

Indian Government and Politics PYQ 2018

SET-B

Q1. Compare and contrast the Liberal and Marxist approaches to the study of Indian Politics.

Ans. The Liberal and Marxist approaches to the study of Indian politics represent two distinct ideological frameworks that analyze and interpret political phenomena from different perspectives. Here's a comparison and contrast between these two approaches:

1. Fundamental Premises:

- **Liberal Approach:** The liberal approach emphasizes individual rights, personal freedoms, and limited government intervention. It promotes ideas of equality, democracy, and free-market capitalism. Liberal scholars focus on institutions, laws, and individual agency as key factors in political analysis.

- **Marxist Approach:** The Marxist approach views society through the lens of class struggle and the material conditions of production. It argues that political structures are shaped by economic relations and the struggle between the ruling class (bourgeoisie) and the working class (proletariat). Marxist scholars analyze power relations, social inequality, and economic exploitation.

2. Focus on Capitalism and Inequality:

- **Liberal Approach:** Liberals recognize the importance of capitalism as an engine of economic growth and development. They advocate for free markets, private property rights, and competition. However, liberals also acknowledge the need for regulatory measures to prevent market failures and ensure a level playing field. They prioritize reducing inequality through social welfare programs and policies promoting equal opportunities.

- **Marxist Approach:** Marxists critique capitalism as a system that perpetuates social inequality and exploitation. They argue that political power is concentrated in the hands of the bourgeoisie, who control the means of production. Marxist analysis emphasizes the need for social ownership of productive resources and the redistribution of wealth to address systemic inequality.

3. Role of the State:

- **Liberal Approach:** Liberals advocate for a limited but essential role for the state. They support a democratic system with checks and balances, where the state ensures individual rights, provides public goods, and enforces the rule of law. Liberals emphasize the importance of a transparent and accountable government that protects civil liberties and fosters economic growth.

- **Marxist Approach:** Marxists see the state as a tool of the ruling class, serving to maintain capitalist interests and suppress dissent. They view the state as an instrument of class domination and argue for a revolutionary transformation that replaces the capitalist state with a socialist or communist system. Marxists aim for a state that is controlled by the working class to advance social justice and dismantle class-based exploitation.

4. Approach to Political Change:

- **Liberal Approach:** Liberals generally advocate for gradual reforms and incremental change within the existing system. They believe in the power of democratic institutions, elections, and civil society to bring about political and social transformation. Liberals seek to balance stability and progress by working within the established frameworks of governance.

- **Marxist Approach:** Marxists argue for a revolutionary overthrow of the existing capitalist system. They view class struggle and the mobilization of the working class as essential for transformative change. Marxists emphasize the need to dismantle capitalist structures, redistribute wealth, and establish a socialist society that prioritizes collective ownership and economic equality.

While both the liberal and Marxist approaches have contributed to the study of Indian politics, they differ in their underlying assumptions, focus areas, and solutions to social and economic challenges. Understanding these distinct perspectives helps to analyze political phenomena from multiple angles and encourages critical analysis of power dynamics, inequality, and the role of the state in Indian society.

Q2. Discuss basic features enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution sets out the basic principles and objectives of the Constitution and reflects the collective aspirations of the people of India. It serves as an introductory statement that outlines the foundational values and goals that the Constitution seeks to achieve. The key features enshrined in the Preamble are as follows:

Sovereign: The Preamble declares India to be a sovereign nation, indicating that it is free from external control or domination and possesses the authority to govern itself independently.

Socialist: The term "socialist" was added to the Preamble through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment. It reflects the commitment to the idea of social and economic justice, equitable distribution of resources, and the welfare of all citizens.

Secular: The Preamble declares India as a secular country, ensuring that the state remains neutral in matters of religion and treats all religions equally. It promotes religious freedom, tolerance, and the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of religion.

Democratic: The Preamble emphasizes the democratic nature of the Indian polity. It establishes India as a representative democracy where power rests with the people who elect their representatives through free and fair elections.

Republic: India is described as a republic, indicating that the head of state is an elected representative (the President) rather than a hereditary monarch. It signifies the absence of any hereditary privileges and the equality of all citizens.

Justice: The Preamble emphasizes the commitment to justice—social, economic, and political. It envisions a just society that upholds the principles of equality, fairness, and the protection of fundamental rights for all individuals.

Liberty: The Preamble highlights the importance of individual liberty, ensuring freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship. It guarantees personal freedoms and protects citizens from arbitrary state action.

Equality: The Preamble emphasizes the ideal of equality, promoting social, economic, and political equality among all citizens. It rejects discrimination based on caste, religion, race, gender, or place of birth.

Fraternity: The Preamble seeks to foster a sense of brotherhood and unity among the diverse people of India. It promotes a spirit of mutual respect, tolerance, and cooperation among individuals and groups.

It is important to note that the Preamble is not enforceable in a court of law, but it serves as a guiding principle for interpreting the Constitution and shaping the policies and laws of the country. The Preamble reflects the fundamental values and aspirations of the Indian Constitution and provides a foundation for the democratic and inclusive nature of the Indian state.

Q3. Analyse the changing role and position of the Prime Minister in recent times

Ans. The role and position of the Prime Minister in recent times have witnessed several changes, reflecting evolving political dynamics, societal expectations, and global influences. Some key aspects that highlight this shifting landscape include:

Increased Executive Power: Prime Ministers have seen a significant increase in executive power, consolidating their role as the head of government. They often exercise considerable control over policy-making, decision-making, and the functioning of various government institutions. This trend is seen in both parliamentary and presidential systems.

Strong Leadership and Media Influence: Prime Ministers now occupy a prominent position in the public sphere, often assuming a larger-than-life persona. They are expected to provide strong leadership, communicate effectively with the public, and shape public opinion. The influence of media, including social media platforms, has amplified the visibility and impact of Prime Ministers on national and international platforms.

International Engagement: Prime Ministers play an increasingly vital role in international diplomacy and global affairs. They represent their country in international forums, forge alliances, negotiate treaties, and shape foreign policy. They are also key players in addressing global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and trade agreements.

Centralization of Power: In some cases, Prime Ministers have been criticized for centralizing power within their offices, concentrating decision-making authority and reducing the role of other governmental institutions. This trend has led to concerns about democratic checks and balances, transparency, and accountability.

Coalition Politics: In countries with multi-party systems, Prime Ministers often lead coalition governments. This requires navigating complex political alliances, negotiating policy compromises, and maintaining stability amid diverse ideological perspectives. The role of the Prime Minister in such scenarios involves balancing party interests, managing coalition partners, and maintaining political cohesion.

Crisis Management: The role of Prime Ministers in times of crisis has become increasingly crucial. They are expected to provide effective leadership, make swift decisions, and communicate with the public during emergencies such as natural disasters, pandemics, or economic downturns. Crisis

management skills and the ability to instill public confidence are essential attributes of modern Prime Ministers.

Evolving Societal Expectations: Society's expectations of Prime Ministers have changed over time. Citizens demand transparency, accountability, and responsiveness from their leaders. Prime Ministers are expected to address socio-economic challenges, ensure inclusive governance, champion social justice, and be responsive to public opinion.

Technological Advancements: Advancements in technology have transformed the way Prime Ministers engage with the public, disseminate information, and govern. They use digital platforms for communication, mobilization, and policy implementation, leveraging technology for efficient governance and citizen engagement.

It is important to note that the role and position of the Prime Minister can vary significantly across countries due to differences in political systems, constitutional frameworks, and historical contexts. The changing dynamics of the Prime Minister's role are influenced by a wide range of factors, and it continues to adapt to evolving political, social, and technological landscapes.

Q4. Examine the strengthening of caste based politics in contemporary India.

Ans. The strength and impact of caste-based politics in contemporary India are significant, shaping political dynamics, electoral strategies, social identities, and policy outcomes. While caste-based politics has both positive and negative aspects, it continues to have a profound influence on Indian society. Here are some key factors that contribute to the strength of caste-based politics in contemporary India:

Deep-rooted Caste System: The caste system, with its hierarchical social structure and associated privileges and discriminations, remains deeply ingrained in Indian society. Caste identities continue to be a dominant factor in people's lives, shaping their social interactions, economic opportunities, and political affiliations.

Electoral Dynamics: Caste-based politics plays a crucial role in Indian elections. Political parties often employ caste-based mobilization strategies to secure electoral support. Caste-based voting patterns have a significant impact on electoral outcomes, with parties seeking to form alliances and build vote banks based on caste affiliations.

Reservation Policies: Reservation policies, implemented to address historical socio-economic disadvantages faced by marginalized castes (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes), contribute to the strength of caste-based politics. These policies have led to the emergence of caste-based political leaders and parties representing specific caste groups.

Caste-based Interest Groups: Various caste-based interest groups and organizations actively participate in politics, advocating for the rights and welfare of their respective caste communities. These groups exert influence by mobilizing their caste members, demanding affirmative action, and lobbying for policies that benefit their caste.

Identity Politics: Caste identities are often used as a basis for political mobilization and consolidation. Political parties appeal to caste sentiments, emphasizing the protection and

advancement of specific caste interests. Caste-based identity politics creates a sense of solidarity among caste communities, influencing voting patterns and political alignments.

Social Fragmentation and Polarization: Caste-based politics can lead to social fragmentation and polarization, as communities align along caste lines and develop a sense of competition and animosity. This can sometimes perpetuate divisions and hinder social cohesion.

Local Dynamics: Caste-based politics is particularly strong at the local level, where caste leaders and influencers have a direct impact on governance and public policy. Local-level caste dynamics often shape resource distribution, access to services, and political representation.

Historical Factors and Regional Variations: The strength of caste-based politics varies across regions and is influenced by historical factors. In some regions, caste-based politics is deeply entrenched due to historical caste conflicts and power struggles.

It is important to note that the influence of caste-based politics is not uniform throughout India, and there are ongoing debates about its implications for social justice, equality, and the consolidation of a pluralistic society. Efforts to transcend caste divisions and promote inclusive politics and policies are also being made, but the influence of caste-based politics remains a significant aspect of contemporary Indian politics.

Q5. "Vote bank politics has led to rise of communalism in India." Do you agree with this statement? Explain.

Ans. Yes, I agree with the statement. The statement suggests that vote bank politics, which involves political parties targeting specific communities to secure their votes, has contributed to the rise of communalism in India. Here are some points to consider:

Communalism and Vote Bank Politics: Communalism refers to the promotion of religious or communal identities for political gain. Vote bank politics, on the other hand, involves parties attempting to win elections by appealing to specific communities and catering to their interests. While the two concepts are related, it is important to note that not all instances of vote bank politics necessarily lead to communalism.

Polarization and Identity Politics: In some cases, the practice of vote bank politics can exacerbate communal tensions and contribute to the rise of communalism. By appealing to particular religious or communal identities, political parties may inadvertently foster division and polarization among communities, leading to a heightened sense of communal consciousness and potential conflicts.

Instrumentalization of Religion: Vote bank politics can involve the instrumentalization of religion or communal identities, where parties exploit religious sentiments to secure electoral support. This can lead to the politicization of religious issues, stoking religious tensions, and nurturing communalist ideologies.

Role of Political Leadership: The role of political leaders and their rhetoric is crucial in determining whether vote bank politics fosters communalism. If leaders engage in hate speech, incite religious hatred, or promote divisive agendas, it can contribute to the rise of communalism.

Historical and Socio-economic Factors: Communalism in India has deep historical roots and is influenced by socio-economic factors, such as economic disparities, historical grievances, and

identity-based mobilization. While vote bank politics can amplify communal divisions, it is important to recognize that communalism predates the practice of vote bank politics.

Complex Causes of Communalism: Communalism is a complex phenomenon influenced by various factors, including historical events, socio-economic disparities, identity politics, and regional dynamics. While vote bank politics may contribute to communalism in certain instances, it is just one of several contributing factors.

It is important to approach the relationship between vote bank politics and communalism with nuance and context. While some instances of vote bank politics can exacerbate communal tensions, it is not the sole cause of communalism in India. The rise of communalism is influenced by a multitude of complex factors that require comprehensive analysis.

Q6. Trace strategies of development in India since 1991.

Ans. Since the economic reforms initiated in 1991, India has pursued various strategies of development to drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve social indicators. Here is a broad overview of the key strategies and policies implemented during this period:

Liberalization and Market Reforms: The 1991 economic reforms aimed at liberalizing the Indian economy and dismantling the License Raj, which had imposed extensive government control on industries and trade. The reforms focused on reducing trade barriers, encouraging foreign investment, and promoting market-oriented policies.

Privatization and Disinvestment: The government initiated the privatization of state-owned enterprises to improve their efficiency and reduce the burden on public finances. Disinvestment programs were implemented to sell shares of public sector companies to private investors.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Promotion: The government introduced policies to attract foreign direct investment, including easing restrictions on foreign ownership in various sectors, simplifying approval processes, and providing incentives to foreign investors.

Infrastructure Development: Recognizing the importance of infrastructure for economic growth, the government has undertaken initiatives to improve transportation, power supply, telecommunications, and other critical infrastructure sectors. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have been encouraged to mobilize private investment in infrastructure development.

Fiscal Consolidation: Efforts have been made to address fiscal deficits and improve fiscal discipline. Measures such as reducing subsidies, implementing tax reforms, and improving tax administration have been taken to enhance revenue generation and control public expenditure.

Skill Development and Education Reforms: Recognizing the need for a skilled workforce to drive economic growth, several initiatives have been implemented to enhance skill development and promote quality education. The government launched programs like Skill India and National Skill Development Mission to improve vocational training and employment opportunities.

Social Welfare Programs: The government has implemented various social welfare programs aimed at poverty alleviation, rural development, healthcare, and education. Initiatives such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Health Mission, and

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been introduced to address social inequalities and improve human development indicators.

Digital India and E-Governance: The Digital India initiative aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It focuses on digital infrastructure development, e-governance, and promoting digital literacy to enhance access to government services, improve efficiency, and foster innovation.

Sustainable Development and Climate Action: The government has taken steps to promote sustainable development and address environmental challenges. Policies have been formulated to promote renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, and encourage sustainable agriculture practices.

It is important to note that the strategies and policies implemented since 1991 have evolved over time, influenced by changing domestic and global contexts. While progress has been made in various areas, challenges such as income inequality, regional disparities, and social inequities persist, requiring continued efforts for inclusive and sustainable development.

Q7. Write an essay on major achievements and challenges of women's movements in India

Ans. Title: Women's Movements in India: Achievements and Challenges

Introduction:

Women's movements in India have played a significant role in advocating for gender equality, challenging social norms, and advancing women's rights. Over the years, these movements have achieved noteworthy milestones, but they also face persistent challenges in their pursuit of gender justice and empowerment. This essay will explore the major achievements and challenges of women's movements in India.

Achievements:

Legal Reforms: Women's movements have been instrumental in advocating for legal reforms to protect women's rights. Significant achievements include the introduction of laws such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act (2013) which addressed crimes against women.

Education and Employment: Women's movements have played a pivotal role in promoting education and employment opportunities for women. They have campaigned for girls' education, advocated for affirmative action through reservations, and fought against discriminatory practices in the workplace. These efforts have led to an increase in women's literacy rates and greater representation of women in various professions.

Political Empowerment: Women's movements have successfully campaigned for greater political representation of women. The introduction of reservations for women in local governance institutions (Panchayati Raj) and legislative bodies (such as the Women's Reservation Bill) has resulted in increased political participation and representation of women.

Violence Against Women: Women's movements have raised awareness about violence against women and pushed for legal and social measures to address this issue. They have worked to combat domestic violence, dowry-related violence, female foeticide, and sexual harassment. The Nirbhaya case in 2012 sparked nationwide protests and led to reforms in laws related to sexual assault.

Challenges:

Deep-rooted Patriarchal Norms: Despite significant progress, deeply ingrained patriarchal norms continue to pose challenges for women's movements. Social attitudes, gender stereotypes, and rigid power structures hinder the full realization of women's rights and gender equality.

Violence and Safety: Women's safety remains a pressing concern in India. Despite efforts to address violence against women, cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, and harassment persist. Ensuring safety and security for women continues to be a challenge, especially in public spaces and within homes.

Economic Inequality: Economic disparities and limited access to resources and opportunities continue to marginalize women, particularly those from marginalized communities. Women's movements face the challenge of addressing economic inequalities, promoting women's economic empowerment, and ensuring equal opportunities for women in employment and entrepreneurship.

Intersectionality: Women's movements need to acknowledge and address the intersecting identities and experiences of women, including caste, religion, class, and sexuality. Intersectional challenges faced by marginalized women, such as Dalit women and LGBTQ+ individuals, require a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to achieve true gender equality.

Backlash and Resistance: Women's movements often face resistance and backlash from conservative forces that seek to maintain traditional gender roles and power structures. Such resistance can undermine the progress made and create obstacles in the path towards gender equality.

Conclusion:

Women's movements in India have made significant achievements in challenging gender inequality, advocating for legal reforms, promoting education and employment, and empowering women politically. However, the persistence of patriarchal norms, violence against women, economic disparities, intersectional challenges, and resistance to change remain formidable obstacles. Sustained efforts, continued activism, and collaboration between women's movements and other stakeholders are essential to overcome these challenges and create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

Q8 Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Right to equality

Ans. The right to equality is a fundamental principle enshrined in various national and international legal frameworks, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Indian Constitution. It upholds the principle that all individuals should be treated equally before the law, without discrimination based on factors such as race, religion, caste, gender, or socioeconomic status. The right to equality encompasses both equality of opportunity and equality of outcome. Here are key aspects and implications of the right to equality:

Non-Discrimination: The right to equality prohibits discrimination in any form. It ensures that individuals are not treated unfairly or subjected to unequal treatment based on characteristics such as race, religion, caste, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age.

Equal Protection of Law: The right to equality guarantees equal protection under the law, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, is entitled to the same legal rights and remedies. It prevents arbitrary or discriminatory actions by the state and ensures equal access to justice.

Affirmative Action: In some cases, the right to equality may necessitate affirmative action or positive discrimination to address historical disadvantages and promote equal opportunities. Affirmative action policies aim to uplift marginalized or disadvantaged groups by providing them with special measures or reservations in education, employment, or political representation.

Gender Equality: The right to equality is closely linked to gender equality. It advocates for the elimination of gender-based discrimination and the empowerment of women. It encompasses issues such as equal pay for equal work, reproductive rights, combating violence against women, and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes.

Social and Economic Equality: The right to equality also encompasses the pursuit of social and economic equality. It aims to eliminate disparities and ensure that all individuals have equal access to essential services, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. This principle recognizes the need to bridge the gap between the privileged and marginalized sections of society.

Reservation Policies: In some countries, including India, reservation policies have been implemented to promote social justice and equality. These policies allocate a certain percentage of seats or positions in educational institutions, public employment, and political offices to historically marginalized communities, ensuring their representation and participation in society.

Challenges and Implementation: Despite legal provisions, achieving substantive equality and eliminating discrimination remains a challenge. Deep-rooted social attitudes, systemic biases, and economic disparities often impede the effective implementation of the right to equality. Efforts are needed to address these challenges through awareness, education, policy reforms, and empowering marginalized communities.

The right to equality is a fundamental principle that upholds the principles of justice, fairness, and inclusivity. It serves as a cornerstone for building societies that are free from discrimination, where all individuals have equal opportunities to thrive and contribute to the social, economic, and political fabric of their nations.

(b) The rise of regional parties in India

Ans. The rise of regional parties in India has been a significant phenomenon in the country's political landscape. Regional parties are political parties that primarily operate within a specific state or region and advocate for the interests of that particular region. Here are some key factors contributing to the rise of regional parties in India:

Regional Identity and Language: India is a diverse country with distinct linguistic and cultural identities. Regional parties often emerge as a result of regional pride and the desire to protect and promote the interests of a specific linguistic or cultural group. Language-based movements and

demands for linguistic autonomy have led to the formation of regional parties in states like Tamil Nadu (DMK, AIADMK) and West Bengal (Trinamool Congress).

Regional Issues and Aspirations: Regional parties often focus on addressing specific regional issues and aspirations that may be neglected by national political parties. These issues could include demands for better infrastructure, water resources, agricultural policies, local employment opportunities, or cultural preservation. Regional parties claim to have a better understanding of local concerns and prioritize them in their political agenda.

Federalism and Decentralization: India's federal structure allows states to have significant autonomy in certain policy areas. Regional parties emerge as strong political forces advocating for states' rights and decentralization of power. They emphasize the need for greater autonomy and resources for states, challenging the centralized authority of national parties.

Anti-Incumbency and Dissatisfaction: Regional parties often gain traction when there is anti-incumbency sentiment against national parties or dissatisfaction with their performance at the state or national level. Regional parties position themselves as alternatives and capitalize on public discontent by promising better governance and representation of regional interests.

Coalition Politics: Regional parties often play crucial roles in coalition governments at the national level. With the absence of a dominant national party, coalition governments require the support of regional parties to gain a majority in parliament. This gives regional parties a platform to negotiate and assert their demands at the national level, further enhancing their influence.

State-Specific Electoral Dynamics: Regional parties have a deep understanding of state-specific electoral dynamics and social equations. They tailor their campaigns, alliances, and strategies to cater to the unique political landscape of their respective states. This localized approach can often resonate better with voters, leading to electoral success for regional parties.

Regional Leadership: Strong regional leaders who have a significant influence on local politics and possess mass appeal are pivotal to the rise of regional parties. These leaders often have a strong personal connect with the electorate, making their parties formidable political forces in their respective states.

The rise of regional parties has brought about a more decentralized and diverse political landscape in India. While they have played a crucial role in representing regional aspirations and bringing local issues to the forefront, they also present challenges for national governance, coalition politics, and the maintenance of a cohesive national agenda. Balancing regional aspirations with the overall national interest remains a critical task for Indian politics.

(c) Judicial Activism

Ans. Judicial activism refers to the proactive role played by the judiciary in interpreting and shaping laws, policies, and the governance of a country. It involves the judiciary going beyond its traditional role of mere interpretation of laws and actively engaging in issues of public importance, social justice, and the protection of fundamental rights. Here are some key features and implications of judicial activism:

Expanding Judicial Review: Judicial activism often involves an expansive interpretation of the powers of the judiciary, particularly its power of judicial review. The judiciary may intervene in matters of

policy and legislation, scrutinizing the actions of the executive and legislative branches to ensure they adhere to constitutional principles.

Protecting Fundamental Rights: Judicial activism is often driven by a commitment to safeguarding fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution. Courts may intervene to protect the rights of marginalized groups, minorities, and individuals who may not have sufficient access to the political process or face discrimination.

Filling Legislative Gaps: When legislative bodies fail to address or provide adequate solutions to pressing social and policy issues, the judiciary may step in to fill the gaps. Judicial activism may involve the development of new legal principles or the formulation of guidelines to address emerging challenges and protect constitutional values.

Promoting Social Justice: Judicial activism plays a crucial role in promoting social justice by addressing systemic issues, inequality, and discrimination. Courts may actively interpret laws and intervene in matters relating to affirmative action, access to education, healthcare, environmental protection, and gender equality.

Balancing Powers: Judicial activism can serve as a check on the powers of the executive and legislative branches of government. It ensures that the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances are maintained, preventing the concentration of power in any one branch of government.

Public Accountability: Judicial activism promotes public accountability by holding governments and public authorities to account. Courts may act as a forum for citizens to challenge the actions of the government, ensuring transparency and adherence to the rule of law.

Criticisms and Concerns: While judicial activism has its merits, it also faces criticism and concerns. Critics argue that it encroaches upon the domain of the elected branches of government, potentially undermining democratic processes. There are concerns about judicial overreach, with some suggesting that activism should be limited to cases where there is a clear violation of constitutional principles.

Judicial Restraint: Judicial activism should be balanced with judicial restraint, which emphasizes deference to the elected branches of government and a cautious approach to avoid judicial overreach. Striking the right balance between activism and restraint is crucial for maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of the judiciary.

In conclusion, judicial activism plays a significant role in shaping legal and policy landscapes, protecting fundamental rights, and promoting social justice. While it can bring about positive change, it is essential to maintain a delicate balance between judicial activism and the principles of democracy, separation of powers, and respect for the roles of the other branches of government.

(d) Workers' movements in India

Ans. Workers' movements in India have a rich history and have played a crucial role in advocating for workers' rights, fair treatment, and improved working conditions. These movements have emerged in response to various challenges faced by workers, including exploitation, low wages, unsafe

working conditions, and lack of social security. Here are key features and notable workers' movements in India:

Formation of Trade Unions: Trade unions have been at the forefront of workers' movements in India. They represent workers collectively and negotiate with employers for better wages, working hours, job security, and improved benefits. Trade unions also provide a platform for workers to voice their concerns and collectively address their grievances.

Struggles for Independence: During India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, workers played a significant role. The labor movement, led by figures such as N.M. Joshi and N.M. Lokhande, actively participated in protests, strikes, and labor agitations demanding better conditions and worker rights. The historic textile mill strikes in Bombay (now Mumbai) in the early 20th century were a notable example of workers' resistance.

The Formation of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC): Established in 1920, the AITUC became one of the first and largest trade union federations in India. It aimed to unite workers across various industries and regions to fight for their rights and advocate for labor-friendly policies.

The Emergence of Leftist and Communist Movements: The rise of leftist and communist movements in India, particularly after independence, had a significant impact on workers' movements. The Communist Party of India (CPI) and subsequent splinter groups like the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) have been instrumental in organizing workers and mobilizing them for collective action.

Landmark Legislation and Reforms: Workers' movements have played a pivotal role in advocating for labor laws and reforms to protect workers' rights. Significant legislative milestones include the Factories Act (1948), Industrial Disputes Act (1947), Minimum Wages Act (1948), and the Trade Unions Act (1926). These laws provide a legal framework for ensuring fair treatment, workplace safety, collective bargaining rights, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Struggles for Social Security: Workers' movements have fought for social security measures such as provident funds, health insurance, and pension schemes. The implementation of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) and the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) are notable outcomes of workers' movements in India.

Contemporary Issues and Challenges: Workers' movements in India continue to address contemporary challenges such as informal labor, contract labor, precarious employment, and the rights of marginalized workers, including women, Dalits, and migrant workers. Issues such as fair wages, job security, working conditions, and the right to organize and bargain collectively remain significant concerns.

Workers' movements in India have made significant contributions to securing workers' rights, improving working conditions, and shaping labor policies. However, challenges persist, including the informalization of labor, low wages, and limited social security coverage. The ongoing struggle for workers' rights requires sustained efforts, collective bargaining, policy advocacy, and social dialogue between trade unions, employers, and the government to ensure a fair and just working environment for all.