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2021

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DAY - 1

Q.1. We know that duties are generally bound by morals but time has come to enforce the fundamental duties through comprehensive, well-defined laws. Critically discuss. [Paper II: Constitution/Law]

हम जानते हैं कि सामान्यतः कर्तव्य नैतिक बाध्यता हैं, लेकिन मूल कर्तव्यों को व्यापक तथा स्पष्टतः परिभाषित कानूनों से प्रवर्तित कराने का समय आ गया है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👍 कर्तव्यों की संकल्पना तथा उनका महत्व।
- 👍 कर्तव्यों की नैतिकता।
- 👍 भारत के संविधान में मूल कर्तव्यों की संकल्पना।
- 👍 कर्तव्यों का प्रवर्तन क्यों आवश्यक है?
- 👍 इनके प्रवर्तन में चुनौतियाँ।
- 👍 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

In Supreme Court, AG says no need to enact specific laws to 'enforce' fundamental duties on citizens

The Supreme Court, on February 21, issued notice to the Centre and the States on this question

Bench says court has been very circumspect in entertaining plea

Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal on Monday said there was no need to enact specific laws to “enforce” fundamental duties on citizens.

Mr. Venugopal, in his capacity as a constitutional officer, said the Supreme Court cannot issue mandamus to Parliament to make such laws.

Lawyer's petition

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the court had been very circumspect in entertaining a PIL petition filed by lawyer Durga Dutt to enforce the fundamental duties of citizens, including patriotism and unity of nation, through “comprehensive, well-defined laws”.

Mr. Venugopal took objection to the petitioner's lack of research, saying had he cared to look, the Ministry of Law and Justice website would have shown him detailed accounts of the “tremendous work” done by the government to create awareness among the public of their fundamental duties.

Mr. Dutt had wanted to know what the government had done to comply with the Supreme Court's direction in the Ranganath Mishra judgment of 2003 regarding the implementation of the Justice J.S. Verma Committee's report on the “operationalisation of fundamental duties”. The committee's work was a part of a report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution.

The report had urged the government to sensitise people and create general awareness among the public about their duties and the protection of minorities and freedom of religion.

The Supreme Court, on February 21, issued notice to the Centre and the States on this question.

“I object to this petition... The Department of Justice website shows the tremendous amount of work which has been done for the purpose of sensitising people, both citizens and the students, about Article 51A. The duties are part of the school curriculum... The President and the Prime Minister have addressed this aspect from time to time. A one-year awareness drive was launched,” Mr. Venugopal, who was called in to assist the court, submitted.

'Govt could file affidavit'

However, the court said the government could very well file an affidavit, based on which the Bench could deal with the petition.

Counsel appearing for the Solicitor General's office, representing the government, agreed to file the response in four weeks.

The court listed the case in July, after the summer vacations.

Q.2. How electoral bonds work in India and why they face criticism? (Paper II: Constitution/Polity)

भारत में निर्वाचक बॉड कैसे कार्य करते हैं और उनकी आलोचना क्यों की जाती है?

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👉 निर्वाचक बॉड की संकल्पना।
- 👉 इनके आरंभ की क्या आवश्यकता थी?
- 👉 ये किस प्रकार कार्य करते हैं?
- 👉 आलोचना के आधार।
- 👉 विश्लेषणात्मक निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

How electoral bonds work, and why they face criticism

The Chief Justice of India has assured petitioners that the Supreme Court will take up for hearing a pending plea challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018. What are electoral bonds and why are they facing criticism?

A donor can then give this bond (just one, if the denomination chosen is Rs 10 lakh, or 10, if the denomination is Rs 1 lakh) to the party or parties of their choice.

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana has assured petitioners that the Supreme Court will take up for hearing a pending plea challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018. Two NGOs — Common Cause and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) — have challenged the scheme, alleging that it is “distorting democracy”. The CJI has not specified any date for the hearing.

What are electoral bonds?

Simply put, electoral bonds are an instrument through which anyone can donate money to political parties. Such bonds, which are sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore, can be bought from authorised branches of the State Bank of India. As such, a donor is required to pay the amount — say Rs 10 lakh — via a cheque or a digital mechanism (cash is not allowed) to the authorised SBI branch. The donor can then give this bond (just one, if the denomination chosen is Rs 10 lakh, or 10, if the denomination is Rs 1 lakh) to the party or parties of their choice. The political parties can choose to encash such bonds within 15 days of receiving them and fund their electoral expenses. On the face of it, the process ensures that the name of the donor remains anonymous.

When were electoral bonds introduced and why?

The central idea behind the electoral

bonds scheme was to bring about transparency in electoral funding in India. In the Union Budget speech on February 1, 2017, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated: “Even 70 years after Independence, the country has not been able to evolve a transparent method of funding political parties which is vital to the system of free and fair elections... Political parties continue to receive most of their funds through anonymous donations which are shown in cash. An effort, therefore, requires to be made to cleanse the system of political funding in India.”

In response, he proposed two main changes. One, he reduced the amount of money that a political party could accept in cash from anonymous sources — from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2,000. Two, he announced the introduction of electoral bonds as a way to make such funding more transparent.

Formally, these bonds were introduced in 2018.

How many have been sold?

Electoral bonds can be bought only during specific windows of time. The 20th such window — between April 1 and April 10 — is currently open. According to a written reply in Rajya Sabha last month, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary provided the break-up of the yearly sale of electoral bonds: Rs 1056.73 crore in 2018; Rs 5071.99 crore in 2019; Rs 363.96 crore in 2020; Rs 1502.29

crore in 2021; and Rs 1213.26 crore in 2022. In other words, in 19 tranches since 2018 when they were effectively available, bonds worth Rs 9208.23 crore have been sold. Of these, bonds worth Rs 9187.55 crore have been encashed by political parties. The minister also underscored that no bonds were sold to foreign entities because the scheme does not allow it.

Why have electoral bonds attracted criticism?

The central criticism of the electoral bonds scheme is that it does the exact opposite of what it was meant to do: bring transparency to election funding.

For example, critics argue that the anonymity of electoral bonds is only for the broader public and opposition parties. The fact that such bonds are sold via a government-owned bank (SBI) leaves the door open for the government to know exactly who is funding its opponents. This, in turn, allows the possibility for the government of the day to either extort money, especially

from the big companies, or victimise them for not funding the ruling party — either way providing an unfair advantage to the party in power. Critics such as Anjali Bhardwaj, co-convenor of the National Campaign for People’s Right to Information, have noted that more than 75 per cent of all electoral bonds have gone to the BJP, which is in power at the Centre.

Further, one of the arguments for introducing electoral bonds was to allow common people to easily fund political parties of their choice but more than 90% of the bonds have been of the highest denomination (Rs 1 crore).

Moreover, before the electoral bonds scheme was announced, there was a cap on how much a company could donate to a political party: 7.5 per cent of the average net profits of a company in the preceding three years. However, the government amended the Companies Act to remove this limit, opening the doors to unlimited funding by corporate India, critics argue.

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DAY -2

Q.1. Suspension of Russia from the UN Human Rights Council will strengthen the international system of human rights. What has been India's stand on this issue? (Paper II: International Issues)

संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद से रूस का निलंबन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ बनाएगा। इस विषय पर भारत का क्या दृष्टिकोण है?

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👍 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मानव अधिकारों की संकल्पना।
- 👍 संयुक्त राष्ट्र परिषद का परिचय और आदेश पत्र।
- 👍 रूस के निलंबन के आधार।
- 👍 विश्व पर ऐसे निलंबन का प्रभाव।
- 👍 भारत का दृष्टिकोण।
- 👍 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia from Human Rights Council; India abstains from vote

Displays show the results of voting on suspending Russia from United Nations Human Rights Council during an emergency special session of the U.N. General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on April 7, 2022.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has suspended Russia from Human Rights Council amid its ongoing war with Ukraine. The only time a member state was suspended from the Geneva-based body was Libya in 2011.

Russia's membership to the Human Rights Council (HRC), to which it was elected in 2020, was suspended on Thursday after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted, 93 to 24, with 58 abstentions, including India, to adopt a resolution suspending Moscow from the UN body.

The resolution, 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council', was proposed by a group of countries that included Ukraine, the U.S., the EU, several Latin American countries and required a two-thirds majority of those present and voting for adoption. Abstentions do not count in the tally of those 'present and voting'. India abstained for reasons of "substance and process", its Permanent Representative to the U.N. (UNPR), T.S. Tirumurti said.

"We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken fully respecting due process as all our democratic polity and structures enjoin us to do so. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations," Mr. Tirumurti said during his 'Explanation of Vote' speech at the UNGA. The U.S., which has had uneven relationship with the HRC itself (having quit it under the Trump administration only to rejoin it

last year) had been a driving force behind the resolution.

"If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace. And it is for an immediate end to violence," Mr. Tirumurti said, calling for diplomacy and reiterating India's message to the UN Security Council earlier this week: that the murder of civilians in the Bucha suburb of Kyiv was "deeply disturbing" and that India "unequivocally condemned" them. India, however, has refrained from blaming Russia for these murders.

The New York Times had reported earlier this week that its analysis of satellite images showed that the bodies of civilians, some with hands bound behind their backs, were present before the Russians withdrew from the area — and were not planted there — as Moscow has said — after Russian troops withdrew. The German government had satellite information implicating Russians in the killing of civilians in Bucha, Reuters reported. Moscow has denied that Russian troops were behind the deaths.

Mr. Tirumurti called for an early resolution of the conflict saying its impact was being felt beyond the region — such as via rising food and energy prices.

Third abstention

Thursday's UNGA action was India's third abstention on votes regarding the HRC. The first two abstentions were around the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry, on March 4, to look into violations of human rights and international law in the Russia-

Ukraine conflict. Thursday's resolution sought the suspension of Russia from the HRC, and accused Moscow of "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights". The HRC is a UN body, comprising 47 states, that describes itself as "responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe". Countries are elected for three-year terms.

Several countries opposed the resolution on the grounds that it had been put to vote before an independent inquiry had presented its findings. Some countries, like India, were of the view that adopting the resolution would violate due process and impact the credibility of the organisation. In addition to the Commission of Inquiry established on March 4, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, as well as various U.N. countries, including India, had called for an independent inquiry into the brutal killing of civilians in the Bucha suburb of Kyiv.

Speaking before the vote, South Africa's UNPR said the draft resolution of

Thursday was "premature and prejudices the outcomes of the commission of inquiry". Brazil was also of the view that the inquiry must first be completed. Both countries abstained during the vote. Countries in India's neighbourhood — Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives — abstained. China, a member of the Council and itself accused of systematic and extensive abuses against its Uighur Muslim minority, voted against the resolution, citing, among its reasons, a lack of proper consultation prior to the vote and the risk that the move would exacerbate the conflict.

"The vote at the UNGA was difficult for India as it subverts and short circuits the whole Human Rights Council-led process," former Indian UNPR Asoke Mukerji said, adding that India's vote would not please either side of the conflict. "On the one hand its abstention would please neither Russia, nor would it suffice for the U.S., and on the other India will be asked to do more in terms of peace initiatives to end the Ukraine crisis.

Q.2. Why has the Centre demanded an extension to make rules for enforcing citizenship amendment act and what will be its impact? (Paper II: Constitution/ Polity)

नागरिकता (संशोधन) अधिनियम के प्रवर्तन के लिए नियमावली बनाने हेतु केन्द्र ने अवधि बढ़ाने की मांग क्यों की है तथा इसका प्रभाव क्या होगा

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👍 नागरिकता संशोधन अधिनियम पर टिप्पणी तथा उसके प्रमुख प्रावधान।
- 👍 नियमावली बनाने वाली अवधि बढ़ाने की मांग करने के कारण।
- 👍 अधिनियम के क्रियान्वयन में नियमावली की भूमिका और उसका महत्व।
- 👍 प्रवर्तन का प्रभाव।
- 👍 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

Centre seeks another six months to frame CAA rules

This is the fifth extension sought by the Union Home Ministry

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sought another six-months to frame the rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA), a legislation to fast-track the citizenship process of six non-Muslim undocumented communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Ministry has written to the subordinate committee on parliamentary legislation of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Without the rules being framed, the Act cannot be implemented.

The last three-month extension was sought on January 9 on the grounds that the construction of the rules require more consultation and the delay is on account of COVID-19 pandemic.

A senior government official confirmed that the request for an extension till October 9 has been sent to the parliamentary committee. This is the fifth extension sought by the government.

The CAA was passed by the Parliament on December 11 in 2019 and it received assent from the President on December 12. In January, 2020, the Ministry notified that the Act will come into force from January 10 that year. Earlier, the Ministry

had sought time from the committees till April 9, 2021, which was extended to July 9, 2021. A request was made to further extend the period to January 9, then April 9 and now till October 9 to notify the rules which are to be published in the Gazette of India.

CAA has provision to grant citizenship to members of six minority communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India before December 31, 2014. The Ministry had earlier said that the entire process will be online. It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under Foreigners Act, 1946 and Passport Act, 1920. The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.

As many as 83 persons were killed in protests and riots from December 2019 to March 2020 in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Delhi after the CAA was passed.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, in case the Ministries/Departments are not able to frame the rules within the prescribed period of six months after a legislation is passed, "they should seek extension of time from the Committee on Subordinate Legislation stating reasons for such extension."

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DAY-3

Q.1. India faces challenge of high inflation, low growth. Critically discuss.
(Paper III: Economy)

भारत के समक्ष उच्च मुद्रा स्फीति और निम्न संवृद्धि की चुनौती विद्यमान है।
आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- ☑ उच्च मुद्रा स्फीति तथा भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर प्रभाव।
- ☑ निम्न संवृद्धि तथा उसके प्रभाव।
- ☑ उच्च मुद्रा स्फीति के कारण।
- ☑ निम्न संवृद्धि के कारण।
- ☑ सामना करने के लिए उठाए जाने वाले कदम।
- ☑ निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

India faces challenge of high inflation, low growth: FinMin

The ministry report stated that the government was exploring all options, including import diversification, to procure crude oil at an affordable price.

BENGALURU : Soaring global commodity prices and disruptions in supplies due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict pose a twin challenge to the Indian economy—growth may slow down while inflation could remain elevated, the ministry of finance said in its Monthly Economic Review released on Thursday.

However, it added, the magnitude of the impact would depend on how long high prices persist.

The ministry said the government was exploring all options, including import diversification, to procure crude oil at an affordable price. But in case high international crude prices persisted for long, it could hamper India's prospects of achieving an over-8% economic growth rate in 2022-23, it said.

The Economic Survey had in January projected the economy to grow between 8 and 8.5% in 2022-23.

"In the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, that places national economic and security interests above any other consideration, government is exploring all viable options... to procure crude at an affordable price. Affordability is desired as even the present level of international crude price, should it persist for a long time, may come in the way of India achieving a real economic growth rate north of 8% in FY23," the ministry of finance said in its report.

However, the domestic economic momentum seen in the massive government capital expenditure, rise in indirect tax collections and import of

capital goods offer comfort, so that the impact on the Indian economy may turn out to be "tolerable", it added.

Russia is reported to have offered India oil at a discount of as much as \$35 per barrel on prices before the war and New Delhi has taken up the offer. Brent Crude oil price, which forms the bulk of Indian crude oil basket, has hovered around \$105-106 per barrel since 1 April.

The ministry said while India may feel the impact of the geopolitical conflict on the growth outlook, the magnitude will depend on how long the dislocations in energy and food markets persist during the fiscal year and how resilient India's economy is to mitigate the impact. Transient shocks may not have a big effect on real growth and inflation, it said, adding that the economy may prove resilient owing to the government's thrust on capital expenditure and improved corporate sector health.

The Budget allocated ₹7.5 trillion towards capital expenditure in 2022-23, which is 24% more than the revised estimate of 2021-22.

Offsetting these potential headwinds, the report said flagship government projects including GatiShakti and Production Linked Incentive Schemes will drive investments.

"These will combine with supply chains strengthened by structural reforms taken in the past few years to deliver high-post-recovery growth for the Indian economy." It added that the growth path ahead will likely be a more inclusive one as the government has extended free foodgrain

support for the poor by another six months. Besides, there is growing evidence of improving labour force participation and declining unemployment, it added.

With India's merchandise exports touching a record \$418 billion in 2021-22, the finance ministry expects the export momentum to continue this fiscal with marginal downside risks emanating from the Ukraine conflict and related global spill-overs. It added that the import surge in March -- due to a 20% sequential increase in crude oil prices -- "does not portend well for the economy in the year ahead."

To ensure security of crude supplies and to mitigate the risk of dependence on oil imports from a single region, India has been focusing on diversifying its petroleum basket across West Asia, Africa, North and South America.

Q.2. India's Nuclear Programme is for improving quality of life and not for causing harm to human life. Discuss. (Paper II: Governance/Paper III: Technology)

भारत का परमाणु कार्यक्रम जीवन गुणवत्ता में सुधार के लिए है, न कि मानव जीवन को हानि पहुँचाने के लिए। चर्चा कीजिए।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👍 भारत के परमाणु कार्यक्रम के बुनियादी गुण।
- 👍 भारत की नाभिकीय नीति के मुख्य तथ्य जिसमें पहले पहल नहीं करने का दृष्टिकोण शामिल है।
- 👍 भारत में जीवन में सुधार के लिए परमाणु ऊर्जा का उपयोग।
- 👍 विद्युत उत्पादन में परमाणु शक्ति का योगदान।
- 👍 भारत मानव जीवन को हानि से कैसे बचाता है?
- 👍 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

Union Minister Dr.Jitendra Singh says, India's Nuclear Programme is for improving quality of life and not for causing harm to human life

The Minister chairs the first meeting of the reconstituted Joint Hindi Salahkar Samiti of Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi

Stellar achievements of Space and Nuclear Technology must reach common man through proper translation in Hindi and Vernacular languages by professional translators: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that India's Nuclear Programme is for improving quality of life and not for causing harm to human life.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that India has covered a long journey since the inception of the Atomic Energy programme by Dr Homi Bhabha based on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He said that time has come to renew the noble pledge of Dr Bhabha as "Sankalp se Siddhi".

Dr Jitendra Singh was chairing the meeting of the reconstituted Joint Hindi Salahkar Samiti of Department of Atomic Energy and Department Space at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that applications of nuclear energy and radiation have played a significant role in the field of electricity production, agriculture, medicine, health, food preservation, improved seeds varieties, water purification technologies, urban waste management technologies, industrial application of radioisotopes

and radiation technologies particularly in petroleum industry. He, however, lamented that most of the societal applications of nuclear energy are not much known to the people.

The Minister also informed that Gamma Irradiation Technology is used for inhibition of sprouting in bulbs and tubes, insect disinfestation of cereals, pulses and grains, microbial decontamination (hygienization) of dry spices etc., for preservation/shelf life extension by applying pre-determined radiation doses. He said, even during COVID pandemic, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) came out with novel innovations like COVID BEEP, India's first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Tata Centre Mumbai, which is running a number of Cancer Hospitals across the country works under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy. He also informed that the Department of Atomic Energy and Tata Memorial Centre, with assistance from Tata Trust, is setting up additional units In Bihar, Assam and Uttarakhand.

Dr Jitendra Singh called upon the members of Committee and Department of Rajbhasha to take steps to popularise the achievements of Space and Nuclear Technology among the common through proper translation in Hindi and Vernacular languages through professional translators. He also laid stress on proper translation of Science textbooks and literature in Hindi and regional languages.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Department of Rajbhasha which is a part of Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah, is working a sea change is being witnessed that most of the official works in Central Ministries and Departments are being done in Hindi. The Minister underlined that that Prime Minister Narendra Modi always pitched for using vernacular languages in promoting science communication in a "big way" to develop "love of science" in the youth and underlined that language should not be a barrier but a facilitator.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Space Technology is being applied in diverse fields and sectors to bring "ease of living" for common man. ISRO scientists briefed the committee meeting about the widespread application of Space Technology in fields like Agriculture, Soils, Water Resources, Land Use/Land Cover, Rural Development, Earth and Climate Studies, Geosciences, Urban & Infrastructure, Disaster Management Support, Forestry and Ecology and Using Geospatial Technology as a tool for enabling Decision Support Systems. The Minister said that in the recent past Drone Technology is being used to bring a new revolution in the field of agriculture.

Dr Jitendra Singh was informed by members of the Advisory Committee that some of the MBBS syllabus will be taught in Hindi at Gandhi Medical College Bhopal from May this year and efforts are on to translate the entire curricula through medical and scientific professional experts.

DAY-4

Q.1. Steps taken by the Government to incentivise education for poor sections of the society will not only improve access to education but will also make the society more inclusive. Analyse. [Paper II: Governance/ Social Justice]

समाज के गरीब वर्गों के लिए शिक्षा को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों से न केवल शिक्षा तक पहुंच में सुधार होगा बल्कि समाज को अधिक समावेशी भी बनाया जाएगा।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👉 शिक्षा तक पहुँच के संदर्भ में समाज के गरीब वर्गों की स्थिति।
- 👉 शिक्षा को प्रोत्साहित करने का अर्थ।
- 👉 इस संदर्भ में कौन से कदम उठाए गए हैं?
- 👉 इन कदमों को लागू करने में चुनौतियाँ।
- 👉 बेहतर पहुँच और समावेशन के संदर्भ में संभावित लाभ।
- 👉 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

Steps To Incentivize Education For Poor Sections of The Society

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for access to elementary schools for children of the age group of 6-14 years, within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. Section 12 (1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 provides for admission of children belonging to disadvantaged groups (DG) and economically weaker sections (EWS) in private unaided schools to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of class I or below.

The Department of School Education and Literacy had launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education - Samagra Shiksha with effect from 2018-19. The scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce number of out of school children including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV), setting up of residential schools/hostels, free uniforms, free text books and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Also, mid-day meal is

provided to students at the elementary level of education. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

In addition, a Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)' was launched in May, 2008 with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class

VIII and encourage them to continue their studies at secondary stage. Under NMMSS, scholarship @ Rs. 12,000/- per annum is given to students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society for study in class IX to XII in a State Government, Government-aided and Local Body schools.

The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

Q.2. Connectivity with the Central Asian Countries remains a key priority for India. Discuss. (Paper II: International Relations)

मध्य एशियाई देशों के साथ संपर्क भारत के लिए एक प्रमुख प्राथमिकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👍 मध्य एशिया का भू-राजनीतिक महत्व।
- 👍 मध्य एशिया में भारत के हित।
- 👍 भारत-मध्य एशिया संबंधों की स्थिति।
- 👍 मध्य एशिया के साथ संपर्क का महत्व।
- 👍 चुनौतियाँ एवं संभावनाएँ।
- 👍 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

Connectivity With The Central Asian Countries Remains A Key Priority For INDIA: PRESIDENT Kovind

PRESIDENT OF INDIA Addresses The Young Diplomats Of Turkmenistan At The Institute Of International Relations In Ashgabat

Connectivity with the Central Asian countries remains a key priority for India, said the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. He was addressing the young diplomats of Turkmenistan at the Institute of International Relations in Ashgabat today (April 3, 2022). The President said that India is a member of both the International North-South Transport Corridor, and the Ashgabat Agreement. We have taken steps to operationalize the Chabahar port in Iran which can provide a secure, viable and unhindered access to the sea for the Central Asian countries. He said that while expanding connectivity, it is important to ensure that connectivity initiatives are consultative, transparent and participatory, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries. India stands ready to cooperate, invest and build connectivity in the region.

The President said that India's foreign policy has been constantly evolving since its independence. India's emergence as one of the major economies of the world and the relevance of India's technological capabilities has shaped key global negotiations. India's partnerships with countries of the Global South have grown substantially while its relations with major powers have deepened further.

The President said that one of the key pillars of India's foreign policy in recent years has been the "Neighbourhood First" policy. The overarching philosophy

of India's engagement with its neighbours is to ensure that they also benefit from our economic development and growth. Thus, the focus of our Neighbourhood First policy is to enhance connectivity, augment trade and investment, and build a secure and stable neighbourhood. He said that while 'Indo-Pacific' is a recent addition to the geopolitical lexicon, India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region goes back several centuries. The dynamism and vitality of the region makes it a global economic centre. We stand for an open, balanced, rules-based and stable international trade regime in the Indo-Pacific.

The President said that one of the focus areas of Indian foreign policy in the last few years has been the revitalization of our historical ties with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of our 'extended neighbourhood'. As developing countries, India and Central Asian countries share common perspectives and similar approaches. We face common challenges such as terrorism, extremism, radicalization, drug trafficking etc. India has also strategic relations with most of the Central Asian countries.

Speaking about ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the President said that India's position on this issue has been steadfast and consistent. We have emphasized that the current global order is anchored in international law, UN Charter, and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. We are deeply concerned about the

worsening humanitarian situation. We have called for immediate cessation of violence and hostilities and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. We have also provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

The President said that the United Nations remains the most universal and representative international organization. At the core of India's call for reformed multilateralism lies the reform of the UN Security Council, to reflect the contemporary realities. In this context, India values the support of Turkmenistan for our permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council.

The President said that as Turkmenistan marches ahead in the 'Era of people with Arkadag', India, as a longstanding friend, stands ready to partner with it to realize the collective dreams of our people. He expressed hope that his visit to Turkmenistan would impart a new momentum to further promote

partnership between the two countries.

The President also inaugurated an 'India Corner' at the Institute of International Relations on the occasion. The 'India Corner' is envisioned to create interest in India amongst the students of the Institute in organizing India related activities. The Government of India has provided computers, books on India and musical instruments and other materials to equip the 'India Corner'.

Earlier in the day, the President visited People's Memorial Complex in Ashgabat and laid a wreath at the Monument of Eternal Glory. He also visited the Bagtyyarlyk Sports Complex where he offered floral tributes in front of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi and witnessed the Yoga demonstration by Turkmen people under the supervision of Indian instructor.

In the tomorrow morning (April 4, 2022), the President will leave for the Netherlands -the final leg of his state visit to Turkmenistan and the Netherlands.

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DAY-5

Q.1. Comptroller and Auditor General of India is an independent authority which ensures accountability and transparency in the governance. Discuss. (Paper II: Governance/Constitution)

भारत का नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक एक स्वतंत्र प्राधिकारी है जो शासन में जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- 👍 महालेखा परीक्षक की संवैधानिक स्थिति।
- 👍 इसकी स्वतंत्रता के प्रावधान।
- 👍 महालेखा परीक्षक के कार्य एवं भूमिका।
- 👍 यह शासन में जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता कैसे सुनिश्चित करता है?
- 👍 निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

The common complaints about Aadhaar, which CAG has now flagged in UIDAI audit

There are issues of data-matching, errors in authentication, and shortfall in archiving, the CAG has said in its 108-page audit report on the functioning of the UIDAI.

The country's top auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, has pulled up the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for "deficient data management".

UIDAI is the statutory authority established in 2016 to issue Aadhaar to all residents of the country. As of October 31, 2021, UIDAI had issued 131.68 crore Aadhaar numbers.

What are the problems with UIDAI that have been identified by the CAG?

There are issues of data-matching, errors in authentication, and shortfall in archiving, the CAG has said in its 108-page audit report on the functioning of the UIDAI.

The CAG has said the data of Aadhaar card holders have not been matched with their Aadhaar number even after 10 years in some cases.

It has also criticised the absence of a system to analyse the factors leading to authentication errors, and said that even though UIDAI was maintaining one of the largest biometric databases in the world, it did not have a data archiving policy, which is considered "a vital storage management best practice".

"UIDAI provided Authentication services to banks, mobile operators and other agencies free of charge till March 2019, contrary to the provisions of their own Regulations, depriving revenue to the Government," the CAG noted.

What about personal information with UIDAI, the security of which has been a persistent concern?

The CAG has flagged that UIDAI has not ensured that the applications or

devices used by agencies or companies for authentication "were not capable of storing the personal information of the residents, which put the privacy of residents at risk".

"The Authority had not ensured security and safety of data in Aadhaar vaults. They had not independently conducted any verification of compliance to the process involved," the CAG said in its report.

What about concerns raised by some that Aadhaar numbers may have been issued to people who ought not to have one?

The government's auditor has noted that the UIDAI has not prescribed any specific proof, document, or process to confirm whether a person who is applying for Aadhaar has resided in India for the period specified by the Rules.

Therefore, "there is no assurance that all the Aadhaar holders in the country are 'Residents' as defined in the Aadhaar Act", says the report.

In the conclusion of its report, the CAG has said that UIDAI generated Aadhaar numbers with incomplete information, which, along with the lack of proper documentation or poor quality biometrics, have resulted in multiple or duplicate Aadhaar cards being issued to the same person.

The UIDAI should go beyond self-declaration, and "prescribe a procedure and required documentation other than self-declaration, in order to confirm and authenticate the residence status of applicants", the CAG report has said. What about complaints that Aadhaar cards sometimes don't reach people, and that the data have errors, causing difficulty

to residents for no fault of theirs?

The CAG has noted that the UIDAI does not have adequate arrangements with the postal department, due to which a large number of Aadhaar cards were returned to the government after they could not be delivered to their intended recipients.

Also, the report says, “Aadhaar numbers with poor quality biometrics induces authentication errors. UIDAI takes no responsibility for it and transfers the onus of updating the biometrics to the resident and also charges fees for it.”

Q.2. Discuss agriculture in India as a value led enterprise and identify major sources of growth. (Paper III: Economy)

भारत में एक मूल्य निर्देशित उपक्रम के रूप में कृषि पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा संवृद्धि के प्रमुख स्रोतों की पहचान कीजिए।

उत्तर प्रारूप:

- ☑ भारत में कृषि की स्थिति।
- ☑ मूल्य निर्देशित उपक्रम का अर्थ।
- ☑ कृषि को मूल्य निर्देशित कैसे बनाया जा सकता है?
- ☑ संवृद्धि के प्रमुख क्षेत्र।
- ☑ निष्कर्ष।

SOURCE ARTICLE

Doubling Farmer's Income

The Government consulted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to “Doubling farmers Income” and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in September, 2018 containing the strategy for doubling of farmers’ income by the year 2022. The Committee on Doubling Farmers’ Income (DFI) recognizes agriculture as a value led enterprise and has identified seven major sources of growth viz., (i) Increase in crop productivity; (II) Increase in livestock productivity; (III) Resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; (IV) Increase in the cropping intensity; (V) Diversification towards high value crops; (VI) improvement in real prices received by farmers; and (VII) Shift from farm to non-farm occupations. After acceptance of the DFI Committee recommendations, the Government has consulted an ‘Empowered Body’ to review and monitor the progress.

The Government of India is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers green manuring, in-situ crop residue recycling etc.) of plant nutrients with 4Rs approach i.e right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer for judicious use of chemical fertilizers and to reduce use of chemical fertilizers. In addition, split application, use of slow releasing fertilizers including neem coated urea and growing leguminous crops are also advocated and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated. INM is being promoted

through implementation of Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme since 2015. Soil health card provides nutrient status of the soil along with prescription about balanced and integrated use of inorganic and organic fertilizers to maintain good soil health that results in increase in production. Demonstrations about balanced use of fertilizers based on soil health card recommendations and training to the farmers on proper and integrated use of fertilizers are integral part of the scheme. Financial assistance is provided to State governments for training of farmers, demonstrations on farmer fields and organizing farmer melas. The steps are being taken to improve the quality of soil under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility are given below:

Government has been implementing Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility since 2015 to provide soil test based fertilizer use recommendations periodically to the farmers in the country. Soil health card provides nutrient status of the soil along with prescription about balanced and integrated use of inorganic and organic fertilizers to maintain good soil health.

Demonstrations about balanced use of fertilizers based on soil health card recommendations and training to the farmers on proper and integrated use of fertilizers are integral part of the scheme. Financial assistance is provided to State governments for training of farmers, demonstrations on farmer fields and organizing farmer melas.

Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer’s trainings and 7425 farmers melas are organized/

conducted under the programme.

Under Soil Health Management scheme financial assistance to states is provided for promotion of micro-nutrients @ Rs 500 per hectare. Since 2015, financial assistance for promotion of micro-nutrients to 10.29 lakh hectare has been provided to states.

The Government of India assesses the requirement of fertilizers before each cropping season i. e Kharif and Rabi during the Zonal Conference on Agricultural Inputs. The Department of Fertilizers on that basis issues the supply plan and ensure the availability of fertilizers through domestic production and imports

This information was given by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.