

1. At least in part, corruption is a by-product of liberalization without putting in place effective governing mechanisms and institutions. Comment in view of India's experience in governance in post economic reforms period. (150 Words)

Answer:

- India liberalised its economy in 1991, drastically reducing tax rates, tariffs, and detailed micro-control of economic activity. This opened up sectors hitherto reserved for the public sector, including to foreign companies. These changes were expected to bring an end to the corruption that plagued India, particularly since the 1970s.
- With the liberalization, various policies like MRTP, licence raj, etc. saw a change which permitted many new companies to enter in the country.
- Liberalization has also opened opportunities for the population in the form of more private partners, more educational and technological institutions, enhanced connectivity through foreign investment in infrastructure, etc., but its impact on development has been limited due to bribery and cases of discrimination in giving projects.
- Yet, two decades after liberalisation, an economically resurgent India faces a crisis of governance. Scams and scandals have dominated the headlines. There had been instances of alleged corruption in allotting land, preferential treatment of certain organizations over other, etc.
- This is due to alleged lack of government control over the grant of allocating auctions or spectrums.
- The 2G, coal scams show that how first, arbitrary mechanism and then inefficiency of public sector were primarily used as reasons for corruption and lax regulatory institutions enabled it. This has resulted in some of the biggest scams in the country.
- In the light of these events, it can be said that the deregulatory reforms at the state-level still have a long way to go and the laws which protect politicians and bureaucrats from prosecution for misuse of power need to be abolished.
- The government must make sure that the institutions and the regulatory bodies function appropriately in order to check corruption.
- Along with this, the role of the media and NGOs in exposing misuse of power is vital.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Despite its associated risks, nanotechnology offers many advantages to improve upon existing technologies to tackle air, water, and soil pollution. Analyse. (150 words)
2. What is cloud computing? With examples, identify how it can improve the quality of governance. Also, suggest some measures that can be deployed to counter the security risks that may arise. (150 words)

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