate.

(150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

The relationship between poverty and hunger in India is witnessing a growing divergence. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is exacerbating this situation. As the government reduces social spending, the burden of essential non-food items, such as healthcare, education and housing, falls heavily on the poor. Consequently, the poor are compelled to allocate a significant portion of their income to non-food essentials, squeezing their food-budget. This results in inadequate access to nutritious food, leading to increased vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition among the impoverished population.

Answer:

The relationship between poverty and hunger in India is witnessing a concerning divergence, primarily due to the shrinking of social expenditure by the government. This trend forces the poor to allocate a larger portion of their limited income towards non-food essentials, squeezing their food-budget. The following points elucidate this phenomenon.

Points:

1. **Shrinking Social Expenditure:** Reduced government funding for welfare programs affects crucial sectors like healthcare, education and housing, essential for poverty alleviation and human development.
2. **Increased Burden on the Poor:** As social expenditure decreases, the poor bear a heavier burden of essential non-food items, leaving less for nutritious food.
3. **Rising Non-Food Expenses:** Essential non-food items become more expensive, forcing the poor to spend more, reducing their food budget.
4. **Inadequate Access to Nutritious Food:** Compromised food-budget affects the quality and quantity of food, impacting the nutrition and health of the poor.

Addressing this issue requires prioritizing social expenditure, strengthening social safety nets and implementing targeted welfare programs. Adequate resources for healthcare, education and housing can alleviate the burden on the poor and bridge the gap between poverty and hunger.

Q8. Implementation of Information and Communication technology (ICT) based projects/programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation. (150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

1. **Infrastructure:** Inadequate infrastructure, such as unreliable internet connectivity and limited access to electricity, hinders the effective implementation of ICT projects/programmes.
2. **Digital Divide:** The digital divide, characterized by unequal access to technology and digital skills, creates disparities in the implementation of ICT initiatives, particularly among marginalized communities and rural areas.

To facilitate effective implementation, the following measures can be adopted:

1. **Strengthening Infrastructure:** Investments should be made to improve ICT infrastructure, including enhancing internet connectivity and promoting digital infrastructure in remote and underserved areas.

Answer:

The implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based projects/programmes often faces challenges due to critical factors. Addressing these factors is crucial to ensure their effective implementation. Here are the key factors and measures to enhance implementation:

Points:

1. **Infrastructure:** Inadequate infrastructure, such as electricity and internet connectivity, hampers ICT projects. Measures include expanding electricity coverage, improving internet infrastructure and promoting last-mile connectivity.
2. **Digital Divide:** Disparities in access to technology and digital literacy hinder implementation. Measures to bridge the divide include providing affordable access, promoting digital literacy and setting up digital learning centers.
3. **Capacity Building:** Skill gaps among stakeholders affect implementation. Capacity building programs should enhance digital literacy and technical skills through training initiatives and workshops.
4. **Sustainability:** Ensuring long-term sustainability requires sustainable funding, maintenance and technology updates. Innovative financing models and public-private partnerships can be explored.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Effective engagement of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society and private sector, is crucial. Collaboration and coordination can foster innovation and efficient utilization.

By addressing these factors and implementing suggested measures, effective implementation of ICT projects/

programmes can be enhanced. This will contribute to socioeconomic development, inclusivity, improved service delivery and digital empowerment.

Q9. 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole'. Comment.

(150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

1. **Geopolitical Importance:** India and Japan are major Asian powers and a robust partnership between the two holds significant geopolitical importance.
2. **Strategic Cooperation:** India and Japan share common security concerns, including maritime security and regional stability.
3. **People-to-People Connect:** People-to-people exchanges play a vital role in fostering understanding, cultural exchange and friendship between nations.
4. **Multilateral Engagement:** India and Japan have a shared commitment to a rules-based international order and have actively engaged in multilateral forums.

Answer:

The statement emphasizes the importance of establishing a strong contemporary relationship between India and Japan, based on a global and strategic partnership. This partnership holds immense significance for Asia and the world at large. The following points elaborate on this comment.

Points:

1. **Geopolitical Balance:** Strengthening the relationship between India and Japan can contribute to maintaining a balance of power in Asia, ensuring stability and countering any attempts to disrupt the existing regional order.
2. **Economic Cooperation:** Increased trade and investment between the major economies of India and Japan can lead to mutual economic growth and contribute to the global economy, especially in areas like infrastructure development and technology transfer.
3. **Strategic Alignment:** India and Japan share security concerns and deepening their strategic partnership can enhance regional security, promote freedom of navigation and contribute to the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

A strong contemporary relationship between India and Japan, founded on a global and strategic partnership, holds immense significance for Asia and the world. It can contribute to geopolitical stability, economic growth, technological advancements, cultural exchanges, regional cooperation and overall peace and prosperity.

Q10. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life'. Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. (150 words) [10]

Approach to question:

1. **Insufficient Funding:** UNESCO has faced financial constraints, leading to difficulties in implementing its programs and initiatives effectively.
2. **Political Influences:** UNESCO's decisions and actions can be influenced by political considerations, leading to controversies and divisions among member states.
3. **Accusations of Bias:** The accusation of "anti-Israel bias" by the United States has further strained UNESCO's credibility. These allegations have led to a polarized environment within the organization and hindered its ability to address critical cultural and educational issues impartially.

Answer:

The statement highlights the challenges faced by UNESCO, primarily due to insufficient funding and political influences. The withdrawal of the United States and its accusations of "anti-Israel bias" have had significant implications for the organization. The following points elaborate on this discussion.

Points:

1. **Insufficient Funding:** UNESCO's limited funding affects its ability to carry out its programs effectively, hindering its capacity to safeguard cultural heritage, promote education and support scientific initiatives.
2. **Political Influences:** Political considerations can influence decision-making within UNESCO, leading to controversies and divisions among member states, impacting the organization's ability to address critical issues impartially.
3. **US Withdrawal:** The withdrawal of the United States in 2019 as one of the largest contributors, created financial challenges and weakened UNESCO's global role, contributing to a polarized environment.
4. **Accusations of Bias:** Accusations of an "anti-Israel bias" by the United States have raised concerns about UNESCO's objectivity, leading to contentious decision-making processes.

UNESCO's challenges, including financial constraints and political influences, necessitate concerted efforts to secure adequate funding, depoliticize decision-making processes and rebuild trust and legitimacy. Upholding UNESCO's principles and values through collective commitment is essential for the organization's effectiveness in promoting cultural diversity, education and scientific collaboration.

Q11. On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the representation of people act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification. (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Disqualification on Grounds of Office of Profit:** Holding an office of profit under the government, except for specific exempted positions, can lead to disqualification.
2. **Disqualification for Electoral Offenses:** Violations of electoral laws, such as impersonation, or fraudulent practices, can lead to disqualification.

Remedies available to a person against their disqualification include:

1. **Filing an Election Petition:** The person can file an election petition challenging the disqualification before the appropriate authority.
2. **Appeal:** If the election petition or writ petition is unsuccessful, the person can appeal the decision before a higher court.

Answer:

The Representation of the People Act, 1951, lays down the grounds for disqualification of people's representatives in India. These disqualifications aim to ensure the integrity and accountability of elected officials.

Grounds for Disqualification:

1. **Conviction for Certain Offenses:** A person can be disqualified if they are convicted of specific offenses, such as corruption, bribery, electoral malpractices, promoting enmity between groups, or offenses related to religion, race, caste, community, or language. Such offenses undermine the democratic process and public trust in elected representatives.
2. **Office of Profit:** Holding an "office of profit" under the government without exemption can lead to disqualification. An "office of profit" refers to any position that carries a salary, remuneration, or other benefits from the government. This is to prevent conflicts of interest and undue influence on legislative decisions.

Remedies against Disqualification:

1. **Election Petition:** A person facing disqualification can file an election petition before the appropriate authority, usually the High Court. The petition challenges the disqualification and seeks relief by presenting valid grounds.
2. **Judicial Review:** The person can approach the court through a writ petition to seek a review of the disqualification decision. The court examines whether the disqualification was lawful and within the scope of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Those facing disqualification have several remedies available, including election petitions, judicial review,

appeals, constitutional challenges and seeking a stay on the disqualification order. These legal processes play a crucial role in upholding the principles of democracy and transparency in the electoral system.

Q12. "Parliament's power to amend the constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power". In the light of this statement explain whether parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the basic structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Doctrine of Basic Structure:** The Supreme Court has upheld the doctrine of the basic structure, which implies that certain essential features of the Constitution cannot be amended by Parliament.
2. **Limits on Amending Power:** Although Parliament has the authority to amend the Constitution, this power is not unlimited. It is subject to certain restrictions and cannot be used to alter or destroy the basic structure of the Constitution.
3. **Kesavananda Bharati Case:** In the landmark Kesavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court held that Parliament's amending power is not absolute and can be subject to judicial review.

Answer:

The question of whether Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is absolute or limited has been a subject of significant legal and constitutional debate in India. The statement that "Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power" highlights the doctrine of the basic structure and the scope of Parliament's amending power under Article 368 of the Constitution.

1. **Doctrine of Basic Structure:** The Supreme Court of India has recognized and upheld the doctrine of the basic structure, which postulates that certain fundamental features of the Constitution are inviolable and cannot be altered or destroyed through the amending process.
2. **Judicial Review:** The power of judicial review enables the judiciary to review the constitutionality of laws and constitutional amendments. The Supreme Court has the authority to interpret the Constitution and determine the limits of Parliament's amending power.
3. **Kesavananda Bharati Case:** The landmark Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) was a significant turning point in defining the limitations of Parliament's amending power. In this case, the Supreme Court held that while Parliament has wide powers to amend the Constitution, it cannot destroy its basic structure.

In conclusion, the doctrine of the basic structure, coupled with the power of judicial review, safeguards the fundamental principles and features of the Constitution from arbitrary amendments. Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is not absolute and it cannot be enlarged into an absolute power.

Q13. "The reservation of seats for women in the institution of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian political process". Comment.
(250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Token Representation:** While reservation provides women with representation in local self-government, it often remains symbolic, with women having limited decision-making power and influence in the political process.
2. **Patriarchal Norms and Attitudes:** Deep-rooted patriarchal norms and attitudes persist within Indian society, affecting women's participation and their ability to challenge traditional power structures.
3. **Limited Resources and Support:** Women often face resource constraints, lack of financial support and limited access to networks, which hinders their effective participation in the political process.

Answer:

Article 243D of Indian Constitution mandates the reservation of seats for women in every Panchayat (rural local self-government institution). The reservation of seats for women in local self-government institutions has been a crucial step in enhancing gender representation and empowering women in the Indian political system. However, it is essential to recognize that despite this positive initiative, the impact on the patriarchal character of the political process has been limited.

1. **Symbolic Representation:** Reserved seats for women often result in formal or symbolic representation without substantial decision-making power. Women elected through reservations may face marginalization within political structures, limiting their ability to challenge patriarchal norms effectively.
2. **Deep-rooted Patriarchal Norms:** Indian society remains deeply entrenched in patriarchal attitudes and biases. These societal norms persist and affect women's political participation, their ability to contest elections independently and their influence within political institutions.
3. **Limited Agency:** Women in politics often encounter challenges in asserting agency and authority. Power dynamics and hierarchies in local self-government institutions may not easily accommodate women's perspectives, hindering their capacity to drive substantive change.

4. **Informal Power Structures:** Patriarchal power structures in local politics operate outside the formal system. Informal networks, traditional power-broking and male-dominated political networks can hinder women's ability to make substantial contributions and challenge patriarchal norms.

While the reservation of seats for women in local self-government institutions is a significant step towards promoting gender representation, it has not fully addressed the patriarchal character of the Indian political process. Overcoming deep-rooted patriarchal norms, providing greater support, resources and empowerment measures and implementing comprehensive structural reforms are essential to achieve substantive and lasting change in gender dynamics within the political sphere.

Q14. "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India". Discuss
(250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.

1. **Legal Counsel:** The Attorney-General serves as the primary legal counsel for the Government of India, providing legal advice and opinions on various matters.
2. **Representation in Court:** The Attorney-General represents the government in significant legal proceedings before the courts, including the Supreme Court of India.
3. **Constitutional Position:** The Attorney-General is appointed by the President of India and holds a constitutional position under Article 76 of the Indian Constitution.
4. **Independence:** While appointed by the government, the Attorney-General is expected to maintain independence and impartiality in providing legal advice.

Answer:

The Attorney-General of India occupies a pivotal role as the chief legal adviser and representative of the Government of India. Appointed under Article 76 of the Indian Constitution, the Attorney-General's constitutional position underscores their significance in providing legal counsel and upholding the rule of law.

1. **Constitutional Position:** Under Article 76 of the Indian Constitution, the President appoints the Attorney-General, granting them a constitutional position that emphasizes their importance in the governance structure. As the highest law officer, the Attorney-General plays a central role in providing legal guidance to the government.
2. **Legal Counsel:** The primary responsibility of the Attorney-General is to offer legal counsel and advice to the Government of India. They provide expert guidance on legal implications, potential courses of action and the constitutional validity of

proposed actions, ensuring that the government's decisions align with the law.

3. **Independence and Impartiality:** Despite being appointed by the government, the Attorney-General is expected to exercise independence and impartiality in providing legal advice. They prioritize the interests of justice and uphold the rule of law, ensuring that the government's actions are legally sound.
4. **Expert Legal Knowledge:** The Attorney-General is typically a distinguished legal professional with extensive knowledge of Indian law, including constitutional, administrative and civil matters. Their expertise ensures that the government receives accurate and well-informed legal guidance.

The Attorney-General of India holds a vital and multifaceted role as the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India. With a constitutional position and expertise in Indian law, the Attorney-General plays a crucial role in providing legal counsel, representing the government in courts, maintaining independence and safeguarding the government's interests. This indispensable role contributes significantly to informed decision-making, legal compliance and the protection of the government's interests.

Q15. Individual parliamentarian's role as the national law maker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.

(250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Party Supremacy:** Increasing party discipline and centralized decision-making within political parties have diminished the autonomy of individual parliamentarians.
2. **Lack of Expertise:** Many parliamentarians lack specialized knowledge and expertise in various fields, resulting in a limited understanding of complex policy issues. This hampers their ability to engage in meaningful debates and propose effective legislation.
3. **Time Constraints:** Limited time allocated for parliamentary sessions leaves little room for in-depth discussions and deliberations on important bills.
4. **Influence of Populism:** Political considerations and populism often influence legislative decisions, compromising the merit-based and evidence-driven approach that is essential for robust lawmaking.

Answer:

The declining role of individual parliamentarians as national lawmakers is a concerning issue that has adverse effects on the quality of debates and legislative outcomes. Increasing party discipline, limited expertise,

time constraints and absenteeism are among the factors contributing to this decline.

1. **Party Supremacy:** The growing dominance of political parties and centralized decision-making reduces the autonomy of individual parliamentarians. Party whips bind them to party lines, stifling independent contributions to lawmaking.
2. **Limited Expertise:** Many parliamentarians lack specialized knowledge, hindering their ability to comprehend complex policy issues. The absence of subject-matter experts leads to oversimplified debates and inadequate scrutiny of bills, compromising the quality of legislative decisions.
3. **Time Constraints:** Parliamentary sessions allocate limited time for debates, leaving little room for in-depth discussions on crucial bills. This time constraint restricts thorough scrutiny and constructive contributions, leading to hasty decision-making and compromised legislative outcomes.
4. **Limited Consultation:** Parliamentarians may have limited opportunities for consultation with experts and stakeholders, limiting the scope of their contributions. Diverse inputs are essential for robust debates and informed decision-making.
5. **Dominance of the Executive:** The growing dominance of the executive branch undermines the role of parliamentarians as independent lawmakers. Reduced scrutiny and oversight can lead to compromised legislative outcomes.
6. **Whip System:** The strict party whip system enforces discipline but curtails dissent and independent thinking. Deviation from party lines can result in punitive actions, further limiting individual parliamentarians' independence.

Revitalizing the role of individual parliamentarians requires efforts to promote independent thinking, expertise and commitment to constituents and the nation. By strengthening parliamentary processes and creating an environment conducive to constructive debates, the quality of legislative outcomes can be significantly improved. Empowering individual parliamentarians is essential for robust lawmaking and democratic governance.

Q16. 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages'. Discuss. (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Decentralized Decision-making:** Multi-level planning allows for decision-making authority to be distributed across different levels of governance, empowering local authorities to address development issues effectively.

2. **Local Context and Participation:** Multi-level planning takes into account the unique needs and challenges of local communities. It encourages active participation of stakeholders at various levels, ensuring their voices are heard in the planning and implementation processes.
3. **Efficient Resource Allocation:** Multi-level planning enables a more efficient allocation of resources by considering local priorities and needs.

Answer:

The neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning emphasizes efficiency, cost-effectiveness and decentralization. In this context, multi-level planning has emerged as a promising approach to achieve these objectives. This concise analysis will discuss the key points that highlight the significance of multi-level planning in making operations cost-effective, removing implementation blockages and promoting inclusive development.

Key Points:

1. **Decentralized Decision-making:** Multi-level planning involves distributing decision-making authority across different levels of governance, empowering local governments and community organizations. This facilitates more efficient and responsive decision-making tailored to local needs.
2. **Local Context and Participation:** Multi-level planning considers unique social, economic and cultural contexts of regions, promoting active participation of local communities. This ensures interventions are relevant, responsive and impactful.
3. **Efficient Resource Allocation:** By considering local priorities and needs, multi-level planning enables efficient allocation of resources, minimizing wastage and maximizing impact, making operations cost-effective.
4. **Effective Implementation:** Multi-level planning overcomes implementation blockages by involving local authorities and communities. Their expertise and understanding of ground realities lead to better coordination and smoother implementation.
5. **Accountability and Transparency:** Multi-level planning fosters accountability at different governance levels, enabling citizens to hold local authorities accountable. This enhances transparency and reduces corruption risks.
6. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Multi-level planning allows quick response to changing circumstances and challenges, enabling timely interventions and maintaining relevance.
7. **Addressing Regional Disparities:** Multi-level planning helps allocate resources equitably and address regional disparities, fostering balanced development.
8. **Enhanced Democratic Participation:** Multi-level planning promotes democratic participation by involving diverse stakeholders and marginalized groups, leading to inclusive development.

Multi-level planning aligns with the neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning by promoting cost-effectiveness, efficient resource allocation and decentralization. It empowers local authorities, fosters accountability and transparency and addresses regional disparities.

Q17. The need for cooperation among various service sectors has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of 'collaboration' and 'team spirit'. In the light of statements above, examine India's development process. (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Intersectoral Collaboration:** Cooperation among various service sectors, such as education, healthcare, infrastructure and agriculture, is essential for holistic and sustainable development.
2. **Bridging the Gap:** Partnership among sectors helps bridge the gap in addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by different segments of society.
3. **Effective Policy Implementation:** Partnership among sectors facilitates the implementation of policies and programs by leveraging the strengths and expertise of each sector.

Answer:

India's development process acknowledges the significance of cooperation among diverse service sectors as a critical aspect of the development discourse. This approach emphasizes the importance of collaboration and teamwork in addressing complex development challenges and achieving sustainable outcomes. The following points highlight India's development process in the context of partnership and its impact on integrated, efficient and inclusive development.

Key Points:

1. **Integrated Development Approach:** India's development process has embraced an integrated approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of various sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture and social welfare.
2. **Effective Service Delivery:** Cooperation among sectors leads to better service delivery by identifying and addressing the needs of the population more comprehensively.
3. **Innovation and Knowledge Exchange:** Partnership fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, encouraging the sharing of best practices and innovative approaches to problem-solving.
4. **Addressing Intersectoral Challenges:** Many development challenges in India are intersectoral, requiring comprehensive strategies involving multiple sectors.

5. **Empowering Local Governments:** Collaboration empowers local governments and promotes decentralization, enhancing governance at the grassroots level.
6. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaboration between the public and private sectors through PPPs contributes to infrastructure, healthcare and education development.
7. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Partnership is crucial for the successful implementation of SDGs, addressing cross-cutting issues and interconnected goals.
8. **Inclusive Development:** Collaboration among sectors ensures inclusive development, targeting interventions to promote social inclusion and reduce disparities.

In conclusion, India's development process underscores the importance of partnership among various service sectors to achieve integrated, efficient and inclusive development. Collaboration enables the pooling of resources, holistic policy planning and effective service delivery. By fostering a culture of cooperation and teamwork, India can enhance the impact of its development efforts and ensure sustainable and holistic outcomes for the nation.

Q18. Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process. Discuss. (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Lack of Feedback Mechanisms:** Effective feedback mechanisms are essential for continuous improvement and adaptation of welfare schemes. However, the absence of such mechanisms prevents the identification of gaps, inefficiencies and areas for improvement.
2. **Cultural and Social Barriers:** Cultural norms, social hierarchies and discrimination can discourage the active involvement of vulnerable sections in the policy process.
3. **Capacity Building:** The lack of skills, knowledge and resources among the vulnerable sections can impede their active involvement in the policy process. Capacity-building initiatives should be implemented to empower them and enhance their participation.

Answer:

Welfare schemes in India are designed to uplift vulnerable sections of society, but their effectiveness often falls short due to various challenges. The lack of awareness, limited participation and inadequate consultation hinder the schemes' impact. This concise analysis will explore the key factors affecting the effectiveness of welfare schemes for vulnerable sections in India.

Key Points:

1. **Lack of Awareness and Information:** Limited access to information and low literacy rates contribute to the lack of awareness among vulnerable communities. Efforts to disseminate information about welfare schemes and eligibility criteria are insufficient.
2. **Limited Participation and Representation:** Vulnerable sections are often excluded from decision-making processes and policy forums, leading to policies that may not address their specific needs. Lack of participation hampers the understanding of ground realities and implementation challenges.
3. **Inadequate Consultation and Feedback Mechanisms:** Meaningful consultation with vulnerable sections during the formulation and implementation of welfare schemes is essential. Absence of robust feedback mechanisms prevents identifying gaps and areas for improvement.
4. **Cultural and Social Barriers:** Cultural norms and discrimination discourage the active involvement of vulnerable sections in the policy process. Socio-cultural barriers, including gender biases, restrict their ability to voice concerns and access benefits.
5. **Capacity Building:** Vulnerable sections lack the necessary skills and knowledge to actively engage in the policy process. Capacity-building initiatives should empower them and enhance their understanding of entitlements and rights.

The effectiveness of welfare schemes for vulnerable sections in India can be enhanced by addressing challenges such as lack of awareness, limited participation and inadequate consultation. Efforts should focus on raising awareness, promoting participation, strengthening grassroots organizations and ensuring meaningful consultation.

Q19. "The long sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order". Elaborate. (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Economic Growth:** India's rapid economic growth and emergence as a global economic powerhouse have shifted its focus towards economic development.
2. **Strategic Alliances:** In pursuit of its national security interests, India has formed strategic partnerships with powerful nations like the United States.
3. **Changing Global Dynamics:** The evolving global order, with the rise of other influential nations, has altered power dynamics and international relationships.

Answer:

India's image as a leader of the oppressed and marginalized nations has witnessed transformation in recent years due to its evolving role in the emerging global order. While India's international standing has changed, it is important to recognize that its commitment to addressing poverty and inequality has not disappeared entirely. This concise analysis explores the factors contributing to this shift in India's image.

Key Points:

1. **Economic Transformation:** India's remarkable economic growth has elevated its position as a major global player.
Focus on economic opportunities and attracting foreign investments has become a priority, leading to a shift in emphasis from advocating for the marginalized.
2. **Geopolitical Realities:** India's rise as a regional power requires a recalibration of its foreign policy approach.
Strategic alliances with powerful nations have influenced its stance on global issues.
3. **Balancing Interests:** India faces the challenge of balancing its national interests with its role as a global actor.
Pragmatic decision-making may lead to a nuanced stance on certain issues.
4. **Domestic Priorities:** India's attention and resources are increasingly focused on addressing domestic challenges.
Commitment to uplifting the marginalized within its borders remains intact.

India's new role in the emerging global order has brought about shifts in its image as a leader of the oppressed and marginalized nations. However, it is crucial to recognize that India's commitment to addressing poverty and inequality remains unchanged. While focusing on economic growth, strategic partnerships and domestic priorities, India continues to actively advocate for the interests of the marginalized in global forums.

Q20. 'What introduces friction into the ties between India and United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions'. Explain with suitable examples. (250 words) [15]

Approach to question:

1. **Strategic Autonomy:** India desires a position of significance in the global order, but U.S. strategies may not align with India's aspirations. Example: U.S. engagement with Pakistan and China despite India's concerns.

2. **Nuclear Cooperation:** India seeks full integration into the global nuclear order, but the U.S. faces challenges in balancing non-proliferation objectives with India's ambitions.
3. **Trade and Market Access:** Friction arises due to India's protectionist policies and U.S. focus on reducing trade deficits, reflecting difficulty in aligning India's self-esteem with U.S. economic goals.

Answer:

The relationship between India and the United States has witnessed substantial growth in recent years, with increased cooperation in defense, trade and technology. However, challenges persist in accommodating India's national self-esteem and ambitions within the U.S. global strategy. This concise analysis explores the complexities in the ties between the two nations and the areas where friction arises.

Key Points:

1. **Strategic Autonomy:** India values its strategic autonomy and seeks a significant position in the global order.
The United States, as a superpower, formulates strategies based on its national interests, which may not always align with India's aspirations.
Instances of U.S. engagement with India's neighbours, like Pakistan and China, despite India's concerns, have strained the bilateral relationship.
2. **Nuclear Cooperation:** The 2005 civil nuclear cooperation agreement was a milestone, but India's desire for full integration into the global nuclear order remains unfulfilled.
Balancing India's national self-esteem with U.S. non-proliferation objectives poses challenges.
3. **Trade and Market Access:** India-U.S. trade disputes, including issues of market access, intellectual property rights and tariffs, have caused friction.
India's protectionist policies and the U.S. focus on reducing trade deficits create tensions between national self-esteem and open economic policies.
4. **Global Power Shifts:** As global power dynamics evolve, the U.S. is adjusting its strategies, with a focus on China as a competitor.
India seeks a more prominent role in shaping the global order.
The challenge for the U.S. is to balance incorporating India into its strategy while addressing its own priorities and relationships.

While India and the U.S. have made significant strides in their relationship, the challenge of accommodating India's national self-esteem and ambitions within the U.S. global strategy persists. Differences in strategic autonomy, nuclear cooperation, trade issues, regional dynamics and global power shifts create friction between the two nations.