

1. The "principle of subsidiarity" has been replaced by "principles of subsidies" in the context of Indian federalism. Comment. (150 Words)

Answer:

- India opted for quasi-federal structure after independence. Although the term "federal" has not been mentioned in the constitution but the working of Indian democracy is essentially federal in structure.
- The principle of subsidiarity is seen as one of the basis of federalism. The principle, from a common sense perspective, lays down that decisions should be taken at the level closest to the ordinary citizen and that action taken by the upper echelons of the body politic should be limited.
- This states that 3F's functions, functionaries and funds should be transferred to the states so that they can use them for meeting the development needs at the local level.
- Centre has practically monopolised the powers. The grants are transferred to the local level in the form of Centrally Sponsored Schemes without taking view of the local needs and with less flexibility.
- This virtually means that instead of innovation or bottoms-up policy which would be better in terms of adaptation to local culture and issues.
- Whereas, if we see the policies designed by local bodies and local think tanks, they were more effective for the respective community, but never got implemented. For example – Pulse Polio and Mid-day meal were local schemes before they were adopted by centre too. Thus, we miss out on local innovation and ingenious if we simply adopt scheme everywhere, because of their inherent subsidy component to the tune of 75 to 90 per cent.
- All these centralised measures act as obstacle to development.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. The cave architecture in India not only enlighten us with information of tradition and customs of ancient times but also illustrate considerable accomplishment with regard to structural engineering and artistry. Discuss. (150 words)
2. While the Battle of Plassey laid the foundation of British Empire in India, it was the Battle of Buxar that proved to be the turning point of British fortunes in India. Discuss. (150 words)