

UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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① In the context of recent freebie debates, do you agree with the view that current forms of welfare programmes need to be revisited? Comment.

PM Modi comments 'reviculture' meaning Freebies. It sparked debates regarding Government's poll promises.

Arguments:

One Argument is SC & EC intervention (vs) people (voters) view.
Second one is misleading promises (vs) state welfare programmes

First Argument

~~Pol~~ promises often happen in 2 forms - Before election and other After election announcement

After Election announced - no new schemes can be announced by political parties as it is under Model code of conduct. But poll promises does not attract MCC. SC in its judgement ruled poll promises are not under 'corruption' in Section 123 of RPA, 1951.

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So ISCI/IEC cannot intervene directly into such debates as it is a healthy democratic convention.

voter's view:

voters are the real judge - people remember what are the poll promises. They reward for ~~the~~ satisfied promises and punishes for not satisfied ones. So it is upto voters to ~~under~~ decide on the ^{economic & fiscal} implication ~~of~~ on fiscal free bills.

Second argument, on state welfare programmes

Oxfam report data shows TOP 1% → has 51.5% of total property whereas bottom 60% → total was 5%. poor has doubled to 134 million while billionaires doubled their wealth.

Critics point out, poor beneficiaries termed 'renti' while Government benefits as 'Incentives'. Corporate tax cut has resulted in IT Direct tax, which is compensated by IT in Indirect taxes.

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Privatisation has its own benefits but it reduced the federal share to ~~the~~ Local bodies in Healthcare education. India is home to $\frac{1}{4}$ th of world's undernourished people

Given the socio economic challenges, it is time to revive and expand the State's welfare measures

Success stories like ₹1-2 per kg rice → slowed 100 starvation related death.

Free bicycles → ↑ enrollment & retention of girls in Bihar.

So it is 'free bike' culture has to be seen ^{from} as economic & social ~~also~~ perspective than political.