

Passage 1

Impeachment is not merely a cumbersome business. It could also have derisive and other unintended consequences. This explains the sense of relief that Justice Soumitra Sen of the Calcutta High Court resigned on the eve of his certain impeachment by the Lok Sabha. It is welcome that there was a political consensus that the proceedings had become in-fruitful after his resignation had been accepted by the President. To have pressed on with impeachment, as Attorney General G.E. Vahanvati reportedly advised, may be justified on an interpretation of the law relating to Parliament and its functioning. But in a situation without clear precedents, it was far better that robust common sense prevailed, leading to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to impeach a person who has already demitted high office. Why Justice Sen did not see the light earlier and submit his resignation well before the Rajya Sabha voted overwhelmingly in favour of the his impeachment, only he can explain.

This is the second time Parliament has grappled with the challenge of impeaching a judge. But the circumstances relating to justice Sen are strikingly different from those that saw Justice V. Ramaswami let off the hook in 1993, when the Congress abstained from voting in the motion. Although the power to impeach vests with parliament, the move was kick-started—unusually and extraordinarily—by Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan. He had recommended to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that impeachment proceedings be initiated under Article 124(4) of the Constitution against Justice Sen on the basis of an in-house inquiry, which declared him guilty of financial misconduct. Another unusual aspect is that the charges relate to a period when Justice Sen was a lawyer (he became a judge in 2003) and a case in which he was made a court-appointed receiver in 1984. Even though he was absolved if “misappropriation” by a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, there is no doubt that he had acted with gross impropriety. He had mixed the funds entrusted in his capacity as a receiver with his own, failed to prepare and file accounts as required, and repaid the money with interest in 2006 only after he was directed to do so by a judge of the Calcutta High Court. Disgraced he might be, but anti-corruption campaigners will contend that he has got away lightly. There are two key lessons to be learnt from I ‘affairs Sen. The first and obvious lesson is that only those with impeccable integrity must be appointed to the higher judiciary. The second is that legislation for a Judicial Conduct Commission with a strong mandate has become an urgent imperative.

The Soumitra Sen Episode indeed raises several questions about the checks and balances in the judicial postings and controls. The stricter removal clause incorporated in the Constitution is intended to enable the judiciary to dispense justice without any fear or favour. But, it is seen that this constitutional insurance has not worked effective enough due to the cumbersome procedure prescribed for impeachment of the judges. What makes more amazing is that no judge has ever been impeached during the past sixty-one years of the Constitution. If not farcical this constitutional provision is, what is it? Thus, the time has come for course correction in restraining the errant judges. If the present constitutional remedy has proved ineffective, there must be a consensus to fashion an appropriate remedy to the malaise, without disturbing the delicate balance among the legislative, judiciary and executive.

Accountability of judges and corruption investigations against judges are the two main areas that need to be addressed. While many experts speak of a Judicial Conduct Commission, they do not recommend or demand a fast track process where an ordinary citizen can. file charges if corruption against a judge. Judges demanding a bribe are no longer rare. What is difficult for the common man is to get justice when he is forced to bribe a judge for what should be his due. Shri Anna Hazareji was unsuccessful in bringing the judiciary under the ambit of the proposed Lokpal Bill. However, citizens feel helpless against this arm of the Constitution not being adequately accountable.

1. What can be inferred from author’s indignation about the constitutional provision of dispensing with errant judges?
 - (a) The author feels the provision is farcical because of the cumbersome procedure prescribed for impeachment of the judges.
 - (b) The Constitution’s intention to enable the judiciary to dispense justice without any fear or favour has largely been ineffective.
 - (c) Our system should remedy the situation without disturbing the delicate balance between the legislative, judiciary and executive.
 - (d) All of the these
2. What, according to the author, is/are the primary areas that must be addressed?
 - (a) Corruption investigations against judges
 - (b) Impeachment of judges
 - (c) Accountability of judges
 - (d) Both (a) & (c)
3. The author talked about ‘the sense of relief’ in the first paragraph to bring home the point
 - (a) Regarding the reason why Justice Sen did not consider demitting office and submit his

- resignation well before the Rajya Sabha voted overwhelmingly in favor of his impeachment.
- (b) that there was a political consensus that the proceedings had become in –fructuous after Justice Sen’s resignation has been accepted by the President
- (c) that the legislation for a Judicial Conduct Commission with a strong mandate has become an urgent imperative.
- (d) that the process of impeachment of a judge would have had some derisive and unintended consequences.
4. It can be inferred from the justice Sen episode that
- (a) the cumbersome impeachment procedure for the judges has caused the judiciary to fail to dispense justice without any fear or favour in spite of constitutional support.
- (b) appointing a lawyer who has also been court-appointed receiver as a high court judge is always fraught with risks.
- (c) Justice Sen resigned to get away lightly as Parliament could not impeach him anymore.
- (d) Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan circumvented the power of the Parliament by kick- starting the impeachment process against Justice Sen.
5. The author would most likely agree with which of the following?
- (a) The Parliament in India has often grappled with the challenge of impeaching a judge.
- (b) The appointment of Justice Sen, who was a lawyer and has also been court-appointed receiver, as a high court judge was not justified.
- (c) Impeachment of a judge in India should best be avoided due to some obvious consequences.
- (d) The Soumitra Sen Episode has raised several questions about the checks and balances in the judicial postings and controls.
6. Which of the following can be inferred from the last paragraph of the passage?
- (a) Shri Anna Hazareji was unsuccessful in bringing corrupt judges like justice Sen to book.
- (b) The judicial Conduct Commission does not recommend or demand a fast track process where an ordinary citizen can file charges of corruption against a judge.
- (c) Ensuring a fast-track process for the common man to file charges of corruption against a judge is an important requirement.
- (d) None of the these
7. The author feels that the controversies surrounding Justice V. Ramaswami and Justice Sen.
- (a) are unusual and extraordinary
- (b) are strikingly different
- (c) are very much similar
- (d) exposed the intricacies of the system.
8. Which of the following has the author concluded from the justice Sen episode?
- I. Only Persons with impeccable integrity must be appointed to the higher judiciary.

- II. A Judicial Conduct Commission will not be helpful for the common people.
- III. Formation of a Judicial Conduct Commission with a strong mandate is the need of the hour.
- (a) I only (b) II only
- (c) II && III (d) I & III
9. In light of the passage, which of the following is most likely to be true?
1. A political consensus has relevance in the proceedings of impeachment of a judge.
2. A judge may be impeached probably when the Parliament votes for the motion.
3. If a judge resigns, the impeachment motion becomes needless.
- (a) Only 1 (b) 2 and 3
- (c) Only 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
10. Justice Sen’s major grievances against the motion to remove him from office _____ been answered in the report of the inquiry committee constituted by Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari.
- Fill the blank with the grammatically correct option.**
- (a) has (b) will
- (c) have (d) are

Passage : 2

India achieved independence in 1947. Since then, there has been remarkable improvement in scientific and technological education and research, but illiteracy remains high. Education continues to be the prime responsibility of the state governments, and the union government continues to assume responsibility for the coordination of educational facilities and the maintenance of appropriate standards in higher education and research and in scientific and technical education

In 1950 the government of India appointed the Planning Commission to prepare a blueprint for the development of different aspects of life, education being one of them. The main goals of these plans have been to achieve universal elementary education; to eradicate illiteracy; to establish vocational and skill training programs; to upgrade standards and modernize all stage of education, with special emphasis on technical education.

The government has also appointed three important commissions for suggesting educational reforms. The University Education Commission of 1949 made valuable recommendations regarding the reorganization of courses, techniques of evaluation, media of instruction, student services, and the recruitment of teachers. The Secondary Education Commission of 1952-53 focused mainly on secondary and teacher education. The Education Commission made a comprehensive review of the entire field of education. Its report led to a resolution on a national policy for education, formally issued by the government of India in July 1968. This policy was revised in 1986. The new policy emphasizes educational technology, ethics, and national integration.

The national department of education is a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. There are several autonomous organizations attached to the Department of Education, the most important being All-India Council of Technical Education (1945), the University Grants Commission (1953), and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (1961). The first body advises on technical education and maintains standards for the development of technical education. The second body promotes and coordinates university education and determines and maintains standards of teaching, examination, and research in the universities. The third body works to upgrade the quality of school education and assists and advises on the implementation of its policies and major programs in the field of education.

Education, the, most vital investment in human development, is a mechanism for developing an economically flourishing society and for ensuring fairness and social justice. A holistic view was taken in 1986 when the National Policy on Education (NPE) envisaged education as a dynamic, Cumulative, life-long Process, providing diversity of learning prospects to all segments of society. The Prime Minister's Special Action Plan (SAP) has stressed the need for spreading out and improvement of social infrastructure in the field of education. The government has accorded high priority to education. The main aspects are- total eradication of illiteracy ,gradual increase in the governmental and non-governmental spending on education up to 6 percent of GDP, execution of the Constitutional provision of making primary education free and essential up to V standard, move towards equal access to and opportunity of educational standards up to school-leaving stage, and improvement of the quality of education at all levels-from primary schools to universities. From the 1950s to the '80s the number of educational institutions in India tripled. The primary schools, especially, experienced rapid growth because the states have given highest priority to the universalization of elementary education in order to fulfill the constitutional directive of providing universal, free, and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14. Most but not all children have a primary school within one kilometer of their homes. A large percentage of these schools, however, are understaffed and do not have adequate facilities. The government, when it revised the national policy for education in 1986, resolved that all children who attained the age of 19 years by 1990 would have five years of formal schooling or its equivalent. The state governments are responsible for most of the elementary and secondary education. Conditions, in general, are not satisfactory, although they vary from state to state.

1. Which of the following statements cannot be concluded from the passage?
 - (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has the national department of education as one of its departments.
 - (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training is responsible for maintaining standards for the development of technical education.
 - (c) National Council of Educational Research and Training is responsible for upgrading the quality of school education.
 - (d) The state governments are mainly responsible for all elementary and secondary education.
2. Which one of the following is in line with the passage vis-a-vis Indian education?
 - (a) Cultural and social justice in the country can be achieved only through economic and industrial growth.
 - (b) The government's contribution education is about 6% of GDP.
 - (c) The Prime Minister's SAP has emphasized on the reservation for SC/ST students at all levels-from primary schools to universities.
 - (d) The Constitution provides for free and compulsory primary education.
3. The author's views on the present elementary education in India are.
 - (a) innovative
 - (b) practical
 - (c) critical
 - (d) optimistic
4. Which one of the following has the National Policy on Education taken note of?
 - (a) The diversity of learning opportunities that education provides to a society.
 - (b) The poor quality of education in a large number of newly set up government universities.
 - (c) The need to provide quality education only at primary school levels.
 - (d) The need to improve the poor teacher/student ratio in the primary schools.
5. Recently, plans _____ to improve or expand adult and non-formal systems of education. Fill the blank with the grammatically correct option.
 - (a) had also been made
 - (b) has also been made
 - (c) have also been made
 - (d) have also made
6. Which of the following is implicit in the passage?
 - (a) The focus of the government, in its latest education policy, has been on effective distance education through VSAT.
 - (b) The focus of the government, in its latest education policy, has been on distance education through e-learning.
 - (c) While the number of primary school in India is more or less adequate, facilities and staffing in these schools need to be improved.
 - (d) None of the above
7. What can be inferred about the role of the union government in the field of education?

- (a) It is responsible for the coordination of educational facilities and maintenance of appropriate standards in higher education
- (b) It acts as a provider of educational facilities and helps in the maintenance of appropriate standards in higher education.
- (c) It acts as an administrator of educational facilities and supports the maintenance of appropriate standards in higher education
- (d) None of the above
8. Which of the following words cannot be used to replace the word 'compulsory' in the passage?
- (a) obligatory (b) elective
- (c) mandatory (d) essential
9. Which of the following is correct in relation to the National Policy on education (NPE) of 1986?
- (a) NPE envisaged education as a dynamic, cumulative, life-long process.
- (b) NPE focused on education to suit the process of globalization of education.
- (c) NPE believed that the role of government is mainly in primary education
- (d) None of these
10. IT can be inferred from the passage that one of the major roles of the state governments in India in the field of education is
- (a) to formulate policies on educational reforms through recommendation of various committees.
- (b) to provide most of the elementary and secondary education at ground level
- (c) to provide a core curriculum to the educational technology, ethics, and national integration.
- (d) to provide funds to the state government to provide facilities for high-quality education in every district of the country.

Passage -3

In good markets, the terms of trade must be fair to both suppliers and buyers. In India, terms of trade have been stacked against small farmers to keep prices low for consumers; against small enterprises in financial markets, and also when they supply to large buyers in global supply chains. The terms of trade are unfair for all workers (including those self-employed) who are on the supply side of labour markets vis-a-vis those who pay them. Small people do not have clout in any market. Those with more money set the terms of trade.

"Put your money where your mouth is", is a common expression wherever money talks. Economist Albert Hirschman saw the contradiction between institutions of capitalism and democracy building up 50 years ago. He pointed out, in his book *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty* (1970), that Milton Friedman had expressed his difficulty in accepting the notion that people should desire to express their views to make them prevail. Friedman described this as a resort to "cumbrous political channels". He would much rather they resort to "efficient market mechanisms" and use their money rather than their mouths to make their opinions known.

But what if people have little money, or no money? How can they influence reforms to make them just for poor people and less harmful for the environment? Their wealth is in their numbers, not in bank accounts. Therefore, workers, tiny enterprises, consumers and citizens must be encouraged to form stronger associations — not prevented from forming them for making life easier for investors.

The global governance crisis is a conflict between the governance principles of capitalism and democracy. Capitalism runs on the principle of property rights: Those who own more must have a greater say in the governance of the enterprise. One dollar gives one vote; a million dollars gives a million. Democracy, on the other hand, runs on the principle of human rights. Every human being, whether she owns a billion dollars, or none, has an equal vote. Money is speaking too much in fixing the rules of the game.

The way the rules of the economy and trade are made must change to create a more just and resilient world. Voices of the poorest people and their associations must be heard more loudly than the opinions of the rich and their lobbies.

Words: 360

An article from Indian Express by Maira is author of *The Learning Factory: How the Leaders of Tata Became Nation Builders*

1. Mark the correct implication:

- (a) India is not a good market
- (b) The common Indian man does not have enough money to set the terms of trade and business
- (c) The strength of the population lies in its clout
- (d) All of the above
2. Which of the following does not strengthen the author's opinion?
- (a) Money influences elections; it controls the media; it powers lobbies for reforms at international and national levels.
- (b) Commerce has thrived since time immemorial by using the capitalist policies of the rulers and the common man has had little or no say in it.
- (c) Powerful political parties and businessmen are mostly, never in favor of building cooperative small business models
- (d) NOTA
3. Which of the following does the author imply when he says, "Put your money where your mouth is", is a common expression wherever money talks.
- (a) To show the contrast that exists between capitalism and democracy
- (b) To show that Friedman was not supportive of the fact, that people should say their views to make them a reality
- (c) To show that Friedman believed that people should not air their views publicly, but should let them be known by their votes in a democracy
- (d) Both A and B
4. Which of the following inferences are incorrect!

- (a) According to Friedman, expression of a common man's desire through words becomes the starting point for cumbersome political channels
- (b) According to Friedman, people must make a methodology of business such that money can be used as the currency of expressing their opinion.
- (c) Both A and B
- (d) NOTA
5. Which of the following weakens the author's opinion?
- (a) New business models are throwing more workers into short term contractual arrangements to make it easier for investors to do business.
- (b) People and the planet are suffering, while profits increase. Vulgar inequalities between those who earn incomes from their financial investments, and those who have to labour to earn are emerging.
- (c) Free-market economists and business lobbies are now urging the Indian government to use its parliamentary majority to initiate reforms in labour, environment and agriculture laws. They want markets to work more efficiently; and they want India to be more attractive for investors, regardless of its effect on poor people.
- (d) NOTA

Passage - 4

THE CENTRE HAS finally decided to bite the bullet by instituting major reforms in the labour and agriculture sectors. The reforms were announced piggy-backing on the COVID-19 relief package. Parliament has passed three bills on agriculture reform. This has evoked protests, largely in Punjab and Haryana. Unfortunately, politics in India has been played in the name of the farmer. Parties across the political spectrum have, at some point of time or other, advocated the reversal of the archaic mandi system. However, some parties continue to decry the steps taken.

Taking recourse to Article 254 of the Constitution, the Punjab government has passed its own bills to nullify some provisions of the central acts. Similar action by the Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan governments seems to be on the anvil. The Constitution has placed agriculture, on the state list, implying that state governments are required to address all issues relating to it. However, it is the Centre which decides and announces support prices for major crops for the entire country. It also decides issues such as bank loan waivers. International agreements and multilateral trade in agricultural products also fall in the Union government's domain — issues related to agricultural and dairy products, in fact, had a prominent role in India not joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). So, in effect, agriculture gets dual consideration. This has led to considerable debate for moving it to the concurrent list. There is precedence for such action in the 42nd constitutional amendment which had moved education.

Some other constitutional provisions, in the Union and concurrent lists, provide legal justification for the Centre's intervention in issues pertaining to agriculture. Entry 33 in the concurrent list limits the power of states in agriculture, by empowering both governments to legislate on production, trade and supply of a range of agricultural food stuffs and raw material. In fact, the Sarkaria Commission had opined on the Union government using Entry 33 to promulgate the EC Act in 1955. This significantly enhanced the Centre's power.

What seems to have raised the hackles of the states are provisions in the new bills which entrust the Centre with overriding powers of implementation. The Congress has issued an advisory to governments in states in which it holds office to explore the possibility of passing laws under Article 254(2) to bypass the central legislation.

Words: 360

Source: The Indian Express

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - (a) Central farm bills give states opportunity to liberate farmer from archaic systems
 - (b) To analyse the legal implications of major reforms in the agriculture sectors and how it might impact farmers in these states.
 - (c) To support the fact that reforms should be given a chance
 - (d) NOTA
2. Mark the correct statement according to the passage:
 - (a) The 42nd constitutional amendment which had moved education to the concurrent list in 1976.
 - (b) The bill declares all purchases below the MSP to be illegal and punishable with imprisonment. It has also levied a fee on trade outside the mandis.
 - (c) All state bills that seek to nullify central acts have to be approved by the President after they have received the consent of the governor of the state
 - (d) The Centre has a major role in production, trade and supply of a range of agricultural foodstuffs and raw material.
3. Which of the following inferences are correct :
 - (a) Various petitions have also been filed in the Supreme Court claiming that the central laws infringe upon the jurisdiction of state governments and that they render farmers vulnerable to corporate greed and are, therefore, anti-farmer.
 - (b) The Punjab bill has set in motion the process of some other states also taking refuge under Article 254 to pass their own pieces of legislation.
 - (c) While the legal issues will be adjudicated upon by the court in due course, the politics that is playing out is definitely going to be detrimental to farmers' interests.
 - (d) The governments should also take appropriate action to create institutional mechanisms, such

- as farmer producer organisations or aggregators, to ensure greater farmer participation.
4. If the author chose to write further, he would have written:
 - (a) In doing so, they are taking a leaf out of the NDA government's book — in 2015, the NDA government had been unable to amend the Land Acquisition Act passed by UPA-II due to an inadequate majority in the Rajya Sabha.
 - (b) It had then advised BJP-led states to invoke Article 254(2) to override the provisions of the central act.
 - (c) This is certainly the 1991 moment for Indian agriculture.
 - (d) They should also take appropriate action to create institutional mechanisms, such as farmer producer organisations or aggregators, to ensure greater farmer participation.
 5. Give the correct meanings of to bite the bullet and piggy-backing:
 - (a) to finally do something that one has been putting off, tailgating
 - (b) to put oneself in a dangerous situation, supporting someone
 - (c) to convene something, doing two things together
 - (d) None of the above