

Q1. Explain the relevance of Rajya Sabha as a second Chamber in the federal set up of Indian parliamentary system. (150 Words)

Answer:

Rajya Sabha' or the 'Council of States' is the second chamber of the Indian parliament, which traces its origin to the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919.

Relevance of Rajya Sabha:

- **Safeguarding Federalism:** The Rajya Sabha acts as a check on the central government's power and protects the interests of the states. It provides a platform for the states to voice their concerns, debate legislative proposals, and influence policy decisions.
- **Reflecting Diversity:** Rajya Sabha ensures proportional representation of states, considering diverse regional interests, perspectives, and cultures in legislative debates and policymaking to prevent dominance.
- **Stability and Continuity:** Rajya Sabha is a permanent house thus provides stability, contributing valuable insights, and continuous governance.
- **Deliberative Forum:** Rajya Sabha facilitates in-depth discussions with knowledgeable members, bringing diverse perspectives, expertise, and enabling comprehensive examination of legislative proposals before enactment.
- **Legislative Review:** Rajya Sabha reviews bills from Lok Sabha, scrutinizing for effectiveness, legality, and constitutional adherence, enhancing legislation quality, and avoiding hasty or poorly drafted laws.
- **Special Powers of Rajya Sabha:**
 - Power to transfer a subject from the State List to Union List for a specified period (Article 249).
 - To create additional All-India Services (Article 312).
 - To endorse Emergency under Article 352 for a limited period when the Lok Sabha remains dissolved.

The Rajya Sabha contributes to stability, continuity, and long-term planning through experienced legislators. Serving as a deliberative forum, it fosters comprehensive discussions on national issues, and its role in legislative review enhances the quality of laws. Overall, the Rajya Sabha strengthens the democratic fabric of India, ensuring inclusive governance and effective decision-making.

Q2. What were the contributions of the Arya Samaj to socio-religious movements of India?
(150 Words)

Answer:

The Arya Samaj, founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1875. Arya Samaj is a monotheistic Hindu reform movement in India that supports principles and practices based on the Vedas' irrefutable authority.

Contributions to the socio-religious movements of India:

- **Promotion of Vedic Values:** Arya Samaj revived Vedic principles, stressed monotheism, rejection of idol worship, and authority of Vedas for a morally and ethically driven society.
- **Propagation of Education:** Arya Samaj established schools and colleges, providing education to all regardless of caste, empowering individuals and fostering intellectual development.
- **Women Empowerment:** Arya Samaj empowered women by advocating education, participation in social activities, and challenging practices like child marriage and dowry to promote gender equality.
- **Opposition to Caste Discrimination:** Arya Samaj fought against caste-based discrimination, aiming to abolish the caste system and establish equality based on merit and character.
- **Promotion of Social Service:** Arya Samaj promoted social service and philanthropy, establishing charitable institutions, orphanages, and schools to uplift the marginalized and contribute to societal welfare.
- **Emphasis on Social Reform:** Arya Samaj campaigned against child marriage, sati, purdah, and untouchability, aiming to uplift women, eradicate inequalities, and promote education.
- **Promotion of Swadeshi Movement:** Arya Samaj supported Swadeshi movement, advocating indigenous products, boycotting foreign goods, and promoting self-reliance for nationalist sentiments and fight against colonialism.

Arya Samaj made significant contributions to India's socio-religious movements. Its efforts in promoting women's rights, opposing caste discrimination, and engaging in social service have left a lasting impact on society, fostering equality, empowerment, and humanitarian values.