

State PCS Success Program (SPS)

UPPSC (Mains) - 2022

GS Paper #2 - Solution



Instruction to Students

Answers provided in this booklet exceed the word limit so as to also act as source of good notes on the topic.

Candidates must focus on the keywords mentioned in the answers and build answers around them. Elaborate answers are given with the purpose that candidates understand the topic better.

We have also adopted a grey box approach to provide context wherever necessary, which is not to be considered a part of the answer.

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Q.1) The Government of India Act 1935 provided several features which formed the nucleus of our present Constitution. Discuss.

Model Answer:

The Constitution of India **inherits** many of the provisions from the **Government of India (GOI) Act 1935** as well as **borrow**s many provisions from the **Constitution of major countries** like USA, Ireland, British etc. However, the most profound influence was that of GOI Act 1935 as **more than half of the provisions of Constitution bear close resemblance to GOI Act 1935.**

Some of **features** of the Act that **formed the nucleus of the present constitution** are:

1. **Provincial Autonomy:** This Act provided autonomy to the provinces and **restricted interference of Centre** in the provincial subjects. This forms the nucleus of present Indian **Federation.**
2. **Distribution of power among center and states:** The act provided for separate lists i.e. **Federal list, Provincial list and Concurrent list** for dividing power among center and states.
3. **Federal Legislature:** Under the GOI Act, 1935, the Central Legislature was bicameral, consisting of Federal Assembly and Council of States. Today's parliament works on similar two-house system.
4. **Office of Governor:** The governor on the advice of Viceroy took total control over the provincial government at the time of political breakdown. This continues even today in the form of Emergency provisions (President rule).
5. **Judiciary:** The GOI Act, 1935 provided for the establishment of a Federal Court which would interpret the Act and adjudicate disputes relating to the federal matters. Today's Indian judiciary is similar to the one established in GOI Act 1935.

However, many of the **features** which form the nucleus of the constitution **do not find mention in the GOI Act 1935** such as:

1. **GOI Act 1935 did not have** the provision for **fundamental rights.** Fundamental Rights are inspired from the Constitution of USA.
2. Under 1935 act the power to **amend** the law was with the **British Parliament.** The **constitution confers the power of amendment to the Indian parliament.**
3. The court established under GOI ACT was not supreme court as the **supreme adjudicator was the Privy Council.** **Supreme court** under constitution is the **highest court** of the land.
4. The GOI Act 1935 extended the **franchise to only 14%** of population. The **constitution** provided for **adult franchise.**
5. The concept of **separate electorate** was extended through GOI Act 1935. However, Indian **constitution embraced secularism.**

Thus, GOI Act 1935 was selectively adopted by India to suit its requirement. The Act was blended with the constitutions of other countries. Thus, there are provisions taken from other sources too which form the nucleus of the Constitution.

Q.2) The issues related to the office of Governor are rooted in the nature of its appointment and removal. Explain.

Model Answer:

Governor is the **titular head of the State government** and **representative of the Union** appointed by President of India under **Article 155.** The Governor is meant to ensure **healthy Centre-State relations** and ensure that **governance in a State is carried on in accordance with the Constitution.**

Appointment and removal of Governor:

1. **President appoints** the Governor under Article 155 for a 5-year term.
2. Governor holds office during the **pleasure of the President**.
3. The **President** can **remove** the Governor as per the **advice of the Council of Minister**.

Problems related to the office of Governor:

1. **Politicization of the office** of Governor due to political appointees.
2. Some commenters regard Governors as **agents of the centre** as they serve at the mercy of the Central government e.g. wrong use of **Article 356 in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh** struck down by Supreme Court.
3. **Discretionary powers of the Governor** are misused by the Governor, especially during government formation in hung Assembly e.g. hasty **swearing in of government in Maharashtra** without majority.

Problems related to:

1. **Appointment**
 - a) **Absence of specific qualifications** or eligibility conditions for being appointed as Governor, which leads to appointments of persons with political allegiance.
 - b) There is **no consultation** provision with the State government before appointment of Governor.
2. **Removal**
 - a) **No process or specific grounds** are required for removal of Governor as s/he is appointed as per the pleasure of the President.
 - b) **States have no role** in the removal of Governors. They **cannot propose removal** even if Governors do not function properly.

Reforms needed:

1. **Punchii Commission** recommended **eligibility criteria for appointment** as Governor – (a) outsider to State, (b) apolitical person, (c) eminence and integrity, etc.
2. **Punchii Commission** recommended a **fixed tenure of 5 years** to Governor.
3. **2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC)** recommended that **States should be consulted during appointment** of Governors.
4. **2nd ARC also** recommended that States should have the **power to remove Governors through an impeachment process** by the legislature, like that of the President at Centre. Office of Governor is crucial to **ensure cooperative federalism as well as constitutional governance** in States. The Governors must **uphold the Constitution in letter as well as spirit**.

Q.3) Examine the concept of separation of power. Why strict separation of power is not feasible or practical for a country like India?

Model Answer:

The Doctrine of Separation of Power, given by **Montesquieu**, is a **principle for division of power and responsibility between different organs of state** i.e. legislature, executive and judiciary. The doctrine states that **each organ** of the state should have **exclusive and clearly defined roles and responsibilities** which are **independent of other two** organs. This doctrine ensures that:

1. There is **no concentration of power** in a single authority.
2. Once branch does **not interfere** with the working of other two branches.
3. There is **no conflict** between working of different organs of the state.

Although the **doctrine of separation of power is not explicitly mentioned** in the Indian constitution, it is **reflected in constitutional provisions like Article 50** which provides that the state shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive, **Article 122** which prohibit courts to inquire into parliamentary proceedings etc.

However, **strict separation of power is not feasible** or practical in India because of:

1. **Parliamentary form of government:** The executive is drawn from and is a part of the legislature. It is responsible to the legislature for its action. **In parliamentary system like India strict SOP is not possible.**
2. **Check and Balance System:** There is **system of oversight to prevent the arbitrary use of power.** For example, Judiciary by using a tool of **Judicial Review; Ordinance** making power of executive and its approval by legislature etc.
3. **More accountable government:** In practice, the **legislature** does not act merely as law making body, but also act as an **overseer of the executive.** Tools like budget approval, no-confidence motion, parliamentary committees etc., are meant to ensure a responsible government.
4. **Adherence to doctrine of SOP is difficult in welfare state:** India faces many **complex socio-economic** problems which requires cooperation among various organs of state.
5. **Constitutionally mandated role of judiciary:** The constitutional role of judiciary includes **judicial review and duty to do complete justice.** This makes it necessary for judiciary to venture into domain of executive and legislature.
6. Presence of **contempt power with the legislature, quasi-judicial bodies** like tribunals, **delegated legislations** etc. make strict SOP impractical for India.

Supreme Court, in the **Kesavananda Bharti case (1973)**, pronounced that the doctrine of separation of power is a **basic feature of the constitution.** But the doctrine of SOP is included in the constitution with modification by adopting a **system of checks and balances.**

Q.4) While fundamental rights have strengthened our democracy, fundamental duties are essential to strengthen our society. In this context examine the importance of fundamental duties for Indian society.

Model Answer:

Fundamental rights are basic enforceable **rights guaranteed under the constitution (Part III)** to every Indian citizen to ensure political justice to them. **Several rights** like right to life and personal liberty (**Article 21**); right to equality (**Article 14**); freedom of speech and expression (**Article 19**) allowed every citizen to enjoy various freedoms and **strengthened our democracy.**

Also, **Fundamental Duties** are **basic non-enforceable responsibilities** of every citizen, that were incorporated in **Part IVA (Article 51A)** through **42nd Amendment.** These **are important for Indian society** in following ways:

1. **Social harmony:** Through **universal brotherhood**, fundamental duties seek to establish social harmony. It also talks about developing **scientific temper and duty of parents to educate their children** which is important for societal progress.
2. **Warning against anti-social elements:** Fundamental duties serve as a warning against anti-national and antisocial activities. For example, **burning the national flag, destroying public property** etc.
3. **Democratic balance:** Fundamental duties establish democratic balance by making **people as conscious of their duties**, as they are conscious of their rights.

4. **Source of inspiration:** They serve as a source of inspiration for the citizens **promoting a sense of discipline and commitment** among them. Second fundamental duty enlists **ideals of the freedom struggle** as a source of inspiration.
5. **Establish constitutional validity:** They help courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law. Supreme Court has ruled that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law **in question seeks to give effect to a fundamental duty**, it may consider such law to be reasonable.

However, many scholars argue that the **importance** of Fundamental duty for the Indian society is **reduced** due to:

1. Their **non-justifiable character** makes them merely a **code of moral percepts**.
2. Fundamental duties were **added as an appendage** to the original constitution which has **reduced their significance**.
3. Many of the duties are defined with **ambiguous and vague phrases**. For example: 'scientific temper', 'noble ideals' etc.
4. The list of duties is **not exhaustive**. Many basic duties of a citizen like paying taxes, casting vote etc. are not mentioned in FD.

Thus, for instilling civic responsibility among citizens a **new set of Fundamental Duties** can be added like:

1. **Duty to vote:** The Constitution provides the **right to vote**, but voting is not a fundamental duty.
2. **Duty to pay taxes:** The incorporation of the right to pay taxes should be a part of FD as taxes are important for **socio-economic development of the country**.
3. **Duty to help accident victims:** According to **Law Commission**, 50% of fatalities from road accident can be avoided through timely medical intervention.
4. **Duty to keep public places clean:** An effective mechanism to tackle uncleanliness is to sensitize people about it, as is evident in **Swachh Bharat Mission**.

In **AIIMS Students Union case** judiciary held that fundamental duties are **equally important** like fundamental rights. Although, there is less awareness among citizens, significance of Fundamental Duties cannot be neglected. To further strengthen fundamental duties, **there is need to create awareness** among citizens. If not all, some of the fundamental duties can be made **legally enforceable**.

Q.5) Examine the role of Self-help groups (SHG) for women empowerment in Uttar Pradesh.

Model Answer:

Self-Help Group is an informal group of people with **common objectives** whose primary goal is to **promote small savings** among their members. They are also involved in **solving various socio-economic problems** of its members. As per the recent report by **National rural livelihood mission (NRLM)** there are around **5 lakh SHGs** functioning in Uttar Pradesh.

Importance of **SHGs for Women Empowerment** in Uttar Pradesh:

1. **Financial inclusion:** SHGs helps in promoting **financial inclusion** among the rural women through the **collective credit system**.
2. **Political empowerment:** SHGs avail women the chances to develop **leadership** qualities by managing the **informal associations** of the same.
3. **Active functioning of SHGs** results in formation of many **Women Pressure Groups** in the state which in turn led to more **proactive role of women** in state planning.

4. SHGs provide a platform for women to **present their socio-economic issues to the authorities** and gives impetus to fight **poverty** in the state.

Steps taken by the State in this regard:

1. The state government has been **working in tandem** with the Centre and banks in implementing **SHG- Bank linkage since 1992**.
2. State government Conducts **regular training of women SHGs** in self-sufficiency under **Priyadarshini scheme**. For e.g., **Success of Ganga women SHG**.
3. Promotion of self-employment under **Mission Shakti Abhiyan**, Creation of a separate **women SHG fund** along with increased funding during COVID19
4. **Engagement of SHGs for delivering welfare services**. For example, UP Government engaged **68000 women SHG** to implement **Take Home Ration Scheme**.

Despite many steps, SHGs in the state suffer from many **problems such as**:

1. **Informal functioning** of SHGs given the **unregistered** nature.
2. Poor focus on **digital literacy**.
3. Hesitation shown by public sector banks in lending SHGs due to **higher servicing costs**.

Steps needed to overhaul the SHGs functioning in the state:

1. **Address spatial disparity**.: More focus on western districts like Moradabad, Ghaziabad and **inclusion of urban areas**.
2. **Decentralized training**: **Local self-government** of the state has a great role to play in capacity building of SHGs. Success of **Kudumbashree** model of Kerala is a case in point.
3. **Institutionalization of functioning**: Statutory backing along with **scientific monitoring** is needed for an **effective functioning of SHGs**.
4. **Cooperative planning with the help of NGOs** and timely **insurance coverage** against financial losses are the areas which require prime attention.

It's time the State government must promote **innovative functioning of the SHGs** with the help of **center and banks** to develop them as an effective **tool of women empowerment**.

Q.6) National Tribunals Commission need systematical reforms to ensure standards and enforce accountability. Examine.

Model Answer:

The **42nd amendment act** has introduced **Articles 323A and 323B** into the Constitution, establishing tribunals as **quasi-judicial** bodies to improve the **speed and efficiency of the justice delivery system**.

However, because of **problems** in the tribunal system such as **politicisation and excessive executive interference**, the proposal of having an overarching independent body known as the **National Tribunals Commission (NTC)** made in the **L. Chandra Kumar case (1997)**. The recent **Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021** also **failed** to take this critical reform for better tribunal functioning.

In this light, the NTC can help in **ensuring standards and enforcing accountability** in the following ways:

1. **Uniformity**: There is problem of **non-uniformity** across tribunals with respect to **service conditions, tenure of members, varying nodal ministries** in charge of different tribunals. NTC is needed as an authority to **support uniform administration** across all tribunals.

2. **Accountability:** At present functioning of tribunals is **not closely monitored**. This leave **chances for corruption and lack of accountability** among tribunals. NTC will establish accountability by **supervising and keeping an oversight** on the functioning of tribunals.
3. **Independent functioning: Interference by the Executive** in the functioning of tribunals goes **against the spirit of Article 50** of the Constitution, which provides the **Separation of Powers** between the Executive and the Judiciary. To prevent such executive interference, the NTC might serve as an **independent recruitment and regulatory agency** to create and operationalize disciplinary actions as well as the appointment of tribunal members.
4. **Efficiency:** NTC could pave the way for **separation of administrative and judicial functions** carried out by various tribunals, thereby allowing **tribunals to function better**. Also, NTC can **set performance standards** for the efficiency of tribunals and also their own administrative processes.
5. **Infrastructure needs:** Tribunals faces **inadequate infrastructure** issues. NTC being specialized can take care of such **administrative and infrastructural needs** which can increase **the efficient functioning** of the tribunals.

Tribunals are an important institution for **delivering justice in a timely and effective manner**, as well as in **highly technical cases**. A reform like NTC is the need of the hour as it can go a long way in **reducing the burden of case pendency** and even decrease the **number of appeals plaguing our Indian Judicial system**.

Hence, National Tribunals Commission should be established **through a constitutional amendment** with a clear structure and mandate to adequately deal with the issues affecting the tribunals in India.

Q.7) What are the provisions of the National Rare Disease Policy 2021? How it will augment effective and safe treatment for rare diseases?

Model Answer:

The WHO defines rare disease as “**lifelong disease or disorder with a prevalence of less than or equal to one person, per thousand population**”. For example, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, hemophilia etc.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved the **National Rare Disease Policy 2021**.

Key provisions of the National Rare Disease Policy 2021 are:

1. **Early screening and prevention** through ‘NidanKendras’, early intervention centers, counselling risky parents etc.
2. Strengthen tertiary health care through **grants for setting up diagnostic facilities**.
3. **Lowering the cost of treatment** through **local production of medicines** and indigenous **research** through a national consortium.
4. **Creation of a national hospital-based registry of rare diseases** to make data available for definition, research and development etc.
5. **A crowd funding mechanism** in which corporates and individuals will be encouraged to extend financial support for treatment of rare diseases.
6. A **provision for financial support up to ₹ 20 lakhs** under the umbrella scheme of **Rastriya Arogya Nidhi** to eligible beneficiary.

The National Rare Disease Policy 2021 will **augment effective and safe treatment** for rare diseases in the following ways:

1. **Provide critical information** as relatively little is known about rare diseases especially in Indian context.

2. **Increases availability and accessibility to medicines** through local production, which will reduce morbidity and mortality in rare disease patients.
3. The **cost of treatment** of rare diseases is highly expensive, **government support reduces financial burden**.
4. **Addresses the lack of adequate screening and diagnostic facilities**, which are critical for treatment.

However, rare disease advocacy and support groups have **raised concerns** related to policy because of several **discrepancies** like:

1. Many rare diseases require **lifelong treatment** and **20 lakhs support is inadequate** for such patients.
2. The policy says that **crowdfunding can be used** to provide financial support. However, funding through crowd sourcing **may not be viable and sustainable**.
3. The **domestic capacity to manufacture rare disease medicine is abysmal**. Local production of medication will be a challenge.

To **address these concerns** following steps can be taken:

1. **Strengthening local manufacturing capacity** through institutional support.
2. **Building awareness regarding rare disease** among people and primary care physicians.

While the National Rare Disease Policy 2021 is a welcome step, **implementing** the text in the context should be done **diligently**.

Q.8) Examine the efforts of Uttar Pradesh in building robust connectivity and developing infrastructure projects so as to boost the economy of the state.

Model Answer:

Uttar Pradesh which was **once labeled under 'BIMARU' state tag** has now embarked on path of **rapid infrastructure development**. In its push for mega projects UP has focused on **connectivity and infrastructure** to boost the economy of the state.

Connectivity

Land Connectivity:

1. **Expressways**-Yamuna Expressway, **Agra Expressway**, **Purvanchal Expressway** and under construction Bundelkhand Expressway, **Ganga Expressway** and Gorakhpur link Expressway will improve **connectivity of UP at massive scale**.
2. **Flyovers and bridges**- Uttar Pradesh government is **laying a network of 1,193 new flyovers** and road over bridges. A total of **124 bridges, 54 road over bridges** and 355 minor bridges were built in a span of 5 years.

Air Connectivity:

1. **Airports**- Uttar Pradesh has **8 operational airports**, while 13 airports and 7 airstrips are being developed. UP is the only state in the country which is slated to have **5 International Airports after launch of Kushinagar and Noida airports**.
2. **Udaan scheme**- The ministry of civil aviation has approved **18 new air routes** for Uttar Pradesh, enhancing the connectivity of Kanpur, Moradabad, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Shravasti and Bareilly in the **4th round of Udaan scheme**.

Water Connectivity:

1. **Water ways**- The state is connected with a **wide network of waterways** which has boosted connectivity along rivers districts. NW1 on Ganga, NW12 on Asi, NW19 on Betwa, NW24 on Chambal and NW42 On Gomti are operational
2. **Inland waterway Terminal**- The state has developed **India's first multimodal Inland Waterway Terminal** at Varanasi.

Infrastructure:

1. **UP Defense corridor**- to manufacture **defense equipment domestically**. In UP, six nodes have been identified – Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh and Chitrakoot. They will be **connected via expressways**, and bring together **medium, small and micro industries**.
2. **Urban transport**- several towns are now connected with **Metro rails in UP including Lucknow, Noida, Ghaziabad, Agra and now Kanpur**.
3. **Medical Colleges**-A new **AIIMS is coming up in Gorakhpur** to deal with rampant problem of vector diseases in East UP.
4. **Kashi Vishwanath Corridor**- to ease the **urban planning mismatch and development of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple campus**, and of amenities along the corridor connecting the temple to the Manikarnika Ganga Ghat.

Uttar Pradesh is rapidly transforming itself into an **infrastructure powerhouse** and in doing so it has **relied on connectivity to boost its economy**. To boost the infrastructure development activities further, higher emphasis should be laid upon **time-bound, corruption free and transparent completion** of the infrastructure projects.

Q.9) Comment on the utility and effectiveness of soft power for furthering national interest. Can soft power replace hard power in international politics?

Model Answer:

Soft power refers to the **ability of a nation to influence the behavior of another country without force or coercion**. It is based on the attractiveness of **culture, values and foreign policy** of a nation.

In the **age of globalization** with wars becoming rare and with international organizations striving for peace, **soft power is becoming more useful and effective** due the following aspects:

1. **Cultural Influences**- For example **India's Buddhism Diplomacy** is helping us form closer ties with the South-East Asian countries. The **tourism potential** from influences like **Yoga** can also help us bridge the trade-deficit.
2. **The Diaspora** play an important role by influencing the **relationship between countries** by their lobbying and socio-economic influence. E.g., events like **Howdy Modi** tell us how diaspora shapes India-US relations.
3. **Soft power earns good will**. For example, India named the **Trimurti-Haifa Chowk**, and the goodwill was reciprocated by the gift of **Israeli technology** such as a desalination equipment and agricultural support.
4. **Ice-breaker**- When Governments aren't on talking terms, people to people connect (**Track-3 diplomacy**) help them communicate. E.g., **Pakistani artists** in India or a friendship **sports match**.
5. **Leadership role**-Soft power helps even countries without strongest armies to earn goodwill for leadership E.g., India's **Mr. Dalveer Bhandari** is seated in the ICJ today due to India's soft power generated reputation.

6. **Overall Peace**- Hard power escalates issues while soft power can solve it. The recent dialogue platforms like the **Moscow Conference on Afghan Peace and the Taliban peace talks of USA** can have preferred outcome than the past USA's invasion.

Hence, Soft power has **advantages** and it is also **cost-effective** (lower defense costs) and **humane** (lesser deaths in conflicts). There are countries like the Vatican City even without military. However, **the hard power cannot be swiped off** completely as-

1. **Not all national interests** can be met with **soft-power alone**, especially in **times of war**. This is most recently observed with the **Israel-Palestine Conflict**. Even India needs armed forces to prevent cross border terrorism.
2. **Not all hard-power is bad**- When military power is used for **Peacekeeping or disaster relief**, it is a humanitarian and welcome. E.g., **UNPKF**.
3. **Not all soft power is good**- Projection of one's culture is considered good; but **aggressive projection** can be interpreted as **cultural imperialism**. E.g., **The Nazi ideology over Jews**.

Soft power is thus **essential to protect and promote a nation's interest** in the current globalized world. It also helps in areas where hard power may not be effective. **Soft power can act as a force multiplier for the hard power**. Soft power is an imperative to achieve the formation of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and promotion of global peace**.

Q.10) The foray of China into the Indian ocean through OBOR poses strategic, commercial, and diplomatic challenges for India. Comment.

Model Answer:

China through its **One Belt One Road (OBOR)** policies is expanding aggressively in the Indian ocean both via ocean and land route. The project covers two parts - **Silk Road Economic Belt** (land-based) and is expected to connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe. **21st Century Maritime Silk Road**(sea-based) which is expected to connect China's southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia.

This foray of China in the Indian ocean is posing various challenges to India as discussed below:

The strategic challenges include:

1. China's attempt to secure **Sea Lines of communication (SLOC)** threatens the balance of power in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) where net security provider has traditionally been India.
2. China's hold in Djibouti will allow it **to monitor the strategic Bab Al Mandab strait**. It is a threat to security of India, as most of exports and imports happens through this sea route.
3. Development of Gwadar will allow China to have **Arabian sea access through land** thereby reducing its reliance on strategic Strait of Malacca.
4. Chinese help to Pakistan and joint naval exercises pose the **threat of a two-front war for India** in IOR.
5. Strong China in sea will **threaten India from south and north as well**.

The Commercial challenges include:

1. China is making **financial strong hold sin debt ridden weak economies** of IOR nations in Africa like Djibouti, Zambia, Kenya etc. to win influence.
2. Chinese state-owned corporations are able to **outbid Indian corporate** and PSUs in tenders, contracts and projects. Such as **Hambantota** port project of Sri Lanka.

However, the economic partnership is ending as economic mastership of China due to **unsustainability of loan terms**.

The diplomatic challenges include:

1. Indian **influence in forums like IOCRIM, BIMSTEC** etc is affected if nations tilt towards China.
2. Indian arguments in WTO, UNSC etc require **mobilization of smaller nations** which may hamper due to Chinese aggression.
3. Indian **soft power, diplomatic outreach** etc is adversely affected if commensurate commercial assistance is not offered to the IOR nations.
4. In the region, **countries may start playing China card against**, such as recent tilt of Iran towards China and substantial Chinese influence in the neighbourhood like in Nepal.

So, the overall interests are **interlinked and impact on one spill overs** to others as well. The **challenges for India are plenty but so are the opportunities**. Commercial relations, diplomatic outreach, combination of soft power and hard power with nations of IOR are the need of the hour. It is necessary to give full effect to **SAGAR doctrine** for comprehensive development of Indian Ocean Region and **leverage membership to the QUAD**.

Q.11) There has been an increasing demand for doing away with the concurrent list. Examine the utility of concurrent list in the light of recent events.

Model Answer:

Concurrent list is a **collection of subjects in Schedule VII** of the Constitution over which **both center and states enjoy simultaneous jurisdiction** to legislate while exercising their powers under **Article 246**. Concurrent list **ensures uniformity and diversity of legislation** as it contains matters on which uniformity throughout the nation is desirable but not essential. **For example:** Education, criminal law, forest etc.

However, the concurrent list has remained a **bone of contention between the center and state**. Recently, the chief minister of Telangana's has voiced for **greater autonomy to states** by doing away with the **concurrent**. There has been rising demand for doing away with the concurrent list due to misuse of concurrent list as it leads to:

1. **Colorable legislation:** At times **center** encroaches state list indirectly by use of the concurrent list, **for example-** recent alleged misuse of **Entry 33 of the concurrent list** to bring the controversial farm Acts 2020 thus bypassing state's legislature domain over **agriculture**.
2. **One size fit all approach:** Actions of center on subjects related to concurrent list can create problems by denying space for states to manage their affairs according to their capacity and need. **For example: Infectious and contagious disease** is a concurrent list subject. Centre imposed **national lockdown without regards to the state's opinion**.
3. **Regional diversity suffers in quest for attaining uniformity.** **For example: Medical education** is a concurrent subject. Introduction of uniform **NEET** has proven to be disadvantageous for students of state board and vernacular language.
4. **Abdication of responsibility:** Center and state tend to engage in **blame game** in matters related to the concurrent list **during governance failure**. **For example: Social security, employment, welfare of labour** all are concurrent subjects. During lockdown both center and states blamed each other for migrant crisis.
5. **Politicization of issues:** Center may create laws to further its election fortunes or to cater to its electoral constituency. **For example: law banning triple talaq** (marriage and divorce is a concurrent subject).

6. **Financial burden on states:** Central laws and schemes might require allocations of the fund by the state. Due to **union dominance** states might be compelled to allocate funds despite their other unfulfilled priorities. **For example: Right to education, National food security act.**
7. **Over concentration of power:** Since independence, numerous amendments to the constitution have **reduced state list subject** and increased subjects under concurrent list and union list. This goes **against the principle of subsidiarity and devolution** in a federal setup.

Since, concurrent list has an **important role in balancing uniformity and diversity**, certain **reforms may be undertaken** instead of outright repealing the concurrent list. **Some suggested reforms are:**

1. **Centrally laws and schemes** should be **flexible** enough to allow states to adapt and innovate.
2. **Decentralization of power:** Centre should devolve more power to states. **Concurrent list should be generally left for states to legislate.**
3. The Niti Aayog can serve as a platform to **iron out differences on issues related to subjects of concurrent list.**

Implementation of **Punchhi commission** recommendations like center should consult the states before making a law on the **concurrent list** can be a good way forward for strengthening the **spirit of cooperative federalism in India.**

Q.12) Highlighting the constitutional role of finance commission, critically examine recommendations of 15th Finance Commission.

Model Answer:

Finance commission (FC) is a **constitutional body** constituted by **president every five years** under **Article 280** to give its **recommendations for distribution of tax revenue** between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves. **Fifteenth finance commission** was constituted under the **N.K Singh.**

To make following **recommendations** is the **constitutional mandate/duty** of the finance commission:

1. The **distribution** between the Union and the States of the **net proceeds of taxes.**
2. The **principles** which should govern the **grants-in-aid of the revenues** of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. The **measures** needed to **augment the Consolidated Fund of a State** to supplement the **resources of the Panchayats.**
4. The **measures** needed to **augment the Consolidated Fund of a State** to supplement the **resources of the Municipalities.**
5. **Recommendation** on any other matter related to **sound finance.**

However, the government has used finance commissions as an **instrument of economic reforms** and **pushing its agenda**, in light of this, the **15th finance commission's recommendations** are discussed below:

1. **Performance-based incentives for states. For example-** Incentives based on **power sector reforms, check on population, etc. Performance Based Incentives** are based on states performance on parameters devised by Centre such as **Aspirational District Programme (ADP)**. However, Performance based incentives **disincentivizes** independent decision-making.
2. **Reformation in the centrally sponsored scheme:** The commission has **recommended phasing out of CSS** that has low utility. This should be an **executive decision.**

3. **Evaluation of GST systems:** Finance commission has examined the impact of GST, also the need for a GST compensation fund for an anticipatory loss of revenue for 5 years.
4. **Fiscal management and consolidation guide:** The finance commission suggested that the union must reduce the fiscal deficit to **4%** of GDP by 2025-2026. This is indirectly a **fiscal reform** suggested by the finance commission. Development of a comprehensive framework for public financial management and **independent fiscal council** to measure financial records from center and states.
5. Through **sector specific grants such as health, nutrition etc.** ability of states to make **autonomous** decisions is reduced.
6. **Environment and ecology protection, population control measures, reduction in debt level etc. are desirable** outcomes of Centre's reform agenda **but Centre should not push** these agenda **through** the recommendations of **FC** (not mandates role of FC).

Despite, commission's focus on several economic reforms, still **commission** has performed its **core function** as follows:

1. The 15th F.C recommended **vertical** devolution at 41% to states against the 14th F.C recommendation of 42%.
2. **Horizontal distribution:** it is mainly based on the need of states, equity among states, and performance of **states**.
3. **Grants to states: Revenue defect grant, sector-specific grant,** grant to local bodies (₹4.36 lakh crores) were recommended for states.

The finance commission has acted based on the **term of reference (ToR)** which is suggested by the **Union Government**. Some states have criticized TORs as **example of coercive federalism**. Thus, for **best interest of fiscal federalism**, Finance commission **should not be seen as instrument to promote reforms of center**.

Q.13) What are the functions and powers of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)? Examine the performance of NCST in protecting and promoting the rights of Scheduled Tribes.

Model Answer:

Article 338-A of the Indian Constitution inserted by Constitution (**89th Amendment**) Act created the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) as a **constitutional body, for effective implementation of various safeguards provided in the constitution for Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.

Functions of NCST are-

1. To **investigate and monitor** all matters relating to constitutional and legal safeguards of STs and evaluate their working.
2. To **inquire into complaints** with respect to deprivation of their rights.
3. To **evaluate the progress** in their development and participate in the planning process of their socio-economic development.
4. **Recommend measures** to for protection, welfare and socio-economic development of STs.
5. **Submit reports** on the working of safeguards to the President annually or whenever required.
6. Discharge other functions as the President may specify and suggest measures for the welfare/development of the tribal population.

Powers of NCST are-

1. The Commission is **vested with the power to regulate its own procedure**.
2. While investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, it has the powers of a Civil Court, it empowers commission for: a. summoning and enforcing the attendance of any

person and examine him/her on oath. b. receiving evidence on affidavits; c. requisitioning any public record from any court or office; d. any other matter which the President may determine.

3. Central and State governments are required to consult the commission on all policy matters affecting STs

Performance of NCST in protecting and promoting the rights of STs-

Positives:

1. The **Service Safeguards and Coordination wing** in NCST has resolved complaints related to promotions, discrimination and harassment, departmental enquiries, etc.
2. The **Atrocities wing** monitors the implementation of various safeguards to prevent atrocities against tribals.
3. NCST successfully institutionalized the **system of liaison officers and special ST cells** in all ministries and public sector enterprises.
4. The commission has recommended **land ceiling, redistribution of surplus land** etc., to prevent the alienation of tribal land.

Negatives:

1. The commission has been **ineffective in stopping the eviction of tribals** in the name of development. E.g., the Dongria-Kondh community of Odisha faced eviction for a project by Vedanta.
2. The commission failed to help tribals **get their due compensation** in cases like Rourkela Steel Plant and Sardar Sarovar Project.
3. NCST has **no powers to look into the matters of law and order**, which is the reason for very low conviction rates (less than 5%) in cases of atrocities registered with the commission.
4. NCST **does not have much say over the funds sanctioned under Tribal Sub-Plan**.

As the commission is only an advisory body, scholars have termed it a '**paper tiger**'. It has been degraded into just being a monitoring body. Thus, **there is a need to bring reforms like giving more powers of investigation, power to penalize, fixed time period for discussion of commission's reports**, etc.

Q.14) While policies are important because they play a key role in development, the defining feature of Indian governance is the lack of coordination between institutions that oversee implementation of policies. Critically evaluate.

Model Answer:

Policy formulation at higher level of administration and **policy implementation** at ground level are two key **elements** of any **developmental initiative**. Policies lay down various **objectives, institutions** involved and **mechanisms** to achieve those objectives.

Based on the Indian experience, scholars have pointed out lack of **coordination between institutions** as a major bottleneck in delivering intended benefits of the policies to the people.

1. **Coordination issues among departments and ministries:** Lead to **policy confusion**, which can create panic in economy, policy blind-spots, and issues of redundancy.
 - a) The traditional ministry-wise **separation of functions is not useful for complex issues** such as bio-safety. For example: Implementation of biosafety guidelines is the responsibility of the Science and Technology Ministry and the Environment Ministry. However, labs dealing with biological research are set up under the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which are under the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, respectively.

- b) These issues also **create space for corruption** e.g., the 1992 stock market scam happened when a newly constituted SEBI was not given the commensurate power to carry out its role of oversight.
2. **Coordination issues between center and states:** Major co-ordination issues between center and states were recently seen in pandemic related crisis on supply of medical oxygen. In the end, it was **better coordination at the bureaucratic level** that helped meet the unforeseen demands for medical oxygen. Further, **issues of fiscal decentralization** are a major point of contention in center-state coordination.
 3. **Coordination issues among states:** A major failure in this was seen in **the migrant crisis** during the general lockdown on account of COVID-19 pandemic. It was a case of not only lack of coordination, but a lack of policy as well. Another example is issue of **inter-state river-water disputes**.
 4. **Coordination between different arms of the State:** Lack of co-ordination between legislature and executive often leads to a situation of **dysfunctional parliamentary control** **Issues of judicial overreach** sometimes create hindrances in implementation of policies.

However, apart from lack of co-ordination, **other challenges** also undermine development initiatives like:

1. Sometimes **policies** are found to be **overambitious**, when they are framed **without giving due consideration to ground realities**.
2. Institutions often **lack capacity** (finances, trained staff, technology) for effective co-ordination. For example: Local self-governance institutions.
3. **Politicization** also hinders implementation of policies. **For example:** ono-implementation of Ayushman Bharat in West Bengal.

Innovative solutions of co-operation such as GST council or a **coordinating body** should be explored to improve governance. New challenges have also necessitated need of **re-engineering government processes** and increase use of **technology** for **creating linkages** between various ministries, departments and agencies for better coordination.

Q.15) Though RTI was meant to strengthen participatory democracy in India, various factors have hindered its utilization to full potential. In this context, examine the issues pertaining to the implementation of the RTI Act.

Model Answer:

The Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 confers **statutory right** on the citizens of India to **ask for information from government** and public offices. It seeks to **strengthen participatory democracy** in India by ensuring access to public information.

However, a **6% fall** was reported in **RTI applications filed** between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Various **factors** that have **hindered the utilization** of RTI to its full potential include:

1. **Lack of awareness:** According to survey of RTI Assessment and Advocacy Group (RaaG) 2013, **less than 35% people in rural** and **40% people in urban areas are aware** of the act. Knowledge of entire process of seeking information is known to even less.
2. **Huge backlog:** **More than 2.2 lakh cases** are pending at both the Central and State levels.
3. **High rejection rate:** A huge number of applications (nearly **4 out of every 10** on an average) are rejected under different sections, mostly on **vague grounds**.
4. **Issues related to secrecy:** Conflict with the **Official Secrets Act, 1923** and **Evidence Act** leads to **supersession of important information**.

5. **Misuse of certain clauses:** For instance, **Section 2(h)** is often evaded by the government by **denying the public authority** status to certain bodies as seen in case of **PM-CARES** fund.
6. **Lack enforcement powers:** The CIC has **minimal powers** with respect to **enforcement of the RTI act** which makes it a toothless institution. For example: Decision bringing political parties under RTI.

The recent **amendment** in the RTI act **increased the power of central government substantial** over central and state information commissions, negatively affecting their autonomy and neutrality.

In order to **improve** the overall **functioning** of RTI, the **following steps** could be taken:

1. **Three out of ten positions** for information commissioner are lying **vacant**. Filling up vacancy will help in **reducing backlogs**.
2. **Rationalization of certain laws:** This must include:
 - a. **Consolidation** of acts like UAPA, MISA among others which often conflict with the RTI under one **National Security Act**.
 - b. **Repeal** of the **Official Secrets Act, 1923 (2nd ARC)**.
 - c. **Revision** of **Section 123** of the **Indian Evidence Act, 1972(Shourie committee)**.
3. **Independence: Fixed tenure and salaries** can **ensure independence** of the commission (2nd ARC and Shourie committee).
4. **Administrative reforms:** Amend **Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules** to match with the **spirit of the RTI (2nd ARC)**. NCRWC recommended that oath of transparency of Ministers must replace oath of secrecy.
5. **Protection of activists: Whistleblower's Protection Act** must be reviewed and empowered periodically to protect the activists.

The need is to revisit the current RTI regime for making necessary **course corrections**, thus, preserve the sanctity of **transparency and accountability** for ensuring **good governance**.

Q.16) What are the benefits of promoting lateral entry in civil services? Also, discuss the apprehensions regarding such a reform.

Model Answer:

Lateral entry refers to the **direct induction of domain experts from private sector** in government organisations, rather than appointing regular recruits through promotion. For example, appointment of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman.

The lateral entry into civil services is seen as a “reform” to bring new talent and private sector perspective into the bureaucracy. It has been **recommended by** various committees including the **1st and 2nd Administrative Reform Commission**, NITI Aayog **three Year Action Agenda** and Sectoral Group of Secretaries (**SGoS**) on **Governance**.

Benefits of promoting lateral entry in Civil Services:

- a) Entrants from private sector can bring **fresh ideas and new approach to governance**.
 - b) Lateral entrants can enable the government **to understand the impact of its policies** from the perspective of other stakeholders.
 - c) It can provide **new leadership talent** which is target-oriented and can infuse more energy in government.
1. Expanding role of the State and increasing complexity of governance evident from newer issues like nuclear energy, climate-change, cyber security, etc. require specialists and **domain experts**.

2. It can **induce competition** between lateral entrants and career bureaucrats which can compel the civil servants to develop expertise and increase efficiency.
3. According to Ministry of Personnel, 21% of the sanctioned posts in All India Services lie vacant. The **Baswan Committee** held that lateral entry could **compensate for staff shortages** in bigger states like Bihar, MP and Rajasthan which have a deficit of over 75 to 100 officers.

Apprehensions regarding lateral entry:

1. **The government of the day might induct loyalists** which will devoid the civil services of neutrality and non-partisanship. It may create a **revolving door** between the private sector and the government.
2. The career bureaucrats have a long-term interest in the government, whereas lateral entrants having short tenures would **only work to build their resumes**.
3. It can generate **conflict of interest** if the entrant joins a ministry which is connected to his/her field of expertise. Moreover, it further increases the **risk of collusion** after the lateral entrant completes his/her tenure and goes back to the private sector.
4. Given that the bureaucracy is averse to lateral entry, the new hires might experience some resistance or **non-cooperation from within** the departments.
5. As lateral entrants will have very short tenure of service (just 3 to 5 years), it will become difficult to establish responsibility and **accountability** after completion of service.
6. Private sector experts who become joint secretaries on three-to-five-year contracts cannot match **15-20 years of acculturation/on-job training** that regular officers receive before they become joint secretaries.

Lateral entry is a good step **but it must be complimented with other measures** such as **ensuring transparency** in recruitment; creating opportunities for **long-term engagement** with lateral entrants; **private sector deputation** for government officials for developing domain expertise; and stressing on **merit-based promotions** in the civil services.

Q.17) Evaluate the impact of welfare schemes implemented for the welfare of women and children by Uttar Pradesh Government.

Model Answer:

According to UNICEF, over **half the children and three fifth of women** in India are **victims of abuse**. This includes **physical, mental, sexual abuse or torture by negligence** pertaining to failure to cater to the child's development, with regard to his/her health, education, nutrition, shelter and emotional development. For this reason, UP government is running various schemes to empower them and help them achieve their potential:

1. **Economic support:**
 - a) With the **Mission Shakti 3.0**, ₹ 30.12 crore has been transferred to 155,000 girls' accounts to ensure women's dignity, security, self-reliance, and respect.
 - b) **Rani Lakshmbai Women and Child Reservation Fund** to ensure monetary and medical relief including reconstructive surgeries to women.
 - c) Grant scheme for **marriage of daughters of poor people**, by transferring **20000 rupees** to the eligible beneficiaries.
2. **Women Protection:**
 - a) **Asha Jyoti Kendras** have been established for **immediate response mechanism** for women in **distress, situation of assault and related conditions of violence**.
 - b) **181 Women's Help Line**. To address in real time **any threats to the women**. It has substantially helped with the cases of **eve teasing and domestic violence**.

3. **Social upliftment:**
 - a) UP government implements **pension scheme** for **destitute and widowed** women.
 - b) **Assistant grant scheme** for destitute women after her husband's death.
 - c) Legal aid schemes to women suffering from dowry
 - d) **Self-help plan,**
4. **Child Development:**
 - a) **Welfare scheme** for children who lost their parents due to COVID, with a monthly assistance of Rs. 4000.
 - b) **Recurring grants to organizations/NGOs** working towards the education of under privileged children, especially from SC/ST community.
 - c) **Scholarship schemes** to ensure **educational development of under-privileged children.**
 - d) **Kanya Sumangla Yojna,** to encourage **educational opportunities,** through **financial support to upto two girl child** in one family.

Due to such schemes, visible **impacts are seen** such as:

1. **Women:**
 - a) Their **dignity** is upheld, and their **efforts are recognized.**
 - b) Reductions in violence against them in all forms. E.g., according to the **NCRB, reports of violence against women UP** have been **constantly and substantially reducing;**
 - c) **Political upliftment** as seen in recent Panchayat elections, over 54% of the village heads, block pramukhs, and 56% of the district Panchayat presidents elected were women.
2. **Children:**
 - a) **Child mortality** has been **reduced** significantly.
 - b) **Reduction in diseases and malnutrition** (as per the latest **NHFS**) due to doorstep delivery of services and inclusive approach.
 - c) **Child sex ratio** in UP has seen a considerable improvement. UP has to focus on the **psychological upliftment, awareness generation, and inclusive delivery of services** to ensure a dignified life for women and a brighter future for children.

Q.18) The second decade of 21st century marks a collective failure of UN and its agencies. Examine this statement citing suitable examples.

Model Answer:

The United Nations was established in 1945 with **objective** of maintaining international **peace and security**, protecting **human rights**, delivering **humanitarian aid**, promoting **sustainable development etc.** through its various organs and specialised agencies.

Though UN has **helped in earlier years** by sending **peacekeeping** mission, ensuring disarmament, promoting development through **MDG**, disaster management etc., UN and its agencies has **failed at many fronts, especially in 2nd half of 21st century** as described:

1. **Failure of UNSC in peacekeeping:** Despite various efforts of peacekeeping, UNSC failed as agency to **establish peace** around the world. For example, it is unable to deal with **Israel-Palestine conflict, crises in Myanmar, Syria, etc.**
2. **UNESCO** has failed in preserving cultural heritage. For example, recently **Turkey converted ancient Hagia Sophia** in Istanbul into a mosque without any discussion with UNESCO.

3. **World Health Organisation** was instituted as an agency to promote healthcare of all around the world. It has **failed** in many fronts including timely warning and containment of **Covid-19 pandemic**.
4. **UNFCCC**: USA decided to **leave** Paris deal and there is **no clarity about technology transfer and financial support** for developing nations.
5. **ILO failure in worker's welfare**: ILO has failed in protecting workers and ensuring their welfare. It failed to act against various issues including **death of workers in Bangladesh, plight of migrant labours in India, etc.**
6. **WTO** has evolved as an **undemocratic institution**, which is continuously dominated by the West. For example, issues related to **Agreement on Agriculture** and **TRIPS/ IP waivers**.
7. **UNHRC**: Though touted as human rights commission, UNHRC has not been able to protect rights in various regions of the world. **Syria, Myanmar, Uyghur, Baluchistan, Pakistani occupied Kashmir, etc.** are regions where UNHRC is unable to raise its voice for rights of the people.
8. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**: The IAEA was established to promote peaceful use of nuclear technology and prevent use of nuclear technology for military use. However, countries like North Korea and Iran got access to nuclear weapons causing threat to entire world.

However, the period between 2010 and 2020 is also marked by **some successes** of UN such as:

1. **Sustainable Development Goals** were set up by UNGA in 2015 and **Paris Climate deal** was signed under UNFCCC.
2. 2013 **UN Mission to Mali** to stabilize the country and control deadly inter-ethnic clashes.
3. In 2014 **effective** response of WHO and other UN bodies successfully tackled the worst **Ebola outbreak** in Africa.
4. Government of **Columbia and FCRA** (revolutionary Armed force of Columbia) signed a **peace agreement** ending five-decade old armed conflict. **UN Mission in Columbia** assisted in **implementation** of peace **agreement** through facilitation of surrender of weapons and **monitoring mechanism**.

The UN has survived and thrived and has certainly seen incremental changes over the last 75 years but the **time has come for the UN to change** for the better. **UNSC** is in desperate need to **undergo reforms**, the sooner the better, the later the more redundant. In a nutshell, as far as the whole UN is concerned, **complete reform** is needed with **principles not to be written by the most powerful anymore**.

Q.19) ASEAN is not only important for development of North-East but also it remains India's gateway to East Asia and beyond. Discuss.

Model Answer:

ASEAN is an **inter-governmental platform** of South East Asian countries that promotes **economic, political, and security cooperation** among its ten members- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

India's relationship with ASEAN has been a **key pillar** in India's foreign policy emphasizing upon the **3Cs of -Culture, Connectivity and Commerce**. Two major elements which makes ASEAN important for India are: **development of the North East** and acting as a **gateway to the East Asia and beyond**.

The linkage between India's relation with ASEAN and **development of India's North-East** can be seen as follows:

1. **Improved connectivity:** Connectivity through **road, rail, sea and air** is expected to improve with boosted trade and investment relations. **India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway** and **Kaladan Multi-Modal Projects** are two cases in point.
2. **Trade and investment:** Improved connectivity could help **push the trade** beyond the coveted **\$100 billion target** with **cut down** on the cost of movement of goods and services.
3. **Local economic development:** North-East India acts as a **linchpin for India's Act East Policy** which focuses especially on the **economic integration** of India, ASEAN and other East Asian Nations. This would lead to the development of **industrial corridors, setting up of Haats, local industries** etc.
4. **Self-reliance:** **Cheap transit** along with economic development could play a key role in making **North-East India self-reliant** and even **exporter in itself** rather than depending upon **cheap Chinese goods**.
5. **Collaboration with Myanmar** in dealing with the **extremist insurgency** in the states of **Manipur and Nagaland** which is essential for initiating developmental works in the region.

The ASEAN act as the gateway for India to the **East Asian nations and beyond** in the following ways:

1. **ASEAN forum** is acting as a **platform to develop bilateral relations** with countries in the forum such as Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia etc.
2. **Japanese link:** Japan, which is a key economic and strategic partner of India, has been actively involved in **India's Act East Asia policy** and engagement with ASEAN through "**Japan India Act East Forum**", thus, creating better links with the East Asia.
3. **South Korean renewed focus:** India's tandem with ASEAN is in consonance with **South Korea's "New Southern policy"**.
4. **Counter to Chinese expansionism:** China's expansionism in the South China sea has been countered through **India's open support for free navigation** supporting the stakeholders like **Vietnam and Philippines**, thus, pushing for **India's strategic presence** in the East Asian region as well.
5. **Trade relations:** As India has opted out of the Chinese dominant RCEP, smooth economic relations with ASEAN through **FTAs or Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** could boost India's economic presence in the both **South East and East Asian region**.
6. **Security relations:** Joint naval exercises with the members of ASEAN (**like Garuda Shakti, Force 18**) aims to boost security relations while promoting India's strategic presence in the **Indo-Pacific and East Asian region**.

In order to further reap the potential benefits, the need is to implement a **renewed and comprehensive strategy** comprising ambitious targets for **economic, strategic, security, connectivity, and socio-cultural linkages**.

Q.20) Discuss the implications of Israel-Palestine conflict on India's interests. Evaluate India's de-hyphenation policy in this context.

Model Answer:

The **Israel-Palestine conflict** can be traced back to the Jewish immigration and the resultant conflict between Jews and Arabs. It has been referred to as the world's "**most intractable conflict**", with the ongoing Israeli occupation of the **West Bank** and the **Gaza Strip**. Most recent round of **hostility** was triggered by **rocket attacks by Hamas** and **disproportionate use of force by Israel**.

Implications of Israel-Palestine conflict **on India's interests** can be:

1. **India-Palestine**- Traditionally India has opposed the Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands by the use of excessive force. India's stand on the issue will impact its **relation with Arab** which is crucial for **energy security**.
2. **Communalism in India**- An international conflict **involving a "religion" factor** has the ability to cause **communal turmoil in India**.
3. **Indian diaspora**- Many people have been killed in recent clashes and airstrikes, e.g., an **Indian woman in Israel was killed** in a rocket attack by Palestinian militants. Further, an extended faceoff can **destabilize middle east**, which can cause **problem for Indian diaspora** in the region.
4. **India-Israel**- Both the countries share multilateral ties as **economic, military, strategic, technological, etc.** E.g., Israel is the second-largest defence supplier to India, RAW's relations with Mossad and Israel's aid to India during war against Pakistan as well as during COVID.
5. **The U.S. factor**- Even though the U.S. vouched for de-escalation of the recent clashes, it has always **favoured Israel** and tries to **influence others**, including India.

Hence, India has **much at stake** with this conflict; it **cannot side with either** of the counties, which is why the **de-hyphenation policy** seems to be a solution.

De-hyphenation is the policy of **dealing** with **two countries**, having **hostile** relations towards each other, in an **independent manner**. **De-hyphenated Look West Policy of India** implies that the relationship with Israel would stand on its own merits, independent and separate from India's relationship with Palestinian. With this-

1. India has been able to form **closer ties with Israel**, a major defense supplier, **without irking Palestine**.
2. In 2017 PM visited **Israel without visiting Palestine** and in 2018 PM visited **Palestine without visiting Israel** projecting an explicit foreign policy stand of **de-hyphenation**.
3. India has been able to maintain good **relations with Arab countries**.
4. India's decision-making in terms of **foreign policy** has remained **autonomous of external influences** e.g., as that of USA.

Hence, it has helped India to maintain **good relations with both** the countries independently. India has always prescribed **peaceful resolution** of conflicts and commitment towards the "**two state solution**" is a step in the right direction.

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