

GOVERNANCE: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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GOVERNANCE: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Unit - I Government and Governance: Concepts

- a) Role of State in The Era of Globalisation
- b) State, Market and Civil Society

Unit -II Governance and Development

Changing Dimensions of Development Strengthening Democracy through Good Governance

Unit - III Environmental Governance

- a) Human-Environment Interaction
- b) Green Governance: Sustainable Human Development

Unit - IV Local Governance

- a) Democratic Decentralisation
- b) People's Participation in Governance

Unit - V Good Governance Initiatives in India: Best Practices [20 lectures]

- a) Public Service Delivery
- b) Electronic Governance
- c) Citizens Charter & Right to Information
- d) Corporate Social Responsibility

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UNIT-I

Lesson 1.1 - Government and Governance: Concepts

Unit Structure

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1.1. Objectives

This Unit aims to make students understand the concept of globalization and how it interacts with and affects the state. It will go through the mainstream theories of international relations like Liberalism, Realism, and Social Constructivism, as well as other theories that are highly critical of the mainstream, like Marxism, Feminism, Post-structuralism, Post-colonial, and Decolonial approaches. Multiple impacts of globalization on economic, political, ecological and cultural dimensions will be discussed. The unit will then go through the meaning of the market and how it functions through all the activities and transactions. It will talk about different models of the market, like liberal, social and libertarian, and the similarities and differences between them. The unit also delves into the concept of civil society and its functioning with respect to the state and its citizens. It is sometimes termed as the third sector of the society. The role of civil society in relation to the market and the state is very significant in contemporary times. Through this unit, the learner will have a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the following thematic areas:

1. Definition and theories of globalization
2. State and the impacts of globalization on the state
3. Basic definition and different models of the market
4. Civil society and its roles in the society

1.2. Introduction

The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) marked the birth of the modern nation-state system, often called the “Westphalian system.” Earlier, most people did not consider themselves part of a nation; they rarely left their village and knew little of the larger world. This treaty ended the Thirty Years’ War and is often considered the progenitor of modern nation-state sovereignty. The Westphalian system strengthened the idea of states as independent agents. It introduced the concepts of territoriality and sovereignty, which became the foundation for forming nation-states. Territoriality refers to the organisation of humans into exclusive territorial communities that are political and have fixed borders. On the other hand, sovereignty is understood as a supremacy or supreme power of the state.

The advent of the nation-state provided an opportunity for the integration of the world and globalization primarily through economic

means. The nation-state system facilitated international trade and migration, critical aspects of globalization. As nation-states interacted more with each other, they became increasingly interdependent, leading to a more interconnected world. However, several scholars posit that globalization is a challenge to the Westphalian model of sovereign statehood and that major dynamics working in the global economy can undo the forms of sovereignty and territory embedded in the modern state system.

The relationship between the nation-state and the economy has evolved significantly from the era of mercantile capitalism to the neoliberal model of economy. During the era of mercantile capitalism in 16th to 18th century Europe, the belief was that a nation's wealth could be increased by controlling trade, expanding exports, and limiting imports. It promoted governmental regulation of a nation's economy for augmenting state power, and high tariffs, especially on manufactured goods, were almost universally a feature of mercantile policy. The neoliberal economic model, on the other hand, encourages free-market competition and limited government intervention in the economy. This model has led to an increasingly interconnected global economy, often called globalization.

Civil society plays a crucial role in checking crony capitalism, which arises when business success depends on a close relationship between business people and government officials. This form of capitalism can spill over into the government, politics, and media, distorting the economy and affecting society to the extent that it corrupts economic, political, and social ideals. Civil society keeps checks on these activities through education, advocacy, agitation, mobilisation, and watchdog activities against violations of laws and human rights.

1.3. Defining Globalization

Globalization is a concept that refers to the widening, deepening, and acceleration of worldwide connectivity where world cultures and economies become interconnected and interdependent. It is primarily an economic process of interaction and integration, which includes free flow of capital, trade, and the tapping of cheaper foreign labour markets. It also encompasses social and cultural aspects, which links and expands human activity across globe. Advances in technology and communication have facilitated this transformation in the organisation of human affairs. The

term globalization first appeared in the English language around the 1930s. However, during 1990s, the term gained widespread usage, reflecting the growing interconnectedness of our world. This concept captures the increasing integration of global markets, largely driven by advancements in information and communication technology (ICT). Despite facing criticism in recent years, particularly from rising nationalist movements, globalization continues to be a topic of significant interest and debate.

1.3.1. Theories of Globalization

All the mainstream theories of international relations define globalization differently, for example, Liberalism, Realism, and Social Constructivism, as well as other theories that are highly critical of the mainstream, like Marxism, Feminism, Post-structuralism, Post-colonial, and Decolonial approaches. None of these theories have all the answers to explaining world politics in the age of globalization.

From a liberal perspective, globalization is the culmination of a long-standing, progressive evolution in global politics. The transformation in the economy, technology, and communications brought about by globalization is of particular interest to liberals. This has led to a heightened level of interconnectedness among societies, driven primarily by economic and technological advancement. As a result, the dynamics of world politics have significantly changed from what they used to be. The role of states as the main actors has diminished, giving way to various actors whose relevance varies depending on the specific issue.

From the realist perspective, globalization, regardless of how its proponents define it, does not change the most crucial aspect of global politics- the territorial segmentation of the world into nation-states. The increasing interconnectedness among economies and societies may increase their mutual dependence, but this is not true for entities like state. In this system, powerful states maintain their sovereignty, and globalization does not diminish the competition for political power among these states. It also does not diminish the significance of the threat of force or the importance of the balance of power. While globalization may influence our social, economic, and cultural lives, it does not supersede the international political system of states.

For theorists who subscribe to constructivism, globalization is often portrayed as an external force that impacts states, a reality that leaders

frequently claim they cannot contest. Constructivists argue that this is a highly political stance, as it downplays the potential for changing social norms and actor identities to challenge and shape globalization. It also enables leaders to evade accountability by attributing circumstances to the way the world is. Contrarily, constructivists believe that we have the capacity to shape globalization in various ways. This is particularly true because globalization provides tangible opportunities, such as creating cross-national human rights and social movements, facilitated by modern technological communication methods like the Internet.

From the Marxist perspective, globalization is perceived as a deception, with the recent backlash against it as proof. Historically, it is not particularly novel and is merely the latest phase in the evolution of international capitalism, specifically neoliberalism. It does not represent a significant shift in global politics, nor does it make all our existing theories and concepts obsolete. Primarily, it is a Western-led capitalist phenomenon that advances the growth of global capitalism in a neoliberal manner. Neoliberalism, in this context, is less a form of liberal internationalism, despite some connections, and more an attempt to deregulate global capitalism for the benefit of the wealthy. Instead of making the world more equitable, neoliberal globalization further exacerbates the disparities between the core, the semi-periphery, and the periphery.

Poststructuralists do not view globalization as a tangible entity in the world but rather as a discourse. They question the sweeping assertions made by realists, liberals, and Marxists about the essence of globalization. They contend that any interpretations of the so-called globalization are only meaningful within the framework of a specific discourse that is itself a manifestation of power. The various narratives about globalization merely mirror how power and truth evolve together in a symbiotic relationship throughout history. To reveal the power dynamics behind the globalization discourse, one must conduct an in-depth examination of how the practices and declarations about globalization are true only within particular discourses.

Postcolonial and decolonial studies on globalization bear resemblance to much of the Marxist ideology, emphasising the enduring and consistent presence of colonial power structures in today's globalised world. For instance, the extent of economic and military influence exerted by the West in the Global South is, in many respects, more pronounced now than during the period of direct control. This phenomenon, often referred to

as neo-colonialism, aligns with neoliberal capitalism. While the age of enforced colonial rule through military might has largely passed, a key focus for postcolonial studies remains the significant global inequality. These studies examine the global power structures that enable such systematic disparity and the ongoing subjugation of subaltern groups. These groups, often marginalised under hegemony, include impoverished rural women in the Global South.

Different branches of feminist scholarship have varied responses to globalization, but all of them discuss and debate its impact on gendered power structures. Liberal feminists, predictably, have the most optimistic view of globalization, seeing it as a means to integrate more women into the existing political and economic framework. However, others are more critical, highlighting the adverse effects of neoliberalism and economic globalization on the global wealth disparity, which disproportionately impacts women, particularly women of colour. From a feminist standpoint, a thorough evaluation of the significance, causes, and consequences of globalization necessitates a detailed analysis of the real-life experience of both men and women. This analysis reveals how issues that appear to be gender-neutral are in fact highly gendered, reinforcing power dynamics and perpetuating gender inequality.

1.3.2. Key Features of Globalization

The key features of globalization include the removal of barriers to international trade of goods and services, creation of free trade zones, liberalisation of the national economy, increased connectivity and exchange of cultures around the world. The removal of trade barriers increases the interconnections and interdependence of national economies. Through foreign direct investments (FDIs), multinational corporations (MNCs) invest in other countries to access markets and resources at low production and labour costs. The advancements in the digital world have accelerated the flow of information and communication across the world. The exchange of ideas, cultures and values has resulted in popular culture like music, film and fashion, but at the same time, it has also raised questions on cultural homogenisation. The rise of multicultural societies across the capital cities, as well as other smaller cities due to international migration in the search for work, education and a better lifestyle, is also a characteristic of globalization. Global governance, although highly criticised, has its presence in the form of the United Nations (UN), (WTO),

and International Monetary Fund (IMF) for shaping global policies and regulations. There are many negative aspects of globalization related to health and pandemics (COVID-19, Ebola, etc), income inequality, challenges to national governments, and interconnectedness of economic crises.

1.3.3. Dimensions/Types of Globalization

Economic Globalization

Economic globalization is the expansion and intensification of economic connections worldwide. It is facilitated by digital technology, standardised transportation, and massive capital flows, which have boosted trade in goods and services. Markets have expanded globally, integrating local, national, and regional economies through cyberspace. Large transnational corporations, influential international economic institutions, and vast regional business and trade networks such as APEC, ASEAN, MERCOSUR, and the EU have become the primary components of the global economic order in the 21st century.

Contemporary economic globalization has its roots in the Bretton Woods conference at the end of World War II, where a new global economic order was established. The US and the UK led the Global North in reversing their protectionist policies and committing to expanding trade. The participants also established rules for international economic activities and created a stable monetary exchange system based on the US dollar's fixed gold value. However, individual nations retained control over the permeability of their borders within these limits. The Bretton Woods regime established three international economic organisations: the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to manage the international monetary system, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, later called the World Bank, to provide loans for postwar reconstruction and later for industrial projects in developing countries, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to enforce multilateral trade agreements. In 1995, GATT was succeeded by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which became a focal point of public controversy over economic globalization by the turn of the century.

The Bretton Woods regime (BWR) operated for nearly three decades and played an important role in creating the 'golden age of controlled capitalism' from 1945-80. During this period, trade and foreign direct

investment grew faster than world GDP, and the share of exports in global output tripled. Even conservative political parties embraced state interventionism, as proposed by economist John Maynard Keynes. A wage compromise between big business and labour, along with state control over international capital movements, allowed for full employment and expansion of welfare state in wealthy northern countries. Rising wages and increased social services facilitated the growth of the middle class.

In 1971, the Bretton Woods regime was severely impacted when President Richard Nixon abandoned the gold standard, which had been the basis for setting economic management rules based on stable currency exchange rates. This decision was made in response to political changes that were undermining the competitiveness of US industries. The decade was marked by global economic instability, including high inflation, low growth, high unemployment, public sector deficits, and two energy crises caused by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC's) control over much of the world's oil supply.

The neoliberal revolution in the 1980s, led by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, challenged the Keynesian view that national governments should manage the global economy. Neoliberals argued that freeing private economic activity from state control would boost global trade, investment, and living standards. They used the term 'globalization' to promote their agenda of deregulating state-regulated economies. The fall of communist governments in the Soviet bloc gave more credibility to their economic-political order. Economic globalization since then has been driven by the internationalisation of trade and finance, the rise of transnational corporations and investment banks, and the influence of international economic institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO.

Political Globalization

Political globalization is the intensification and expansion of political interrelations across the world. It raises important issues related to state sovereignty, the growing influence of intergovernmental organisations, the prospects for regional and global governance, and global migration flows. These developments are changing political arrangements beyond the nation-state, breaking new conceptual and institutional ground. There are two streams of thoughts on globalization; one group of experts say that globalization has led to the deterritorialisation of nation-states and their governance. The second group is sceptical about it and places the

continued dominance of the nation-state as central to global politics. They even suggest that globalization is the cause of increasing emphasis on the principles of nationality.

Political globalization is most visible in the rise of interrelated power centres, for instance, at the provincial level, regional blocs, international organisations, and private sector associations. At the provincial level, there has been a continuous rise in the number of policy initiatives and trans-border relations between various provincial authorities. It can be seen that many provinces and federal states of India, Canada, and Brazil are developing their trade agendas and financial strategies to obtain loans.

On the regional level, there has been a continuous rise in the formation of regional multilateral organisations like BRICS, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, and SCO. Some opine these regional organisations will replace the nation-state as the governing unit. But at the same time, there are examples where we see countries separating themselves from an existing organisation, for example, BREXIT, i.e., the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

At the global level, most governments have entered into many international organisations, namely the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organisation (WTO), World Health Organisation (WHO), etc. The power here lies in the individual nation-states. The representatives of member states present their country's/government's position in these forums.

Finally, the growth and the presence of civil society organisations at national and international level affects the globalization process. Many NGOs have a presence all over the world, like the Greenpeace Foundation, Doctors Without Borders, etc.

Ecological Globalization

The other dimensions of globalization have impacts on each other. In recent decades, the world has been facing global warming, climate change, melting glaciers, pollution, etc. These issues are turning into disasters which are natural and man-made. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984, the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster of 1986, and the Fukushima Disaster, of 2011 are some man-made disasters. One of the most common features of ecological globalization is that its impacts are transnational in nature. Climate change does not follow the territorial demarcation of nation-states. It will have impacts all over the world. These global issues can only be tackled at the global level. One country alone cannot deal with the issues which are global in nature. At this juncture, the role of global alliances becomes very important.

Cultural Globalization

Culture is a very broad concept referring to different patterns of lifestyles and practices, ideas and values. Cultural globalization refers to the flow and expansion of these ideas and practices around the world. The internet, media and tourism accelerate the diffusion and consumption of cultural practices. There are two differing views on cultural globalization: one shows optimism, and the other shows pessimism towards this globalization. The pessimistic view says this globalization is turning the world into a homogenised culture, not leaving space for regional and local practices and identities. This monopoly is seen in the role of media and the local languages. The hegemony of giant corporate houses in the media world has shrunk and diminished the role of local small and independent media, print, and crucial cultural innovators. The decline in the number of languages all around the world is also a sign of homogenisation, where a few languages at the national and international level are dominating and being identified as elite languages. The optimists view this sameness as a good thing because they think that this pattern of similarity brings good values like democracy to those parts of the world where it is not present. There is another view which rejects this cultural homogenisation by calling it Glocalisation, which refers to the complex interactions between global forces and local practices to bring out a new hybrid form through a process called cultural hybridisation. It is visible in many forms of new dances, drama, art, paintings, singing, sports, and language.

Check Your Progress

1. Define globalization and its evolution over time.
2. Explain the significance of globalization as a process that transcends borders and connects societies.
3. Discuss the difference between economic and cultural globalization within the broader concept of globalization.

1.4. Defining State

A state is a defined geographic and political entity that exercises authority and control over a specific territory and its population. States typically have their own government systems, laws, and institutions, which can vary widely in structure and form, including republics, monarchies,

democracies, and more. States often engage in international relations, maintain borders, and manage domestic affairs to provide security, services, and governance for their citizens. The concept of a state is a fundamental building block of the modern international system. The contemporary concept of state has its origin in Machiavelli's (an Italian philosopher) work. He termed it as the power which has authority over men. Max Weber, a German sociologist, gave a sociological definition of the state as a human community which has a monopoly of legitimate use of physical force in a given territory.

The main constituent elements of a state include a population, territory, government, and sovereignty. The population of a state can belong to multiple religions, races, cultures or languages, and the state always aims to reconcile the interests of various groups of its citizens. A state must have a territory where it can have authority without any dispute. It exists only when its population is settled in a fixed territory. The territory of a state includes land, airspace and sea within its boundary. This demarcation is not always fixed or unchangeable. Sometimes, due to war, reallocation or merger, the size of the territory changes. The authority and functions of the state are exercised by a government which is responsible for maintaining law and order, development, defence, foreign affairs, education, and health. The government cannot be equated with the state because governments change over time without disturbing the identity of the state. Sovereignty is the supreme legal authority of the state to take decisions and make laws without any external power ruling over it. If the state loses its sovereignty, it disappears or goes into anarchy. International recognition of a state also plays an important role, but it is not an essential part and can be identified as an outcome of the sovereignty of the state.

1.4.1. Theories of Origin of State

Social Contract Theory

Social contract theory explains how and why governments and societies are formed. It is based on the idea that individuals come together to create a social contract or agreement, which forms the foundation for the establishment of a government and its authority. This theory has been influential in shaping modern political thought. It has been developed by philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, each with their variations on the concept.

Social contract theory begins with a hypothetical “state of nature,” a scenario in which individuals exist without organised government or societal structures. In this state, people are considered to have natural rights and freedoms. The state of nature is often characterised by conflict, insecurity, and the potential for violence. Without government or rules, individuals may clash over resources and compete for their interests. Social contract theorists assume that individuals act in their rational self-interest, seeking to maximise their well-being and security. To escape the state of nature and its inherent problems, individuals come together and form a social contract. This contract is a hypothetical agreement among individuals to establish a government and surrender some of their natural rights and freedoms in exchange for their security and the rule of law. The primary purpose of the government established through the social contract is to protect the rights and interests of its citizens. The consent of the governed grants authority and power to the government. Social contract theory emphasises the idea of consent. Government legitimacy is derived from the consent of the people it governs. Citizens agree to obey the government’s laws and authority as long as it fulfils its duty to protect their rights and common interests. Some variations of social contract theory, especially those of Locke and Rousseau, include the notion that if a government fails to uphold its end of the social contract by violating citizens’ rights or becoming tyrannical, citizens have a right to revolt and establish a new government. Different philosophers offer their interpretations and variations of social contract theory. For instance, Thomas Hobbes believed that the social contract was necessary to escape the brutality of the state of nature and establish absolute authority to maintain order. John Locke, on the other hand, emphasised the protection of natural rights, including life, liberty, and property, and believed that governments exist to safeguard these rights.

In summary, social contract theory provides a theoretical framework for understanding the origins of governments and the relationship between individuals and the state. It says that governments gain legitimacy by the consent of the governed and their ability to protect the rights and well-being of citizens, ultimately serving as a way to escape the inherent conflicts and insecurity of the state of nature.

Divine Rights Theory

The Divine Right Theory of the state asserts the legitimacy of a monarch's rule as being directly sanctioned by a divine authority or God. For Hegel, the state is the 'march of the God on earth'. This theory was prominent in Europe during the early modern period, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries, and it was used to justify absolute monarchy. The theory believes that a monarch's authority and right to rule are derived from a higher power. Monarchs were considered to be God's chosen representatives on Earth. The monarchs often asserted absolute authority, because they believed they were not bound by the laws of the land or the will of the people. Because the monarch's authority was believed to be divine, questioning or challenging the ruler's decisions or actions was viewed as morally wrong. Religious institutions, such as the Catholic Church, played a significant role in propagating the idea of divine right. The Church often served as a powerful ally of the monarch, reinforcing the belief in the ruler's divine legitimacy. The divine right theory also supported the idea of hereditary monarchy, where the monarch's offspring inherited the divine right to rule. This concept led to the establishment of royal dynasties. The influence of the Divine Right Theory gradually declined over time, particularly with the rise of Enlightenment ideas and the emergence of more secular and democratic forms of governance that challenged the notion of divine monarchy. Today, the Divine Right Theory is largely seen as a historical remnant, and the idea of rulers deriving their authority from divine sources is not accepted as a foundation for governance in most modern societies, which tend to prioritise principles of popular sovereignty, rule of law, and individual rights.

Historical-Materialism

Marxist historical materialism is a theory that seeks to explain the origin and nature of the state within the context of socioeconomic development. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels developed it as a fundamental aspect of Marxist philosophy. It is rooted in the idea that the material conditions of society, particularly the mode of production and class relations, shape the socio-political, and economic structures of a given historical period. It argues that societies are divided into different social classes, primarily the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) and the proletariat (working class), and that conflict between these classes is a driving force of historical change.

According to this theory, the state emerges as a product of class struggle and the need for one class (the ruling class) to maintain its dominance over another (the oppressed class). The state is seen as a tool of the ruling class to protect its interests and maintain social order. The state serves the interests of the dominant class, which, in capitalist societies, is the bourgeoisie. It enforces laws and regulations that protect the ownership and control of private property, which is a fundamental concern for capitalists. The state has the power to suppress protests, strikes, and movements that challenge the status quo or threaten the interests of the ruling class. Laws and the legal system are used to preserve capitalist economic relations and protect the interests of the bourgeoisie. The state may provide a legal framework that allows for the exploitation of labour by capitalists, such as through labour laws and regulations. Marxist theory recognises that the state can take different forms depending on the specific historical and economic context. It can include democratic states, authoritarian regimes, or even totalitarian governments. However, the fundamental role of serving class interests remains constant. Marxists believe that as class struggle intensifies and the working class becomes more conscious of its exploitation, there will be a revolutionary transition to a classless society, often referred to as communist society. In this society, the state is expected to wither away as class distinctions disappear, and a more egalitarian and stateless society is established.

In summary, according to Marxist historical materialism, the state originates as a tool of the ruling class to protect its interests in the context of class struggle. It always tries to preserve the existing socio-economic order, especially in capitalist societies. The ultimate goal for Marxists is the establishment of a classless communist society, where the state would no longer be necessary.

1.4.2. Functions of the State

The functions of the state vary somewhat depending on the specific perspective and theory being considered. However, several core functions are commonly associated with the state across various political theories.

One of the primary functions of the state is to maintain law and order within its territory. This involves establishing and enforcing a legal system, ensuring public safety, and preventing and addressing criminal activities. The state is responsible for protecting its territory and citizens from external threats. This includes maintaining military and diplomatic

efforts to safeguard national security. It is often seen as the protector of individual rights and liberties, which includes safeguarding civil rights (such as freedom of speech and religion), and property rights, and ensuring equality under the law.

The state plays a role in providing essential public goods and services that the private sector may not efficiently provide. This can include infrastructure (roads, bridges, utilities), education, healthcare, and social welfare programs. States often engage in economic regulation to ensure fair competition, and consumer protection, and to address market failures. It can involve regulating industries, enforcing antitrust laws, and setting standards for health and safety. Many states engage in redistributive policies to address economic inequalities, which include taxation and social welfare programs aimed at reducing poverty and providing a safety net for citizens. States conduct diplomacy and engage in foreign relations to represent their interests on the international stage by negotiating treaties, participating in international organisations, and fostering diplomatic relations with other states.

In contemporary times, states have a growing role in environmental protection and sustainability. They enact regulations to address pollution, protect natural resources, and combat climate change. They are responsible for responding to various crises, including natural disasters, public health emergencies, and economic downturns. They often coordinate relief efforts and assist affected populations. States collect taxes from citizens and businesses to fund their operations and finance public services and infrastructure projects.

The state plays a critical role in maintaining political stability by managing conflicts, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring the peaceful transfer of power through democratic processes. It's important to note that the specific functions of the state can vary widely from one country to another and may evolve in response to changing circumstances and societal demands. Different political philosophies and theories, such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and others, may emphasise certain functions of the state to varying degrees.

1.4.3. States in a Globalized World

In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, the role and relevance of states have undergone significant transformations.

Globalization, characterised by the flow of information, capital, goods, services, and people across national borders, has challenged traditional notions of state sovereignty and reshaped the dynamics of international relations. Globalization has led to the integration of national economies into a single global economic system. States are now deeply interconnected through trade, investments, and financial markets. International organisations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and regional trade agreements have played a significant role in facilitating this economic integration. They participate in international organisations and forums such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank. These organisations provide platforms for states to collaborate on issues ranging from peacekeeping and humanitarian aid to economic development and human rights. States, instead of hard power, use soft power, including cultural diplomacy, to influence global perceptions and advance their interests. Cultural exports, educational exchanges, and media play a role in shaping a nation's image and building international partnerships. They engage in economic competition on a global scale and seek to attract foreign investment, promote exports, and create favourable business environments. However, economic cooperation is also essential, as states work together to address economic crises and promote development.

States face an array of transnational challenges that transcend traditional borders. These include climate change, terrorism, cyber threats, pandemics, and organised crime. These challenges necessitate international cooperation and collective action, as no single state can effectively address them in isolation. Diplomacy remains a crucial tool for states in a globalised world. Diplomatic negotiations, alliances, and international treaties are essential for addressing global issues, resolving conflicts, and advancing national interests on the world stage.

The critics have shown their concerns about globalization in a way that it compromises the economic freedom of a country, threatens the sovereignty of states, and erodes the national identity of a nation. The concept of state sovereignty, while still important, has evolved. States often voluntarily cede sovereignty to an extent to participate in multilateral organisations and agreements. Multilateralism has become a means for states to pursue their interests collectively. The movement of people across borders, whether for economic, social, or political reasons, has led to increased cultural diversity within states. Managing migration and addressing issues

related to cultural integration and diversity have become important policy considerations. However, forced and illegal migration has become a new challenge for states because it brings sudden disruptions in society and a lack of resources to cater to that population. While globalization has brought prosperity to many, it has also exacerbated economic disparities within and between states. Some states benefit disproportionately from global economic integration, while others struggle with inequality and economic challenges. The digital revolution has created new challenges related to cybersecurity and data privacy. They are tasked with protecting their citizens and critical infrastructure from cyber threats while navigating complex issues of digital governance. The tension between nationalism (a focus on national interests and identity) and globalism (a commitment to international cooperation and globalization) is a recurring theme in global politics. Different states try to balance between these two approaches. The distribution of global power is shifting from a unipolar to a multipolar world, with emerging economies and regions gaining influence. This has led to the creation of multiple centres of power and influence. In a globalised world, states continue to be central actors in international affairs. However, their roles are increasingly shaped by the need for cooperation, adaptation to transnational challenges, and the recognition that many issues require collective solutions. Balancing national interests with global responsibilities remains a complex task, and the ability of states to effectively navigate these challenges will be a defining feature of the 21st-century global landscape.

1.4.4. Multi-Dimensional Impacts of Globalization on State: Political, Economic, and Socio-Cultural

Globalization has multi-dimensional impacts on states, affecting various aspects of political, economic, and socio-cultural life. These impacts are complex and interconnected, reshaping the way states govern, their economies function, and the way societies evolve.

Political Impacts of Globalization

With the growth in globalization tendencies, the international order became more and more interdependent, which challenged the conventional forms of the nation-state system. This interdependence due to global challenges like climate change, terrorism, and pandemics requires cooperation and collective actions.

Globalization has led to the rise of international organisations and treaties that influence state policies. They affect the sovereignty of the states for participating in these global governance structures.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), multinational corporations, and transnational advocacy groups play an influential role in shaping state policies and global agendas.

The intensification of population movements due to migration has also challenged the power of nation-states in terms of refugee crises, security, asylum, and population registration.

The relative decline of the nation-states does not mean that the governments have become powerless towards these global forces. They retain control over foreign policy, security, education, health, etc.

Economic Impacts of Globalization

Economic globalization has made states highly interdependent through international trade and investment. States are connected through global financial markets. Economic shocks in one country can have cascading effects on financial stability worldwide.

Globalization has also contributed to economic disparities both within and between states. Some states benefit more from globalization, while others struggle with poverty and inequality.

Although trade has increased in the last century, it has been confined to a limited number of economic sectors. The largest portions of FDI flows are invested in the United States, Western Europe, and China. A small portion of the investment in sectors other than raw materials and resources has been invested in most underdeveloped countries.

Some analysts claim that the world is not as integrated as we think because it does not follow the law of one price, i.e., the price of the same product does not match in every country.

The reduction in barriers has made the labour flow asymmetric because most highly skilled, professionals and rich people can take their resources where it is high in demand.

International economic integration due to globalization has also put the welfare state under attack because of the reduced role of governments towards social obligations.

In the presence of the growing size of MNCs, the domestic industries face increased competition, which leads to economic challenges and job displacement in certain sectors. At the same time, it also encourages domestic companies to become more innovative and efficient.

Socio-Cultural Impacts

Globalization fosters the exchange of cultural ideas, practices, and products. This can lead to the blending of cultures, resulting in new hybrid cultures and expressions. It has led to increased migration and the formation of diaspora communities. These communities often maintain strong cultural ties to their home countries while integrating into their host societies. While globalization can promote cultural diversity through exposure to different cultures, it also carries the risk of cultural homogenisation, where dominant global cultures overshadow local traditions.

Improvement in technology and communication have facilitated global connections, enabling people to interact with diverse cultures and viewpoints through the Internet and social media. The spread of global media and entertainment can lead to cultural imperialism, where the values and norms of powerful countries dominate and influence the cultures of others.

Exposure to global cultures through education and travel can increase cultural awareness and tolerance, promoting a more cosmopolitan outlook.

Globalization promotes consumerism, which can affect local traditions and values as people prioritise materialism and consumer goods. It can promote the dominance of a few major languages, like English, in global communication. This can impact local languages and dialects. The influence of global culture can challenge traditional values and identities, leading to debates and cultural conflicts within societies. Due to this, some states respond to globalization by implementing policies to protect and preserve their cultural heritage in the face of outside influences.

In summary, globalization's impacts on states are multifaceted. They include the political challenges, economic opportunities, the spread of culture, the coexistence of diversity and homogenisation, and the challenges and opportunities presented by increased connectivity and communication. These impacts are often context-specific, influenced by a state's openness to globalization and cultural resilience.

Check Your Progress

1. Define a state with the key elements which constitute a state.
2. Discuss the importance of the state as a fundamental unit of political organisation in the globalised international system.
3. Describe the major theories regarding the origin of the state.
Compare and contrast these theories in explaining the emergence of states throughout history.

1.5. Defining Market**1.5.1 Meaning of Market**

A market is like a big system where people come together to buy and sell things. In most cases, people sell things in exchange for money. It's where the prices of things are figured out. Markets make it easy for people to trade and decide how resources are shared in a society. We can put a value on almost anything in a market. Sometimes, markets come up naturally, and other times, people create them on purpose so they can trade goods. Markets work with rules and traditions, like charging fees for selling things or having fair prices. They also specify where things are from, like if they're local or registered. Markets can vary in many ways, such as the things being sold (like goods or services), how those things are different from each other, where the buying and selling happen, who the buyers are, how long the market lasts, how the selling process works, government rules, taxes, support from the government, minimum wages, price limits, whether it's legal or not, how easy it is to trade, how many people are speculating (trying to make money), how big it is, how many sellers are there, if the trading is balanced, how prices compare to each other, how much they change, and how far they spread geographically. The size of a market varies a lot – it could be a small food market in a single building, a local real estate market in a city, a consumer market in a whole country, or even an international trade area where the same rules apply everywhere. Sometimes, markets can be global, like the worldwide diamond trade. We can also classify countries' economies as developed markets or developing markets. In a market, there are buyers and sellers, and they all play a role in setting the prices. These processes have led to many theories and models about supply and demand, which are the basic forces that shape markets.

1.5.2. Models of Different Markets like Liberal, Social, and Libertarian

The liberal, social, and libertarian models of the market represent different approaches to economic organisation and government intervention in the economy. The liberal model, often associated with classical liberalism, and modern liberalism, emphasises limited government intervention in the economy. It promotes free markets, individualism, and the protection of property rights. In this model, the government's primary role is to ensure a stable legal and regulatory framework that enforces contracts, protects property rights, and prevents fraud. Beyond this, government intervention is minimal, with a focus on maintaining competition. Liberals advocate for minimal market regulation and believe competition and market forces will lead to efficient resource allocation and innovation. While liberals support free markets, they may also endorse limited social safety nets to address extreme poverty and provide a basic level of social welfare. However, these safety nets are typically less extensive than those in social models.

The early thinkers of liberalism include John Locke (1632-1704), Adam Smith (1723-90), Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), and J. S. Mill (1806-73). They defended the principle of *laissez-faire*, which calls for minimal state interference in the economic activities of individuals. John Locke believed that humans are equal in nature and cannot be placed under another's authority without their consent. For him, the right to life, liberty and property were the natural rights of man. Adam Smith, a champion of capitalism, asserted that people have a natural tendency to trade. If they are given freedom, that tendency will increase economic activity, which will result in the production of goods and expansion of businesses due to profit motives. Bentham argued for the utility of any decision being made for the people. His principle was the 'greatest happiness of the greatest number'. Utility for him was the ability of any action to produce pleasure and avoid pain. This balance of pleasure over pain was the interpretation of happiness for him. Mill, in his initial works, stood for the minimal role of the state in the economy. Still, in his later works, he advocated for state intervention in the economy, taxation and a welfare state. Spencer, on the other hand, applied Darwin's theory of biological evolution to social life. He did not want the state to interfere in the process of social evolution except for law for equal freedom and protection of people. He was totally against a welfare state because it would interfere with the law of natural selection.

The social model, associated with social democracy, emphasises a balance between free markets and government intervention to achieve economic growth and social justice, equity, and welfare of all citizens. It involves a mixed economy, where both private and public sectors coexist. In this model, the government plays a significant role in regulating markets, addressing income inequality, and providing social services such as healthcare, education, and unemployment benefits. Social models often talk about extensive market regulation to protect consumers, workers, and the environment. They aim to ensure fair competition and prevent market failures. Social models prioritise robust social safety nets to provide a higher degree of economic security for citizens. Universal healthcare and education are common features, and progressive taxation is often used to fund social programmes. The social model of the market is influenced by Marxist-Socialist ideas as well as liberal thoughts. Whereas the Marxist view wants the economy to be fully controlled by the state (in the socialist state), the liberals want democratic values included with limited state intervention.

The libertarian or neo-liberalism model advocates for minimal to no government intervention in the economy. It emphasises individual liberty, limited government, and a laissez-faire approach to markets. In the libertarian model, the government's role is drastically reduced, primarily limited to protecting individual rights, enforcing contracts, and maintaining national defence. Libertarians believe in minimal market regulation, arguing that individuals and businesses should have the freedom to engage in voluntary transactions without government interference. They trust market forces to self-regulate. This model generally opposes extensive social safety nets and wealth redistribution through taxation, favouring voluntary charitable efforts and private initiatives to address social needs.

The main exponents of neo-liberalism include Isaiah Berlin, F.A. Hayek, Milton Friedman, and Robert Nozick. In the second half of the 20th century, these thinkers felt that the welfare state was against individual liberty because it was forcefully transferring resources from more competent to less competent. So, they advocated for laissez-faire in the economic, political and social spheres, too. The libertarian idea rejects the welfare state and calls for a free-market society as an important condition of liberty.

These models represent different philosophical and ideological approaches to the role of government in the economy and society. In reality, all economic systems often blend elements of these models to varying degrees, depending on the preferences and political orientations of a given society.

1.5.3. Markets and State

A market is like a structured system with specific rules that oversee willing exchanges using price as a guiding factor. It's essentially the mechanism that manages how products and services are made and consumed through voluntary agreements. In a market, transactions happen because buyers and sellers engage willingly. In this way, the market serves as the platform that arranges people's actions as they pursue their individual interests, with the overall aim of enhancing both societal and economic well-being. On the other hand, the state can be thought of as an institution with a system of rules for governing a society. In contrast, it's also an organisation that holds a monopoly on its power to enforce these rules. Through this power, the state guides people's actions according to a fixed set of regulations. As part of these rules, the state compels individuals to contribute resources, like through taxes and military force, regardless of their personal choices. At the same time, it takes on the responsibility of providing essential public services such as national defence, law enforcement, and infrastructure like roads, which the private market cannot effectively provide.

Although the market and the state are opposite in the allocation of resources, they are interdependent. The state complements the market activities by providing rules and regulations for private property rights. It makes laws for resolving conflicts between buyers and sellers to increase the efficiency of market transactions. These laws are enforced and protected by institutions like the judiciary, police, etc. At the same time, the state is also dependent on the market because it cannot force people to work against their will or to get into transactions which are not profitable. The state's success or failure depends on the successful taxation system. The role of the state becomes very significant in times of market failures, distribution of incomes and public goods, reduction in the public bads (like pollution), and regulation of monopoly in the market.

The interaction between the market and the state is a complex and dynamic process that forms the basis of modern economic systems. The state regulates and oversees various aspects of the market to ensure fair competition, consumer protection, and the overall stability of the economy. This includes setting rules and standards for businesses, enforcing contracts, and preventing fraudulent or unethical practices. The state collects taxes from individuals and businesses operating in the

market. These tax revenues are used to fund public goods and services. The state provides essential public goods and services the market may not adequately supply, for example, national defence, law enforcement, public education, healthcare for vulnerable populations, and infrastructure development. Central banks, which are often arms of the state, influence the market through monetary policy. They control interest rates, manage inflation, and stabilise the currency, affecting borrowing costs and overall economic conditions. Governments use fiscal policies, such as government spending and taxation, to influence economic growth, stabilise the economy during recessions, and address social or economic issues. States often establish social safety nets to protect individuals from economic hardships. This includes unemployment benefits, welfare programs, and healthcare coverage for those in need. It enforces property rights, which are fundamental for the functioning of markets and ensures that individuals and businesses have legal protections for their assets and investments. The state invests in infrastructure development, such as roads, bridges, and utilities, which is critical for the functioning of the market and the movement of goods and services. Governments may collaborate with private businesses through public-private partnerships (PPPs) to achieve specific goals, such as building and maintaining infrastructure or delivering public services more efficiently. It regulates environmental standards and imposes rules to protect the environment and address issues like pollution and resource conservation. Governments establish laws and agencies to protect consumers from unsafe products, deceptive marketing practices, and other market-related risks. The state enforces antitrust laws to prevent monopolistic practices and promote competition in the market. Governments negotiate trade agreements, tariffs, and import/export regulations to influence international trade and protect domestic industries. During economic crises, the state may intervene to stabilise financial markets, provide economic stimulus, or rescue failing financial institutions.

The market allocates resources efficiently based on supply and demand. When the state allows markets to function freely, it can lead to optimal allocation of resources and increased overall economic efficiency. It fosters innovation and competition as businesses strive to provide better products and services to gain a competitive edge. This benefits consumers with improved choices and often lower prices. A well-functioning market can stimulate economic growth, job creation, and prosperity. When the

state supports a conducive environment for businesses, it can lead to higher living standards. The market can create wealth for individuals and businesses, contributing to increased tax revenue for the state. This revenue can then be used for public goods and services. Markets enable specialisation and division of labour, allowing individuals and businesses to focus on what they do best. This can increase productivity and overall output.

Sometimes, the market can fail to allocate resources efficiently, leading to negative outcomes such as income inequality, externalities (e.g., pollution), and insufficient provision of public goods (e.g., healthcare, education). Unregulated markets can lead to the concentration of economic power in the hands of a few large corporations, resulting in limited competition and potential exploitation of consumers. Without appropriate government interventions, markets may exacerbate income and wealth inequality, leaving some segments of society marginalised. The pursuit of profit in the market can sometimes lead to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation. The market can be subject to booms and busts, which can have destabilising effects on the economy and financial markets. Government regulation is often needed to mitigate these risks. While the market is efficient for many goods and services, it may fail to provide essential public goods like national defence, clean air, and law enforcement. The state steps in to fill this gap.

In practice, most modern economies employ a mixed economic system that combines elements of both market capitalism and state intervention. The challenge lies in finding the right balance between market freedom and government regulation to maximise positive outcomes while mitigating negative ones, and this balance can vary from one country to another. Effective governance and responsive policies play a crucial role in achieving these goals.

Check Your Progress

1. Define a market and explain how it functions.
2. Compare and contrast the liberal, social, and libertarian models of the market. What are their key principles and differences?
3. Choose a country and analyse its market model in practice. How does it align with liberal, social, or libertarian principles?

1.6. Defining Civil Society

1.6.1. What is Civil Society

Civil society is a unique pillar in the society, separate from both the government and business sectors. It includes entities like families and private life. It also refers to the collection of non- governmental organisations and institutions that promote the desires and well-being of citizens and the individuals and groups within a society who operate independently from the government. It acts as a link between the citizen and the state. Civil society “refers to uncoerced associational life distinct from the family and institutions of the state.” If properly understood, civil society includes all the organisations and associations outside the state, including political parties, the market, NGOs, and social, religious, and ethnic organisations. Thomas Carothers traces the term civil society to the works of ancient Greeks and Romans, although the term then was equated with the state. The idea of civil society being separate from the state emerged in the 18th century and fell into disuse by the mid-19th century as the attention shifted to the socio- political impacts of the Industrial Revolution. In the 20th century, it stayed dormant due to the concept of a welfare state and social democracy, but it bounced back post-World War II. Neera Chandhoke, on the other hand, traces the emergence of civil society to the former Soviet Union of the 1980s. It rose in the absence of any reform of state power from the above and any revolution from below due to the Brezhnev Doctrine, which would allow the USSR to intervene in the affairs of Eastern European states. In India, it was in the decade of 1970s that civil societies started making their visibility through environmental and civil rights movements. Civil societies might function differently depending on their relationship with the state. They can function: (i) apart from the state, (ii) against the state, (iii) in support of the state, (iv) in dialogue with the state, (v) in partnership with the state, or (vi) beyond the state.

Civil society operates in various ways in relation to the state, depending on its goals, priorities, and the specific context of a given society.

Civil society organisations, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community groups, and cultural associations, often work independently from the state. They focus on addressing societal issues and promoting causes without direct involvement or reliance on government support. This independence allows them to advocate for specific concerns without being influenced by state interests.

In some cases, civil society organisations may find themselves in opposition to government policies or actions. They may engage in activism,

advocacy, protests, or legal challenges to hold the state accountable or to change its policies they perceive as detrimental to the public interest. This role as a check on government power is crucial to civil society's function.

Civil society can also collaborate with the state when their goals align. For example, organisations may partner with government agencies to implement social programs, disaster relief efforts, or public health campaigns. This cooperation can enhance the effectiveness of both civil society and government initiatives.

Civil society often engages in constructive dialogues with government officials and policymakers to provide input, feedback, and expertise on various issues. This dialogue can help shape policies and ensure the government considers diverse perspectives and community needs in its decision-making processes.

Some civil society organisations form partnerships with government agencies or institutions to address complex challenges jointly. These partnerships can leverage the strengths of both sectors, combining resources and expertise to achieve common goals, such as poverty reduction or environmental conservation.

In some cases, civil society operates beyond the state's jurisdiction. This may involve international NGOs and transnational advocacy networks that work across borders to address global issues like human rights, climate change, or refugee crises. They collaborate with various governments and international organisations to advocate for change on a global scale. With the exception of regions like China, Japan, and the Middle East, where cultural factors and authoritarian governments impose significant limitations on civil society, the role and impact of NGOs have experienced remarkable growth over the past few decades. Their financial resources and, in many cases, their expertise, have reached levels that are comparable to or even surpass those of smaller governments and international organisations. In numerous countries, they have assumed the responsibility for delivering essential services, such as urban and rural community development, education, and healthcare, as governments struggle to manage these tasks effectively.

The role and impact of civil society can vary greatly depending on the political climate, legal framework, and level of civic engagement in a particular country. A robust and active civil society can contribute to democratic governance, social progress, and the protection of human rights, serving as a critical component of a well-functioning society.

1.6.2. Roles of Civil Society for the Market

Civil society plays several important roles in relation to the market. These roles are often aimed at ensuring that the market operates in a fair, ethical, and socially responsible manner. Civil society organisations, such as consumer advocacy groups, work to protect and promote the rights of consumers in the market. They may raise awareness about unfair business practices, product safety issues, and consumer fraud, and advocate for policies that safeguard consumers' interests. They often monitor the ethical conduct of businesses in the market. They may investigate and expose unethical behaviour, such as labour abuses, environmental violations, or corrupt practices. By doing so, they can pressure businesses to adopt more responsible and sustainable practices. Civil society encourages businesses to engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. They advocate for businesses to go beyond profit-making and consider their social and environmental impact. This includes initiatives related to philanthropy, sustainability, ethical sourcing, and community engagement. Civil society groups often promote fair trade practices that ensure equitable compensation for producers, especially in developing countries. They advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmentally sustainable production methods within global supply chains. Environmental organisations within civil society play a crucial role in advocating for sustainable business practices. They push for regulations and incentives that encourage environmentally responsible production and consumption, as well as sustainable resource management. They support and promote social entrepreneurship, which seeks to address social and environmental challenges while operating within the market. They provide resources, mentorship, and advocacy for businesses focused on positive social impact. Civil society can monitor market competition to ensure a level playing field for businesses. They may advocate for antitrust regulations and challenge monopolistic or anti-competitive practices that can harm consumers and smaller competitors.

Some civil society groups work to reduce income inequality by advocating for fair wages, labour rights, and social safety nets. They may also push for policies that promote economic inclusivity and equitable wealth distribution. Civil society organisations often support efforts to increase financial inclusion, particularly for marginalised and underserved populations. They may work to expand access to financial services and promote responsible lending and saving practices. Civil

society can contribute to improved market governance by engaging in policy advocacy, participating in regulatory processes, and providing input on market-related legislation. They aim to ensure that regulations and policies serve the broader public interest. These roles of civil society in the market are essential for promoting ethical business practices, protecting the interests of consumers and workers, and addressing societal challenges associated with economic activities. By acting as watchdogs, advocates, and facilitators, civil society organisations help create a more equitable and responsible market environment.

1.6.3. Checks/Accountability on State

Civil society plays a crucial role in putting checks and ensuring accountability on the state, particularly in democratic systems where transparency and government accountability are valued. They advocate for policies and reforms that promote transparency, good governance, and accountability. They engage in lobbying efforts to influence lawmakers and hold them accountable for their decisions. Civil society groups monitor government actions, policies, and spending. They gather information, conduct research, and issue reports that highlight instances of corruption, human rights abuses, or mismanagement within the government. Civil society organisations may initiate legal action, such as filing lawsuits or petitions, to challenge government actions that violate the law or constitutional principles. This legal activism can hold the state accountable through the judicial system. It often provides support and protection to whistleblowers within government and other institutions who expose wrongdoing. Whistleblowers are encouraged to come forward with evidence of corruption or misconduct, knowing they will receive assistance and protection. These groups use public awareness campaigns to inform citizens about government actions and their impact. This can include campaigns to raise awareness about corruption, human rights violations, or environmental degradation caused by government policies. They mobilise citizens to participate in civic engagement activities such as protests, demonstrations, and rallies. These actions can pressure the government to respond to public demands for accountability and transparency. Some civil society organisations serve as watchdogs, overseeing government operations and spending. They scrutinise government budgets, audit processes, and public projects to identify inefficiencies and irregularities. Civil society representatives may be invited to participate in government

oversight bodies, such as anti-corruption commissions or public accountability boards. Their presence ensures an independent perspective and adds transparency to the oversight process. They also collaborate with international organisations and bodies that promote accountability and good governance. They may report human rights violations to international agencies, seek assistance, or advocate for international sanctions against governments engaged in misconduct. Civil society organisations conduct research and analysis to assess the impact of government policies and actions. They provide evidence-based assessments that can be used to hold the state accountable for its decisions. They can play a role in ensuring free and fair elections by monitoring election processes, reporting irregularities, and promoting voter education and awareness. Civil society groups often provide policy recommendations to the government based on their research and expertise. These recommendations can help shape government decisions and policies in a more accountable and transparent direction. To sum up, civil society acts as a critical check on the state by promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible governance. Its efforts are instrumental in maintaining the balance of power and ensuring that government actions align with the interests and rights of citizens.

Check Your Progress

1. What is civil society? How does it differ from the government and the market?
2. Why is the idea of civil society often associated with citizen engagement and voluntary associations?
3. Explore the historical roots of the concept of civil society. How has its definition evolved over time?

1.7. Summary

In 1648, the Treaty of Westphalia introduced the modern nation-state system, emphasising territoriality and sovereignty as the basis for forming nations. Territoriality organises humans into political communities with fixed borders, while sovereignty grants rulers exclusive rule within defined territories. Nation-states enabled global integration through economic means, such as international trade and migration, fostering interdependence.

Globalization, an economic process, involves worldwide connectivity, including free trade, capital flow, and access to foreign labour markets. It extends to social and cultural aspects, connecting human activity across regions. Technology and communication advancements drive this change. Different theories, like Liberalism, Realism, and Marxism, offer varied perspectives on globalization. States maintain law and order, protect citizens and property, and ensure civil rights. Transnational challenges, such as climate change and terrorism, require international cooperation. Forced migration poses new challenges.

While globalization has benefits, it also exacerbates economic disparities. Its multi-dimensional impacts affect politics, economics, and society. The liberal, social, and libertarian models represent distinct approaches to economic organisation and government intervention. Despite their differences, markets and states are interdependent. The state supports markets with property rights and conflict resolution, while markets drive economic activities.

Civil society, separate from government and business, links citizens and the state. It includes NGOs and independent groups and plays a vital role in promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible governance, ensuring government actions align with citizens' rights and interests.

1.8. Keywords

Globalization, State, Market, Civil Society

1.9. References

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UNIT-II**Lesson 2.1 - Governance and Development****Unit Structure**

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2.1. Objectives

This Section addresses the role of good governance in fostering sustainable development and explains about the developmental outcomes

that can be significantly hindered in the absence of good governance. Students will learn about some of the key political challenges, exploring the interrelationships between governance, development and democracy. This module will develop your ability to understand, analyse and address critical issues in society politics and economics. The major objectives is that students should understand that how these can address the multifaceted challenges facing societies around the world. It will provide the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions, design effective policies and work towards a more equitable sustainable future for all. Students will learn about the various dimensions of development and about human happiness index. The course will impart a handful knowledge on democracy, it's, meaning and globalized democracy. This section is designed with the combination of theoretical basics and examples for reflective learning from current day practices to enable the students and professionals to get a comprehensive experience. Students can check their progress, at the end of each topic, by taking a short quiz. A precise summary of entire module would be provided at the end for better understanding. At the end students are given some self-assessment questions for analysing their learning and progress. In this section, learners will also have ample scope to understand all the dimensions of good governance and its indicators. Through this module the learner will have a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the following thematic areas:

1. Fundamental principles and theories of good governance
2. National and International theories on social and political development.
3. Good governance in Indian context
4. Theory and practice of democracy and its role in development.
5. Relationship between democracy and economic development, the impact of religion and culture,

2.2. Introduction

The concept of human development and its interdisciplinary nature encompasses a wide range of aspects, including physical emotional intellectual social perceptual. Development refers to the continual process of growth and change that individual undergoes throughout their entire lifespan from the moment of conception until death. Human development indeed encompasses wide range of aspects and studies across various

fields including psychology, sociology education and health care. Human development is so dynamic and ongoing, that it emphasizes the individuals to grow learn and adapt throughout their lives. One can understand, that the study of human development is very crucial for gaining insights into the complexity of human life and how human evolution takes place. It has far reaching implications for various disciplines and professions, contributing to our understanding of individual's unique journey s and factors that shape their growth.

Talking about democracy, in which government is elected by the people and for the people, contributes to political stability. Elected leaders are more accountable to their constituents, which can lead to more transparent and responsible governance. Democracies tend to have more robust legal systems that uphold the rule of law. Democracy and development are intertwined and a well-functioning democracy can contribute positively to development outcomes. However, the relationship is complex and contingent on various factors, including the quality of governance, the rule of law, economic policies, and social inclusivity. Researchers and policymakers continue to explore how best to harness the potential to promote sustainable development. For both development and democracy, good governance is indeed considered to be vital. Their relationship is somewhat symbiotic. A well-functioning democracy can promote good governance, in turn, supports the effectiveness and legitimacy of democratic institutions. Together they create an environment that is conducive to sustainable development, political stability, international cooperation and the protection of human rights.

2.3 Defining Development

2.3.1 Defining Development

Development is the core concept of social sciences. Development is one of the most discussed and debated concepts. The primary motive for the formation of the nation-state was the development of security, rights, and economic stability with the prosperity of human beings. This debate is also witnessed in the national and international domain of politics as for almost five decades there was a bipolar world order that witnessed a cold war and a struggle to prove which ideology and model of the economy is better for the development of the states. The Soviet bloc strongly maintained that a communist ideology with a centralisation of planning and community-

based production was best suited to a nation. On the other hand, the capitalist liberal model believes in a liberal democracy with a free market economy as an appropriate approach to social and economic development.

2.3.2. Dimensions/types of Development

Development has many dimensions as there is no single concept of development. While dealing with the concept of development in social sciences. Some set of scholars consider development as the economic development of society, some other scholars refer to political modernisation as a strong indicator of development, it is also considered s social change, stability, and order, the functioning of democracy, political modernisation, and so on. This section analyses the approaches to development in social sciences.

Development as Social Change:

Sociologists describe development as social change. Social change is a continuous process and it does not stop. However, the pace of social change may differ from society to society. There is no single source for social change rather there are different agencies for social change e.g. social change led by the state in this type of social change state through laws, rules, and policies attempts to bring social change in the society e.g., in case of India policies like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save and Educate the Girl Child), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Dowry Prohibition Act, Sati Prohibition Act, Child Marriage Abolition Act and so on. This is known as directed social change where to bring a required social change policy is introduced for the desired result. However, it is not necessary that the directed social change is successful in all its attempts. It largely depends on the social consciousness that people will accept it or not. For example, in the case of Pre Natal Detection Test and Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao have together worked for improvement of the gender ratio and education of girl children. On the other hand, despite child marriage as a criminal offence it is practiced in many parts of India as many segments of the society do not believe any wrong in it. Another category of social change evolves from the society out of its enriched consciousness and states are forced by the society to bring the demanded change e.g., Domestic Violence Act 2005, Succession Act 2005 and Triple Talaq Act, and so on.

Social change has two sets of theories one linear or evolutionary type that maintains that social change unfolds in stages and keeps evolving. Karl Marx, August Comte, and Herbert Spencer belong to the linear social change group of scholars. Marx has laid down in his concept of dialectical materialism that societies are evolving because of the evolution of the material way of life that is stages of production. Dialectical materialism is the force behind the evolution from slave society to feudal and so on. The dialectical process ensures that every new stage of society is materially more developed than the previous one. The unfolding of material development is the key to evolutionary change. Similarly, Comte also believes that social change is an evolutionary process. Society like the evolution of species evolves to the higher levels. He explained that societies are moving from simple to complex. He explained that agricultural-based societies are solidarity societies where the interdependence of people is less on each other. However, industrialisation is resulting into higher degree of interdependence among people and resulting in to organic societies.

Cyclical change is the second theory of Social Change. This is supported by Oswald Spengler, Wilfredo Pareto, and Arnold Toynbee. They believe that human has a life cycle of birth, child, teenage, man, and old and finally die. The same cycle also applies to society as well. Spengler laid down that every society passes through the cycle of change and development. It rises from scratch, achieves maturity, and finally meets with its decline. History is filled with examples of cyclical theory. Pareto also lays down that change is permanent. He is known for his theory of elite. However, he strongly maintained that elites are not fixed or permanent. If elite do not possess the required residue there are always a possibility of change of the elite. He calls it as circulation of the elite.

Development as Economic Development:

There is another approach where development is equated with economic development. A nation's development depends upon the fact how economy develop it is. This approach in political science is also looked upon as stages of development by Walt W. Rostow, A.F.K. Organski and C.E. Black. Walt W Rostow in Stages of Economic Growth has illustrated that there are five stages of development namely i) traditional society; ii) pre condition for take-off; iii) take off; iv) drive towards maturity and v) stage of mass consumption. In his stage theory Rostow analysis that economic development has to take place in every nation sooner or later and the path

of economic development passes through these stages only. He emphasised that a similar path of development can be traced in the Western developed nations and the decolonised countries shall also undergo from it. He has also added the sixth stage of development in *Politics & Stages of Growth*, 1971. This sixth stage is the search for quality as mass consumption is succeeded by the search for qualitative consumption. A.F.K. Organski in his *Stages of Development* has outlined 4 stages of development namely i) primitive national unification; ii) industrialisation; iii) national welfare and iv) stage of abundance. Organski like Rostow also laid down that development takes places in the linear phases as mentioned by Compté, Spencer and Marx that development has a linear path and moves from one stage to another. Organski laid down that primitive national unification is the first stage of development where nation earlier divided on ethnic, religious, linguistic, and other grounds unites for the goal of economic development. The accumulation of resources in the nation and entrepreneurship marks the beginning of industrialization. Here the primary goal of the nation is the industrial growth of the country which may not be egalitarian and create different segments in the economy. This is followed by the stage of national welfare. In this stage, the state locates the unattended social welfare of people during industrialization. Here the focus of the state shifts from industrialisation to the welfare of the people resulting in reducing inequality and enhancing social security of the people in the state. The last stage is marked by abundance where the fruit of economic development shall be shared in such a manner that people shall have an abundance of resources. This can be achieved with a high level of industrialization followed by the policy of social welfare. However, unlike Rostow there is no stage of search for quality as Organski must have presumed that the stage of abundance will move from quantity to quality in a natural process.

2.3.3. Development to Human Development Index

The concept of development has indeed and its early focus was primarily on economic indicators such as GDP, National Income, and Gross Product. Economic growth and material prosperity were often the central goals of development effort. This approach to development is sometimes referred as “economic development”. However there has been a shift in thinking about development, and scholars like John Rawls made significant contribution to this evolution. Rawls, in his influential work “A Theory of Justice” published in 1971, expanded the concept of development to include to include social justice and the reduction of

inequalities. The perspective is often referred as “Human Development” or “Development with Human Face”. Rawls and other thinkers argued that development should not be solely measured by economic growth but should also focus on reducing inequalities in income wealth and access to resources. Human development places a strong emphasis was on creating a more just and equitable society. It recognizes that development should enhance not only material conditions but also factors like health education and quality of life. The approach followed by scholars like Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, emphasizes that development should expand people’s capabilities and freedom to lead lives they desire. It’s not just about income but about what individuals can do. In 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the Human Development Index (HDI) as a composite measure that incorporates indicators related to life expectancy, education, and per capita income. Ensuring the well-being of future generations necessitates a balance between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development, a recognition that has gained increasing prominence. It is now widely acknowledged that involving communities and individuals in the decision-making process regarding development is of paramount importance, emphasizing the significance of inclusivity and participation for sustainable development. The Human Development Index (HDI) comprises three key dimensions:

- Life expectancy at birth
- Knowledge (Mean years of schooling and Expected years of schooling).
- Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

2.3.4. Human Development Report

The Human Development Report (HDR) is published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and places a strong emphasis on the approach to achieving human development. The primary objectives behind publishing the Human Development Report are:

- Advancing and improving human development.
- Increasing opportunities and choices and promoting freedom for individuals worldwide.
- Providing a platform for innovative ideas related to human development.
- Advocating for practical policy changes.

- Challenging policies that hinder human development.

The first Human Development Report was published in 1990 and was co-authored by the Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and the distinguished Indian laureate, Amartya Sen. The Human Development Report encompasses 13 dimensions:

1. Gender
2. Health
3. Human security
4. Mobility & Communication
5. Socio-economic sustainability
6. Trade and financial flows
7. Work, employment, and vulnerability
8. Income
9. Inequality
10. Humans' Development
11. Demography
12. Education
13. Environment Sustainability

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issues the Human Development Report (HDR) on an annual basis, featuring five composite indices:

1. Human Development Index
2. Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (considers 'Inequality' as the fourth pillar)
3. Gender Development Index
4. Gender Inequality Index
5. Multidimensional Poverty Index

As per the Human Development Report 2021-22, India is ranked 132nd out of 191 countries. The report was titled "Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World." The special report for 2022, titled 'New Threats to Human Society in the Anthropocene,' revealed that the sense of security and safety is at a minimum in most countries, including some of the wealthiest nations, despite their high levels of prosperity.

2.3.5 Human Happiness Index

The Human Happiness Index, also known as the World Happiness Report, serves as an assessment of the quality of life and contentment in different nations globally. It evaluates countries based on a range of critical factors that contribute to overall happiness and welfare. These factors encompass income, social support, life expectancy, the freedom to make life choices, confidence in government and institutions, and generosity. The primary objective of the report is to offer insights into the elements that impact people's happiness and to advocate for policies that enhance well-being.

The World Happiness Report was initially launched in 2012 and is released annually by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), an initiative of the United Nations. The inspiration for this report came from the government of Bhutan, a nation renowned for its emphasis on Gross National Happiness (GNH) as a measure of progress and a development goal. Bhutan's GNH approach served as a model that prompted the creation of the World Happiness Report and similar initiatives in other countries. While it's important to clarify that Bhutan does not necessarily have the highest Human Happiness Index score in an absolute sense (since happiness can be subjective and influenced by various factors), Bhutan is known for pioneering the concept of Gross National happiness (GNH). Gross National Happiness (GNH) is a holistic approach to development and well-being that was introduced in 1970s. Instead of solely emphasizing economic growth and GDP, Bhutan's GNH framework considers multiple dimensions of wellbeing including economic wellbeing, Health, Education, Culture, Preservation, Environmental Conservation, Good Governance, and Psychological wellbeing.

2.4 Defining Democracy

2.4.1 Meaning of Democracy

The word democracy has its origin in ancient Greece, and its etymology reflects its fundamental concept. Democracy is made up of two words “**demos**” which mean rule of people or populace, representing collective body of citizens. “**Kratos**” meaning rule or power.

Democracy is a system of governance in which the ultimate authority and decision making power resides with the citizens of a country. This can be exercised directly through mechanisms like referendums and

town hall meetings or directly through elected representatives who act on behalf of the people interest. Democracy underscores the idea that in a democratic society political power emanates from the people themselves and government is accountable to the will of the democratic theory and practices. The concept of democracy can indeed be justified on many grounds and these justifications help explaining the value in the societies around the world.

➤ **Intrinsic and Instrumental value of democracy**

Intrinsic Value: This aspect has a fair expression of equality. Democracy is often seen as valuable for its own sake because it represents the fairest way to give expression to the principle of equality among citizens. In a democratic system each citizen typically say in the decision making process, regardless of their socio economic status, race, and gender or other factors. This intrinsic value emphasizes the ethical and moral aspects of democracy as a means of respecting and upholding Intrinsic Value of Democracy.

Democracy is often seen as valuable for its own sake because it represents the fairest way to give expression to the principle of equality among citizens. In a democratic system, each citizen typically has an equal say in the decision-making process, regardless of their socioeconomic status, race, gender, or other factors. This intrinsic value emphasizes the ethical and moral aspects of democracy as a means of respecting and upholding the equal worth and dignity of every individual.

Instrumental values of Democracy: Democracy can be valued instrumentally because it fosters competition among the political leaders and parties. This competition provides citizens with a broader array of choices when selecting their leaders and representatives. This in turn would lead to better accountability and more responsive governance. By involving citizens in shaping their government and policies, democracy can enhance a sense of ownership and civic engagement. This can lead to a more informed and active citizenry. Democracy is often justified as a way of abuse of political power. Through mechanism like the separation of powers, check and balance and regular elections, democratic system aim to prevent the concentration and abuse of power. Democracy can also play a vital role in Human Development by encouraging people to take responsibility for their political lives. It foster civic education debate and engagement which can lead to the development of informed and

empowered citizens. Furthermore, democracies are often associated with greater access to education and health care which are essential for human development.

In practice, both intrinsic and instrumental justification for democracy can coexist and reinforced one another. Many proponents of democracy argue that its intrinsic value, rooted in principles of equality and human dignity, is enhanced by the instrumental benefits it provides in terms of representation, accountability and human development. Ultimately, the combination of these values and benefits contributes to the enduring appeal and promotion of democracy as a system of governance in many parts of the world.

➤ **Procedural and Substantive Democracy**

Modern democracy works through representative institutions in large and complex societies. It strikes a balance between allowing citizens to have a say in governance while efficiently, making decisions on their behalf. The principles of accountability and ability to choose representatives through elections remain crucial component of this democratic model.

Procedural Democracy: This term refers to a view of democracy that primarily focuses on the formal institution and procedure of democracy, such as free and fair elections legislative assemblies, and constitutional governments. It emphasizes the mechanisms through which people can participate in decision making and the rule of law.

Substantive Democracy: The concept of substantive democracy, often contrasted with procedural democracy, emphasizes the idea that true democracy goes beyond formal procedures and aims to achieve broader social and economic goals. It seeks to address inequalities and ensure that citizens have meaningful opportunities to participate and shape their society. Substantive democracy may involve policies and measures aimed at reducing social and economic inequalities, ensuring that marginalized and disadvantaged groups have fair chance to participate and have their voices heard. Substantive democracy aligns with principles of social justice and equity, striving to create a society where everyone's wellbeing is promoted and protected.

It is very crucial to recognize that democracy should not be reduced solely to the existence of formal democratic institutions but should also address social and economic inequalities that can hinder effective

democratic participation. Achieving substantive democracy involves not only providing equal political rights but also addressing broader issues of social and economic justice to ensure that all citizens can fully engage in the democratic process.

2.4.2 Democracy in a Globalized World

The theory of the globalization of democracy refers to the idea that the spread of democratic principles and practices is not confined to any one nation but is becoming a global phenomenon. This theory suggests that the principles of democracy, such as political participation, accountability and protection of individual rights are increasingly transcending national boundaries and influencing international relations and governance. Democratic norms and values like right to free and fair elections, the protection of civil liberties, and rule of law, are all gaining broader acceptance on a global scale. This theory suggests that international organizations, such as United Nations, The European Union and the regional organizations, play a role in promoting democratic practices and standards among member states. These organizations may condition membership or trade agreements on adherence to democratic principles. Civil society organization, including human rights group and advocacy networks, often work across borders to promote democracy and human rights. They engage in transitional activism, putting pressure on governments to democratize and respect human rights. Advances in technology and global communication have facilitated the spread of democratic ideas and information. Social media, the internet, and international news networks have made it easier for people to access information about democratic movements and share their own experiences. The theory also highlights instances where countries in transition or post conflict situations are encouraged and supported in adopting democratic governance as a means of conflict resolution and stability.

The theory of globalization is not without challenges and controversies. Some critics argue that the promotion of democracy by external actors can be seen as interference in a nation's sovereignty. It's important to note that the globalization of democracy is a complex and evolving process. While there is evidence of democratic norms spreading globally, there are also instances of backlashes and resistance to democratization efforts. Additionally, the application of democratic principles in different cultural and political contexts remain a subject of debate. Overall the theory

reflects the ongoing discourse on the relationship between democracy and globalization in an interconnected world.

Check Your Progress

1. Explain the concept of development. Explain how it is useful to us.
2. Who printed the first Human Development Report and what were its dimensions?
3. Explain the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH).
4. Distinguish between procedural and substantive democracy

2.4.3 Government to Governance

The terms “Government” and “Governance” can be used in a broad sense to refer to the control, management or regulation of various phenomena and systems beyond traditional political or governmental contexts. These terms have applicability across a wide range of fields and discipline to describe the processes of guiding and overseeing activities.

The government is formal institution or body through which governance is conducted. It is the administrative and political authority responsible for making and implementing decisions, enacting laws, and providing services to the citizens. Government can take various forms, such as democratic government, authoritarian regimes, or depending on the political system of a country. On the other hand, Governance encompasses the actions and activities related to the management, control and regulations of a society or organization. It refers to the practical exercise of political, administrative and managerial function within polity. Governance extends beyond just the formal actions of the government and can include the role of non-governmental organizations, civil society, and other players in shaping and influencing how a society operates.

Today, the concept of governance encompasses not only the functioning of government institutions but also broader issues related to the rule of law, human rights civil society engagement, and the role of non-state players in shaping public policy. It reflects a comprehensive understanding of how societies are managed and how decisions are made and implemented.

2.5 Good Governance

The concept of governance has evolved over time and its usage has varies across historical and cultural contexts. The term Governance has been adapted and redefined in different ways to address changing societal need and challenges. The World Banks and other international organization played a role in popularizing the concept of governance. In late 20 the century, particularly since the late 1980s and early 1990 the World Bank began to emphasize the importance of good governance in the context of development. This emphasizes was driven by the recognition that effective governance is crucial for economic growth poverty reduction and the success of development programmes. Globalisation, which involves increased interconnectedness and interdependence among countries and regions, has led to the emergence of global pressure. The aid given to the developing countries, who need financial assistance, is accompanied by certain market-oriented reforms. These reforms typically advocate for policies that promote free market principles, privatization of state-owned enterprises, trade liberation fiscal discipline, and deregulations.

Frequently, the anticipated results from this new approach have not materialized as expected, or the progress has been slower than initially envisioned. This circumstance prompted the emergence of the concept of Good Governance. The challenges faced, particularly by developing nations in the realm of governance, were highlighted and encompassed the following issues:

- Inadequate enforcement of laws.
- Delays in the execution of policies, programs, and projects.
- Unclear guidelines and regulations for private entrepreneurs to adhere to.
- An ineffective accounting system.
- The failure to engage beneficiaries and other affected parties in the planning and execution of projects, resulting in a substantial decline in sustainability.

The emphasis on Good Governance as outlined by the World Bank, reflects a widely recognized perspective in development discourse, Good Governance is considered crucial for achieving sustainable development and addressing the challenges faced by many countries particularly the developing ones.

2.5.1. Defining Good Governance

The concept of Good Governance was formulated by World Bank for the first time in 1992. The World Bank's Definition underscores that governance is not only about the existence of institutions and structures but also about how power is wielded within these systems. It emphasizes the importance of effective and responsible exercise of authority. Good Governance is concerned with the management of a country's economic and social resources. This extends beyond just economic matters and encompasses the broader social and developmental aspects of a nation. The World Bank's perspective highlights that good governance is central to creating sustainable environment that fosters strong, equitable, and sustainable development. In other words, it recognizes that sound governance is essential for development outcomes. Its formulation of Good Governance encompassed the following principles:

- Political responsibility and accountability.
- The liberty for various groups to associate and participate in the governance process.
- The establishment of a legal framework rooted in the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, aimed at safeguarding human rights, ensuring social justice, and preventing exploitation.
- Administrative accountability with a focus on openness and transparency in governance.
- The freedom of information and expression, essential for the creation of public policies, decision-making, monitoring, and evaluating government performance.
- An efficient and effective administrative system.
- Collaboration between the government and civil society organizations.

2.5.2. Indicators of Good Governance

Good Governance is multifaceted concept that encompasses various principles and indicators assessing the quality of governance. Some key indicators that are commonly used to assess Good Governance are as follows:

1. Rule of Law:

- Legal Framework: Existence and enforcement of a strong legal framework that protects individual rights, property and contracts.

- Judicial Independence: Independence of the judiciary from political interference and fair access to justice for all citizens.
- Effective Legal Enforcement: The ability to enforce laws and contracts fairly and impartially.

2. Transparency and Accountability

- Open Government: Transparency in government actions and decisions.
- Accountability: Mechanism for holding public officials and institutions accountable for their actions.
- Access to Information: Availability of information to the public and ease of access to government data and records.

3. Participation and Civic Engagement:

- Political Participation: Opportunities for citizens to participate in political processes, including elections and public consultations.
- Civil Society: A vibrant civil society with active non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and citizens engagement in public affairs.

4. Efficiency and Effectiveness:

- Effective Public Administration: Efficiency and Effectiveness of government institutions in delivering public services and implementing policies.
- Public Financial Management: Transparent and accountable management of public finance and resources.
- E- Governance: The use of technology to enhance government efficiency, transparency and citizen engagement.

5. Political Stability and Security:

- Political Stability: A stable political environment that promotes economic growth and development.
- Security: The ability to provide security and protect citizens from violence and crime.

6. Anti-Corruption Measures:

- Corruption Control: Efforts to prevent and combat corruption, including strong anti-corruption laws and institutions.
- Ethical Leadership: Integrity and ethical behavior of public officials.

7. Human Rights and Inclusivity

- Protection of Human Rights: Respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, assembly and associations
- Inclusivity: Ensuring that all segments of society, including minorities and marginalized groups, have choices and a voice in governance.

8. Environmental and Social Sustainability:

- Sustainable development: Policies and practices that promotes environmental sustainability and social development.

9. Voice and Representation:

- Democratic Elections: Conducting free and fair elections with equal representation.
- Political Pluralism: A diverse political landscape with multiple political parties and choices for voters.

10. Public Opinion and Surveys:

- Public Opinions: Regular surveys and assessments of citizen's perceptions of governance performance.

These indicators provide a framework for evaluating and comparing governance quality in different countries or contexts. It's important to note that good governance is not a one-size-fits-all concept, and assessment may vary based on cultural, political and economic factors. Additionally, the specific indicators and methodologies used for measuring governance can be differ among organizations and researchers.

2.5.3. Good Governance and Democracy

Good governance serves as the foundation upon which successful democracies are built. It upholds democratic principles and values, ensures the protection of individual rights, and facilitates the functioning of democratic institutions. Without good governance, democracies can become fragile, prone to corruption, and ineffective in meeting the needs and aspirations of their citizens. Good Governance serves as safeguard for the integrity and effectiveness of democracies. It upholds democratic principles, ensures accountability, protects individual rights, and promotes transparency and efficiency. Without these foundations, Democracies can face numerous challenges that hinder their ability to serve the interest and aspirations of their citizens. Here are some detailed exploration of how lack of good governance can impact democracies:

1. Weak governance structures can make democracies fragile and vulnerable to political instability. Without effective institutions and mechanism to manage conflicts and disputes, political crises can escalate, potentially leading to breakdown of any democracy.
2. Poor Governance can breed corruption, eroding trust in democratic institutions. Corruptions undermines the rule of law, weakens public confidence in the government and weakens the government.
3. Ineffective governance can result in inefficient public administration, leading to delays in decision- making and service delivery. This inefficiency can hinder the government ability to address pressing issues and meet the needs of its citizens.
4. Lack of good Governance can magnify the social and economic inequalities. When Governance is biased or corrupt, it can lead to unequal access to resources, opportunities and services disadvantaging marginalized and venerable groups.
5. Poor governance may result in violation of human rights and civil liberties.
6. Weak governance can give rise to favoritism in political decision making. This can lead to the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals or groups or political families.
7. A lack of Good Governance can hinder economic growth and development.
8. Poor Governance can erode democratic norms and values, making it easier for authoritarian or anti- democratic forces to gain influences. This pose a threat to the sustainability of democratic systems.

2.5. Check your progress

1. Distinguish between Governance and Government.
2. What is Good Governance? Write a brief note about its indicators.
3. How do lack of good governance impact democracies?
4. Good Governance and Democracy are interrelated. Explain how?

2.6. Summary

The concept and practice of governance, including the focus on Good Governance, accurately highlights its increasing prominence and its multifaceted nature. Governance has indeed evolved to encompass

a broad range of principles and practices aimed at improving the functioning of public institutions and the overall quality of administration. Good governance is a response to the complexities and challenges of contemporary governance with a focus on achieving positive outcomes for societies, economies and individuals.

Globalization indeed presents both opportunities and challenges and local governance strategies are essential to navigate its effects while working towards sustainable development. An effective governance in the context of globalization involves a nuanced approach that considers both the opportunities and challenges that come with increased interconnectedness. It requires proactive efforts to ensure that the benefits of globalization are realized while addressing its negative consequences.

For both Governance and globalization Democracy is quintessential. A well-functioning democracy can promote good governance and good governance in turn supports the effectiveness and legitimacy of democratic institutions. Together they can create a supportive environment for sustainable development and growth.

2.7. Keywords

Good Governance, Democracy, Sustainable Development, Human Development

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UNIT- III**Lesson 3.1 - Environmental Governance****Unit Structure**

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3.1. Objectives

This Section addresses some of the key environmental challenges, exploring the interrelationships between environmental governance and policies. It will develop your ability to apply advanced and critical sustainability and environmental theories at multiple scales and in different contexts. The major objective is that students should understand the basic concepts of environment and human interaction in way of exploitation of the environment over the past years and what is green governance and

model of sustainable development. Also, you will learn both national and global environmental governance issues like Climate change, global warming, effects of Industrialization, and sustainable development. The focus would be on principle and theories that are necessary for wide range of environmental complications and impacts arising from them. Students would explore the policies and schemes adopted for the betterment of environment. Students would also learn about the prospects of Millennium development goals and sustainable development goals laid by United Nations to combat issues like poverty, hunger, health issues like HIV, climate change, sustainable development etc. Students can check their progress, at the end of each topic, by taking a short quiz. A precise summary of entire module would be provided at the end for better understanding. At the end students are given some self-assessment questions for analyzing their learning and progress.

In this module, learners will also have ample scope to understand all the dimensions of environmental governance. Through this module the learner will have a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the following thematic areas:

- Fundamental principles and theories of environmental governance
- National and International environmental policy and schemes
- Environmental governance in Indian context
- Effect of Urbanization both Pre and Post Industrialization.
- Climate change and Global warming: Legal framework, statutory compliances and international efforts

3.2. Introduction

Environmental issues are at their peak of their complex and pressing nature. The challenges and magnitude of contemporary environmental problems are increasing day by day. From climate change to species extinction trans-boundary pollution and natural resource depletion are some of the critical environmental challenges of our time. These issues have far reaching effects on ecosystem economies and societies worldwide. Environmental protection often relies on legal frameworks and regulations to mitigate the negative impacts of human activities on the environment. Laws and regulations set standards establish responsibilities and provide mechanism for enforcement. Given the vastness and complication of all the above said environmental issues, informed strategies and principles

are crucial for safeguarding the environment and fostering sustainable coexistence between humans and natural world. Environmental governance is a critical tool for achieving environmental safeguarding and encouraging sustainable development. It can be understood that environmental governance is instrumental in addressing environmental challenges and advancing the goal of sustainable coexistence between humans and nature. It provides a structured and organized approach to making decisions that consider the well-being of both current and future generations while protecting the natural resources and ecosystem too.

Environmental governance can be broadly described as various processes and mechanisms through which governing bodies address and manage environmental issues and challenges. It involves coordination of efforts among government, non-government and stakeholders to develop and implement policies and regulations that promote environmental sustainability and address recognized environmental issues. Environmental governance cannot be successful without a holistic and nuanced understanding of the relationships between humans and their environment. Such an understanding allows for the informed decision making collaborative approaches and the development of strategies that lead to more sustainable and resilient societies.

By recognizing the intricacy and strong entanglement of both natural environment and human system can indeed lead to a new awareness that challenge the conventional ways of recognizing the Human Environment relationship. A significant portion of the world's major problems are rooted in the unavoidable interactions between human population and their surrounding environment. These problems can vary from environmental degradation and resource depletion to urbanization and climate change. To address these complex challenges there is a requirement of a multidisciplinary approach that bridges the gap between the natural science and social sciences. Researchers have the opportunity to engage in the research that address real world challenges arising from these human and environment interactions. This can involve exploring the causes and consequences of these interactions as well as proposing solutions and policies to mitigate the negative impacts. The research also require investigating how various environmental issues like climate change habitat loss and natural disasters impact human populations. Research may explore the intricate web of interactions and feedback loop that shape these impacts. The area focuses on understanding how societies perceive

value and utilize the services provided by the environment like clean water air quality and ecosystem stability. These services greatly contribute to human civilization and economic activities and how they can be effectively managed and preserved. With the advent of urbanization issues including urban sprawl, infrastructure development, waste management and resource consumption and scarcity are on high. The goal of this module is to find ways to create more sustainable and livable environment with utmost safe human environment interaction.

The concept of evolution was presented by Charles Darwin ^d in his pivotal work, “On the origin of species”, published in 1859 and its subsequent editions.

This work had a transformative effect on scientific thought and public discourse during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This wasn't limited to biology; its influence extended to diverse fields, where it contributed to the evolution of theories to the natural world and the interplay between humans and their environment. There is a theory called ‘Cycle of erosion’ proposed by American geographer William Morris Davis^e in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This theory attempted to describe the long term evolution of landscapes through series of stages driven by the interplay of tectonic plates, climate and erosional activities. It is also, important to note that the Cycle of Erosion theory has been criticized and refined over and again in years and it is effective as a teaching tool. This theory has several stages which could be explained in brief as below:

- Youth Stage: This type of landscape is relatively rugged, with high relief and active erosions process. Young landscapes often results from uplift or tectonic activity.
- Maturity Stage: In this stage, the landscape becomes more subdued. The balance between erosion and uplift creates a more balanced landscape. The landscape is in the state of equilibrium between erosion and deposition.
- Old Age Stage: The landscape becomes more subdued. The landscape appears flat and gentle rolling, with the remnants of erosion processes.
- Rejuvenation Stage: This stage occurs if the landscape experiences renewed tectonic uplift or change in base level. Here rivers enters the larger water bodies. The landscape may reenter into youthful stage.

The focus on Evolution led to a new concept called Environmental Determinism. In this concept, the environment was considered as primary or independent variable and human societies were seen as passive recipient of environmental influences. Environmental determinism was greatly promoted by two North American geographers namely Ellsworth Huntton and Ellen Churchill Semple. Even though it was very popular tool in framing natural test, it was rejected by many geographers like Harlan Barrows and Carl sauer. Sauer theory^f was based on cultures working with nature and not the nature alone.

Check Your Progress

- 1.What are the impacts of Urbanization?
- 2.Who coined the term Evolution and when?
- 3.What is Cycle of Erosion?
- 4.Who opposed the term Environmental Determinism?
- 5.What are the four stages of cycle of Evolution?

3.3. Human-Environment Interaction

3.3.1. Human and Environment Pre-Industrialization

Before the era of industrialization, Human societies had a fundamentally different relationship with environment compared to the modern industrialized world. During a period known as the Mesolithic or Middle Stone age which was approximately 10,000 years ago, almost the human societies were predominately nomadic and relied on a combination of hunting, gathering and scavenging for their survival. They hunted wild animals and gathered edible plants and scavenged for resources from their surroundings. Their lifestyle allowed them to follow seasonal changes in the availability of plants and animals. Population densities were generally low during the Mesolithic period. Human's population were dispersed across landscape which reduced the pressure on local ecosystem. They in closer harmony with the natural world and often relied on the sustainable use of resources. While Mesolithic period saw advancement in tool making, including the creation of more sophisticate stone tools the technology available to these societies was relatively simpler as compared to later period. These simpler technologies used in Mesolithic age did contribute to

a lower impact on environment. The Mesolithic culture, were present in wide variety across different regions. They were very adapted to local environment and resources. The diversity in culture and support strategies contributed to the richness of human history during that era.

It's important to note that while Pre industrial societies had a relatively lower impact on the environment compared to industrialized era, they were not devoid of negative environmental effects. Overexploitation of resources, deforestation, soil erosion and local environmental degradation did occur in some cases, particularly when population densities increased or when unsuitable practices were adopted. The Easter Island is a great example of such an event.

- Easter Island, also known as Rapa Nui, is a remote and iconic island located in the south eastern Pacific Ocean. The total of its inhabitants once risked to be extinct due to various reasons some of them are islands isolation, limited resources, and impact of human activities.

3.3.2. Human and Environment Post-Industrialization

Post industrialization, human- environment interaction underwent significant changes due to advancement in technology, urbanization, globalization and increased resource consumption. There was a transition from typically agriculture-based economy towards industrial economies. It has a great effect on how societies interact with their environment. Urbanization was one of the top most change that was witnessed by post-industrial era. People from small villages started moving to bigger cities or towns in search of better livelihood. This trend is expected to continue with urban areas projected to accommodate an even bigger share of the world's population in the future. This led to the advent of megacities with ever growing population, bigger industries and increasing demand of resources. These megacities tend to have higher resources consumption per capita compared to rural areas. This includes increased energy consumption greater demand for water and higher production of waste and gaseous emissions.

Innovations in technology especially in transportation sector communication and energy areas, had wider impact on how people interact with their environment. Urbanization often leads to increased reliance on motorized transportation such as cars buses etc. This results in higher emissions of greenhouse gas, air pollutants and traffic congestion

contributing to air pollution and climate change. With the communication made as easy as pie and within the reach of common man, made broadcasting easier and people getting connected at global level. Improved transportation and upgraded energy sector enabled globalization of trade, leading to increased distribution of resources at global scale. Post-industrial era shifted towards consumer-friendly approach of services. This led to greater extraction of resources, larger waste generation and ever-growing problem of environmental pollution, deforestation and habitat loss.

One of the most important highlights of the post-industrial era was awareness of global warming and climate change. UNFCCC laid the foundation of conference of parties (COP) which is a governing body of Stockholm conference, which assess the effect of climate change on the planet and ways to mitigate the same. Every year representatives of all the signatory countries meet and discuss the results of measures introduced by the parties to limit climate change. They further, generate new goals to combat climate change and reduce global warming. Another very important shift from pre- industrial to post- industrial human interaction can be seen in policies and regulations regarding environment conservation and mitigating pollution. Government and stakeholders are concern in protecting ecosystem and promoting sustainable development. In India itself number of schemes and regulations are being launched and also worked upon actively in past two decades. National River Conservation Plan (1995), sub- schemes of Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, Green India Mission (2014), National Afforestation Programme (2002), National Coastal Management Programme, National Mission on Himalayan Studies under climate change programme and Swachh Bharat Mission (2014) are few of the Indian government schemes for protection of environment. With the depleting natural resources there is a constant need for energy resource which is renewable at the same time cost effective. There is a growing interest in energy source like solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass to reduce the usage of coal and limiting carbon emissions as much as possible. The post- industrial era saw the rise of environmental movements advocating resource conservation and protection of natural resources and biodiversity.

Overall, it can be said that post industrialization brought both opportunities and challenges in terms of Human- Environment interaction. Environmental conservation is a need for societies living in post- industrial

era. As technological advancement improved the living standards of humans, they also raised the concern about resource depletion pollution and other environmental changes. Human integration with its environment is to more aware and respectful so that all the ecosystems can flow and recycle smoothly and perpetuate. A sustainable vision is necessary to obtain wellbeing and comfort human, at the same time preserve resources for future generations. For example, the waste generated from any industrial setup should be recycled and returned to the productive process or be used in new products. Emphasize should be given on use of renewable energy for catering the need s of ever- expanding human population.

- Methyl Iso cynate gas leakage at the Bhopal pesticide plant of Union Carbide India limited in 1986 affected more than 50000 people. It is said that substandard operating and safety procedure killed more than 2500 people.
- Deepwater Horizon oil spill also known as BP oil spill, was an industrial disaster that began on 20 April 2010 off the coast of United States in the Gulf of Maxico.It is the largest marine oil spill in the history.

3.3.3. Rise of Global Warming/Climate Change with examples

Climate change is the topic of debate and discussion ever since it has emerged in early nineteenth century. Both climate change and global warming are the two sides of the same coin.as they are very closely connected. Climate change refers to the shift in climate characteristics such as temperature precipitation, wind and snow patterns etc. These changes can occur in various ways like alterations in weather pattern, sea level rise, habitat destruction, avalanches etc. On the other hand, Global warming refers to the uninterrupted rise in earth's average temperature, primarily due to excess of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. It is very important to understand the relationship between climate change and global warming. It is the major driver of climate change, as the rise in temperature automatically shifts the climate patterns and the associated impacts.

There are a numerous causes of climate change falling under natural and anthropogenic. To develop policies related to mitigating climate change and reducing impacts it is very important to understand all the causes and effects on human and its environment.

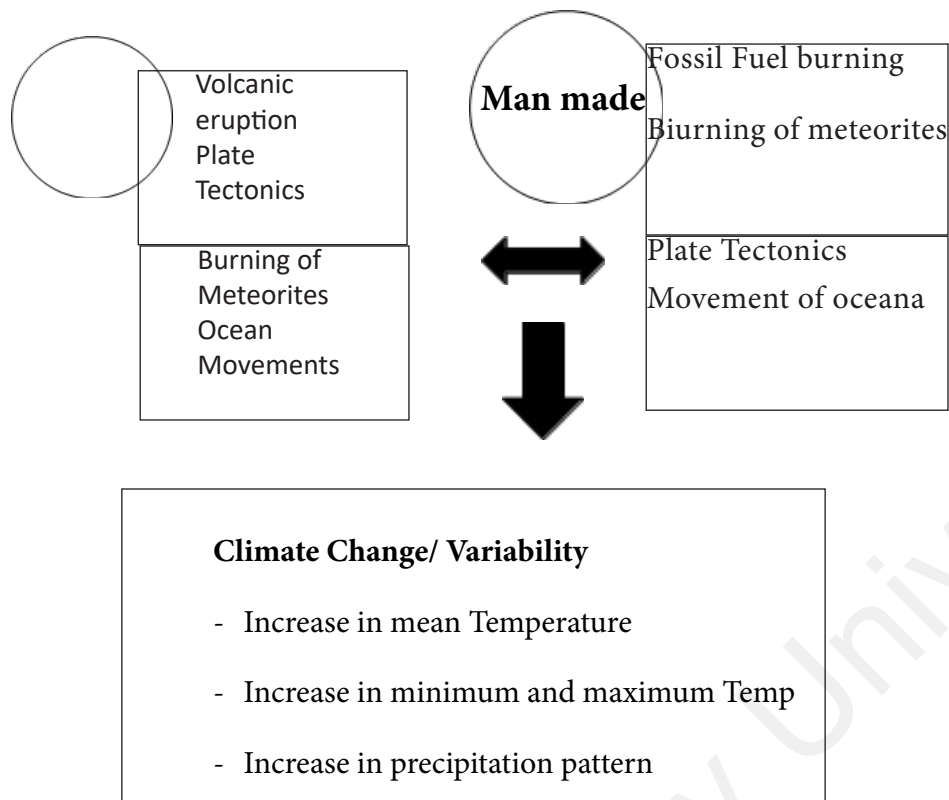


Fig1. Effects and results of Global Warming

Global warming can have a wide range of adverse impacts on our earth, including extreme weather conditions and their associated consequences. Some of them can be summarized as under:

1. An increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like draught, heat waves, tornadoes and hurricanes are associated with global warming. These weather conditions are damaging to infrastructure agriculture and life on the planet.
2. Higher temperature cause glacier and ice sheets to melt at accelerated rate. This contributes to sea level rise which can lead to soil erosion, flood in coastal areas, and migration of communities in search of safer shelter.
3. Climate disturbance which results in draught, floods etc. can lead to famine malnutrition and food insecurity, especially among vulnerable communities.
4. Global warming can alter ecosystems and threaten biodiversity. Many species can go extinct due to extreme climate change.
5. One of the major outcomes of climate-related disasters can cause significant economic disruptions. This can lead to migration and,

in some cases, conflict over resources as water and food scarcity is one of the consequences of climate change.

Check Your Progress

1. What were the major causes of environmental degradation in the Preindustrial era?
2. What is the major transmission from Pre-industrialization to post-industrialization era?
3. What is COP?
4. How climate change and global warming are related?
5. What are the consequences of Global warming?

3.4. Green Governance

3.4.1. Meaning of Governance

Post- Industrialization, societies are witnessing unanticipated environmental consequences of globalizations such as global warming, environmental pollution, ecological degradation and scarcity of resources etc. This is all due to an increase in the flow of people, goods and ideas across international borders. It would be impossible to sustain human life on this planet without sound and stable ecosystems. It also presents opportunities for sustainable development. Environmental policies are the critical tools for guiding urbanization toward more sustainable and environmentally friendly interactions. By shaping behaviour at both the individual and collective levels these policies aim to achieve a balance between human needs and the conservation of natural systems for current and future generations. Policies are created and implemented by government to promote the welfare and wellbeing of its citizens. These policies are formulated by the government across various sectors including economic social environmental and public health. Policy making and implement is the key role of any government. On the other hand, Governance in contemporary society refers to the networks of organizations, interdependent to a greater or lesser degree and the involvement of diverse actors in decision making processes. It acknowledges the role of both the public and private sectors and the markets in addressing complex issues and challenges that transcend traditional boundaries. This approach allows for more flexible and adaptive responses to the complex problems faced by the mankind today.

The concept of Good Governance has become a prominent and widely discussed topic in the realm of government and public administration worldwide. Good governance refers to the principles and practices that aim to ensure transparency accountability efficiency effectiveness and inclusiveness in the way governments operate and take decisions. Good governance is closely tied to the achievement of sustainable development goals as it ensures that resources are managed responsibly and policies are in place to address environmental challenges. Thereby, governments across the globe are bound to rethink and understand the interaction of mankind with its environment and the relationship between economic development and the environment. One of the historic and significant milestones in global effort to combat climate change is the adoption of Paris Agreement in December 2015. The Paris agreement was reached during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in was held in Paris, France. The agreement was historic because it marked a global consensus on the need to address climate change issue urgently. It recognized the potential devastation that could be caused by the changing climate and called for collective action to limit global warming and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. Through the Paris Agreement, humans had recognized that the natural environment could be devastated and a new green governance of “harmony between mankind and the nature” should be perceived. It acknowledges the interconnectedness of human activities and the environment. Also, its emphasis the need to strike a balance that would preserve the health of the planet while ensuring the wellbeing of humans and other creatures surviving here. While governance can be applied in various contexts, including political, corporate and environmental, there is a common thread that runs through these different applications. Whether it's governance of a nation, a corporate or an environmental resource, the goal is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among stakeholders to achieve common goals and address challenges effectively. The principles and attributes of governance are indeed generally across different fields of study and applications. The governance often has the following attributes:

1. Governance is based on coordination rather than control.
2. Governance requires multiple stakeholder and they all are interrelated.
3. Governance has the urgency of scientific decision making.
4. Governance aims to maintain continuous relationship.

The term 'Green' is very versatile with rich symbolism and meaning. It is often associated with nature and environment. It serves as a reminder of our relationship with nature and the importance of preserving and protecting the same.

Incorporating Green governance into decision making process and policies is essential for creating more sustainable and equitable future. As mankind continue to struggle with environmental challenge, the concept of green governance provides a roadmap for achieving a harmonious co-existence with nature.

3.4.2. Need and Objectives of Green Governance

Green governance is attracting more and more attention from scholars and gradually becoming focus of policy making of every government. It is a concept that refers to a framework or approach to governance that prioritize sustainability, environment conservation and responsible management of natural resources. It aims to integrate environmental considerations into all the policy making processes of the government and also awareness at the social level. Green governance is all about achieving a state of balance between economic development and environment protection. It is all about recognizing a fact that a healthy environment is essential for the wellbeing and safe future of the mankind. As it is known that the environmental issues are strongly connected to sustainability, effective green governance can establish corporate governance of common goals and objectives. The concept of green governance is the collaborative responsibility of the states and central governments, with the contribution of public, private and non-governmental organizations. The key objectives of green governance is to improve environment in all the areas like water air, land and reasonably coordinate the relationship between human and environment. As a result it would enable the balanced development of economy, society and environment at the same time. This goal can be achieved by strategies that are briefly discussed below:

1. **Environment Sustainability:** First and foremost, object is to promote and ensure an unperishable and liveable environment. Long term sustainability of our planet and its natural resources like wind water air etc. This involves the measures to prevent water pollution, air pollution and protect endangered species and maintain ecological balance.

2. **Climate action:** Reduction in greenhouse gas emission is the key to combat climate change. Adopting green governance is a necessity to reduce climate change and limit global warming.
3. **Conservation and Biodiversity:** Protecting and preserving biodiversity by establishing and managing protected areas, conserving flora endangered and fauna and promoting sustainable land use practice.
4. **Sustainable Development:** Integrating environmental consideration into economic development strategies to ensure that growth is sustainable, and does not harm natural resource in way.
5. **Social Equality:** Ensuring that all the environmental policies are for every group of people. The efforts made to conserve the environmental should not harm vulnerable population. Social equity in access to environment benefits and resources is topmost priority.
6. **Regulatory framework:** Enforcing laws and regulation that promote environmental protection, setting emission standards, adopting sustainable resource management.
7. **Public participation and awareness:** Promoting Public awareness about environmental issues and engaging citizens in decision making processes to ensure transparency. Also, environmental education must be mandatory at all levels of learning to cultivate the culture of sustainability.
8. **Green technologies:** Development and adoption of green technologies that reduce the environmental impacts and enhance resource productivity.
9. **International cooperation:** Collaborating with national and international organizations to address global issues like waste disposal, greenhouse effect and global warming. Working together they can unlock the necessary financial resources, share technologies and create national capacities.

3.4.3. Theories of Green Governance

To understand the concept of green governance various theories, explain, predicts and enhance the knowledge in different cases.

1. **Triple bottom line theory:** It was first proposed by Elkington ⁸. It discusses that enterprises need to meet the balance development

of economic prosperity, environmental protection and social welfare while pursuing their own development. This theory was reintroduced by Stefan ^h into supply chain management with the same three dimensions. The triple bottom line theory lays a theoretical foundation of the relationship between human and nature in the field of green governance and the balanced development of economy, society and environment.

Resource scarcity theory: This theory points out that if human beings do not realize the scarcity of natural resources and keep on consuming a lot of resources, it will destroy the balance between human and nature. Environment carrying capacity refers to the population scale and social and economic activity intensity that can be carried by the resource and environment of certain geographical region under the premise that the natural ecological environment is not harmed and a good ecological system is maintained.

- Ecological imbalance refers to the ecological disturbance caused by human overexploitation of resources and the environment. For example overuse of natural resources like coal and petroleum.

3.4.4. National Level Green Governance

Green governance in India which focuses on sustainable development and environmentally responsible practices at the national level comes under part four of Indian constitution (Article 48 A- directive Principles of state policies). This mandates that the State must make efforts to safeguard and enhance the environment. Within the Constitution, under Part IVA (Article 51A Fundamental Duties), it imposes an obligation on every citizen of India to preserve and enhance the natural environment, encompassing forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife, and to demonstrate compassion towards living creatures. The National Green Tribunal Act of 2010 was enacted by the central government on October 18, 2010. Some key objectives and developments in national level green governance in India are summarized below:

1. **Environment Protection:** The primary objective of green governance in India is to protect and preserve natural environment, including ecosystem, forest, rivers and wildlife.
2. **Sustainable development:** It seeks to promote sustainable development that balances economic growth with environmental conservation and social well-being of people.

3. **Climate Change Mitigation:** India's green governance aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions enhance climate resilience and transition to a low carbon economy.
4. **Biodiversity Conservation:** India has a rich biodiversity and it is the focal point of green governance efforts. The objective is to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity, including endangered species and critical ecosystems.
5. **Clean Energy Transition:** Energy efficiency is the objective. The promotion of renewable energy sources for increasing the share of clean energy.
6. **Waste Management:** Green governance includes proper waste management practices, reducing the plastic pollution and promote recycling a waste-to-energy technologies.
7. **Air and Water Quality:** under the umbrella of green governance, efforts are made to address air and water pollution. Water resources across the country would be under vigilance for proper and timely cleaning.
8. **Environmental justice:** Green governance strives to address environmental inequalities and protect vulnerable population. An important objective is to ensure that environmental benefits and burdens are distributed equitably among different communities

The central government's primary aim was to establish a specialized platform for the efficient and prompt resolution of cases related to environmental protection, forest conservation, and the preservation of the country's forests and wildlife.

- Tamil Nadu has set a precedent in rainwater harvesting by making it obligatory for all types of buildings as early as 2003. As per the State government's official website, out of the 23.92 lakh buildings in town Panchayats (including government, residential, commercial, and industrial structures), 22.94 lakh have rainwater harvesting facilities.

The key Developments in the national level green governance in India reflects the country's commitment to environmental sustainability and addressing environmental issues. Some important developments are given below briefly:

1. **National Action Plan:** India has developed and implemented various action plan, including National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP).

2. **Renewable Energy Expansion:** India has made significant efforts in the expansion of renewable energy, with a focus on Solar and Wind Power. The country aims to achieve its renewable targets of 500 GW by 2030 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to cleaner energy sources. This will include 140GW from wind and 280 GW from solar.
3. **Air Quality Management:** To address air pollution in major urban areas National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) have been developed.
4. **Waste management Initiatives:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) is a flagship programme focused on improving sanitation and waste management practices across the country. It includes initiative to eliminate open defecation and promote waste segregation.
5. **Green Transportation:** Development of Metro Rails, Electric vehicles adoption and the promotion of non-motorized transportation modes.
6. **Conservation Reserves:** India has established various conservation reserves like wildlife sanctuaries National Parks to protect flora and fauna. Project Tiger, Project Elephant aims to conserve special species.
7. **International Commitment:** India is signatory to various international agreements such as Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological diversity, Reflecting its commitment on global environmental goals.
8. **Environmental Governance Reforms:** Efforts are being made to strengthen environmental governance through legal reforms, transparent decision making, the use of technology for monitoring and enforcement.

The transitioning to a green economy and achieving sustainable development is a complex and multi-faceted process that involves many challenges, including political commitments, legal frameworks, technological advancements, financial support, and effective coordination among stakeholders. Despite these challenges, efforts to promote sustainability are being made by the government at all levels. In a huge country like India, it is difficult as well as essential to implement and enforce the policies to address environmental issues and ensure better future.

3.4.5. International Mechanism of Green Governance

The International mechanism of green governance have evolved over the years through a series of international conferences, agreements, conventions and frameworks aimed at addressing environmental issues on the global scale. Let us look at the key developments made in the area of environmental sustainability. UN Conference on Human Environment was held in Stockholm in 1972. This landmark conference was the very first international meeting focused on environmental issues. It laid the foundation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to coordinate global environment efforts. In 1979 World meteorological organization sponsored World Climate Conference which was held in Geneva. The aim of WCC was to address climate change and its impacts at the global level. The Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 1992, was another milestone for discussing and negotiating global environmental issues. It led to Rio Declaration on environment and development and the adoption of Agenda 21 which is also known as the blueprint of sustainable development. The earth summit also resulted in the foundation of Conservation on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework convention on Climate change (UNFCCC).

The Kyoto protocol was another achievement in global efforts to combat climate change and is sometimes called as mother of Paris agreement. The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty aimed at addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was adopted on December 11, 1997, in Kyoto city of Japan. After Kyoto Protocol, World Summit on Sustainable development was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. This Summit was aimed to review the progress since the Earth Summit and address new challenges in Sustainable development. It led to agreements on clean water and sanitation. After all these comes the Paris agreement which is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the Un Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts to “limit the increase to 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial levels”. However, in recent years world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century. The Paris agreement works on a five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action carried out by the countries. Since 2020, countries have been submitting their National Climate Action Plans which is known as Nationally Determined

Contributions (NDCS). Each Successive NDC talks about their progress in comparison to the previous year.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held many COP meetings since 1992. These meetings focus on conserving biodiversity, sustainable use of biological and genetic resources

The breakthrough in helping developing countries deal with losses and damages from the impacts of climate change is a significant result of COP 27 held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022. It emphasizes the need for the increased ambition and crucial measures to address climate change.

These international conferences and treaties have played a very important role in shaping global environmental governance, facilitating cooperation among nations, and addressing global environmental issues. They continue to evolve as a commitment of countries and stakeholders to work together to promote sustainable practices.

3.5. Concept of Sustainable Human Development

The concept of Sustainable Human Development (SHD) emerged during the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, commonly referred to as the Copenhagen Declaration. This declaration pledged to shift the focus of development towards the well-being of people. Sustainable human development represents a fusion of two key elements: sustainable development and human development. It represents a commendable objective that aspires to promote social inclusivity, foster socio-economic well-being, and uphold fairness across generations. Practically SHD entails fair and inclusive advancement of humanity and society, while preserving environmental sustainability and ensuring that these conditions remain achievable for future generations.

The concept of human development was originally coined by economists Amartya Sen and Mahabub ul Haq. It says that human development is beyond economic growth, such as income or flow of cash. It encompasses a broader view of wellbeing and better quality of life. Achieving the objective of human development necessitates good governance to create an optimal and tailored environment that can meet the requirements for the well-being and contented sustenance of human life. There are various indicators of the human development such as health, social inclusion, political freedom, life expectancy and education.

Understanding sustainable development, one needs to go through a long history, but it gained significant prominence with the release of the Brundtland Report in 1987. The report formally titled “Our Common Future” was published by the World Commission on Environment and Development chaired by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. This report played a pivotal role in shaping the modern concept of sustainable development. As per Brundtland Report Sustainable development can be defined as ‘development that meets the needs of the present world without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. This definition summarizes the core idea that development should be pursued in a way that balances economic, social and environmental considerations ensuring that progress today does not harm the prospects for future generations. Sustainable development requires a holistic approach that considers interconnection between economic growth social equity and environmental control.

Sustainable human development relies on ethical principles and collaboration between the government and citizens to address enduring issues, particularly those associated with poverty and human vulnerability. Essential actions should be taken to facilitate citizen participation in decision-making and ensure their perspectives are acknowledged in the public arena.

3.5.1. Sustainable Development Goals/ Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) constituted a collection of eight global development objectives set for attainment by the year 2015. They were established following the millennium summit of United Nations in 2000, during which the UN Millennium Declaration was adopted. These goals garnered support from all 191 member states of the United Nations at that time, along with approximately 12 international organizations, all committed to collaborating towards achieving the MDGs by 2015. These objectives were formulated with the aim of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, reducing child mortality, enhancing maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and fostering global partnerships for development. While progress was made in many areas, not all the goals

were fully achieved by the 2015 deadline. The MDGs were then succeeded by the SDGs, a broader and more ambitious goals aimed at achieving sustainable development by 2030.

In September 2015, the United Nation (UN) indeed held a significant summit on sustainable development, officially known as the 'United Nation Summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for the sustainable development.' During this summit, Global Sustainable development goals (SDG) were adopted. Global Sustainable goals commonly referred as SDGs, consists of 17 overarching goals and 169 specific sub goals. These goals are designed to address various global issues and guide both developed and developing countries about sustainable development, over a 15-year period from 2016-30. The major dimension where SDG would work upon are economy, society and environment with the aim of promoting a more equitable and sustainable future for mankind. These goals provide a roadmap for addressing key global challenges including poverty hunger health education gender equality clean energy, climate action and more.

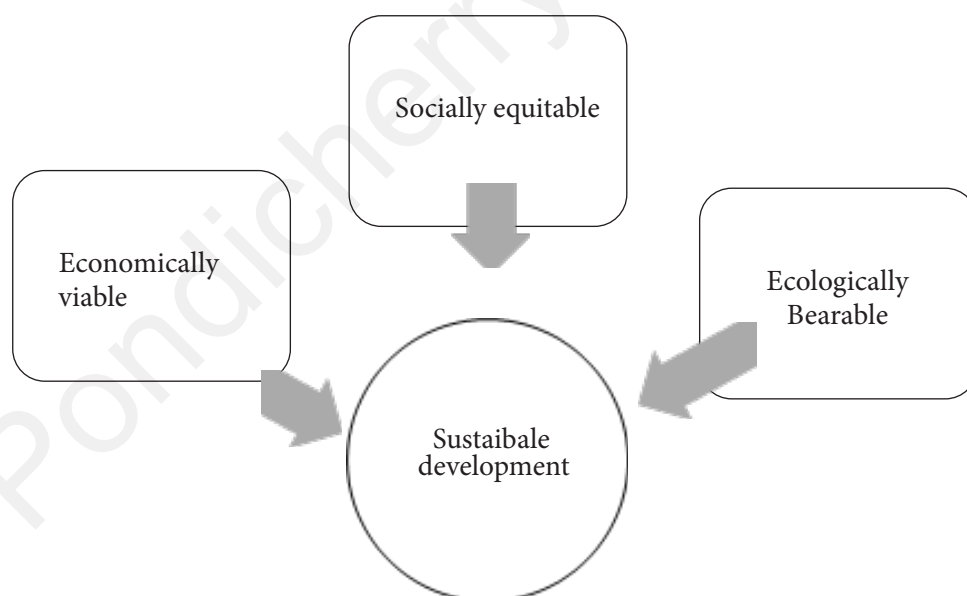


Fig 2. Three Aspects of Sustainable Development

It's important to note that above mentioned three aspects—social, environmental, and economic—are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Achieving sustainable development requires a balanced approach that addresses challenges and opportunities in all three dimensions simultaneously. Additionally, many of the SDGs incorporate elements from multiple aspects to reflect the complexity and interdependence of sustainable development goals. The focus areas of the three major aspects of sustainable development goals are summarized below.

Social Aspect:

1. These SDGs focus on improving the well-being living conditions and human rights of people around the world.
2. They aim to address issues related to poverty, hunger, health education gender equality, sustainable cities and communities and social inclusion.

Economical Aspect:

1. These SDGs focus on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth job creation and infrastructure development.
2. They aim to foster economic resilience reduce inequality and ensure that economic progress benefits all.

Environmental Aspect:

1. These sustainable goals emphasize the protection and responsible management of the earth's natural resources ecosystem and climate.
2. Environmental sustainable goals include:
 - **SDG 6: Clean Water and sanitation-** This goal addresses water quality, water scarcity, and adequate sanitation facilities.
 - **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy-** This goal promotes the use of clean and renewable energy sources.
 - **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities-** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. This goal targets to urban planning transportation and environmental protection in cities.
 - **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production-** This goal encourages efficient usage of resources, waste reduction, and sustainable practices in production and consumption.
 - **SDG 13: Climate Action-** This goal includes efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and raise awareness about climate change.
 - **SDG 14: Life Below Water-** This goal focuses on marine conservation, fisheries management and marine pollution reduction.
 - **SDG 15: Life on Land-** This goal addresses land conservation, combat desertification, restoration reforestation and biodiversity protection.

Environmentally sustainable goals provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the most pressing global challenges, from climate change and biodiversity to water scarcity and pollution. Achieving these environmental sustainability goals is essential for ensuring a more sustainable and resilient future for the planet and its inhabitants.

Check your progress

1. Elaborate on the idea of sustainable development.
2. What are sustainable development goals?
3. Who gave the concept of Human Development and what exactly it means?
4. Summarize key features of Kyoto protocol.
5. What is Greenhouse Effect? Explain in terms of global warming.

3.6. Summary

Green governance is proposed to harmonize the relationship between mankind and its environment and further promote the demand of building a community of shared future for mankind. Effective governance is a fundamental component of green governance. This includes transparent decision making, the rule of law, accountability, and the protection of human rights. Good governance ensures that environmental policies are enacted and enforced effectively. In green governance public participation and international initiatives are encouraged to promote transparency. Environmental education and awareness are the important aspects of green governance as informed citizens are more likely to support and participate in sustainable

practices. Overall, Green Governance is all about finding a balance between human development and environmental protection, acknowledging the importance of both for sustainable and prosperous future.

3.7. Keywords

Green Governance, Good Governance, Sustainable Development, MDG, SDG, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, Conference of Parties (COP), Global Warming, Climate Change

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UNIT - IV**Lesson 4.1 - Local Governance****Unit Structure**

- 4.1. Objectives
- 4.2. Introduction
- 4.3. Defining Local Governance
 - 4.3.1. Local Governance: A Conceptual Analysis
 - 4.3.2. Local Governance: A Constitutional/Legal Mapping
 - 4.3.3. Local Governance in Rural and Urban Areas
 - 4.3.4. Local Governance: Socio-Economic Dimension
- 4.4. People's Participation in Governance
 - 4.4.1. Engagement of People in Local Governance: Statistics
 - 4.4.2. Women in Local Governance
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4.1. Objectives

The unit's main objective is to understand the evolution of local governance and to know how the reforms of Local governance brought Decentralised governance and, as a result, promoted people's participation in the governance. The unit also undertakes the conceptual analysis of the local governance System. It sheds some light on the developments around the constitutional process in the history of local governance in India. It is interesting to note that Decentralisation democratized the political landscape in India, especially after the inclusion of Scheduled

Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward sections and women into the power structure. The unit will discuss how People's participation is important for the development of local governance and how the constitutional reforms in the early 90s by bringing the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments Acts made Three-tier power structures at the Union level, State level and Local level. The unit discusses how local governance works in urban (Municipalities and municipal corporations) and rural areas (Panchayati Raj system). Finally, we will discuss the challenges to local governance.

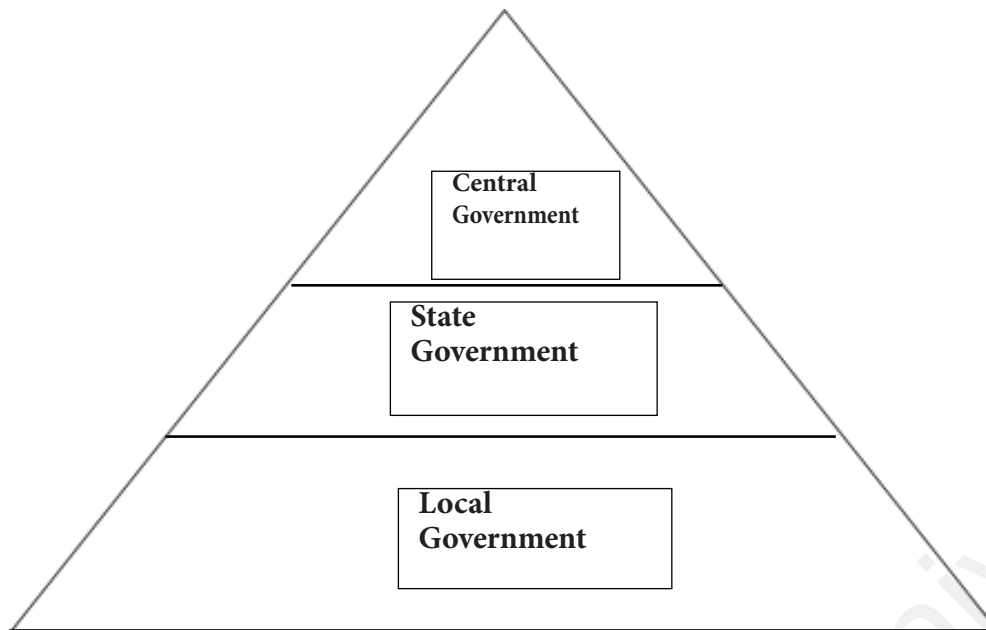
4.2. Introduction

The local government institutions in India have been in existence in some form or the other, since time immemorial. But the reforms in Local governance in India made these institutions as an integral part of the three-tier system of governance in India. These institutions are organs that promote grassroots democracy, provide civic services for the welfare of local people; and carry out the task of rural and urban development, and planning. They operate both in rural as well as urban areas. In India, Local government operates in both urban and rural areas. Municipal corporations, committees and Nagar Panchayats work as bodies of Urban Local governments, Zila Parishads and Gram Panchayat perform the same function in rural localities.

Local Government refers collectively to administrative authorities over areas that are smaller than a state and generally acts within the powers by Laws. The local government, evolved from loose connections of villages to their highly integrated system of the present day. Most of the countries at the time of advent of modern age were primarily agricultural. Due to the over- centralization of governance, problems in remote and local areas remained unresolved. 4th of April 1993 is a significant day in India as on this day the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, came into force, and Panchayati Raj institutions were given constitutional status and powers to function as institutions of self-governance.

4.3. Defining Local Governance

The combination of the terms 'Local' and 'Governance' generally refers to the structures and processes below the state and Central levels. So, there are three levels of government that is 1) Central Government 2) State Government and 3) Local Government.



'Local governance' can be defined in number of ways, According to P. Stones, "Local Government is that part of the government of a country which deals with those matters which concern the people in a particular locality." He explains that it makes our surrounding fit to live, clean and dispose the waste, build homes and roads and manage us to live a civilized life. Vankata Rao points out that "Local government is that part of the government which deals mainly with local affairs, administered by authorities subordinate to the State Government but elected independently of the state authority by the qualified residents." According to L. Golding, "Local Government is the management of their own affairs by the people of a locality" and B.K. Gokhale, calls it "Local self-government is the government of a specified locality by the local people through the representatives elected by them." By all these definitions we can understand that local governance presupposes the existence of certain authority at local level.

The definitions above reveals that the Local governance consists of various aspects like a local body controlled by local inhabitants, autonomy of that body in taking decisions independent from the control of higher authorities at least up to limited sphere, and local taxation. The body will possess a government organisation which is responsible for managing the duties. Local governments which are freely elected, while subject to supremacy of state and central governments are endowed with power and responsibility which varies considerably among countries.

Characteristics of Local Government

Local governance is an important instrument of Decentralisation and democracy at Ground level. Some characteristics of the local government are:

1. **Local Area:** influence of Local governments is limited to a particular area which is well defined by the state government, and commonly referred as city, town or village.
2. **Local Authority:** Local government performs various duties and these services can be done by local units of administration and elected representatives.
3. **Civil Amenities:** The objective of the local government is to provide proper amenities to the citizens. The amenities provided by the local government ensure healthy living of the local community.
4. **Local Finance:** For performing functions and amenities local governments need finance. The local funds collected in the form of taxes from local inhabitants and also state government allot funds for local governments.
5. **Local Autonomy:** Local autonomy means, local government can take decisions with sort of freedom from higher authorities. Autonomy also refers to legal right of local inhabitants to elect their representative to perform the functions of local government.
6. **Local Participation:** The success of local government depends upon the participation of local people; it is the main goal of decentralized democracy to involve people in governance.
7. **Local Accountability:** Authorities of the Local Government are accountable to the local people.
8. **Local Development:** Local government responsible for the planning and execution of activities which are aimed at development.

Check Your Progress

1. What are the characteristics of Local Governments?
2. Define Local Governance.

4.3.1. Local Governance: A Conceptual Analysis

Prussian scholar Rudolf von Gneist did studies of political institutions in United Kingdom and concluded that self-governments are essential in any government. He defined that the object of self-government was to deliver services and perform the functions of maintaining the locality and collecting taxes, and these can be best managed by the contributions of local community. Whalen says “Gneist theory of self-government is incomplete because it says nothing about local political processes in a democratic state”. The major change in local government is transfer of local administration from magistrates to local authorities elected by people, creation of institutions for better participation of working and middle classes. The introduction of various committees brought larger number of people into direct contact with local political problems. Local governance is an important facet of the ‘Democratic Decentralisation’ process.

Professor Langrod says the feature of democracy is that the individual Local governments possess democratic political quality and political value. According to Tocqueville, local government is perfectly natural; wherever men and women gather together, it seems to form itself. Historically, local governments are thought to have evolved with man, from the ancient Aryan tribes and Frankish communes to Indian Panchayats. Bryce writes and compares local government and its institutions as tiny fountain heads of democracy and Prof. K. G. Crawford urges about preserving the democratic system by upholding the autonomy of local governments from the influence of state government and further added that “Local independence and the democratic system are mutually interdependent; destroy local independence and you destroy, not the democratic system, but the traditional liberal society based upon nineteenth-century ideals.”

Tocqueville and Mill hold the same kind of liberal opinion about Local government and democracy. The socio-political conditions in the local community promote democracy, strengthen local community and in way local governance promotes democratic climate of opinion. Local government also promotes the aspects of toleration and coordination among local people. In this respect local government plays important role in keeping people together and strengthening the state. As Tocqueville remarked, “A nation may establish a system of free government, but without the spirit of municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty. The transient passions and interests of the hour, or the chance of circumstances, may have created the external forms of independence;

but the despotic tendency which has been repelled will, sooner or later, inevitably reappear on the surface.” His municipal pluralism is a reaction against Nationalism and central bureaucratization because he considered them as potential threat.

Check your Progress

1. What do Gneist and Langrod say about Local Governments?
2. What do Liberal Theorists say about Local Governance?

4.3.2. Local Governance: A Constitutional/Legal Mapping

In the annals of the history of local governance in India, the 1882 resolution, which is also known as the Rippon resolution, remains a benchmark event simply because it contributed to a process that flourished over time. For Rippon, the purpose of the government decree was to bring about (a) Administrative Efficiency, and (b) Political Education: while the former was indicative of an urge for revamping the prevalent administration the latter aimed at linking people with governance. As a piece of legislation, the 1885 Act was a remarkable feat since it constitutionalized localizing governance in India.

In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to suggest that the constitutional design for local governance that independent India had finally accepted following the 1947 transfer of power had its roots in the 1882 resolution, as its following features illustrate:

Local body institutions are meant to improve Local administration.

- (b) Enactment of policies of Local administration through proper disbursement of funds by creating new avenues of revenue
- (c) Non-officials who are to be elected if election is feasible shall have substantive power in regard to local affairs and will act as chairpersons to these bodies
- (e) Bureaucratic interference should be reduced.

The idea of localizing governance did not seem to have found favour in the Constituent Assembly, which was constituted in 1946 to frame independent India's constitution. Despite being supportive of participatory democracy, a majority of the Assembly's members were not favourably disposed to Gandhi's insistence on village-based governance. As the

debates show, two contrasting points of view appeared to have shaped the opinion: on the one hand, there were Gandhians who held the view that the Panchayati Raj that Gandhi had elaborated was the appropriate form of governance in India, while their detractors claimed, on the other hand, that the Gandhian model was not only out of date but also ineffective in the changed socio- economic and ideological environment; they therefore argued for individual-centric governance which had contributed significantly to the success of Western democracy.

Localizing governance, in its present form, has a long history, beginning with British colonialism. In the late nineteenth century, it was Lord Ripon, India's viceroy, who introduced local self-government to expand governance at the grassroots. As shown above, what had begun in the 1880s was seriously pursued by successive British viceroys by adopting complementary legislation to that effect. Hence, when colonialism came to an end, local government was fairly well-established as an administrative mechanism to ensure local participation in governance. These institutional devices, along with the ideas of Maine, seem to have influenced Gandhi to a significant extent. He, too, found the idea of local self-government an empowering device for the people at large. It was, therefore, not surprising that, for the Mahatma, participatory governance was a philosophical aid for self-independence. With their involvement in governance in the localities, the people would remain connected with the activities which were integral to their well-being. So participatory governance was, in his perception, a desirable institutional device whereby people were drawn to those processes which were also critical in building a solid community underplaying the vertical social divisions along caste, region or class axes.

As an idea, localizing governance did not, as shown in the above text, receive adequate attention in India's Constituent Assembly. However, the Gandhians remained steadfast in their commitment when they forcefully argued for a village republic. In the process, there had also emerged a strong opinion in favour of the decentralization of power, which gradually became a useful conceptual paradigm in administrative reforms in independent India. This was a model drawing on Gandhi's scepticism concerning the centralization of power, which gave people new opportunities to influence decisions that directly impact their lives. The processes of decision-making thus became far more inclusive than before. In their defence of village republics, Gandhi and his followers thus made the political authority truly public by making it accountable to those who remained critical to its making.

The Central Government and various state governments appointed many commissions to examine the issues of urban local governance and to make recommendations. Various Conferences of the municipal officers and elected representatives of municipal bodies were held at that time to build consensus and the conference of chief ministers. What was abandoned at the dawn of independence was most enthusiastically accepted by the Indian policymakers in 1992 with the adoption of the 73rd Amendment Act, as the following chapter will demonstrate. Not only have they made the Panchayati form of governance mandatory for the state, but this act has also paved the way for gender equality by guaranteeing 33 per cent reservation for women and Reservation of seats for Schedule castes and Scheduled Tribes in rural Panchayats. These were revolutionary steps, for they brought about radical changes in governance at the grassroots with the mandatory involvement of the people in local administration. The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992, was passed in the Lok Sabha in 1992, which gave powers to Urban local bodies. The Act aims to establish a common framework for the structure and powers of city councils, enabling them to carry out their functions as an effective Local Governance Unit.

What was strongly argued became a reality with the adoption of the 73rd Amendment Act in 1992, which not only constitutionalized local self-government in India but also gave constitutional recognition to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, which was long overdue. These were momentous policy designs that radically altered the texture of governance in India in two complementary ways: on the one hand, they made governance far more widespread than before by constitutionally guaranteeing the role of the mass of villagers who so far remained peripheral; as a result, the nature of governance had undergone a sea change, on the other hand, by being receptive to the inputs from the grassroots which were not always accessible given the obvious systemic constraints of the Weberian hierarchical and centralized administration that India had adopted following decolonization in 1947.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 is considered to be an important moment in the history of local governance in India. The Act has heralded a three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country. In particular, provision of essential services like drinking water, sanitation, public roads and others has been confined to the functional areas of Rural Local Authorities. In particular, provision of essential services like drinking water, sanitation, public roads and others has been confined to

the functional areas of Rural Local Authorities. Development activities will be funded by central or state governments. The Act has empowered local Governments to formulate their own development plans.

The main features of the 73rd Amendment Act have a strong positive impact on local governance at the rural level. Some of the features of the Act are as follows:

- The three-tier Panchayati Raj System with village Panchayats at the core, panchayat samitis at the mid-level and Zila Parishads at top.
- The Act has clearly provided power and autonomy to rural local bodies to function as the institutions of self-government.
- It also made it obligatory to hold periodic elections every 5 years at all levels of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. For early or premature dismissal, election shall be held within a period of six months and the newly elected members shall continue to serve for an additional five years.(Article 243E).
- Provisions for reservation of seats for Scheduled Caste and Tribes in all Panchayats. The provision for the reservation of seats for Schedule caste and Tribe also extends to position of panchayats chairperson at all three levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions
- In order to ensure free and fair elections in local bodies, the Constitutional Act stated clearly to constitute a state election commission for a period of five years.
- The Act has also given powers to the state government to constitute state Finance Commission for five years to review the overall financials of local Government bodies and to recommend allocation of funds.
- The Act made a way to constitute Gram Sabhas – a body which promotes peoples participation in local governance.

Check Your Progress

1. What are the Main features of 1882 Rippon Resolution on Local Governments?
2. Explain in detail about the Provisions of Seventy third Constitutional Amendment Act.
3. Explain about Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas about Local Governance.

4. Explain Development of constitutional Process of Local Governance in India.

4.3.3. Local Governance in Rural and Urban Areas

After discussing the evolution of local government in the pre-independence and post-independence periods, in the succeeding section we will discuss the various efforts made with regard to the rural and urban local governments in India.

Local Governance in Rural Areas

The Panchayati Raj System is another name for the rural governance in India. It has a historical presence in India. The main role of the Panchayati Raj has been to provide a better avenue for local participation in democratic development of the country. It has been proved beyond doubt that it is the best way to establish democratic decentralization.

When British first introduced the concept of local government they did it only for urban areas. It was only in the twentieth century that any modern institution of rural local government was established. The national leadership, including Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru, were vocal supporters of the idea of Panchayati Raj. Once India got independence in 1947 and our constitution was implemented, Panchayati Raj became a constitutional entity. Article 40 of the Indian Constitution asked the state to implement the values of Panchayati Raj in India as soon as possible.

In addition to the fact that it had the support of the national leadership, it also had a historical presence in India and was also mentioned in the constitution. Panchayati Raj in its true sense could not become reality in India till the 73rd Amendment was made in the Indian Constitution, in 1992. Panchayati Raj institutions constitute the third layer of government in India, linking the people of India directly to the constitution and democracy. After the 73rd Amendment, it has got various powers and responsibilities and therefore its study has become very important. The devolution of power in the constitution, to the rural bodies, has created a great enthusiasm among the people for participating in the working of democracy. Panchayati Raj institutions have not only become a source of greater economic development but they have also become a great source and means of providing social justice in India.

It has been found that people in the ancient times too were governed by some kind of rural government. This was known as Panchayat, which literally meant the assembly of five people. This assembly of five people had various administrative and judicial powers at that time. This system of Panchayats remained the same throughout the ages in India, despite various developments at the central level. It was only during the transition from the Mughal to the British rule that these local Panchayats became dysfunctional

The British government relied only on the district boards that were established under the Local Bodies Act of 1885, for the management of rural areas. In it, local government outside the towns was based on the district board with subordinate bodies for sub-divisions (in Madras, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa) or Talukas and Tehsils (in Bombay and the central provinces).

The constitution of 1950 made local self-government a state subject and it was only in Article 40 of the Indian constitution, which comes under the Directive Principles of State Policy and therefore had no legal relevance. It is said that village panchayats shall be organized by the state and empowered to exercise such powers, allowing them to act as units of their own government.

The governments in most of the states at that time and even central government at the time were occupied with the economic and social development of the country and therefore did not take Article 40 very seriously. Because of this, only few states like Rajasthan in 1953 did take some interest in establishing Panchayati Raj.

Despite this promising beginning, most of the newly established Panchayats soon became dysfunctional by the middle of 1960s. Most of the state governments refused to conduct elections for these bodies and provide them adequate funds. The result was a decline in the popularity of these institutions in India, in the coming decade

The reasons of this decline were mainly lack of uniformity in the structure of the Panchayati Raj institutions, changes in the priority in the development programmes, lack of the clarity about the extent of their powers and responsibilities, lack of enthusiasm among the bureaucratic machinery to part with their powers and share them with elected representatives at the Panchayat levels and failure of the state leadership to share the power with their local representatives.

Structure, Function and Sources of Finance of the Rural Local Governance in India

The basic structure, function and financial provisions for the rural local governance or Panchayati Raj in India has been described in detail in Part 9 of the Indian Constitution (Article 243 and from 243 A to 243 O). According to the constitutional provisions, the structure, term, responsibilities and finances for Panchayats would be broadly defined by these articles. State governments are free to allocate additional rights and duties to these bodies. They are also free to make provisions of reservation for other deprived sections in the Panchayats.

Zila Parishad

In the Panchayati Raj system, Zila Parishad holds the highest position and is formed at the district level. The main function of Zila Parishad is the administration of all the Panchayats of the district. Its office is located at the district headquarters. In the Zila parishad, seats are reserved for SC/ST, backward classes and women. Zila Parishad supervises and coordinates between rural and urban local governments in the district. It is the main planning and executive body for all development programs for the district and also has the responsibility to help in the improvement of agriculture in the district.

Zila Parishad runs primary health centres and hospitals in different villages. It has the responsibility to maintain basic sanitation in the district, and therefore, it runs the programs of cleanliness and health awareness. It also runs mobile hospitals for remote hamlets. Zila Parishad constructs and maintains small bridges and roads connecting villages in the district. It is responsible for developing the scheduled castes and tribes in the district and runs shelter homes and hostels for tribal and scheduled caste children and students.

Zila Parishad collects taxes from residents for facilities it provides such as the supply of water, sanitation, and roads. Commercial activities happening within its jurisdiction also attract certain taxes. State governments also allot fixed annual grants for zila parishads.

Panchayat Samiti

It comes at second level after zila parishad under the Panchayati Raj system and works at the block/Mandal level. In a Panchayat Samiti, heads of the Gram Panchayats are the members and an Officer appointed by the

state government execute its functions. Members elect their head, called the chairman, from among themselves who presides over the meetings and the term is five years. For efficient delivery of services, the Samiti has various sub-committees or departments like finance and General administration and headed by members.

The execution of plans made by the zila parishad is the important function of Panchayat samithi, and work as the main implementation agency. It oversees schools Education, Civic amenities, and conducts programs for the development of ST and ST. It has sole authority to grants permissions or revokes licenses for a particular trade and maintains common market. It monitors the Gram Panchayats and also funds them. Panchayat samiti receives grants from state governments and also collect taxes within its jurisdiction.

Gram Panchayats

Every village Panchayat consists of wards or areas, and this each ward has a representative who in the Gram Panchayat. 'Sarpanch' will be the president of the panchayat and has to be elected for five years. Panchayat secretary is the official appointee of the government and he execute the functions of Gram panchayat. The Gram Sabha has the power to recommendation and approval of plans for the Gram Panchayat. Gram Panchayat oversees the works in the area, collect taxes and also receives grants from the state government.

Local Governance in Urban Areas

The urban local self-government is the most significant among them. Ever since the establishment of the Madras (now Chennai) Municipal Corporation in India, there has been an increase in the number of municipal bodies to manage the towns and cities.

The people in urban areas need basic facilities like public transport, roads, water supply, electricity, health facilities and several such services. The role of the urban local government in India is therefore very crucial. Growing urban population is a sign of overall shift in the basic economic structure of the society. It shows that economy is changing from an agrarian to industrial or even post-industrial phase. Rising population in urban areas and rise of big and small cities and towns have increased the number of local government bodies in country as well.

Municipal Corporations and Councils: Composition, Functions and Finance

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act heralded a new era in the urban local governance in India. It has constitutionalised the municipal local bodies by providing them with a constitutional status and also making it mandatory for the government to constitute them. The Act inserted a new part, namely, Part IXA, in the Constitution, which deals with issues relating to municipalities like their structure and composition, elections, powers and functions, finances, reservation of seats etc. A uniform three-tier structure of urban local bodies' viz., Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats was to be constituted. It provided for a uniform tenure of five years for all the three urban local bodies and in case of dissolution, elections to be held within six months.

Municipal Corporation is the topmost in urban local government system in India and usually found in big cities. Large population creates complex civil problems and therefore to solve these problems we need municipal corporations. In different states of India generally municipal corporations are created by special statute in the state legislations and these corporations are directly controlled by the state governments. All the municipal corporations consist of elected representatives of the people and some state government appointed officials. All the municipal areas are divided into wards which are generally electoral constituencies. These municipal corporations consist of Corporation Council, the Mayor, the commissioner and a number of Standing Committees.

The post of the mayor is the highest post in a municipal corporation and generally he or she is elected for one year term from the councillors elected from different wards. The mayor chairs the meetings of the council and assisted by a commissioner who is generally appointed by the state government and is an Indian Administrative Service cadre. Different standing committees are made to deal with a particular issue and these standing committees deal with their own issues. Some of the most important standing committees are related to the budget and finance and establishment and personnel etc.

In the smaller towns and cities municipalities or municipal councils manage their civic affairs collectively through the municipal board and committees. In all the municipal bodies sub- committees are created to deal with the subjects like water supply, sanitation and public works. Unlike in

the big cities municipalities head is called chairman and he/ she is elected for one year term from among the elected members of the municipality. Just like in municipal corporations the chairman's post is there to chair the meetings of the council. Real administrative powers are with executive officer appointed by the state government.

Most of the municipalities or municipal corporations have two basic functions; legislative and executive. All the elected members of the council in all these bodies are considered as the legislators and they collectively debate and deliberate over the policies and planning about the area. They have the right to approve the budget for the body and deciding on the subjects of taxation and provisions of services in the area. The council held different officials and committees accountable.

It is up to state governments to decide the extent and subjects of taxation by the municipal corporations and councils. However, in most of the states it has been generally found that municipal corporations or councils collect housing taxes and several user charges along with the collections from the special services such as organization of an event. In general their source of income is divided into three parts; Taxes, Fees and Fines and earning from its enterprises such as market places and other such resources. Municipal Corporation and Municipal councils put taxes on property and charge for their services. They are also provided with one-time grants from the state governments. After the 74th amendment, as we will study them later, there is a provision of the establishment of finance commission after every five years through which state has to allocate funds to these local bodies. Three types of bodies in urban areas based upon the population number and density

1. Nagar Panchayat
2. Municipal council
3. Municipal corporation

Check Your Progress

1. Explain the Three-tier Panchayat Raj System in India.
2. Discuss the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts.
3. How does Local Governance in Urban areas work? Discuss in Detail.

4.3.4. Local Governance: Socio-Economic Dimension

Local government is a multi-dimensional concept and is fundamentally a social institution. Local governance system provides a platform for people in a particular area to interact and in this process the issues of basic needs of the like food, shelter, water, and sanitation comes to the fore of interaction. It is these human feeling that act a binding force among themselves and the other authorities. The stronger the feeling of convergence, the deeper the roots of local authority.

The perception of Local Government as an economic institution is strong because of its role in the economic wellbeing of the local people. Economic viability and revenue generation is a primary function of local government, because it can positively contribute towards the development of its people. Without economic strength it will be tough to progress the development. Therefore, it is argued that their participation will ultimately lead to the strengthening of local autonomy. This is because local governments introduce economic decentralization and prevent centralizing trends in planning and development. In other words, by planning from below and implementing development projects, local governments reduce the extreme centralization that is a natural consequence of planning and development.

Local governments contribute to the development of the country by taking on small works. Moreover, political governance and economic development are closely related, so the only way to promote local autonomy is to economically emancipate local governments through participation in economic development. All this leads to strengthening the local government and ensuring a respectable relationship between the local government and the state government.

What counts more than anything else with the ordinary citizen is to see some tangible result of their tax contribution of labour in which they can take a personal interest in the form of a road, market, dispensary, etc. Such works stimulate a feeling of civic consciousness and a desire for improvement. With their participation in national development, growth and initiative of the local authorities also get stimulated. The local governance has an important economic dimension, because as a unit in a nation its contribution to national development is immense.

Check Your Progress

1. Describe the Socio-Economic dimension of Local Governance.
2. Explain the Economic Dimension of Local Governance?

4.4. People's Participation in Governance

4.4.1. Engagement of People in Local Governance: Statistics

Development and complete abolition of poverty in rural areas was the aim of package of institutions that were set up by the decentralization scheme. Rural India is represented across three axes. First is the caste system, second is patriarchy and third is land ownership. Caste system, which is a major factor in making relations between persons and even groups, and by its ideology of building segments, elimination and disgrace. Patriarchy treats and expects women to be submissive. It denies them the gains of equality of citizenship. Land ownership is the real currency of social life in most rural areas. Land ownership among the marginalised sections such as scheduled castes is small, so they are in a way excluded from the rural power structure.

Local governments reflect the crucial significance of participation of people in the local governance through elected representatives and involvement in the formulation and implementation of development plans for their locality and the provision of civic amenities for their better living. Thus, the concept of people's participation in local government is of more importance for the successful functioning of a local authority. The participation of citizens in formulating local programmes will make it more responsive and suitable for needs of local people. The success of local government could be traced in the effective participation of local citizens in not only electing representatives but also in holding them responsible for the work towards the locality.

Broadly speaking, the term "participation" refers to the role of ordinary people in influencing government activities or directly responding to community needs.

By following decentralized development, the Constitution appears to seek to address two types of weaknesses in the country's macro-level development plans. One has to do with the mismatch between growth and equity, which leads to unfair treatment of weaker sections of the population. The other is related to coordination between different levels

of government and addressing the issues at ground level. The Local governance system is expected to contribute towards removal of both of these types of weaknesses.

One practical interpretation of the reason behind lack of sufficient participation of local citizens is prospects and expenses. These costs turn out to be high among the poor sections and women because of their time-consuming occupations. Participation of poor communities in the gram Sabha is hard to make.

4.4.2. Women in Local Governance

These and various other committees led by P K Thungan (1988) and V N Gadgil (1989) also recommended the recognition of Panchayati Raj institutions in the constitution. The latter committee also recommended a five-year term for Panchayati Raj institutions and reservation for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women in these institutions. These recommendations became the part and parcel of the 73rd and 74th Amendments acts of the Indian Constitution in 1992. These amendments have established the present structure of the Panchayati Raj system in India.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment acts have provided the reservation of seats and posts in local governance for women and Scheduled Caste/ Tribes. So, these Marginalised sections could have access to the power structure of the local governance. So, the Constitutional reforms intended to promote a regime of participatory planning at different levels of local governments to remove the gap between development and social justice.

The most prominent of these is the power of the local government to provide social justice. The reservations provided to SCs, STs, OBCs and Women in these bodies have completely challenged the dominance of a small upper-class and upper-caste male section in politics. At least at the local level, there is real distribution of political power in India. Another major achievement of the local government in India is the real growth of political education among the people.

Reservation for women in local governance has brought a significant change in the representation of women in socio-political sphere. However, there is still a long way to go to transform the apparent empowerment of women into real empowerment.

Check Your Progress

1. Explain Three Axes of Rural India.
2. How does Local governance depend upon People's Participation?

4.4.3. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Local Governance

Constitutional Amendments made the proportional reservation of seats according to their population for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes mandatory in Local Governments. The office of chairpersons in the municipalities shall be reserved for SC, ST and women in such manner as the legislature of a state may by law provide. Consideration of social justice must be emphasized in the tasks given to panchayats and local authorities. "Economic development and social justice" were set as goals of the development plan. In summary, the mission is to pursue objectives of growth and equity simultaneously. If macro-level planners are not able to achieve this despite all the resources at their disposal, why does this happen at the micro-level of panchayats and local bodies? The potential for promoting social justice will only increase if victims of social injustice themselves can participate directly in the planning process. At the micro level of the panchayat/community, participation of weaker sections of the population is facilitated. But, even at these levels, the sections of these people may find it difficult to register their voice.

Disputes linked to land are recognized as the sole most important reason, inclusive of conflicts related to land reforms, allocation of agricultural territory and residential sites, use of village land by scheduled class, etc. Similarly, any attempt by SC agricultural labour staff to complain for adequate remuneration is usually curtailed with violence by the other upper Cates. The lines of both, poverty and pollution are coincident. It was in this situation that the package of decentralized democratic institutions of local governance, directed at tackling the issue of rural poverty with the help of improved governance, was introduced. The amendments were directed at tackling this unequal power structure by restructuring and introducing reforms. The politically influential policymakers created an institutional structure that comprised of and attempted to encompass all the vulnerable groups in governance. This was done by incorporating a few novel features in the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments. One explanation of the underlying principle for these reforms was that the central government wanted to destabilize the power of the state governments (the second tier) and make the third tier more powerful.

Collectively, these institutions have been an addition to the members of the Union parliament and almost 5,000 representatives of the state assemblies. In addition to this, there are around 30 Lakhs newly elected representatives. Out of these, the constitutional Reforms specifically state that one-third, or approx. Ten lakhs shall be women. In addition, it is stipulated that almost 7 Lakhs of these elected representatives should be members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In the common manner of speaking, they are referred to as SCs/STs. By adding such a large category of people to the power structure of the country, the density of representation of the Indian polity has been significantly increased by the constitution. The definition of this latest polity is stated in terms of the variations of a public way of life, political dynamics and material assets.

The Reforms that amendments produce comprise many significant changes that, if they work in accordance with their design, will render democracy in India to include more and represent more than what it is currently doing. What is the practical degree of functioning of these institutions, on the basis of their design? If they are not functioning to their full capacity, it is important to know the reason for it. As an instance of the complexity in interpreting evidence, we might consider incidents of hostility directed at the poverty-stricken and exploited groups of Scheduled class and Scheduled Tribes in rural areas. These incidents seem to be on the rise ever since the passing of the two amendments. An explanation of these incidents could be provided in terms of the rise in the resolve of the dominant castes in order to protect their cultural privileges against being taken over by Dalits (Scheduled Caste), that is, by approving a policy to push them back to where they belong, in terms of the societal hierarchy. There are rare instances where this type of violence and aggression by the dominating castes, directed towards Dalits, is penalized by the state authorities. With the help of this type of interpretation, it can be concluded that the Dalits of present times are usually in a condition which is worse than their past state when violence on the basis of caste and status was widespread but had not still assumed a political outlook, as seen currently. This higher degree of violence could also be visualized in terms of a struggle by Dalits to get away from generations-old domination and disgrace. This resistance was made feasible by the opportunity space shaped by the political reforms. As per this analysis, the Dalits of recent times can be considered to be economically better than what they were, prior to the amendments. The reason for this is that they are setting the base of a new democratic order.

Check Your Progress

1. Explain the Constitutional reforms related to the Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Local Governance.
2. Explain the need to provide reservation for Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in Local Governance.

4.4.4. Challenges in Local Governance

The creation of the local government was based on the principle of democratic decentralization. It was assumed that once local people are involved in the decision-making in the process of their development, the roots of democracies will be strengthened. Larger people's participation in the government's functioning is the main criterion for the success of the local government. However, since its advent in India, local government bodies have to struggle for autonomy from the state governments. The refusal and reluctance of the state governments to give greater autonomy to these bodies has many political and socio-economic reasons. The greatest hurdle in the autonomy of the local bodies has been their financial dependence on the state or central governments. In 1992, there were very important steps taken by the Indian policymakers. The government of India passed the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, providing these local bodies constitutional status for the first time in their history. This made the Indian government a three-tier structure. This also gave immense powers and responsibilities to the local bodies and provided for their financial independence in Article 243 I of the Constitution. However, these provisions have yet to bear fruit. Most of the local Governance institutions and government bodies are still dependent on the state government for their finances, making them compromise their autonomy. Now, we will delve into further details to understand the matter.

Challenges of Urban Local Governance

Financial paucity

The scarcity of finance and Funds is a serious problem faced by urban local bodies. Their main sources of income are the various types of taxes and grants provided by the State government. Taxes collected by local bodies were insufficient, and state and central governments collect a lot in taxes. Though local bodies can impose certain new taxes, but the elected members hesitate in doing so. Seventy fourth amendment act

made provision to form State Finance Commission for allocating funds to local governments, which is heavily depends upon state governments for getting grants-in-aid

Insufficient Administrative Machinery

The Local governments' administrative machinery is insufficient and ineffective and often underpaid. It also becomes a reason for them to indulge in corrupt practices which lead to loss of income for the local governments. If taxes are not collected on time, it leads to accumulation of arrears. As a result, many urban bodies are on the brink of bankruptcy.

Unplanned Urbanization

Urbanization is progressing. Local government services are not meeting the growing needs of the population, both in quality and quantity. The situation is worsening as the influx of rural people into cities is increasingly creating ghettos. Large cities are overcrowded and the management of public facilities such as water, sanitation, road maintenance, transportation, and housing is becoming increasingly unmanageable.

Although most of these problems are due to inadequate planning, the dynamics of urban management are themselves creating unprecedented problems of urban development. Without proper planning, land cannot be used rationally. Colonies were established without proper facilities such as schools, parks, and hospitals, the growth of slums was unchecked, there was a housing shortage, traffic congestion was rampant, and urban poverty and unemployment increased. Few effective measures have been taken to curb it. The growth of unplanned suburban colonies around cities creates a pattern of life that is neither rural nor urban.

Excessive State Control

Although this Constitutional act provides greater autonomy than before 1992, the actual management of relationships with local bodies in urban areas has not changed significantly, except in the case of corporations. Bureaucrats in all states have been less enthusiastic about devolving powers and loosening control. Due to this state control, including legislative, administrative, judicial, and fiscal, urban local governments do not function as self-governing institutions, but silence subordinate units of local administration.

State governments approve local government budgets (excluding local government budgets). Even changes to the local tax structure require prior approval and subsequent ratification by the government. Loans, bonds, and grants, even if monitored and regulated by the state Finance Commission, give elected institutions little autonomy in resource mobilization and public spending procedures. The audit system gives the government enormous powers to exercise control through auditing and accounting rules and regulations, as well as regulating revenues and expenditures.

The multiplicity of Agencies

In particular, there has been much criticism regarding the establishment of single-purpose agencies, and dominated by bureaucrats, which is against the basic philosophy of local autonomy. Elected Representatives of the people play a subordinate role. State Transportation Corporations, State Electricity Boards, Water Boards, etc., are outside the jurisdiction of urban local governments and function under the direct supervision of the state government without any Accountability towards the local government. The functions assigned to them actually belong to the elected municipalities. They diminish the reputation and importance of local bodies. Local governments have to contribute to the budgets of these agencies but have no control over them.

Low Level of People's Participation

It is incomprehensible that urban residents do not have a greater interest in the functioning of their local governments, even though literacy and educational standards have risen to fairly high levels. Most city dwellers used to live in rural areas and still see cities simply as a place to make a living and have little connection to them. The population of a city is divided into different groups that are isolated from each other. The public's apathy towards participation in the governance system creates a state of complacency and irresponsibility in these institutions.

Challenges in Rural Local Governance

Excessive Expenditure

Elections at all three levels of the Panchayat system and municipalities should be held simultaneously. The practice of disaggregating these elections is growing in most states. In order to achieve maximum

synergy within their work, elections for the Panchayats of all levels and municipalities must occur in parallel. As a result of allegations of serious and widespread irregularities and excessive expenditure by candidates, the growth of money and muscle power vitiates the power of the people.

Issues of Backward Class Reservation

Backward classes Reservations left to the discretion of the state legislatures. This has led to intensive litigation and delays in holding elections to the Panchayats.

Lack of Trained staff

Lack of trained administrative and technical staff and lack of well-trained elected members of the panchayat is also a challenge faced by local governments. Allocating funds for proper training is required for both elected members and administrative staff. Moreover, there is a special need to concentrate on training for the weaker sections and women.

Institutions with Overlapping Functions

State governments should set up expert committees to clearly define which functions are performed at which levels of the three-tier system, eliminate confusion and duplication between different levels, and ensure that development efforts are synergized across all three tiers. This delineation of responsibilities at different levels of the system will also facilitate the devolution of officials and finances to appropriate levels of the Panchayati Raj system. Effective decentralization requires the devolution of administrative and fiscal functions.

Overreach of District Planning Committees

Planning must be carried out at all levels of the Panchayati Raj system, not just at the district planning committee level. In fact, the wording of Article 243 ZD on District Planning Committees states that the DPC “integrates the plans prepared by the panchayats”. Implementation is an important task of the panchayat. For all devolved matters, implementation is the responsibility of the panchayat at the appropriate level, with bureaucracy and technocracy supporting the implementation of elected authorities and not state government departments.

They should be accountable to the panchayat. Gram Sabah is the best form of social audit, both pre- and post-implementation, and requires deep involvement in its implementation at all levels. It is also the most effective way to curb corruption and cronyism and ensure transparency, accountability and a functioning democracy.

Lack of Financial Autonomy

Few legislatures have adequately considered the financial obligations and rights of panchayats at various levels in their laws. There also appears to have been no effort to delineate financial obligations and rights among the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system. The State Finance Commission does not appear to be addressing this issue either. The central Government should appoint an appropriate expert committee to prepare model recommendations in this regard for consideration by the State Finance Commission and the State Legislature/Government. Article 243H(a) provides for the “appropriation” of income from taxes and other taxes collected by panchayats to their own resources; Therefore, the state legislatures need to consider which of the taxes allocated to panchayats etc. can be absorbed by the panchayats and enact appropriate new laws. Such appropriation should be encouraged wherever possible. The Union Government should direct all funds for the Center and centrally sponsored schemes into the panchayati funds in accordance with the delineation of responsibility between the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system.

The federal and state governments need to take prudent and appropriate steps in this direction. The provisions of Part IX are partly mandatory and partly recommended. It is the duty of the Central government to ensure strict compliance with the essential provisions of Part IX and use its persuasive powers to persuade state governments to comply with the letter and spirit of the provisions.

Check Your Progress

1. Why are most of the Panchayats and municipalities not able to work?
2. What is the common negative trend found in most of the local bodies?
3. What is the State Finance Commission?

4. Write a note on the problems and prospects of rural government in India.
5. Write a note on the problems and prospects of urban local government in India.

4.5. Summary

People's participation and decentralized governance are the two crucial facets on which the entire concept of Local governance relies. The unit discussed the historical evolution of local governance from the British occupation to the independence period of the 1990s. The constituent assembly at the time of independence discussed this topic in very great detail and divided mainly between two groups; one group advocated the Panchayati system, which is deeply embedded in Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Village republics to be recognized as the core value of local governance and to develop villages into autonomous self-governance systems. The other group regarded the Panchayati system as an old-fashioned and outdated idea with much potential for unequal treatment of weaker sections based on caste and class. Then, after a lot of discussions and deliberations, the Union Government in the 1990s brought the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts to bring much-needed reforms in the Rural and Urban Local Governance, respectively. The amendments introduced new local government institutions like Zila parishad, Panchayat Samithis and Gram Panchayats in Rural Areas and Municipal corporations, Nagar Panchayats and Municipalities in Urban areas.

The acts brought much-needed reforms in the structure of governance. India became a three- tier Power structure. The Amended Acts made way for democratic decentralization of authority and brought another 3 million elected representatives into the local power structure; among them, 1/3rd would be women and reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at all levels. Through these changes in Local Governance structures, the acts expanded the people's participation in the Democratic process as a form of governance in rural areas. However, the challenges for Local Governments in urban and rural areas are many, especially related to their autonomy in planning and executing various functions of their locality. State Governments are not following the due provisions of the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments in granting financial and decision-making autonomy to local governments. The multiplicity of Agencies in the cities and Bureaucratic friction among elected representatives is also a challenge for local governments.

4.6. Keywords

Democratic Decentralization, People's Participation, Urban Local Governance, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Constitutional Amendments, Three-tier Power Structure

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UNIT - V

Lesson 5.1 - Good Governance Initiatives in India: Best Practices

Unit Structure

- 5.1. Objectives
- 5.2. Introduction
- 5.3. Defining Public Service Delivery
 - 5.3.1. Public Service Delivery: Evolution of the Concept
 - 5.3.2. Public Service Delivery in India
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- 5.4. Electronic Governance
 - 5.4.1. Electronic Governance: Conceptual Analysis
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 - 5.5.4. Leading to Transparency/Good Governance
- 5.6. Corporate Social Responsibility
 - 5.6.1. Corporate Social Responsibility: An Analysis
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 - 5.6.3. Challenges in Corporate Social Responsibility
- 5.7. Summary
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- 5.9. References

5.1 Objectives

The objective of this unit is understanding about government's way of working towards sustainable development through good governance. Students will understand the concept of public services and the execution of government functions to meet the needs and welfare of its citizens. This involves recognizing the key factors and elements that contribute to the efficient and effective delivery of public services. The unit would cover the topics related to public administration, governance and citizen engagement in the context of providing public services and promoting accountability and transparency.

The major learning outcomes from this unit would be:

1. Grasp the significance of Public Services
2. Recognize the elements that encourage efficient public service provision
3. Comprehend the idea and importance of Citizen's charter
4. Understanding the importance of RTI
5. Analyze the importance of CSR
6. Understanding the concept and significance of electronic governance in India.

5.2. Introduction

The notion of Good Governance was initially formulated by the World Bank in 1992. The World Bank's Definition underscores that governance is not only about the existence of institutions and structures but also about how power is wielded within these systems. It emphasizes the importance of effective and responsible exercise of authority. Good Governance is concerned with the management of a country's economic and social resources. This extends beyond just economic matters and encompasses the broader social and developmental aspects of a nation. The World Bank's perspective highlights that good governance is central to creating sustainable environment that fosters strong, equitable, and sustainable development. In other words, it recognizes that sound governance is essential for development outcomes. In this unit, you will become familiar with the steps taken by the government for good governance. India has initiated several good governance measures and reforms to enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability in its governance systems.

These initiatives aim to improve public services reduce corruption and promote citizen engagement. The table below shows some of the notable good governance initiative in India:

Table 1. Good Governance Initiatives by Indian Government.

S.No.	Initiative/Scheme	Objective	Key Components
1	Digital India	To Transform India into digitally empowered economy	Digital infrastructure development, e- governance, digital literacy and widespread use of digital technologies for public services.
2	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY)	Financial inclusion by providing access to banking services, insurance, and pensions to all households	Opening of bank accounts with zero balance, financial literacy programs, and overdraft facilities
3.	Goods and service Tax (GST)	Streamline the complex tax structure by implementing a unified nationwide indirect tax system	Single tax system, simplified compliance procedure, and reduced tax evasion.
4	Aadhar Card	Provide a unique Identification Number to every citizen of India	Simplifies the identity verification, improves target service delivery. Reduces Fraud
5	Direct Benefit transfer (DBT)	Direct transfer of subsidies, pensions, and other benefits to the bank accounts of beneficiaries	Reduces leakage and ensures that benefits reach the intended recipients.
6	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign)	Promote cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation across India	Construction of toilets, waste management, and

			behavioral change campaigns
7	Make in India	Promote Manufacturing and attracts Foreign Investors.	Simplifying business regulations, improving infrastructure, and fostering a business-friendly environment
8	Election Commission Reforms	Enhance transparency and fairness in electoral process.	Introduction of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), continuous updating of voter lists and initiative to increase voter's awareness
9	Jan Aushadhi Scheme	Provide affordable generic medicine to all the citizens	Establishing Jan Aushadhi Kendra to sell low cost medicines.
10	Swamitva Yojna	Provide property titles to rural landowners.	Facilitates access to credit, reduce land disputes and promote rural development.
11	E- court Projects	Digitize courts processes to improve transparency and accessibility to justice	Electronic filing, case tracking and online access to judgments.
12	Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act	Establish anti-corruption ombudsman institutions at the central and state levels	Investigate and prosecute cases of corruption involving public officials

These initiatives reflect India's commitment to good governance, modernization of public services and inclusive development. They aim to empower citizens, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and ensure that government resources are utilized efficiently for the welfare of the people.

5.3. Defining Public Service Delivery

Public service delivery refers to the process through which government agencies, organizations or institutions provide essential services and benefits to its citizens. These services may include health care public safety, social welfare and more. The goal of public service delivery is to meet the needs of its people and to improve the quality of their life. At the same time, it ensures fairness, accessibility and accountability in the provision of these services.

5.3.1. Public Service Delivery: Evolution of the Concept

The concept of the public services is related with administration. It is put forward and pledged by the government for its citizens. Public service delivery serves most direct interaction between citizens and the government. It encompasses a wide range of services that citizens rely on their daily lives such as healthcare, public transportation, law and more. The quality and accessibility of these services can significantly impact citizen's life and also their perception of government. Therefore, governments strive to make these services efficient responsive and equitable to better serve their constituents. The key focus of the government whether its central, state and local is to supply impartial facilities like schools and hospitals, transportations etc to its people.

1. The concept of public Service delivery has evolved over centuries, with its origins dating back to early civilizations. Given below is a simplified overview of its evolution and development.
2. **Ancient Civilization:** The concept of governance and service provision to the citizens can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamian, Egypt and Greece. These early societies provided basic services like security, infrastructure and sometimes healthcare to their populations.
3. **Feudal System:** During feudal period, service delivery was often localized and centered on landownership and obligations to lords. Peasants provided labor and goods in exchange for protection and some basic services.
4. **Modern State:** The concept of the modern nation state began to take shape in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. As state centralized power, they started to take on more responsibility for providing services to their people.

Industrial Revolution: The Industrial revolution in 18th and 19th centuries led urbanization and increased demand for public services like sanitation, education, and public health. Government began to play more significant role in these areas.

5. **Welfare State Era:** The 20th century saw the rise of the welfare state, particularly in Western countries. Governments expanded their role in providing free or nominal healthcare, education social security, and other services to ensure their citizen's wellbeing.
6. **New Public Management:** Starting in the late 20th century, there was a shift towards NPM, which emphasized on efficiency, and market-oriented approach towards Public Service Delivery. This led to privatization, outsourcing and a focus on performance metrics.
7. **Digital Age and E- Government:** With the advent of digital age, governments began to use technology to improve public service delivery. E- Government initiative aimed to make services more accessible through online platforms and streamline bureaucracy.
8. **Citizen Centric approach:** In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on citizen centric service delivery, focusing on meeting the unique needs and preferences of the citizens. This involves greater transparency, citizen engagement and feedback mechanism.
9. **Globalization and Interconnectedness:** In a globalized world, countries often learn from each other's best practices in Public Service delivery. International organizations play a vital role in setting standards and promote efficient Public service delivery globally.

The concept of public service delivery continues to evolve as governments adapt to societal changes, technological advancements, and shifting citizen's expectations. It remains core function of governments worldwide, aimed at improving the wellbeing and quality of life for their citizens.

5.3.2. Public Service Delivery in India

The delivery of public services is undeniably a pivotal aspect of the governance process, serving as a fundamental instrument in meeting the requirements and desires of the populace. In India and many other developing countries, the challenge lies not only in the provisions of public services but also in ensuring their equitable distribution and effective

implementation. To address these challenges, government often enact laws, establish regulatory bodies and implement technology-driven solutions to improve service delivery and reduce corruption and inefficiency. Public service delivery is a cornerstone of inclusive and sustainable development, and it is central to the government's role in serving the best interests of its citizens. Persistent endeavours have been undertaken in the realm of public service, yet the outcomes achieved fall short of anticipated results. There are several factors which contribute to these failures. Some of them are described as under:

1. Bureaucratic inefficiency, slow decision-making processes, and a lack of accountability can hinder efficient public service delivery. Complex administrative procedures can lead to delays and inefficiencies.
2. Political interference and malpractices within public service institutions can compromise the effectiveness and fairness of service delivery. Favouritism can undermine merit-based recruitment and promotions
3. Corruption in the distribution of subsidized goods, such as food grains and other essential commodities can divert resources away from their intended beneficiaries, leading to shortage and higher cost for the people in marginalized group.
4. A lack of transparency in government operations can make it difficult for the citizens to hold officials accountable and monitor the use of public resources.
5. Inadequate infrastructure, including transportation networks and storage facilities can result in inefficiencies in the distribution of services and goods.
6. Identifying and targeting the most vulnerable and deserving beneficiaries for social welfare programs can be challenging in a huge country like India.
7. Weak monitoring and enforcement mechanisms can allow corrupt practices to persist.
8. Limited citizen participation in the design and implementation of public service delivery programs can lead to a lack of accountability and responsiveness to the needs of the population

Addressing all the above said challenges, a multi-pronged approach is required. That includes governance reforms, strengthening anti-corruption

measures, enhancing transparency and promoting citizen engagement. Some strategies to improve public service delivery in the face of these challenges include:

1. Implementing e-governance solutions to streamline processes and reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies.
2. Enhancing the role of civil society organizations and the media in monitoring and exposing corruption.
3. Conducting regular audits and evaluations of public service delivery programs to identify and rectify weaknesses.
4. Implementing social safety nets and cash transfer programs that directly benefit vulnerable populations.
5. Strengthening whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage reporting of corruption.
6. Promoting transparency through initiatives such as the Right to Information Act.

It is essential for government to remain committed to addressing these issues and continually strive for improvements in public service delivery to ensure that resources reach the intended beneficiaries and contribute to the well-being of the population, particularly those in need.

5.3.3. Scope of Public Service Delivery

The scope and future of Public Service delivery systems in India are evolving in response to various challenges and opportunities. The trajectory of these systems is influenced by technological advancements, changing governance paradigms, and the need to meet the evolving requirements of a diverse and dynamic population. An overview of the scope and potential future is described below:

1. The scope of public service delivery continues to expand to cover a broader range of services, including healthcare, education, social welfare, and infrastructure development.
2. Efforts are being made to ensure inclusivity in service delivery, targeting marginalized and vulnerable populations to bridge socio-economic disparities.
3. The adoption of digital technologies and e-governance initiatives is reshaping service delivery. Digital platforms enable efficient and transparent service access, reducing paperwork and bureaucracy.

4. Financial inclusion initiatives aim to provide banking and financial services to underserved and rural populations, facilitating economic empowerment.
5. Expanding healthcare services and insurance schemes to provide universal health coverage is a priority, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic
6. Improving the quality of education and increasing access to quality education are crucial for human capital development. Digital learning and online resources play a role in this regard.
7. Public service delivery extends to infrastructure development, including transportation, sanitation, and clean energy projects to support economic growth and sustainable development
8. Schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and social safety nets are enhancing the effectiveness of social welfare programs.

Improving Public service delivery in India can involve several future directions like Skill development, Decentralization, digital transformation e.t.c. Some of the key requirements in this path can be described below:

1. The future of public service delivery in India is likely to be increasingly digital, with expanded use of data analytics, artificial intelligence, and block chain to streamline operations and improve efficiency
2. With increased digitization, ensuring data privacy and cyber security will be a significant focus area to protect citizen information
3. The development of smart cities will lead to integrated, technology driven urban service and infrastructure management.
4. Public service delivery will align with sustainable development goals, emphasizing environmental sustainability and resource efficiency
5. Collaboration with the private sector through public-private partnerships (PPPs) will be explored to enhance service quality and expand infrastructure.
6. Empowering citizens through increased participation in governance and decision- making processes will foster better service design and delivery
7. Strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms will be crucial to minimize corruption and improve governance.
8. Ensuring equitable access to services in rural areas, including

agriculture support and digital connectivity, will remain a priority

9. Building resilience in public service delivery systems to address crises like pandemics and natural disasters is essential
10. The healthcare and education sectors will witness the integration of technology (healthtech and edtech) to improve access and quality.

To summarize, the future of public service delivery in India is dynamic and a committed approach to improve the wellbeing of its citizens. Continued efforts to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and accountability is a crucial step in achieving these goals. These future directions can help India evolve its Public Service Delivery and better meet the diverse needs of its citizens while fostering growth and development.

Check Your Progress

1. What do you understand by public service delivery?
2. What factors encourage the efficient delivery of public services?
3. Explain some of the Good Governance Initiatives in India.
4. What are the hurdles in successful implementation of Public Service delivery in India?

5.4. Electronic Governance

5.4.1. Electronic Governance: Conceptual Analysis

Electronic governance, often referred to as e-governance, is a concept that involves the use of information technology (ICT) to enhance and streamline the delivery of government services, improve administrative efficiency promote transparency and engage citizens in then decision making processes of government. It aims to provide a clear understanding of the fundamental ideas and components of e-governance. The evolution of e- governance in India and abroad is a journey of transformation that how government services are delivered and managed. The evolution from basic computerization to citizen-centricity represents a shift from merely automating government processes to focusing on the needs and preferences of citizens. This transformation is essential for enhancing the quality of services and improving the overall governance experience. The emphasis on

service orientation indicates a move towards providing efficient and responsive services to citizens. Service delivery is a central aspect of e- Governance, and the goal is to make government services accessible, convenient, and user- friendly. Adopting a programmatic approach to e-Governance ensures that initiatives are guided by a common vision and strategy. This approach promotes coordination and collaboration across different levels of government, making it more efficient and cost-effective. Also, transparency is very important principle of e-Governance. It involves making government processes, decisions, and information open and accessible to the public. Learning from past e-Governance initiatives is crucial for avoiding pitfalls and optimizing future efforts. Sharing core and support infrastructure can lead to significant cost savings. This approach reduces redundancy and promotes the efficient use of resources, benefiting both the government and taxpayers. Interoperability is key to ensuring that different government systems can seamlessly exchange data and information. The adoption of standards facilitates this interoperability, making it easier for citizens to access integrated services. Integrated and user-friendly online platforms enable citizens to access a wide range of government services through a single portal. Providing citizens with a seamless view of government services and information enhances their experience. It is very important to understand that, e-Governance initiatives encompass all levels of government, including the national, state, and local levels. This ensures that the benefits of technology-driven governance reach citizens across the country. Collaborating with international organizations and governments is important to align e-Governance initiatives with global standards and best practices.

Conceptual analysis helps policymakers, researchers, and practitioners understand the foundational concepts of e-Governance and its multidimensional nature. It provides a basis for **the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective e-Government strategies that can transform government operations and enhance citizen engagement and satisfaction.**

5.4.2. Electronic Governance: Dimensions

Electronic Governance (e-Governance) encompasses various dimensions that collectively define the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for enhancing governance processes and

improving service delivery. These dimensions highlight different aspects of e- Governance and its impact on the functioning of governments. Here are some key dimensions of e-Governance:

1. **Digital Service Delivery:** This dimension focuses on providing government services to citizens and businesses through digital channels, such as websites, mobile apps, and online portals. It aims to make services more accessible and convenient, reducing the need for physical visits to government offices
2. **Open Data Transparency:** E-Governance promotes transparency by making government data and information accessible to the public. Open data initiatives involve publishing government datasets, budgets, and performance information for public scrutiny.
3. **Citizens Engagement:** Citizen Engagement is a crucial dimension, emphasizing the involvement of citizens in decision-making processes and policy formulation. Online platforms and tools facilitate citizen feedback, surveys, and participation in governance
4. **Digital Inclusion:** This dimension focuses on ensuring that all citizens, including those in remote and underserved areas, have access to digital government services. It addresses the digital divide and promotes digital literacy and inclusion.
5. **Cyber security and Data Privacy:** Robust cyber security measures and data protection laws are essential components
6. **Legal and Regulatory framework:** Governments need to establish legal and regulatory frameworks that govern e-Governance activities.
7. **Economic Impact:** It involves evaluating the cost-effectiveness of digital transformation and measuring the economic benefits, including job creation and improved business environments.
8. **Sustainability:** E-Governance projects should be sustainable over the long term. This dimension considers the financial viability, scalability, and continuity of e-Governance initiatives.
9. **Innovation and Research:** Encouraging innovation and research in e-Governance is essential for continuous improvement and the adoption of emerging technologies to enhance government services.
10. **International Collaboration:** Collaboration with international organizations and governments is vital to share best practices, adopt global standards, and leverage international expertise in

e-Governance.

These dimensions collectively contribute to the development and implementation of effective e-Governance strategies. They enable governments to leverage technology to improve governance, enhance citizen satisfaction, and drive socio-economic development.

5.4.3. Electronic Governance and Democracy in India

In a democratic nation like India, the goal of e-governance is to leverage technology to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of government processes. On May 18, 2006, the Government of India sanctioned the National e-Governance Plan (NEGP), consisting of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 8 components. In 2011, an additional 4 projects in Health, Education, PDS, and Posts were introduced, expanding the list of MMPs from 27 to 31. These MMPs are directed at critical domains such as land records, income tax, and procurement. The government has endorsed the vision, approach, strategy, key components, implementation methodology, and management structure for the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). This plan serves as a comprehensive framework for leveraging information technology to enhance government services and processes. While NeGP as a whole has received approval, it's important to note that this approval does not automatically provide financial approval for all the individual MMPs and their components. Each MMP may require separate financial approval based in its specific requirements and budget considerations. The ongoing projects categorized under MMPs, currently being executed by different Central Ministries, States, and State Departments, will be modified and improved to conform to the objectives and benchmarks established by NeGP. This alignment ensures that these projects contribute to the overarching goal of e- Governance in the country. NeGP involves collaboration between the central government, state governments, and various government departments to streamline governance processes and enhance service delivery. The augmentation and enhancement of existing projects may involve incorporating new technology, improving data sharing and integration, and ensuring compliance with NeGP guidelines to create a more integrated and efficient e-Governance ecosystem.

Overall, the approval of NeGP represents a significant commitment by the Indian government to leverage information technology for more efficient, transparent, and citizen centric governance. It underscores

the importance of digitalization and modernization efforts to improve the quality of government services and enhance the overall governance experience for citizens and businesses. As technology continues to advance, e-Governance will likely play an increasingly pivotal role in shaping the future of governance in India.

The Digital India program represents an all-encompassing effort by the Government of India to reshape the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy. Here are some highlights of noteworthy Digital India initiatives:

1. **e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM):** It is an electronic trading platform in India that facilitate the online trading of agricultural commodities. Launched in April 2016, eNAM is an initiative of the Government of India aimed at modernizing agricultural markets, enhancing transparency and providing a unified national market for agricultural produce.
2. **Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS):** FMS checks the counterfeit claims and instances of theft, with the ultimate goal of establishing a market for subsidized fertilizers. This initiative aims to generate significant annual savings amounting to several thousand crores.
3. **Soil Health Card:** The Soil Health Card Scheme was initiated in 2015 to encourage the Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) of soil by carefully administering chemical fertilizers. It offers personalized recommendations for fertilizers and micronutrients based on soil test results.
4. **GeM:** GeM, which stands for 'Government eMarketplace,' is a platform hosted by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) under the Ministry of Commerce. GeM is a dynamic, self-sustaining, and user-friendly portal designed to facilitate procurement by government officials.
5. **Digi Locker:** Digi Locker is a prominent initiative within the Digital India program, which is the Government of India's flagship initiative aimed at achieving paperless governance. Digi Locker serves as a platform for digitally issuing and verifying documents and certificates.
6. **e-Granthalya:** e-Granthalya is a digital platform created by the National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. It is a web-based

Integrated Library Management Software designed for government libraries to facilitate resource sharing.

7. **UMANG:** This acronym stands for Unified Mobile Application for New Age Governance, and it is a mobile application developed by the Government of India. It serves as a unified platform for Indian citizens to access various government services and information in a seamless manner.
8. **NKN:** The National Knowledge Network (NKN) is a high-speed national research and education network with multi-gigabit capabilities. Its objective is to offer a unified high-speed network backbone to support educational institutions throughout India.

Under the e-Kranti pillar of Digital India, various mission mode projects have been launched to drive digital transformation and modernization of government processes. These projects aim to enhance the delivery of government services, promote digital literacy, and facilitate the use of technology for governance.

5.5. Citizen Charter and Right to Information

5.5.1. Citizen Charter: Conceptual Analysis

The Citizen's Charter is a written document that formalizes the organization's commitment to service quality and citizen rights. It serves as a public statement of intent. A Citizen's Charter is indeed a non-agency device designed to promote people's participation and enhance the accountability and transparency of public organizations. It reflects the commitment of government departments or agencies to prioritize the needs and rights of citizens. A Citizen's Charter serves as a tool to encourage people's participation in governance. It empowers citizens by providing them with clear information about the services they can expect from a public organization and the standards of service delivery. The Charter emphasizes the commitment of public organizations to provide efficient and quality services to citizens. It serves as a declaration of intent to fulfil these commitments. The slogan of "Putting People First" underscores the citizen-centric approach of the Citizen's Charter initiative. It places citizens at the forefront of government services and ensures that their needs are prioritized.

The Charter typically includes a set of commitments and standards that specify the quality, timeliness, and accessibility of services. These commitments are meant to guide the organization's actions and decisions. In cases where the organization does not meet its commitments, the Charter often outlines remedial actions. This provides citizens with a recourse mechanism to address grievances and seek remedies. The Charter promotes transparency by making information about services and standards readily available to citizens. It also holds the organization accountable for its service delivery through clearly defined standards.

Overall, a well-implemented Citizen's Charter is a valuable tool for enhancing the quality of public services, building trust between citizens and government organizations, and promoting citizen engagement in governance processes. It aligns with principles of good governance and reinforces the idea that public organizations exist to serve the needs and interests of the people they represent.

5.5.2. Citizen Charter as a tool of Citizen's Right

The idea of Citizen's Charter was initially started in United Kingdom in 1991. Subsequently, various other nations, including Australia, Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain, Canada, and the USA, adopted a similar approach to enhance the quality of services for their citizens. The Charter is fundamentally based on the relationship between the government and its citizens. It recognizes that public services should be designed and delivered with the citizens' perspective in mind.

While the Citizen's Charter may not be legally enforceable by citizens, it serves as a powerful tool for holding government organizations accountable. It empowers citizens by providing them with a framework to assess the quality and efficiency of public services. The Charter sets clear standards for service quality, timeliness, and efficiency. These standards serve as benchmarks against which government organizations can measure their performance.

Transparency is a core principle of the Citizen's Charter. It emphasizes the importance of providing citizens with accurate and accessible information about government services, their entitlements, and the procedures to access them. Citizens are given the freedom to choose among available services and service providers. Public servants are expected to treat citizens with courtesy and helpfulness. This includes providing

assistance, answering queries, and addressing concerns in a respectful manner. The Charter may also involve citizens in the consultation process to gather their input and feedback on service improvements. The Charter acknowledges that service failures or grievances may occur. In such cases, it outlines mechanisms for resolving issues and addressing complaints promptly and fairly. Government organizations are encouraged to ensure that public services offer value for money.

It is to be noted that the Citizen's Charter is a customer-centric approach to governance that seeks to enhance the quality of public services, foster trust between the government and citizens, and promote citizen engagement. By setting clear standards and expectations, it creates a framework for continuous improvement in service delivery. Additionally, it reinforces the idea that government exists to serve the best interests of its citizens.

5.5.3. Right to Information: Evolution of the Concept

Right to information act (RTI) 2005, ensures timely response for government information by the citizen. RTI has gained immense prominence within the field of public administration. It is recognized as a transformative force that has the potential to bring about significant changes in how governments operate.

The right to information is rooted in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) from 1948. It stands as a fundamental human entitlement and serves as the cornerstone for all the liberties upheld by the United Nations, as indicated in the UN General Assembly Resolution of 1946. Sweden holds the distinction of being the pioneer in extending this privilege to its citizens as early as 1766. In India, although the Right to Freedom of Information is not explicitly enshrined in the Indian Constitution, it is implicitly included under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution when interpreted in conjunction with Article 19 of the UDHR. The Right to Information Act was subsequently enacted by the government in 2005.

In a huge democracy, like India, many systems are plagued by corruption and insensitivity toward the concerns of citizens. There is an urgent need to combat corruption and improve governance. RTI is portrayed as a powerful tool for empowering citizens. By granting individuals the right to access government information hence enables them to become active

participants in the governance process. It is like torch-bearer for promoting good governance. It serves as a beacon that can guide governments toward more open, accountable, and responsive practices. The RTI has the potential to result in governance that is more transparent, responsible, receptive, and citizen-oriented. It underscores the transformative impact that greater transparency and citizen engagement can have on governance.

5.5.4. Leading to Transparency/Good Governance

RTI is characterized as one of the most important social innovations of the century. It represents a fundamental shift in the relationship between the government and its citizens, empowering individuals to access information about government activities. RTI is instrumental in enhancing accountability and transparency in government operations. It enables citizens to access government records, decisions, and information, thereby holding public officials accountable for their actions.

RTI is closely linked to public service delivery. By providing citizens with the means to request information about government programs and services, it fosters a culture of openness and encourages government agencies to deliver services efficiently and effectively. RTI is frequently incorporated as a crucial element of policy initiatives aimed at enhancing governance in developing nations. It is seen as a cornerstone of efforts to combat corruption, reduce bureaucracy, and enhance citizen participation. RTI serves as a powerful instrument for promoting openness, transparency, and accountability within the governance process. It enables citizens to scrutinize government actions, ensuring that decisions are made in the public interest. This empowers individuals to actively participate in governance, contribute to policy discussions, and make informed choices. RTI aligns with the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. It contributes to the overall improvement of governance practices.

In a nutshell, the Right to Information is a transformative force that has the potential to reshape governance by promoting openness, accountability, and citizen engagement. It represents a fundamental shift toward more transparent and citizen-centric governance, and its impact continues to be felt across the globe as more countries adopt and strengthen RTI laws and mechanisms.

5.6. Corporate Social Responsibility

5.6.1. Corporate Social Responsibility: An Analysis

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a business practice that involves companies taking responsibility for their social, environmental, and ethical impact beyond their financial performance. CSR is often considered a voluntary commitment, although it can also be regulated by laws and regulations in some jurisdictions. CSR encompasses a company's efforts to address social and environmental issues. This includes initiatives related to community development, environmental sustainability labor practices, and ethical business conduct. It can enhance a company's reputation and stakeholder trust.

CSR is a global concept, and multinational corporations may adapt their CSR strategies to align with local and global expectations and challenges. Effective CSR can lead to various business benefits, including enhanced brand reputation, increased customer loyalty, improved employee satisfaction and reduced operational risks. There are three aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

- 1. Traditional Corporate Philanthropy:** This aspect involves companies engaging in charitable activities, including donations and support for socio-cultural and religious purposes. It often includes financial contributions to charitable organizations, cultural events, religious initiatives, and community development projects. Traditional philanthropy is an important component of CSR, demonstrating a company's commitment to giving back to society.
- 2. Corporate Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development:** This aspect of CSR focuses on sustainable development and addresses stakeholders' priorities. It goes beyond traditional philanthropy and includes efforts to minimize a company's environmental impact, promote social well-being, and engage with stakeholders such as employees, customers, suppliers, and communities. CSR for sustainable development often involves initiatives related to environmental sustainability, fair labor practices, community engagement, and responsible supply chain management.
- 3. Ethical Business based on Social Values:** This aspect of CSR emphasizes ethical business conduct guided by social values and the long-term interests of stakeholders. It involves adhering to

ethical principles, promoting transparency, and avoiding unethical practices such as corruption or exploitation. Ethical business conduct is a fundamental component of CSR, contributing to a company's reputation and trustworthiness.

These three aspects collectively represent a comprehensive approach to CSR, where companies aim to contribute positively to society, minimize negative impacts, and operate in an ethical and socially responsible manner. CSR initiatives can vary widely among companies and industries, but they generally encompass these core areas to create a more sustainable and responsible business environment.

5.6.2. Corporate Social Responsibility: A Tool of Governance

Corporate Social Responsibility serves as a tool of governance by promoting ethical behavior, accountability, transparency, and stakeholder engagement. It can complement government efforts to address societal challenges and influence public policy, ultimately contributing to improved governance practices within the business sector and society at large.

1. CSR initiative often aligns with government regulations and standards. By voluntarily adhering to these standards, companies can demonstrate their commitment to ethical conduct, thereby avoiding potential legal issues and regulatory penalties.
2. CSR encourages businesses to operate ethically and responsibly. By adhering to ethical principles and socially responsible practices, companies contribute to better governance by setting a positive example for other businesses and demonstrating a commitment to ethical conduct.
3. CSR initiatives often require companies to be transparent about their social and environmental impacts. This transparency fosters greater accountability in the business sector. When companies disclose their CSR efforts and report on their progress, they are more likely to be held accountable for their actions by stakeholders, including customers, investors, and regulatory authorities.
4. In some regions, governments have established regulations and reporting requirements related to CSR. Compliance with these regulations becomes a form of governance, ensuring that companies meet certain social and environmental standards. CSR regulations may include requirements related to environmental impact assessments, labor practices, and community engagement.

5. Companies that engage in CSR often address societal issues and challenges by actively participating in efforts to address these challenges, such as poverty, environmental conservation, or education, companies can complement government initiatives and alleviate some of the burdens on government resources.
6. Some companies use their CSR initiatives to advocate for policy changes that align with their social and environmental goals. This advocacy can influence government policies and regulations, shaping the overall governance landscape.
7. Leading companies in CSR often set industry standards and best practices. When companies establish high ethical and sustainability standards, they encourage others in the industry to follow suit.
8. CSR initiatives can enhance a company's reputation, which, in turn, can positively influence governance relationships. Companies with strong reputations for responsible and ethical conduct may find it easier to collaborate with governments, attract investment, and build trust of stakeholders.

Hence, it is evident that CSR revolves around corporations' commitment to a broader societal impact. Large companies are anticipated to demonstrate empathy towards the less fortunate and marginalized segments of society. They are expected to align with real-world issues and not advocate for government policies that exclusively benefit a select few.

5.6.3. Challenges in Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, despite their positive intent and impact, encounter several challenges in their implementation and effectiveness. Resources are very important for implementing any programme or scheme. Implementing CSR programs can be costly. Companies may struggle to allocate sufficient financial and human resources to CSR initiatives, especially smaller businesses with limited budgets. Measuring social and environmental outcomes and demonstrating a clear return on investment can be complex and time-consuming. Interest of every stakeholder is necessary. Companies must balance the interests of various stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, and local communities. Conflicting interests may arise, making it difficult to satisfy all stakeholders. Also, the companies that are operating in multiple regions may face different CSR regulations and standards. Complying with

varying requirements and reporting can be complex and resource-intensive. As CSR is an ever-evolving process, societal expectation around it would definitely be ever increasing. Companies have to adapt to changing norms and demands, which can be challenging for long-established business. When it comes to crisis management like any supply chain scandal or even environment disaster, companies have to be ready to respond effectively to mitigate reputational damage and legal consequences. There could be several other issues that can arise from nowhere, companies have to be ready to deal with them.

Despite the challenges, many companies recognize the long-term benefits of CSR, including enhanced reputation, stakeholder trust, and resilience in a changing business environment. To overcome these challenges, companies would often require a commitment to transparency, ongoing communication with stakeholders, robust measurement and reporting, and a genuine dedication to CSR principles.

Check your progress

1. In what way does the Citizen's Charter contribute to enhancing service delivery?
2. What is the significance of RTI?
3. What is Corporate Social Responsibility?
4. What are the challenges faced by companies in implementing CSR?

5.7. Summary

The expansion of e-governance and e-government represents a notable advancement in the era of digital technology. This evolution gained momentum with the emergence of the World Wide Web (WWW) in the 1990s, offering governments fresh possibilities to harness information technology for the delivery of public services and the conduct of governance. Digital service delivery is an initiative of the government to provide services online, making it easier for citizens and businesses to access essential services, such as tax filing, permit applications, and healthcare services, without the need for physical visits to government offices. The digital India is another initiative by the Government of India to transform the country into a digital society. It encompasses various schemes for the benefit of people. PMGDSA,

Jan Dhan Yojna, Aadhar payments systems, e- Panchayat, e-Courts, mobile app, digi-lockers are few to be named here.

The concepts like good governance, citizens' charter, and RTI have revolutionized the public service delivery system in India.

5.8. Keywords

Good Governance, Right to Information, Citizen's Charter, Corporate Social Responsibility, Digital India, Public Service Delivery, e- Governance.

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