

UPPSC/UPPCS MAINS 2018

GS PAPER - 2

Section - A

1. *Why is India opposed to mediation on Kashmir?*

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce the abrogation of Article 370 which raised issues of mediation on Kashmir*
2. *Discuss the reasons behind India's opposing the mediation on Kashmir*
3. *Conclusion*

Hints:

After the abrogation of Article 370, Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue on an international platform. Also, the President of the USA offered India to mediate on this issue. But, India has maintained its opposition to third-party mediation.

Reasons behind opposing the mediation on Kashmir:

- India's firm position against mediation on Kashmir or any other issue stems from several reasons, most notably a historical suspicion, since the 1950s and 1960s, as mediated talks by the United Nations and World Bank, the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia have been unsuccessful in resolving the issues between India and Pakistan. At best, the attempts have worked for diffusing tensions, or calling off hostilities at the Line of Control and the international border, but not in terms of their rival claims over Jammu and Kashmir.
- Another reason is that India sees itself as a regional leader, and does not require any assistance in sorting out its issues with other regional countries.
- In addition, the widespread belief is that mediation favours the weaker party by levelling the playing field, and with its stronger conventional and non-conventional military prowess, India has seen no significant gain from bringing a third-party into its 70-year-old conflict with Pakistan.
- India, for instance, argues that mediation has no chance of working better than bilateral agreements, like the Simla Agreement of 1972 that both sides agreed to respect.
- The apprehension of the country's policy wonks mainly stems from the fact that in the event of a third-party mediation (by the US for instance), America could use its might as the world's superpower to impose a solution on Kashmir that might go contrary to India's stated position.

The Kashmir dispute has dragged on for nearly seven decades now. Wars have been fought over it and countless lives lost across both sides of the India-Pakistan border. It is time for India and Pakistan to resolve the conflict so that the people of Kashmir can live with peace, prosperity and happiness. Informal summits of the likes of Wuhan and Mamallapuram summits can be put in use for resolving the major irritants in the India-Pakistan relation, including the Kashmir issue.

2. Critically examine the jurisdiction of International Court of Justice.

Approach

1. Briefly introduce the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.
2. Explain the benefits and limitations of this jurisdiction.
3. Give way forward.

Hints:

Introduction:

The International Court of Justice acts as a world court. The Court's jurisdiction is expanded to two areas: in contentious cases jurisdiction, it settles international legal disputes that are submitted to it by States in accordance with international law; and in advisory jurisdiction, it gives advisory opinions on legal questions at the request of the organs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Benefits of the jurisdiction of ICJ:

- In advisory proceedings, there is long proceeding beginning with the filing of a written request for an advisory opinion addressed to the Registrar by the United Nations Secretary-General or the director or secretary-general of the entity requesting the opinion. But in urgent cases, the Court may take all appropriate measures to speed up these proceedings.
- To assemble all the necessary information about the question submitted to it, the Court is empowered to hold written and oral proceedings.
- The Court's advisory opinions carry great legal weight and moral authority. They are often an instrument of preventive diplomacy and help to keep the peace. In their own way, advisory opinions also contribute to the clarification and development of international law and thereby to the strengthening of peaceful relations between States.
- The judgment is final, binding on the parties to a case and without appeal (at the most it may be subject to interpretation or, upon the discovery of a new fact, revision).
- A State which considers that the other side has failed to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court may bring the matter before the Security Council, which is empowered to recommend or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment.
- ICJ discharges its duties as a full court but, at the request of the parties, it may also establish ad hoc chambers to examine specific cases.

Limitations in the jurisdiction of ICJ:

- Only States may apply to and appear before the International Court of Justice with respect to its contentious cases jurisdiction. International organizations, other authorities and private individuals are not entitled to institute proceedings before the Court. The advisory procedure is available to such organizations.
- Contrary to judgments, and except in rare cases where it is expressly provided that they shall have binding force (for example, as in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations), the Court's advisory opinions are not binding.
- It has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. As it is not a criminal court, it does not have a prosecutor able to initiate proceedings.
- The jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in general and thereby differs from that of specialist international tribunals, such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).
- It does not enjoy a full separation of powers, with permanent members of the Security Council being able to veto enforcement of cases, even those to which they consented to be bound.

Way forward:

The advisory opinions of the court should be binding to the agencies as it will finally settle the dispute of the parties and make the time expended by them in the proceeding beneficial. Moreover, the jurisdiction of the court should be expanded to criminal cases, as it will be a positive step to bring peace in the world.

3. Throw light on the challenges and problems of farmers and agriculture sector in Uttar Pradesh. Suggest measures for improvement.

Approach

1. Write a brief introduction about the agricultural practices in Uttar Pradesh.
2. Elaborate on the challenges faced by farmers and in the agriculture sector in Uttar Pradesh.
3. Discuss the reasons for the problems and suggest some measures for mitigating them.
4. Write a brief conclusion along with the way forward.

Hints:

Introduction:

Uttar Pradesh has a large population (more than 60% population) dependent on the agriculture and allied sectors for their livelihood. But this sector has not been beneficial to them. There is a large number of problems which needs to be solved to make this sector profitable and suitable for livelihood.

Challenges faced by farmers and in the agriculture sector:

- The large population of farmers being dependent on agriculture is trapped in poverty.
- The agrarian economy of the state continues to grapple with low productivity and lack of proper infrastructure and forward industry linkages.
- The average size of holdings continues to decrease with the infinite subdivision of the landholdings. The problem of small and fragmented holdings is more serious in densely populated and intensively cultivated areas where the average size of land holdings is less than one hectare and in certain parts it is less than even 0.5 hectares.
- Almost half of the farmers of the state are indebted. 90 per cent of the state's farmers are small farmers and have very little understanding of and access to institutional credit.
- Unlike Punjab and Haryana, the mechanisation of the agricultural sector has been slow in the state.
- To make matters worse, there is declining public investment in agriculture, stagnant gross capital formation and falling share of agriculture in the total plan outlay. There has been a deceleration in the sector over the past decade according to a state planning department note.

Reasons for these problems:

- Inheritance laws are one of the causes of this sad state of affairs. The land belonging to the parents is equally distributed among their children. This distribution of land causes it to be fragmented leading to machines not being able to be used in farming.
- The landless and small farming communities have not adequately benefitted from the Green revolution, which further increased the gap between rich and poor farmers.

Way forward:

- An increase in investment in infrastructure along with proper marketing channels can provide a boost to the growth of the agricultural sector in UP.

- The consolidation of land holdings along with the reallocation of holdings which are fragmented and the creation of farms which comprise only one or a few parcels in place of the multitude of patches formerly in the possession of each peasant provides a bigger land area for overall development and usage of big machines in the farm improving the productivity and farm yield.
- Cooperative farming in which the farmers pool their resources and share the profit should be used. This pooling will allow the use of machines leading to increased efficiency and productivity.
- The government should provide better quality seeds to increase crop yield and productivity.

Credit availability to the farmers must be increased to enable them to invest in agriculture without asking for loans from the landlords. Also, awareness about credit availability and credit accessibility must increase to realise the positive changes in the agricultural scenario in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

4. What are electoral bonds? Are they capable of bringing transparency in the political funding system?

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce electoral bonds.**
2. **Explain the ways in which they bring transparency to the political system.**
3. **Discuss the limitations of the bonds in the Indian political system.**
4. **Give an effective way forward.**

Hints:

Introduction:

- An electoral bond is a promissory note that can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India from a few select branches of State Bank of India.
- The citizen can then donate the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice. The central government had, in January 2018, notified the electoral bond scheme.
- These are issued in multiple values of Rs 1000, Rs 10000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.

Effect of electoral bonds in increasing transparency in the political system:

- These bonds can only be encashed by political parties, which is registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 and which had secured at least 1 per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State election.
- Money received from electoral bonds will be deposited in a bank account verified by the Election Commission. Name of the electoral bond purchaser must be kept confidential by the banks.
- All the transactions for electoral bonds can be done only through that account, thus limiting the use of cash in the funding of political parties.

Limitations of the electoral bond:

- Since the identity of the donor of electoral bonds has been kept anonymous, it could lead to an influx of black money.
- This scheme can be used by big corporate houses to donate money without their identity being revealed.
- It does not allow the ECI to check violations of the provisions mentioned in the Representation of the People Act, for example, the provisions that prohibit political parties from taking donations from government-owned companies.
- It allows unchecked foreign funding through an amendment in the FCRA act, which can lead to Indian political parties and the policies they make being influenced by foreign companies.

Way forward:

Some measures that can help the government in achieving better transparency in political funding are:

- Bring political parties under the ambit of the RTI act will definitely increase transparency in their fundings.
- Donations above a certain limit being made through electoral bonds must be declassified and made public to break the nexus between the corporate companies and political parties.
- Digital transactions must be made compulsory for making donations to political parties to increase transparency. These records must also be available to the ECI for checking violations of the provisions of the RPA 1951.
- The political parties should be made to reveal details of the donations they received through electoral bonds to the Election Commission.

Conclusion:

The electoral bonds scheme is a measure in the right direction, however, the points raised by the petitioners and the ECI ought to be tended to in order to guarantee that the goal behind their implementation is accomplished completely.

5. *What has been the impact of Self-Help-Groups (SHG's) on India's rural life? Describe.*

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce the concept of Self-Help Groups.*
2. *Discuss the impact of SHGs on rural life in India.*
3. *Briefly conclude along with an effective way forward.*

Hints:

Self Help Groups are the groups of individuals who collectively act as an institutional mechanism for the developmental processes. They are informal associations of people, generally self-governed and peer-controlled, who come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. People of similar economic and social backgrounds associate generally with the help of any NGO or government agency and try to resolve their issues, and improve their living conditions.

SHG's impact on rural life :

- They promote the development of small-scale economic activities.
- Provide for the viability of institutional credit to carry out small-scale economic activities.
- They improve the availability and accessibility of micro-credit through capacity building activities.
- Promote the skills of women, handicrafts, etc.
- They ensure representation in various policy and decision-making bodies.
- Pave way for the employment opportunities for the rural workforce.
- Create a cushion against economic emergencies that rural women may face sometimes.
- Helps in improving the income of households.
- They promote gender empowerment.
- Improves the economic participation of the people in rural areas.

Conclusion:

Hence, SHGs have a significant positive impact on the life of people in rural areas by increasing their influence on decision-making bodies and enhancing their economic conditions along with skill development and capacity building.

6. Write a short note on the contribution of the Indian diaspora towards economic structure in India.

Approach

1. Briefly introduce Indian diaspora and their contribution.
2. Explain how their contribution is beneficial for the economic structure of the country.
3. Give a way forward.

Hints:

Diaspora, a word of Greek origin meaning the scattering or sowing of seeds, is used to refer to people who leave their native lands to live in other parts of the world for employment, business or any other purpose. The Indian diaspora, constituting of NRIs (Non-resident Indians) and PIOs (Persons of Indian origins), are shining on the global platform today. They have brought economic, financial, and global benefits to India. They constitute an important, and in some respects, unique soft power in international relations and culture.

Contribution of the Indian diaspora towards economic structure:

- The biggest way of contribution is through regular remittances. According to a World Bank report, India was the largest remittance-receiving country in the world with an estimated \$69 billion.
- The last two decades have seen the emergence of members of the Indian diaspora becoming professionals, managers, and entrepreneurs. Because of their increasing economic strength, they are well-positioned to play an important role in increasing the bilateral trade, investments, transfer of technology and tourism.
- During the nineties, following the policy of liberalization, to tide over the balance of payments problem schemes like Resurgent India Bonds were floated. This fetched \$4.2 billion in 1988, which helped India to come out of the economic crisis.
- They are increasingly becoming elected as leaders and politicians and playing an important role in mobilizing political support for issues of vital concern to India. They can play a supportive role in promoting interests abroad and act as unnamed ambassadors.
- When visiting India, they tend to spend more lavishly than the locals, thereby helping economic activity.
- NRIs are more prone to donate to domestic charities due to their strong cultural and emotional ties with the country and the citizens.

Way forward:

The success achieved by the Indians abroad boosts the pace and dimensions of the development projects in India.

- India should aggressively court NRIs to invest in India – especially for projects which focus on rural development – by offering attractive interest rates on deposits.
- The government should formalise a rotation program wherein top NRI scientists, engineers, doctors, managers, and professionals serve Indian public sector organizations for a brief period, lending their expertise.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is already celebrated on 9 January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.

- There is a significant presence of the Indian diaspora in the entire world that must be harnessed for various levels of engagement such as social as well as economic infrastructure.
- 7. In what ways does the Indian federal-system differ from the federal system in United States of America (USA)? Explain.**

Approach

1. Briefly introduce federalism in both India and the USA.
2. Describe and discuss the differences in both the federal systems.
3. Give a brief conclusion.

Hints:

Federalism is a political system where the legislative power to make laws and implement them have been divided between the centre and the states through a written document like the Constitution.

The political structure in India and the United States are both federal in nature. However, they are both unique in their own way and have differences in their detailed functions.

The US gained the status of Federalism in the year 1789; whereas India gained the status in 1950 by enacting its Constitution. Both countries have attained their current political structure in which several smaller states get associated with a strong central government which is known as the Federal Government in the US and Central Government in India.

Difference between Indian and the US federalism:

- India's constitution has a Concurrent List, which deals with subjects that both the Centre and the States have the power to make laws, with the caveat that central laws shall override the state laws. The residual powers also lie with the Centre and not with the states. Whereas in the USA, there are clearly defined powers for the Centre and the States and the residual powers lie with the states.
- The USA has a proper federal system of Courts, whereby there are different State Courts and Federal Courts, with different Appellate processes. India has an integrated Judiciary, where each state has a High Court, and all appeals from there go to the same Supreme Court.
- In India, a State ministry can be dismissed and Presidential Rule can be proclaimed by the central government through various processes. Whereas in the US, a State Governor cannot be dismissed by the President. In the states of the USA, there is no Chief Minister as it has a directly elected governor with executive powers, who is answerable to the legislative house.
- In India, there is only Single citizenship that denotes the nationality of a person, whereas, in the USA there are two citizenships - National citizenship which signifies membership in the country as a whole and a State citizenship which signifies a relation between a person and a particular state and its application is generally limited to domestic matters.

Conclusion:

We can see that both the countries, India and the USA, had different histories leading to different drafting of constitution for each of them. These constitutions provide for a different federal character in terms of law-making powers, an appellate process in courts, an extension of President Rule and citizenship identity.

- 8. Describe those special powers of the council of states (Rajya Sabha) which are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha, under the Indian Constitution.**

Approach

1. Briefly introduce the parliamentary system of India.

2. **Elaborate on the special powers of the Rajya Sabha that are not enjoyed by the members of the Lok Sabha.**
3. **Write a brief conclusion.**

Hints:

The Rajya Sabha is known as the Upper house or the Council of States in the Parliament.

Due to its federal character, the Rajya Sabha has been given two exclusive or **special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha:**

1. It can authorise the Parliament to make laws on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249).
2. It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India services common to both the center and the states. (Article 312).

Even though the Rajya Sabha has been given fewer powers as compared with the Lok Sabha, its utility is supported on the following grounds:

- It checks hasty, defective, careless and ill-considered legislation made by the Lok Sabha by making provision of revision and thought.
- It facilitates giving representation to eminent professionals and experts who cannot face the direct election. The President nominates 12 such persons to the Rajya Sabha.
- It maintains the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre.

Conclusion:

Hence, except in financial matters and control over the council of ministers, powers and states of the Rajya Sabha are broadly similar to that of the Lok Sabha.

9. Evaluate the use of VVPAT in the General Election of India.

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce the concept and need of VVPATs.**
2. **Elaborate on the uses of VVPATs in the Indian General Elections.**
3. **Give a brief conclusion.**

Hints:

VVPAT is a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail. It has brought about a significant technological improvement in the electoral process of voting through EVMs.

- VVPATs are independent systems attached to the EVMs that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended. This can be done as whenever a vote is cast, a slip is printed and it remains exposed through a transparent window for seven seconds, showing the serial number, name and symbol of the candidate that has been given a vote by the citizen.
- Thereafter, the receipt automatically gets cut and falls into the sealed dropbox of the VVPAT. The system allows a voter to challenge his/her vote on the basis of the paper receipt.
- As per rules, the Presiding Officer of the polling booth will have to record the dissent of the voter, which would have to be taken into account at the time of counting, if the challenge is found to be false.

Usage of VVPATs in India

- In 2013, the Supreme Court of India had permitted the ECI to introduce VVPAT in a phased manner, calling it 'an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections'.

- The Court had felt that introducing VVPAT would ensure the accuracy of the voting system and also help in manual counting of votes in case of dispute.
- VVPATs were first used in bye-election to the Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland held in 2013.
- Thereafter, VVPATs have been used in selected constituencies during every General Election to State Legislative Assemblies.
- VVPATs were used in eight selected Parliamentary Constituencies in the country in the 2014 Lok Sabha Election.

Importance of the use of VVPATs in the Indian General Elections:

- It ensures transparency as the voter is able to physically see the option they voted for.
- It leads to the free and fair voting as a voter is able to identify the discrepancy in votes.
- It will also result in accountability as the votes can be physically counted in case of any issues of irregularity in votes.

Conclusion:

The proper functioning of VVPAT units is extremely significant for conducting free, fair and transparent elections. Thus, the Election Commission of India must ensure the effective working of VVPAT & EVMs on a large scale. This will further improve public trust confidence in the ECI, which is an essential ingredient for a fair democratic process such as the General Election.

10. Examine the constitutional Position of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Approach

- 1. Briefly introduce the position of CAG as provided in the Indian Constitution.***
- 2. Discuss the importance of CAG in the political system in India.***
- 3. Write a brief conclusion.***

Hints:

The CAG is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts department. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels – center and state.

- **Article 148** of the Indian Constitution mandates the **appointment of Comptroller and Auditor General of India** by the **President of India** by warrant under his hand and seal and shall only be **removed** from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- His duty is to uphold the constitution and laws in the field of financial administration.
- **Article 151 (1)** provides that - The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.
- Thus, the Parliament accordingly enacted the CAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act of 1971.
- It specifies the CAG's duties and powers pertaining to government accounts, audit of receipts and expenditures of three tiers of the governments at the union, states and urban and rural local bodies.
- The reports of the CAG of India relating to the accounts of a State shall be submitted to the Governor of the State, who shall cause them to be laid before the Legislature of the State.

The functions and importance of the CAG:

- Duties of the CAG includes audit of public companies, autonomous bodies, regulatory bodies and other public entities, where there is a specific legislative provision to make CAG audit mandatory in the acts by which these bodies were created.
- The CAG performs duties and exercises powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and of the States and of any other authority or body as may be prescribed by or under any law made by the Parliament.
- The accountability of the executive to the parliament in the sphere of financial administration is ascertained through audit reports of the CAG.
- CAG is an agent of Parliament & conducts an audit of expenditure on behalf of the Parliament. He is only responsible to Parliament.
- CAG has more freedom with regard to audit of expenditure than with regard to the audit of receipts, stores & stock.
- CAG has to ascertain whether money shown in the accounts as having been disbursed was legally available for and applicable to the service or the purpose to which they have been applied or changed and whether the expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it.
- CAG can also look into wisdom, faithfulness and economy of government expenditure and comment on the wastefulness and extravagance of such expenditure.
- The CAG has 'to ascertain whether money shown in the accounts as having been disbursed was legally available for and applicable to the service or the purpose to which they have been applied or charged and whether the expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it'.

Conclusion:

In addition to this legal and regulatory audit, the CAG can also conduct the propriety audit, that is, looking into the 'wisdom, faithfulness and economy' of government expenditure and commenting on the wastefulness and extravagance of such expenditure.

However, unlike the legal and regulatory audit, which is obligatory on the part of the CAG, the propriety audit is discretionary. These powers and functions make the CAG an important part of the political and financial structure and functioning of the Government of India.

Section - B

11. How will the withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan affect India? Comment

Approach

1. Briefly introduce the decision of the USA to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.
2. Discuss the implications for India after withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan.
3. Write a brief conclusion.

Hints:

US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw about half of the U.S. troops in Afghanistan could have major security implications for India, which is highly vulnerable to internal instability in the war-torn country.

Implications for India after withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan

- Fears that a destabilised and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan will impact India, leading to a spike in terrorism are real, as are concerns over Indian investments – political, diplomatic, economic, and security – in Afghanistan going up in trouble.

- A weaker American presence in the Islamic republic is widely expected to embolden local militant groups such as the Taliban. Add the ideological backing of a reinvigorated Taliban to the mix and the results could provoke another insurgency in the Kashmir valley.
- India has largely followed development diplomacy. It is the largest regional donor and the fifth-largest donor to Afghanistan. It is India's state-building role along with its refusal to send in troops that have earned New Delhi immense goodwill in Afghanistan. But this could all change soon as American policy withdraws away from Kabul.
- India stands to lose not just political but also economic influence in Afghanistan. For the rapidly growing and energy-starved India, Afghanistan is an important gateway to the resource-rich Central Asia states. For instance, an unstable Afghanistan could endanger the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline project.
- Since India is increasing its physical presence in the region through connectivity projects like Chabahar, INSTC, etc., an adverse national government will halt the connectivity efforts, increase in refugee crisis and will have a major impact on **India's energy security** and regional ties in the Middle East.
- US's isolationism through non-interventionist foreign policy could open gates to Chinese military intervention in Afghanistan.
- Taliban's arrival on the centre stage will not only put India's economic interests at stake in Afghanistan, it will also pose a huge security threat to India because Pakistan's prominence in Afghanistan will increase and Islamabad could use the Taliban against Indians there.

Conclusion:

India must start preparing for the inevitable geopolitical turbulence, including the resurgence of the Islamic State and the potential return of the Taliban to power in Kabul. India has high stakes in Afghanistan. Hence, peace and stability for this nation is vital for India and the world.

12. Discuss the nature of India-China relations in the light of OBOR.

Approach

1. Briefly introduce the Chinese OBOR
2. Discuss India's Objection to OBOR and the way it affects Indo-China relations.
3. Briefly conclude.

Hints:



A strong China as it is emerging in the 21st Century, always had and will always have an expansionist ambition. China is exhibiting its willingness to contest other hegemonies and influence in all issues and areas like Indian Ocean region wherever it deems its national interest demands. China's proposed silk land and maritime routes are an indication of their steadily increasing global objectives. The unveiling of the "Silk Road (SR)/ One Belt One Road (OBOR)" in 2013 has complicated the India-China relations further.

India's Objection to OBOR

- Projects in the Gilgit-Baltistan region, ignoring India's "sovereignty and territorial integrity".
- CPEC violates India's sovereignty as it passes through the part of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir that belongs to India and no country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- India fears that CPEC, passing through the Pakistan controlled Kashmir, would serve the purpose of granting legitimacy to Pakistan's control over the region, and by promoting the construction of the corridor, China intends to meddle in the Kashmir dispute.
- India is not opposed to infrastructure development in the region, but it is concerned about the strategic implications of certain Chinese-led initiatives. A primary concern for New Delhi is that Beijing will use its economic presence in the region to advance its strategic interest.
- China is now establishing its own Hong Kong-style **neo-colonial arrangements**, wherein the lease on Hambantota port echoes the style used against China to lease its own ports to Western colonial powers. The European powers used military in particular naval strength to subdue China, while China is using economic strength, in particular, sovereign debt to subdue other countries.
- Smacks of Chinese neo-colonialism - Could push smaller countries on the road into a crushing debt cycle, destroy the ecology and disrupt local communities.
- India also raised concerns regarding unsustainable debt trap, environmental concerns, and transparency in assessment of project costs, and skill and technology transfer to help long term running and maintenance of the assets created by local communities.
- Indian security experts also fear that after gaining access to Gwadar port, the Chinese will find it easy to sail into the Indian Ocean.

However, in spite of India's concerns over OBOR, the relations between two nations have improved over the years because:

- Bilateral trade between China and India touched US\$89.6 billion in 2017-18. However, the trade deficit is widening to US\$62.9 billion in China's favour.
- Both members of BRICS, which is now establishing a formal lending arm, the New Development Bank.
- India, a founding member of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- China welcomed India's full membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- Both countries have advocated democratization of international institutions such as World Bank, IMF
- China and India have similar stand during WTO negotiations.
- China and India, being the main targets of criticism by the US and its friends, have so far successfully coordinated their strategies in the environmental summits

Conclusion:

New Delhi urgently needs a structured framework for providing an alternative to Chinese-led connectivity initiatives to protect its strategic goals and remain a dominant power in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. Similarly, India should aggressively pursue 'Cotton Route', Project Mausam and Spice Route to strengthen economic ties between countries in the Indian Ocean rim.

13. The action of Indian Government of Article 370 has changed the Status-Quo in Jammu and Kashmir. How will it effect the development in the region? Discuss.

Approach

1. Briefly introduce Article 370 and its abrogation.
2. Discuss the effects of the abrogation of Article 370 on the development in the region.
3. Discuss the challenges after abrogation of Article 370.
4. Write a brief Conclusion along with a way forward.

Hints:

Article 370 of the Indian constitution gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir—a state in India, and a part of the larger region of Kashmir, which has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China since 1947—conferring it with the power to have a separate constitution, a state flag and autonomy over the internal administration of the state. The government of India revoked this special status in August 2019 through a Presidential Order and the passage of a resolution in Parliament.

In addition, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed by the parliament, enacting the division the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories to be called Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Anticipated development by the abrogation of Article 370

- It would head towards ending separatism, nepotism and corruption and would provide welfare to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Women will enjoy greater rights as all the laws made at the centre will be implemented without any hindrance.
- SC, ST and individuals from other backward communities in other regions would enjoy special benefits as the central laws for welfare of these communities.
- The financial benefits for central government employees, including security forces, like LTC, HRA and more will be provided to those posted in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The vacant posts in Jammu and Kashmir will be filled. This will benefit the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Local youth will receive employment.
- State companies as well as private companies will be encouraged to create jobs for the local youths in the state.
- J&K and Ladakh have the potential to become the biggest tourist destination in the world.
- Film industry would come to J&K for shooting their projects.
- Sport training and scientific education will help the youth of J&K to showcase their talent across the world.
- Several herbal and organic products are scattered across J&K and Ladakh. If they are identified and marketed in the global market, then it will greatly benefit the people and farmers of these regions.

Challenges after abrogation of Article 370

- The manner in which the abrogation was done first by moving 45,000 extra troops into the State, cancelling the Amarnath yatra, asking tourists to go back, detaining political leaders in the State, suspending communication facilities, etc. all this contributed to uncertainty and panic.
- It may swell the ranks of separatists.
- It may feed the rage and increase the distance between Srinagar and New Delhi.
- It may even push mainstream politicians to promote extremists views.
- It could lead to more bloodshed and encourage Pakistan to fish in muddied waters.
- Elements keen to destabilise India would seek to build a narrative that Delhi is taking away powers from the local level.

Conclusion:

It is important that the process of turning the state into a UT does not lead to alienation. Socio-economic development can only happen if there is normalcy and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, all possible efforts should be taken to bring normalcy to that region and ensure peace and prosperity to the people.

14. Discuss the reasons, objectives and functions of NITI Aayog and describe the recently re-organised NITI Aayog.

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce the organisation of NITI Aayog.**
2. **Discuss the reasons of the formation and the functions of NITI Aayog.**
3. **Briefly conclude by highlighting the recently re-organised NITI Aayog.**

Hints:

The NITI Aayog is a think-tank of a group of people that the Government entrusts for formulating and regulating policies concerning the transformation of India.

- The Commission is an institution that comprises of experts that assists the government in both social and economic issues.
- A body that actively monitors and evaluates the implementation of the Government's programs and initiatives.

Reasons for the establishment of the NITI Aayog:

- Provide a critical directional and strategic input to the development process of India.
- Serve as a think tank of the Government both at the Center and State-level. Also, provide relevant strategic and technical advice on key policy matters.
- Try to replace the centre-to-state, one-way flow of policy with an amicably settled policy which a genuine and continued partnership of state frames.
- Seek to put an end to the slow and tardy implementation of the policy. This is possible through better Inter-Ministry and state-to-state coordination.
- Further, it helps to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities and foster cooperative federalism. Work with the view that strong states result in the constitution of a strong nation.
- Develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level. Further, aggregate these plans progressively at the higher levels of the Government. In other words, ensure that special attention

is paid to the sections of the society which carry the risk of not benefitting from the overall economic progress of the country.

- Create a Knowledge, Innovation, and Entrepreneurial system through a collaborative community of national and international experts and practitioners. Offer a platform for the resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of programs and also focus on upgrading technology and building capacity.

The NITI Aayog tries to accomplish the following objectives and functions:

- It seeks to provide a critical directional and strategic input into the governance process
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy
- To pay special attention to the sections of the society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress
- Creating an effective administration paradigm in which the Government is an enabler rather than a provider of the first and last resort.
- Attaining progress from food security. Focusing on a mix of agricultural production and the actual returns that farmers get from their produce.
- Ensuring that India is an active participant in global debates and deliberations.
- Ensuring that the economically vibrant middle-class is actively engaged and utilized to its full potential.
- Leveraging India's pool of entrepreneurial, scientific, and intellectual human capital.
- Incorporating the geo-economic and geopolitical strength of the NRI Community.
- Using urbanization as an opportunity to creating a secure habitat via modern technology.
- Using technology to reduce opacity and potential for misadventures in governance.

Reorganisation of the NITI Aayog:

- The government reconstitution of the think-tank NITI Aayog. While Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar continues in his post along with members VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and VK Paul, the ex-officio members now include Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

The measures were taken by the NITI Aayog to help India face complex challenges:

- Leverage India's demographic dividend and realize the potential of young men and women. This is done through imparting education, skill development, the elimination of gender bias and providing employment opportunities.
- Eliminate poverty and offer Indians a better chance to live a life of dignity and respect.
- Redress inequalities based on gender bias, caste, and economic disparities.
- Integrate villages into the development process of the country.
- Provide policy support to more than 50 million businesses – a major source of employment generation.

- Safeguard our environmental and ecological assets.

Hence, the NITI Ayog is the dynamic institution for the transformation of the Indian society and economy. Its vision can pave way for the development of an Indian vibrant economy and knowledge-based society in the world.

15. What are the main issues related to poverty and hunger?

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce the nature of poverty and hunger in India**
2. **Discuss the main issues related to poverty and hunger**
3. **Conclusion**

Hints:

There are many inter-related issues that cause hunger and poverty that are related to socio-economic and other factors. A large proportion of people have very limited access to income, resources, education, health care and nutrition.

Poverty is a condition characterized by a lack of basic needs such as water, health care, foods, sufficient access to social and economic services, and few opportunities for formal income generation. Poverty is often described in terms of the income level below which people are unable to access sufficient food for healthy working life.

Hunger is the condition where both adults and children cannot access food constantly and have to decrease food intake, eat poor diets, and often go without any food.

The main issues related to poverty and hunger:

- The income inequality is the main reason for poverty and hunger.
- Poor health services also lead to hunger and malnutrition.
- The lack of education leads to the above.
- The weak governance and poor delivery of services also lead to poverty and hunger.
- The corruption in the PDS.
- Unemployment also leads to poverty and hunger.
- The changing lifestyle has affected the way of living and eating thereby giving way to the malnutrition.
- Discrimination and alienation are also related to the increase in the severity of the problems of poverty and hunger.
- The rural social dynamics with the low growth of the agricultural sector also perpetuates poverty.
- The low growth of the manufacturing sector.
- Wage disparities.
- Lack of institutional support.
- Low social awareness.
- The absence of a coherent policy to tackle poverty and hunger.

Conclusion:

The GHI puts India to 102nd place in the world for the Hunger and malnutrition. Thus poverty and hunger are faced by the Indian society which perpetuates the sufferings of the people in the society.

The successive governments have taken serious approach since independence to deal with menace of poverty and hunger still some more farsighted, holistic and proactive measures are needed. Hence, special measures should be taken to solve the problems of unemployment and disguised unemployment. Agriculture should be developed. Small scale and cottage industries should be developed in rural areas to generate employment.

16. Clarify E-governance. Explain the features and advantages of E-governance. What are the main challenges before it?

Approach

1. Briefly introduce e-governance
2. Explain the features, advantages and challenges of e-governance
3. Conclusion

Hints:

E-Governance can be defined as the application of communication and information technology for providing government services, exchange of information, transactions, integration of previously existing services and information portals.

- It makes the whole administrative process convenient, efficient, transparent, fully accountable and responsible. As a fast-growing economy and an emerging world leader, E-Governance is a must in a country like India, both in Government and corporate sector.
- Some effective examples of successful implementation of E-Governance to the governmental function include projects like; e-Mitra project (Rajasthan), e-Seva project (Andhra Pradesh), CET (Common Entrance Test)

Features of E-Governance:

- (i) Provides citizens access to information about the processes and services.
- (ii) Facilitates a speedy, transparent, accountable and efficient Process for performing government administrative activities.
- (iii) Uses modern information and telecommunication technologies such as the internet, Local area networks to enhance efficiency.
- (iv) A lot of productive time of government servants and the general public is saved.

Advantages of E-Governance:

- **Speed**
Technology makes communication swifter. Internet and smartphones enable instant transmission of high volumes of data all over the world.
- **Saving Costs**
A lot the Government expenditure goes towards the cost of buying stationery for official purposes. Letters and written records consume a lot of stationery. However, replacing them with smartphones and the internet can saves crores of money in expenses every year.
- **Transparency**
The use of e-governance helps make all functions of the business transparent. All Governmental information can be uploaded onto the internet. The citizens can specifically access whichever information they want, whenever they want it, at the click of a mouse, or the touch of a finger.
- However, for this to work the Government has to ensure that all data as to be made public and uploaded to the Government information forums on the internet.

- **Accountability**

Transparency directly links to accountability. Once the functions of the government are available, we can hold them accountable for their actions.

Challenges of E-Governance:

- **Loss of Interpersonal Communication**

The main challenge of e-governance is the loss of interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication is an aspect of communication that many people consider vital.

- **High Setup Cost and Technical Difficulties**

Technology has its challenges as well. Specifically, the setup cost is very high and the machines have to be regularly maintained. Often, computers and internet can also break down and put a dent in governmental work and services.

- **Illiteracy**

A large number of people in India are illiterate and do not know how to operate computers and smartphones. E-governance is very difficult for them to access and understand.

- **Cybercrime/Leakage of Personal Information**

There is always the risk of private data of citizens stored in government servers being stolen. Cybercrime is a serious issue; a breach of data can make the public lose confidence in the Government's ability to govern the people.

Conclusion:

Although e-governance brings significant challenges for the government on all levels, it still has potentially revolutionised service delivery in government and eased the lives of the citizen. It is changing the way people access public services. E-Governance in India has transformed to promote inclusive growth that covers electronic services, products, devices and job opportunities.

17. In the monsoon session of the Indian Parliament in 2019, Amendments were made in the anti-terror law and the Right to Information Act. What are the significant changes as a result of these Amendments? Analyse.

Approach

1. **Briefly discuss the significant changes in the anti-terror law and the RTI**
2. **Discuss the amendment made to the anti-terror law and the RTI**
3. **Conclusion**

Hints:

The significant changes to the Anti-terror law would lead to the following:

- The security agencies would be able to tackle the menace of terrorism in an effective way.
- The Terrorists would not be able to get ahead of the security agencies.
- It provides a framework to face terrorism in a better way.
- The NIA will have the authority to identify and investigate the persons and can handle the electronic devices without going through the difficulties.

The significant changes to the RTI are:

- The bill changes the fixed five-year term of chief information commissioner and information commissioners provided for in the Right to Information Act, 2005, and states that the central government will notify the term of office of these officials.

- The bill also states that the salaries, allowances and other terms of service of these officials will now be determined by the central government, as against the 2005 Act that says the salary of the chief information commissioner and information commissioners at the central level will be equivalent to that of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners.
- The salary of the chief information commissioner and information commissioners at the state level equivalent to that of the election commissioners and the chief secretary to the state government.

Effect of changes of RTI Act:

- It will lead to better functioning of the commissions.
- It would lead to an increase in the authority of the processes of the application and ensure access to information.
- However, the amendment can lead to the centralization and the department will come directly come under the whims and fancies of the central government. This can affect the functioning of the commission.

Conclusion:

Hence, the changes in the RTI Act and the Anti-terror law will bring several reforms in the functioning of the commissions.

18. Examine Right to Equality as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution of India.

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce the Right to Equality as given in the Indian Constitution.**
2. **Discuss the effectiveness and practicality of the Right to Equality as a Fundamental Right.**
3. **Conclude Briefly.**

Hints:

Fundamental rights are those rights which are essential for the intellectual, moral and spiritual development of individuals. Right to Equality is one of the six fundamental rights provided in the Constitution of India. Articles 14 to 18 of the Constitution states the provisions related to the Right to Equality. It forms the foundation of all the other rights and liberties.

Right to Equality as a Fundamental Right:

1. **Article 14:** Equality before the law and equal protection of laws. This prohibits discrimination of any kind. The concept of 'equal protection of the laws' requires the State to give special treatment to persons in different situations in order to establish equality amongst all. It is positive in character.

The Supreme Court held that where equals and unequals are treated differently, Article 14 does not apply. While Article 14 forbids class legislation, it permits reasonable classification of persons, objects and transactions by the law. But the classification should not be arbitrary, artificial or evasive. Rather, it should be based on intelligible differential and substantial distinction.
2. **Article 15:** It secures the citizens from every sort of discrimination by the State, on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth or any of them. However, this Article does not prevent the State from making any special provisions for women or children or socially and economically backward classes for their advancement.
3. **Article 16:** It assures equality of opportunity in matters of public employment and prevents the State from any sort of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them. It provides the autonomy to the State to grant special provisions for the backward classes, Local candidates, people of a certain religion, SC & ST for posts under the State.

4. **Article 17:** It abolishes the practice of untouchability. It provides penalties for preventing a person from entering a place of worship or from taking water from a tank or well. However these practices are still prevalent in isolated rural areas.
5. **Article 18:** Abolition of titles. No title, not being a military or academic distinction, shall be conferred by the State. No citizen of India shall accept any title from any foreign state. By this article titles such as Rai Bahadur, Sawai, Rai Sahab, Zamindar, taluqdar, etc., which were prevalent in medieval and British India were abolished.

As Dr. Jennings rightly said: "equality before the law means that among equals the law should be equal and should be equally administered, that like should be treated alike. The right to sue and be sued to prosecute and be prosecuted for the same kind of action should be same for all citizens of full age and understanding without distinctions of race, religion, wealth, social status or political influence."

Conclusion:

In India, these rights are very vital because there has been a widespread socio-economic difference which has been in existence from a long time. People have been discriminated on the basis of their gender or the religion they follow, therefore Article 14 was included in the Constitution to remove such inequalities and bring all the people under the equal protection of the law. Every human being deserves equality and dignity. It is because of this that the makers of the Indian Constitution had made provision for equality of the people.

19. Write a short note on the emergence and use of alternative dispute redressal mechanisms in India.

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce the ADR mechanism**
2. **Briefly explain the emergence and use of ADR in India**
3. **Conclusion**

Hints:

Alternative Dispute Resolution is a procedure which is capable of providing an alternative to the conventional method of resolving disputes. It resolves matters of litigants, which have not reached any solution. In the Indian context, with the steep growth in the number of laws and the number of cases, the Court system has gone under great pressure. In order to reduce the heavy demand on Court time, efforts need to be made to resolve the disputes by resorting to Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods before they enter the portals of the court.

The emergence and use of ADR in India

- An interesting feature of the Indian legal system is the existence of voluntary agencies called Lok Adalats (Peoples' Courts). These forums resolve disputes through methods like Conciliation and Negotiations and are governed by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Every award of Lok Adalats shall be deemed to be a decree of a civil court and shall be binding on the parties to the dispute.
- The ADR mechanism has proven to be one of the most efficacious mechanisms to resolve commercial disputes of an international nature.
- In India, laws relating to resolution of disputes have been amended from time to time to facilitate speedy dispute resolution in sync with the changing times.
- The Judiciary has also encouraged out-of-court settlements to alleviate the increasing backlog of cases pending in the courts.

- To effectively implement the ADR mechanism, organisations like the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) and the International Centre for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ICADR) were established.
- The ICADR is an autonomous organisation, working under the aegis of the Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, with its headquarters at New Delhi, to promote and develop ADR facilities and techniques in India.
- ICA was established in 1965 and is the apex arbitral organisation at the national level. The main objective of the ICA is to promote amicable and quick settlement of industrial and trade disputes by arbitration.
- Moreover, the Arbitration Act, 1940 was also repealed and a new and effective arbitration system was introduced by the enactment of The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. This law is based on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model of the International Commercial Arbitration Council.
- Likewise, to make the ADR mechanism more effective and in coherence with the demanding social scenario, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has also been amended from time to time to endorse the use of ADR methods.

A brief description of a few widely used ADR procedures is as follows:

- **Negotiation:** A non-binding procedure in which discussions between the parties are initiated without the intervention of any third party, with the object of arriving at a negotiated settlement of the dispute.
- **Conciliation:** In this case, parties submit to the advice of a conciliator, who talks to each of them separately and tries to resolve their disputes. Conciliation is a non-binding procedure in which the conciliator assists the parties to a dispute to arrive at a mutually satisfactory and agreed settlement of the dispute.
- **Mediation:** A non-binding procedure in which an impartial third party known as a mediator tries to facilitate the resolution process but he cannot impose the resolution, and the parties are free to decide according to their convenience and terms.
- **Arbitration:** It is a method of resolution of disputes outside the court, wherein the parties refer the dispute to one or more persons appointed as an arbitrator(s) who reviews the case and imposes a decision that is legally binding on both parties. Usually, the arbitration clauses are mentioned in commercial agreements wherein the parties agree to resort to an arbitration process in case of disputes that may arise in future regarding the contract terms and conditions.

Conclusion:

Hence, ADR has proven successful in clearing the backlog of cases in various levels of the judiciary – Lok Adalats alone have disposed more than 50 lakh cases every year on average in the last three years. But there seems to be a lack of awareness about the availability of such good mechanisms. The National and State Legal Services Authorities should disseminate more information regarding these, so they become the first option explored by potential litigants. There should be more efforts by the government to promote, popularize and propagate Alternative Dispute Resolution to facilitate early resolution of disputes so as to reduce the burden of arrears in the Courts.

20. Describe the composition and functions of Central Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I.) in India.

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce the Central Bureau of Investigation.**
2. **Discuss the composition and function of CBI.**
3. **Write a brief Conclusion.**

Hints:

The CBI is a multidisciplinary investigation agency of the Government of India and undertakes investigations of corruption-related cases, economic offences and cases of conventional crime. It normally confines its activities in the anti-corruption field to offences committed by the employees of the Central Government and Union Territories and their public sector undertakings. It takes up investigation of conventional crimes like murder, kidnapping, rape etc., on reference from the state governments or when directed by the Supreme Court/High Courts. The CBI acts as the "National Central Bureau" of Interpol in India. The Interpol Wing of the CBI coordinates requests for investigation-related activities originating from Indian law enforcement agencies and the member countries of the Interpol.

Composition of CBI:

- CBI is a government agency that serves as a Criminal investigation body, national security agency and intelligence agency.
- It traces its origin to the (SPE) Special Police Establishment i.e. Vishesh Police Sansthan, which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. It was formed with one of the most impressive motto i.e. "Industry, Impartiality, Integrity". It is the official Interpol unit for India.
- Headed by Prime Minister
- Other members - Leader of Opposition/ Leader of the single largest opposition party, Chief Justice of India/ a Supreme Court Judge.
- Home Ministry sends a list of eligible candidates to DoPT. Then, the DoPT prepares the final list on the basis of seniority, integrity, and experience in the investigation of anti-corruption cases, and sends it to the committee.
- CBI is a government agency that serves as a Criminal investigation body, national security agency and intelligence agency.
- It traces its origin to the (SPE) Special Police Establishment i.e. Vishesh Police Sansthan, which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. It was formed with one of the most impressive motto i.e. "Industry, Impartiality, Integrity". It is the official Interpol unit for India.

CBI has the following divisions:

1. **Anti-Corruption Division:** It deals with cases of corruption and fraud committed by public Servants of all Central Government Departments, Central Public Sector undertakings and Central Financial Institutions.
2. **Economic Offences Division:** It deals with bank frauds, financial frauds, Import-Export & Foreign Exchange violations, large-scale smuggling of narcotics, antiques and cultural property
3. **Special Crimes Division:** It deals with cases of terrorism, bomb blasts, sensational homicides, kidnapping for ransom and crimes committed by mafia underworld.
4. **Economic Offences Wing:** It deals with cases of violation of Fiscal Laws.

The functions of the CBI are as follows:

- Investigating cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct of Central government employees
- Investigating cases relating to infringement of fiscal and economic laws, that is, breach of laws concerning export and import control, customs and central excise, income tax, foreign exchange regulations and so on. However, such cases are taken up either in consultation with or at the request of the department concerned.

- Investigating serious crimes, having national and international ramifications, committed by organized gangs of professional criminals.
- Coordinating the activities of the anti-corruption agencies and the various state police forces.
- Taking up, on the request of a state government, any case of public importance for investigation.
- Maintaining crime statistics and disseminating criminal information.

Conclusion:

In spite of providing valuable service to the nation, the CBI is not immune to criticism. The SC raised questions on the CBI's independence while hearing the Coalgate scam case, called it a "caged parrot speaking in its master's voice". The SC had then asked the Centre to make the CBI impartial and said it needs to be ensured that the CBI functions free of all external pressures, its autonomy should be maintained. This will make CBI serve its purpose of making the country corruption-free.

