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POLITICO ANALYTICS



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GROUND PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING MAINS EXAM 2023

Complete Syllabus Coverage
of **GS2**, **PSIR** and **Essay**

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International Relations

INDIA- BHUTAN RELATIONS IN CONTEXT OF CHINA

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

This article focusses on India-Bhutan's relation in the context of China. Focus on why Bhutan is crucial for India and how Chinese involvement In Bhutan can impact India's interests .

During Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's recent trip to Delhi, he and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the current state of the India-Bhutan border and discussed the advancements in the border negotiations between Bhutan and China, focusing specifically on the area around the Doklam trijunction.

- Bhutan is a tiny landlocked country situated in a strategic location between two of the most powerful Asian nations-China and India.
- **The most important implication of its location and the crucial factor influencing the formulation of its foreign policy is that a friendly or dependent Bhutan is, for strategic reasons, a necessity for both India and China.**
- Unlike its neighbours in the region, it was never colonised. Nevertheless, Bhutanese society has traditionally been sensitive to issues of security and preserving its sovereign independence and territorial integrity has historically been a constant challenge.

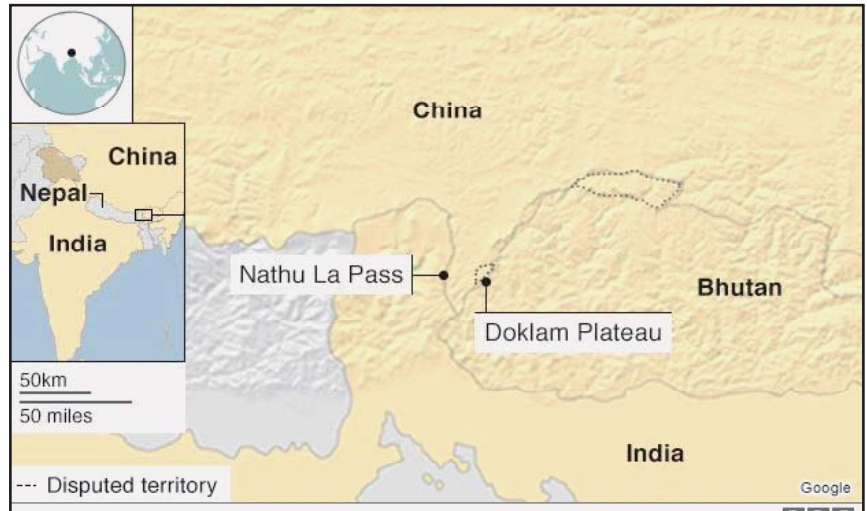
BHUTAN'S SIGNIFICANCE TO INDIA

- Bhutan's significance to India stems from its geographic location. It is sandwiched between India and China and serves as a buffer between the two Asian giants.
 - ▶ **Bhutan's value as a buffer soared after China annexed Tibet in 1951.** Securing Bhutan's present borders, especially its western border is clearly important for India. Doklam in the hands of a hostile power would heighten the vulnerability of India's Siliguri Corridor, a narrow strip of land that links India to its Northeastern states.
- **Bhutan has economic value to India as well.** It provides a market for Indian commodities and a destination for Indian investment. India also sees Bhutan as a rich source of hydropower.
- **A politically stable Bhutan is important to India.** An unstable and restive Bhutan would not only jeopardise India's investments in that country but also provide a haven for anti-India activities and anti-India militant groups.
- Indian foreign secretary **Vinay Kwatra** said that- "India and Bhutan share an exemplary relationship, which is characterised by trust, goodwill, and mutual understanding".



INDIA'S CONCERNS REGARDING BORDER ISSUE BETWEEN BHUTAN AND CHINA

- The entire 477-km border between Bhutan and China is disputed, with significant claims by China in three western areas of Bhutan, including Doklam, and three regions in the north.
- Since border talks began in 1984, China has proposed a “package deal” from 1990, offering to give up claims in the north (495 sq km) in exchange for Bhutanese territory in the west, including 89 sq km of Doklam.
- This proposal aims to expand China’s strategic Chumbi Valley and provide a military advantage over India, particularly in the Doklam region, which overlooks the strategic Siliguri Corridor in India.
- Talks nearly concluded in the 10th round but faced setbacks in 1996, leading to a freeze of the border situation as of 1998. Bhutan’s limited population and capacity to police its borders have been challenges in these negotiations.
- China’s assertion in the region, including recent claims to Bhutan’s eastern Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, reflects its strategy to exert influence and bring Bhutan back to the negotiation table, challenging India’s historical ties with Bhutan.
- India’s most serious concern with regard to Bhutan normalising relations with China is strategic. Currently, India’s immediate worry is the prospect of Beijing forcing Thimphu to acquiesce to Chinese pressure and give away access or even control over the Doklam plateau. It is pertinent to pay attention to the speed with which China and Bhutan have made surprising success in their border settlement talks”. -**Hemant Adlakha**
- This current episode underscores a broader trend in South Asia, where India-China competition is increasingly the primary determinant of the foreign policy of South Asian countries. Despite the Bhutan-India relationship largely being defined by continuity, Beijing is using its intimidation tactics to set the agenda for the region and threaten India’s security and status. - **Harsh V. Pant.**
- In October 2021, Bhutan and China agreed on a “three-step roadmap” for border dispute resolution, focusing on two northern valleys and the Doklam area near the India-Bhutan-China trijunction. The 2017 Doklam standoff heightened India’s concern over potential territorial swaps impacting its security.
- In January 2023, Bhutan and China reached a positive consensus in Kunming to move forward with the talks. The Bhutanese Prime Minister’s suggestion of trilateral discussions involving Bhutan, India, and China for the Doklam dispute caused significant reactions in New Delhi, reflecting the delicate nature of the regional border issues.
- **Harsh V. Pant-** At a time when trust for China in India has plummeted to a historic low and even as the Doklam issue remains unresolved, the India-Bhutan-China triangle is set to undergo another stress test.





THE KING OF BHUTAN'S VISIT TO DELHI NOVEMBER 2023

Key Outcomes of the Visit

- **Security:-** New Delhi has reaffirmed its stance that issues concerning the trijunction point involving India, China, and Bhutan will be addressed through a trilateral approach.
- **Financial Support:** India has committed to providing Bhutan with an additional Standby Credit Facility (SCF) for five years, aimed at supporting various initiatives including reforms, capacity building, infrastructure, connectivity, energy cooperation (such as hydropower and solar energy), and space cooperation, including the recent satellite launch. This support underscores India's ongoing commitment to Bhutan's economic and developmental goals, especially for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan.
- **Digital Infrastructure Development:** India also announced its help for the development of Bhutan's third international internet gateway.
- **Educational and Research Collaboration:** The integration of Bhutan's Druk Research & Education Network (DrukREN) with India's National Knowledge Network is expected to benefit the users in Bhutan in the fields of telemedicine services, research and education, added the release.
- **Hydropower Projects:** The Indian government has agreed to a long pending demand from Thimphu to increase the power tariffs for the Chukha hydroelectric project, which began operations with India's help in 1986. India has also agreed to discuss buying power from the Basochhu hydel project that was built in 2008.
- **Security Measures:** Both countries are also examining and considering setting up the first Integrated Check Post along the India-Bhutan border, which would be near Jaigaon.
- **Enhanced Connectivity:** India and Bhutan have decided to progress with two short-distance cross-border rail projects. Additionally, they have agreed to establish the Darranga-Samdrup Jongkhar crossing between Assam and Bhutan's South Eastern district as an immigration checkpoint. This move aims to enhance connectivity and promote tourism, allowing entry and exit of third-country nationals. Furthermore, they plan to strengthen trade infrastructure by upgrading the Dadgiri (Assam) land customs station to a modern Integrated Check Post (ICP), coupled with the development of facilities at Gelephu on the Bhutanese side, supporting Bhutan's Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project.

During King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's visit to Delhi in November 2023, India and Bhutan reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the India-China-Bhutan trijunction issues through a trilateral approach. India pledged additional financial support and assistance in digital infrastructure, education, research, and hydropower projects, enhancing bilateral relations and Bhutan's developmental goals. This visit underscores the strategic, economic, and security importance of Bhutan to India amidst evolving India-China relations and regional dynamics.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Which of the following Indian states does NOT share its border with Bhutan?

- (a). Assam
- (b). Meghalaya
- (c). Sikkim
- (d). West Bengal

Practice For Mains

Q1. Discuss the challenges of India-Bhutan relations in the context of China.

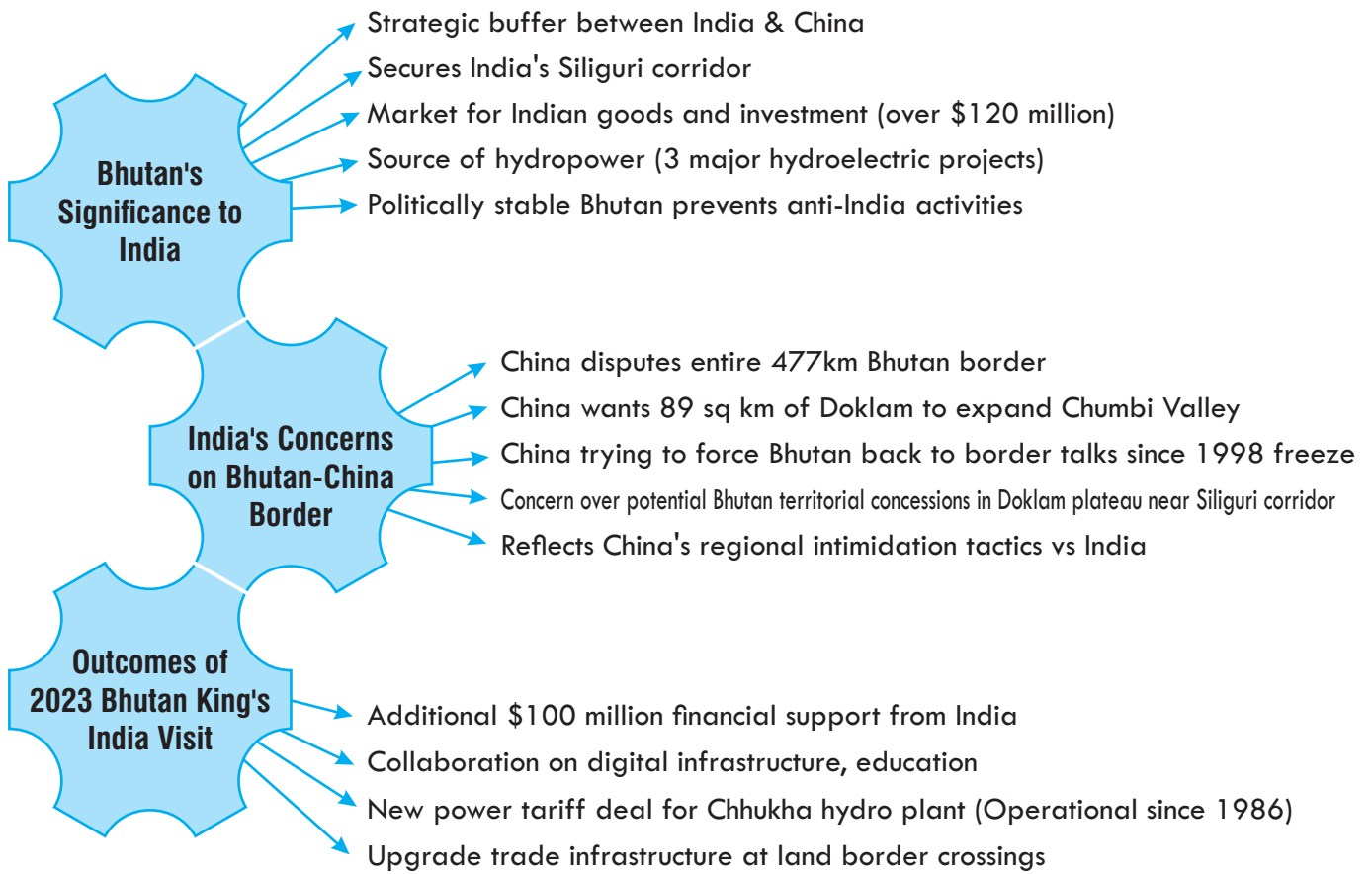
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



ISRAEL - PALESTINE CONFLICT: HAMAS ATTACK ON ISRAEL

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

This article discusses the impacts of the Hamas attack on Israel- how it is going to impact politics in the Middle east, and the impact on Indian foreign policy. Focus India's stand on the issue.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a major hybrid war attack on Israel. Hamas has been attacking Israel, who retaliated with airstrikes.



More to Explore

Origins of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

- After WW1, Britain took control of Palestine, home to Jews and Arabs. Britain had to create a Jewish homeland there, causing tensions.
- In 1947, the UN voted to split Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem internationally managed. Jews accepted, Arabs rejected.

Early Conflicts and Land Division

- In 1949, Israel won the first Arab-Israeli war.
- In 1967's Six-Day War, Israel occupied Gaza from Egypt.



- In 1979, the Israel-Egypt treaty created the Palestinian Authority, with the Fatah party controlling the West Bank and Gaza.
- The area is divided into the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel. Israel still occupies the West Bank today.

Ongoing Disputes

- Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestine wants East Jerusalem for its future state.
- Gaza is governed by Hamas
- The West Bank is under Fatah, who recognises Israel and wants a two-state solution.

ITS IMPACT ON GEOPOLITICS

- **Disrupting the “New Middle East” Narrative-** The attack disrupts the emerging narrative of peace in the Middle East, influenced by the Abraham Accords and diplomatic efforts by the US and China involving Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Iran. It underscores Hamas’ commitment to “armed resistance” as stated in their documents, challenging the optimism around normalization agreements and regional détente. **Aditya Sinha points out, it completely contradicts the recent positive assessment of a “quieter” Middle East by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.**
- **Elevating Hamas’ Regional Standing-** The attack by Hamas has refocused attention on the Palestinian issue, highlighting its evolution into a significant force with state support, notably from Iran, according to Israeli defense official Michael Milstein.
- **Putting Arab Regional Powers in a Bind-** Regional powers, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are navigating complex dynamics, balancing support for Palestine with ties to Israel. Public sentiment across the Arab world remains strongly pro-Palestinian, with a 2022 survey showing over 75% viewing it as a pan-Arab issue. This attack could further influence public opinion and regional relationships, underscoring the deep-rooted significance of the Palestinian cause.
 - ▶ As **Kabir Taneja** notes, while the Arab street may not actively oppose new geopolitical alignments, latent sympathies have been stirred by Hamas’ defiance of Israel’s dominance. This can potentially reduce the strategic rent that key regional stakeholders have painstakingly pursued based on realpolitik and geoeconomics.
- **Destabilising the Region-** The attack could reignite tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, prompting global reassessment of Middle East policies. It revives the complex debate over support for Israel or Palestine, potentially shifting resources to crisis management and peacekeeping efforts.
- **Disrupting Israel-Arab Reconciliation-** The attack disrupted Israel’s steady reconciliation with the Arab world under the groundbreaking Abraham Accords that signalled a new cooperative pathway. As **Aditya Sinha** analyses, it strains US-Iran relations as Israel blames Iran for empowering Hamas, pressuring the US to retaliate. This obstructs progress in US-brokered talks between Saudi Arabia and Israel that could have profoundly reshaped regional geopolitics.
- **Exposing Israel’s Military Intelligence Failures-** The attack exposes vulnerabilities in Israel’s military intelligence, prompting a reassessment of its defense strategies and impacting global security policies. It also contributes to economic instability in sectors reliant on Middle East stability.
- **Ian Lesser-** This ongoing hybrid conflict could easily escalate to involve Hezbollah in Lebanon and its benefactors in Iran. Israel’s response will shape the evolution of the crisis and the geostrategic consequences.
 - ▶ The large-scale operation involving Western hostages will elevate counterterrorism on the agenda for European and American publics and policymakers.



- ▶ Finally, NATO and the EU will be compelled to prioritise counterterrorism and instability risks emanating from Europe's southern periphery, balancing it with demands like Ukraine's defence and competition with China.

INDIA'S STAND ON THE ISSUE

- The PM unequivocally backed Israel after the attack. Modi didn't ask the Ministry of External Affairs to issue a statement, as might normally have been done. Instead, he delivered instant online diplomacy, saying, "our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families." **This marks a dramatic departure from India's traditional neutral stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict.**
- Historically, India sympathised with the Palestinian cause - supporting their rights and criticising Israeli actions in the wars of 1967 and 1973.
- In the 2014 Gaza war, India called for a two-state solution and supported a UN probe into Israeli actions. **By instantly backing Israel and terming Hamas as terrorists after the latest attacks, Modi has officially abandoned any semblance of India's past neutrality.**
- This is due to the strengthening of defence and technology cooperation between India- Israel. Israel has been among India's largest arms suppliers, providing key equipment from UAVs to missile defence systems.
- But India also holds extensive relations with other countries in the polarised West Asian region. Notable among these is India's outreach to the UAE and Bahrain - two nations that criticised the Hamas attacks despite signing the Abraham Accords to normalise ties with Israel.
- As major regional powers, their statements indicate an expectation for India to articulate a more nuanced position.

How do scholars view India's stand?

- **C Raja Ram Mohan-** *"India's approach to the Hamas attack on Israel is cautious and pragmatic. India is aware of the complex sensitivities involved in the conflict and is trying to avoid any actions that could jeopardise its relations with Israel or the Arab world. India is also concerned about the potential for the conflict to escalate, and it is urging both sides to show restraint."* While maintaining ties with the Palestinian Authority, the Modi government is unwilling to overlook Hamas' terrorism.
- **Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza-** *"India's approach to the Hamas attack on Israel is consistent with its long-standing policy of non-alignment. India has traditionally maintained good relations with both Israel and the Arab world, and it is trying to avoid taking sides in the conflict. However, India has also condemned terrorism in all its forms, and it will likely continue to pressure Hamas to stop its attacks on Israel."*
- As strategic affairs expert **Brahma Chellaney** notes, India's stance has also shifted due to perceiving Pakistan and China as prime adversaries. The feeling of being "allies surrounded by enemies" has brought India and Israel closer.

ITS IMPACT ON INDIA

- **Impact on India's Defense Ties-** Israel is a major arms supplier of India, and defence cooperation between the two sides has grown steadily over the years. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, missiles, and radar systems have dominated India's purchases from Israel, totalling US\$ 4.2 billion (2001–202).



- **Threats to India’s Trade Interests-** According to **Ajay Srivastava**, India’s \$10.7 billion trade with Israel could be seriously disrupted if operations are halted at major Israeli ports like Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat, which handle critical exports like agriculture, chemicals, vehicles and machinery. This is especially true for the Eilat port, which facilitates most of India’s merchandise trade with Israel.
- **Energy Security and Expat Implications- Anil Trigunayat** points out that any direct involvement by Iranian proxies like Hezbollah would threaten stability and security in West Asia - the source of a major share of India’s energy supplies.
- **Safeguarding Indians in Israel-** For India, it raises questions about India-Israeli economic cooperation and partnership and the welfare and safety of almost 9 million Indians in West Asia. New Delhi’s primary focus for now is the safety of 18,000 Indians currently living and working in Israel.
- **Balancing India’s Regional Interests-** Implications on India **Harsh Pant** opined that India also has some balancing to do between the Arab states and Israel because New Delhi’s own ties with Saudi Arabia and UAE have dramatically been transforming in the last few years. **Biswajit Dhar** notes if the confrontation escalates by drawing in Arab states as has happened historically, India will have to calibrate its approach carefully given its deep strategic and economic ties with the region, including the emerging India-Middle East-Europe corridor.
- **Mahesh Sehdev-** While not directly affected by the conflict between Hamas and Israel, India could feel some heat in the form of an oil price rise, impact on its diaspora, and dimmed prospects for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and other I2U2 constructs. Mahesh Sehdev.

WAY FORWARD

- **Vivek Mishra-** In the short term, Israel needs support, and Washington is obligated to show strong support both as a staunch ally and a country with which political support resonates across the aisle in the US Congress. In the long term, a US-led normalisation will remain significant in principle and pursuit, especially given key regional players like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirate’s shifting interests in the region and beyond.
- **Anil Trigunayat** believes that because of how serious this crisis is, the world, including India, should pay more attention to the Palestinian issue to prevent it from escalating.
- The international community should work together to achieve peace between Israel and Palestine.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Read the following statements carefully with reference to Israel-

1. The Negev Desert occupies approximately 55% of Israel’s land area.
2. Israel is located along the eastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

Choose the correct Option

- (a). Only 1 is correct
- (b). Only 2 is correct
- (c). Both 1 and 2 are correct
- (d). None of the above

Practice For Mains

Q1. Discuss the impacts of latest developments in the west on its geopolitics.



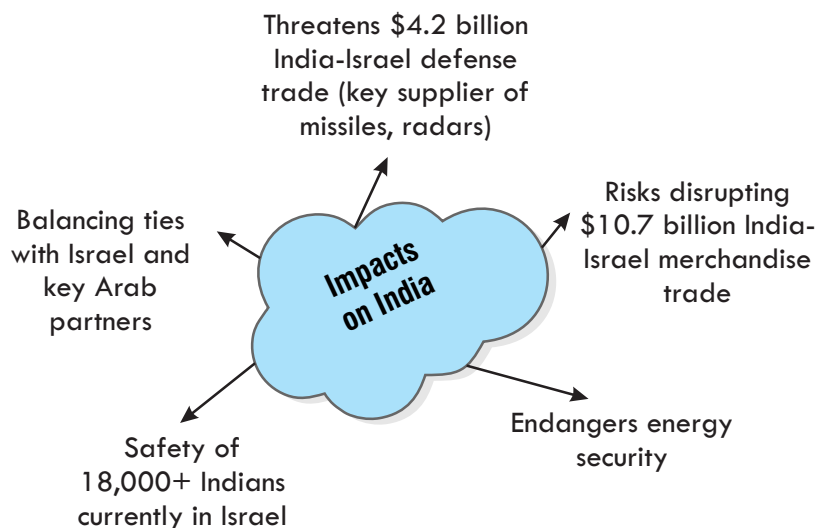
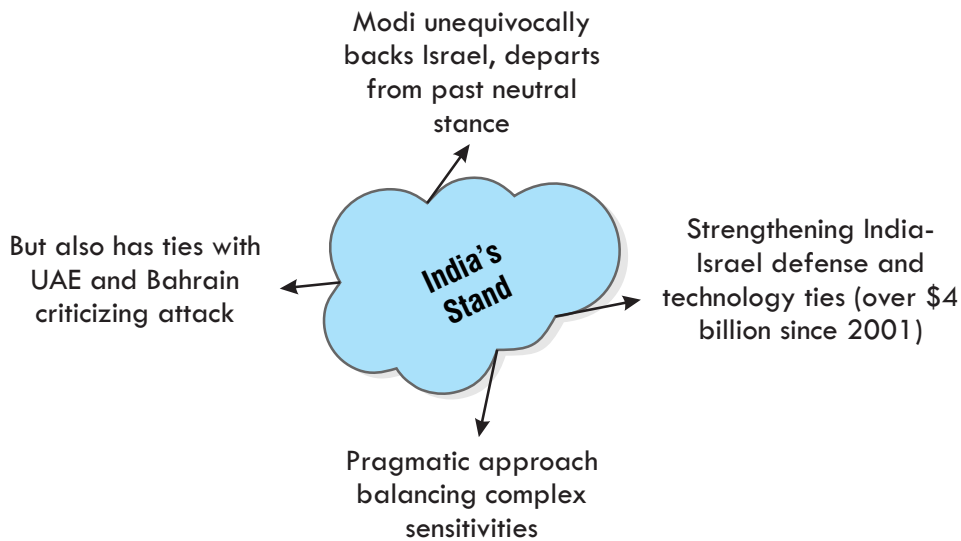
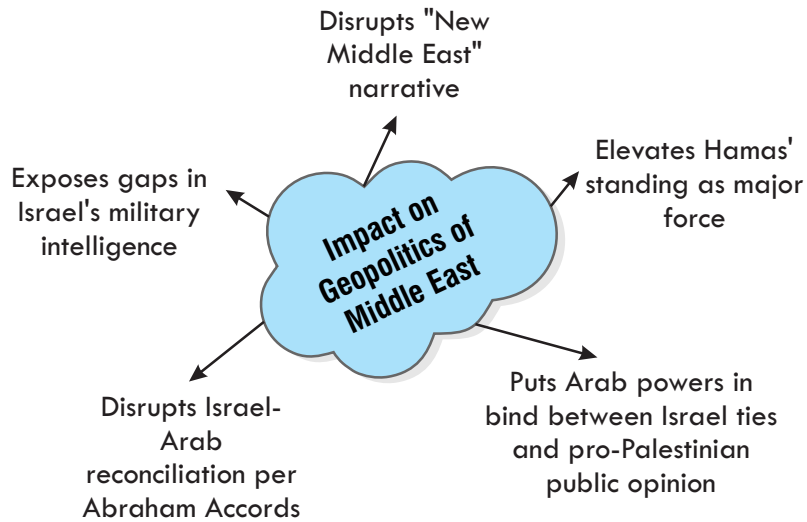
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



INDIA AND MALDIVES: INDIA FIRST TO INDIA OUT

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

India-Maldives has shared amicable relations for long however recently Maldives has seen anti-India sentiments. The article analyzes the reason and discusses the foreign policy measures.

The Maldives, strategically located in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), is a significant maritime neighbor for India, with both historical and contemporary ties. However, recent developments indicate a shift in the Maldives' approach towards India evidenced by the Maldives' decision not to renew an MoU with India for hydrography cooperation and the agreement to withdraw over 70 Indian troops stationed in the Maldives for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and training purposes.

RECENT ISSUES IN INDIA - MALDIVE RELATIONS

- **The departure of the United States and entry of China:** The departure of the United States from the region has created a **power vacuum**, which China has filled, impacting India's influence in South Asia.
 - ▶ Regional states are using the "China card" to reduce dependence on India, turning to China for material needs India can't fully meet. This shift has led to a "norms-free zone" in the region, altering traditional dynamics.
- **India's Interference:** In February 2018, during a political crisis in the Maldives, President Abdulla Yameen declared a state of emergency and arrested opposition figures, leading India to advocate for the rule of law and the release of political detainees. This stance was viewed by some as interference in Maldivian affairs.
 - ▶ Critics have labeled the Indian military's presence in the Maldives as detrimental to the nation's sovereignty.
 - ▶ President Muizzu, upon taking office, emphasized the removal of Indian troops as a key priority, affirming his commitment to protect the Maldives' sovereignty and independence.
- **Transparency Concerns:** There's a perceived lack of transparency regarding the agreements signed between the Maldives and India. To address this lacuna, the Parliamentary Committee on National Security Services to disclose the terms of these pacts was demanded.
- **Change in leadership in Maldives and influence on its relations with India:**
 - ▶ During **Abdulla Yameen's presidency from 2013 to 2018**, the Maldives experienced a significant shift towards China, notably joining its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
 - ▶ In a change of direction, **Mohamed Muizzu** was elected President of the Maldives in 2023 with a campaign focusing on reducing India's influence, as evidenced by his 'India out' platform.
 - ▶ President Muizzu's foreign policy has been marked by strengthening ties with countries like Turkey, the UAE, and China.



India and Maldives Cooperation

- **Economic:** A trade agreement was signed between India and Maldives in 1981. India is Maldives' 4th largest trade partner.
- **Defence:** India offers the highest number of training opportunities for the Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), fulfilling approximately 70% of their defence training needs. The Maldives relies heavily on trilateral maritime security cooperation with India and Sri Lanka.
- **Disaster management:** In three different crises in 1988 (the coup), 2004 (the tsunami), and 2014 (water shortage), Maldives witnessed that India was the first one to assist it.
- **Development and Infrastructure:** India is involved in several infrastructure and development projects in the Maldives, such as **airports, the Greater Male Connectivity Project** (a bridge connecting Male with adjoining islands), and the development of Gulhifalhu Port.
- **Healthcare and Education:** More recently, residents of the Maldives have begun to depend heavily on India for healthcare including a much-appreciated initial supply of 100,000 Covishield vaccines shipped from India. **In education**, India has helped establish an institute of technical education and offers training programs for Maldivian teachers and youth.
- **Maldives is well aware of the enormous scale of cooperation with India.**
 - ▶ The defense cooperation is less about India's gifting of helicopters and more about capacity building through joint exercises like the Ekuverin, Ekatha, surveillance assets, training of 1,400 MNDF trainers in recent years and disaster management.

India must maintain patience and focus on long-term engagement with the Maldives, given its geographic proximity and the potential for shifts in domestic politics to influence foreign policy.

WAY FORWARDS

- **Arun Prakash-** The **Colombo Security Conclave** (comprising India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh and the Seychelles) should be strengthened. India should focus on utilizing maritime diplomacy as a vital instrument of conventional diplomacy to foster regional cooperation .
- **Happymon Jacob-** By boldly re-imagining the post-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation South Asia, New Delhi should create a basis for BIMSTEC to invite the Maldives as an observer at its next summit. Indian diplomacy should be flexible, engaging multiple actors in neighboring countries, not just those in power.
- **C.Raja Mohan-** India should proactively involve friendly external actors in the region to counter the possibility of it becoming Sino-centric. India must maintain patience and focus on long-term engagement with the Maldives, given its geographic proximity and the potential for shifts in domestic politics to influence foreign policy.
- **B Dnyaneshwar Mulay-** China's entry in Maldives is solely to advance its own gains. A strong relationship with India will be to Maldives's benefit.

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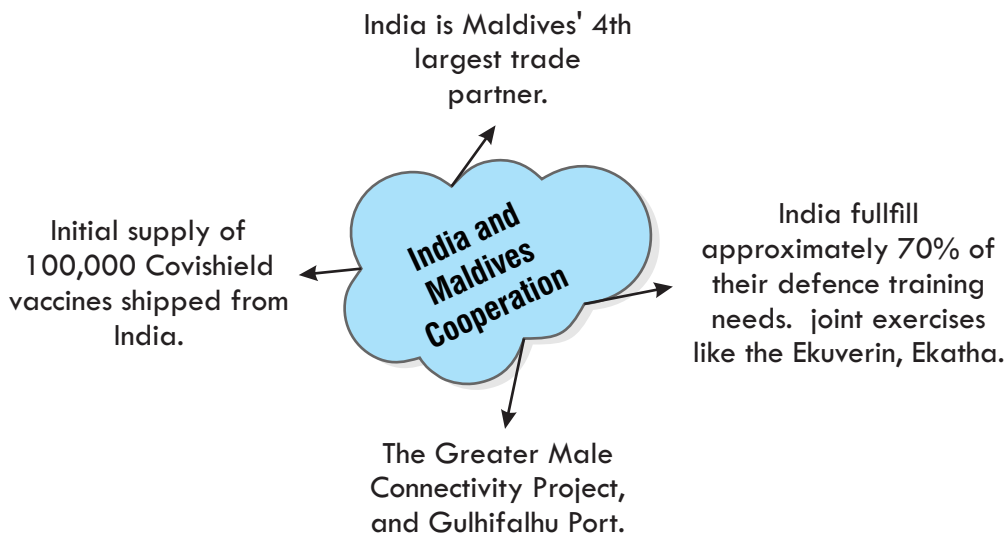
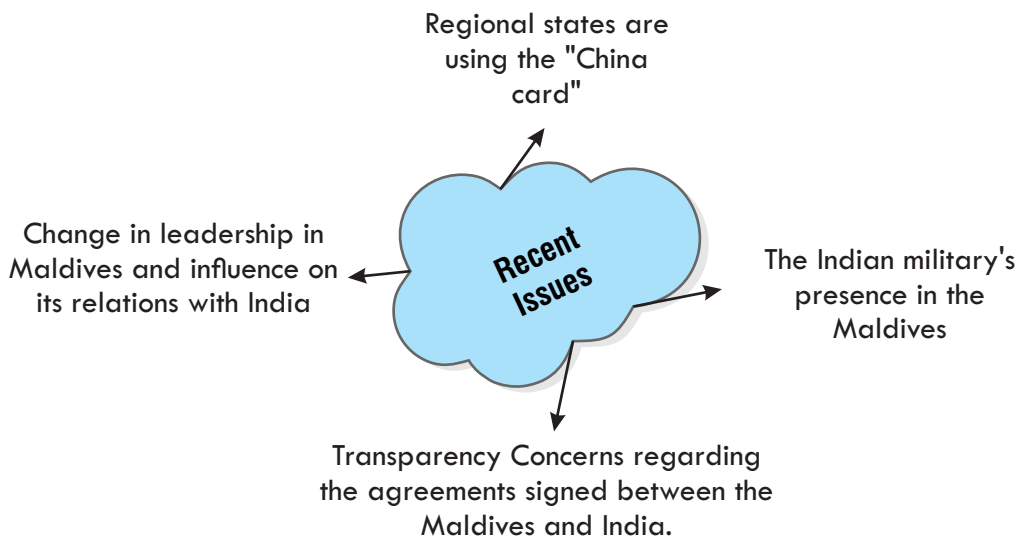
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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims	Practice For Mains
<p>Q1. Which of the following lies on Equator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Indonesia2. Maldives3. Somalia4. Sao Tome and Principe <p>Choose the correct Option</p> <p>(a). all (b). Only 1,2,3 (c). 2 only (d). Only 2 and 3</p>	<p>Q1. Considering the strategic significance of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, discuss the potential impacts of its foreign policy shifts on India's strategic interests in the IOR?</p>

QUICK REVISION NOTES



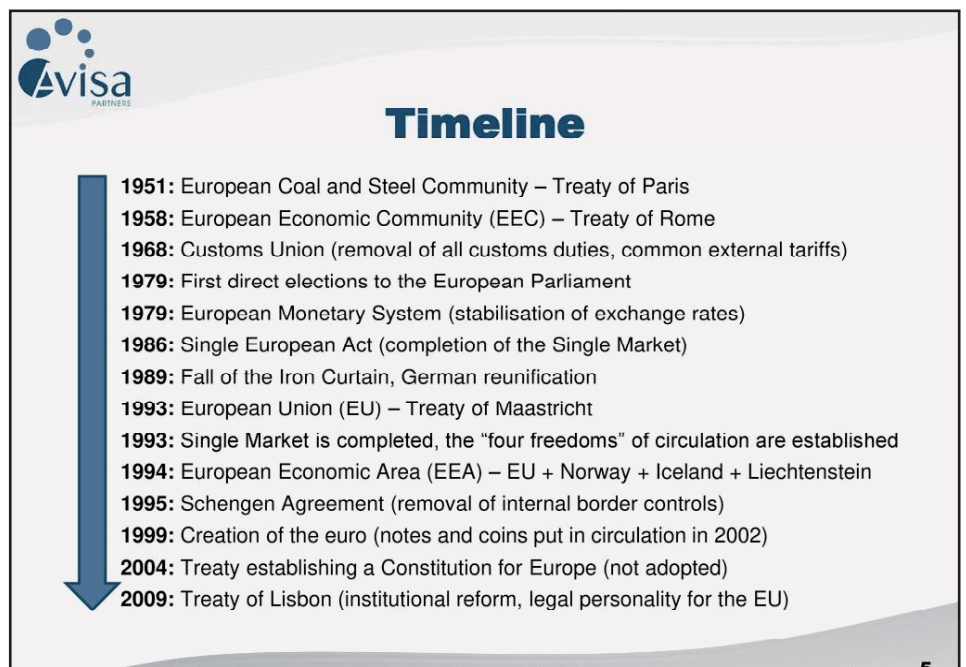
EU-INDIA DEFENCE RELATIONS

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

In this article understand why EU-India defence relations are expanding-in what background. Understand the nature and components of this cooperation.

Defence and security cooperation is becoming a more important pillar of the India-European Union (EU) partnership. Recently the European Union (EU)'s attaché in India for the first time and recently held its first naval exercise, reflects an intensification of defence and security ties.

- Threats to the world order from both state and non-state actors.
- The rise of China, its growing assertiveness in the Indian Ocean Region and questioning of UNCLOS regulations.
- The EU outlined its Indo-Pacific strategy in 2021 to protect political and economic interests in the region accounting for over 35% of its trade. India is critical for securing sea lanes and countering terrorism.
- For India, closer EU naval coordination bolsters its Act East policy spanning the Indo-Pacific.
- Maritime security has been central to the partnership, including coordinating on counter-piracy missions.



COMPONENTS OF DEFENCE COOPERATION

- **EU NAVFOR ATALANTA** - The EU launched the European Union Naval Force ATALANTA (EU NAVFOR) in 2008 within the framework of European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). India began cooperating with the EU NAVFOR antipiracy operation in the Western Indian Ocean in 2009 immediately after it was launched.”



- ▶ In 2017, the Italian Flagship of the EU's Naval Force Operation Atalanta and the Indian Navy vessel INS Trishul conducted the first-ever joint EU-India naval exercise.
- **Naval exercise** - At the 2020 summit, India and the EU agreed to launch a dialogue on maritime security and consultations on security and defence, thereby elevating the existing contacts from the level of the Navy officers and think tanks to the leadership. They emphasised the need to preserve safety and stability in the Indian Ocean. The first-ever EU-India naval drills held in October 2021 that deployed frontline ships and aircraft off West Africa.
- **The "EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025"**- document highlights maritime security as a priority, emphasizing the strengthening of military relations and cooperation between EU NAVFOR ATALANTA and the Indian Navy as crucial for implementing the Roadmap's provisions.
- **India's first Scorpene-class submarine** - France, which has 2 million citizens in the Indo-Pacific, maintains a robust defence partnership evident in the September 2022 commissioning of India's first Scorpene-class submarine built with French collaboration.
- Italy and India are co-developing naval missile systems while also collaborating between space agencies, eyeing joint projects worth €120 billion by 2030.
- **Tereza Novotna**- (In terms of security cooperation) *"It has become an important source of stability with wider implications for the Indo-Pacific region, including through closer collaboration on defence issues. In particular, cooperation on counter-terrorism, maritime security, and cyber security have been areas of mutual interests."*
- **Emmanuel Lenain** says in context of the significance of EU-India partnership in the Indo-Pacific that A truly strategic relationship can reshape the post-pandemic world and promote a multipolar order.
- **C.Raja Mohan** *"It was Russia that defined India's discourse on the multipolar world after the Cold War. Today, it is Europe — with its much greater economic weight, technological strength, and normative power — that promises to boost India's own quest for a multipolar world and a rebalanced Indo-Pacific."*

CHALLENGES INVOLVED

- The EU only deploys 4.7% of its military assets, trailing the 42.7% committed by France across the Indo-Pacific.
- Capability gaps inhibit greater security capacity despite growing defence budgets.
- Further strengthening India-EU defence ties warrants greater interoperability and expanded strategic vision.
- Despite the EU's significant trade volume with China, which surpassed \$828 billion in 2021, indicating a strong economic relationship, the EU is also aware of the shifting global economic focus towards Asia.
- This shift prompts the EU to strengthen its ties with India. Essentially, the EU is trying to find a balance between maintaining its lucrative trade relations with China while also deepening its cooperation with India to secure a strategic foothold in the increasingly influential Asian region.
- So while differences exist, the India-EU defence relationship will likely gain more strategic influence and operational teeth to uphold common interests and rules-based governance.



WAY FORWARD

- UN peacekeeping is evolving due to COVID-19, with India and the EU, as major contributors, looking to influence its future. Joint peacekeeping training emerges as a practical cooperation strategy, emphasizing shared goals such as women's empowerment.
- Joint projects between defence industries, integrating European technologies with production capacities in India, can boost mutual self-reliance while increasing efficiency.
- There is also scope for broader, minilateral coordination by bringing the EU into platforms like the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the Quad.
- The EU's unique strengths in fostering multilateral initiatives can be leveraged to advance maritime governance frameworks in the Indo-Pacific on non-traditional security issues .
- Integrating European best practices and technologies in modernizing India's maritime infrastructure.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements about European Union

1. It is a political and Economic Union.
2. It was formally established by the Maastricht Treaty.
3. In 2007 the European Union received the Nobel Prize.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a). Only one
- (b). Only two
- (c). Only three
- (d). None of the above

Practice For Mains

Q1. Discuss expanding defence and security ties between India and the European Union (EU)?

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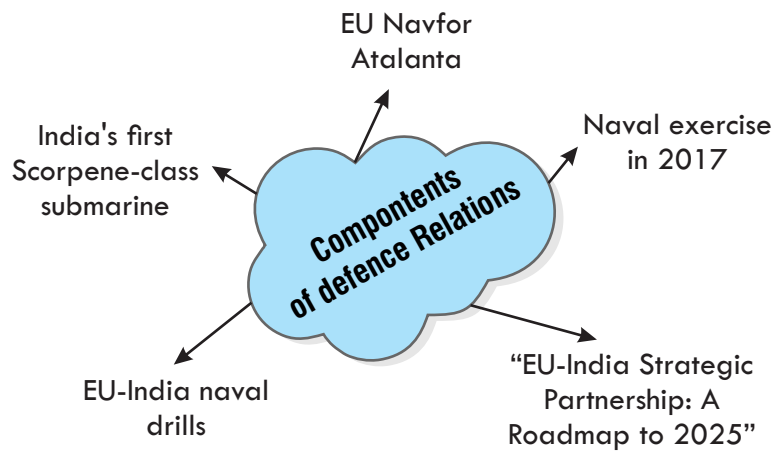
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



THE CASE FOR REFORM: REVITALIZING THE UNITED NATIONS

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

UPSC directly asks questions from this topic, focussing on -challenges UN is facing in terms of its role and the required reforms.

The UN is confronting an existential crisis unparalleled in its 75+ year existence. Its effectiveness in safeguarding international peace and security – the core mandate enshrined in the UN Charter – has considerably diminished. Words of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres **“The world has changed. Our institutions have not.”** reflects the growing dissonance between contemporary global realities and the structures established in the aftermath of World War II.

WHY THE UN NEEDS URGENT REFORMS?

- **Outdated Security Council Composition:** The UN Security Council’s composition is outdated, reflecting the post-War world order despite the UN’s membership increasing fourfold since 1945. Europe, with only 5% of the global population, unjustly holds 33% of the Council’s seats annually, excluding Russia, another European power.
- **Underrepresentation of Major Powers:** Major powers like India and Japan, despite being significant UN financial contributors, lack proper representation. India’s significant population, economic contributions, and participation in UN peacekeeping highlight its impact on global affairs, underscoring the need for representation reform in the UN.
- **Outmoded UN Charter:** The UN Charter still categorizes Japan and Germany as “enemy states” due to its post-World War II origins, underscoring the need for reform to reflect current global dynamics.



More to Explore

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945.
- Currently made up of 193 Member States,
- The main bodies of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.
- All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.
- The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer of the UN
- The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization’s other main bodies.



- **Challenges of Unanimity:** The reliance on unanimity among permanent members, coupled with intensifying great power rivalry, threatens to paralyze the sole body charged with maintaining international peace and security.
- The crisis plaguing multilateralism extends to the Bretton Woods institutions like the IMF and World Bank as well. Global economic activity has irrevocably shifted eastwards, yet emerging powers lack voice and vote commensurate with their rise. Rebalancing these institutions is essential to reflect contemporary economic realities.
- **Rakesh Sood** notes a decline in the UN's effectiveness in conflict resolution post-Cold War, citing the Israel crisis as an example. ***"With the major powers developing severe differences, they have made it impossible for the UN with its frozen membership of decision-making bodies, such as the UNSC, to be able to undertake any meaningful action."***
- **Vivek Katju:** The UNSC, in its present shape, as long as the vetoes are there, does not provide any hope for addressing any international issue, where the national interests of the permanent five are in conflict.
- This outdated architecture has repeatedly hamstrung the Security Council's efficacy, including in responding to Russia's invasion of Ukraine earlier this year.

CHARTING A REFORM ROADMAP

- Rectifying this precipitous decline warrants systematic reforms aligned to contemporary geopolitical realities. The UN Summit in 2024 offers the perfect springboard.
- It must start by expanding the UNSC to improve representativeness of the developing world in the highest decision-making body. Groupings like L69 bloc have already proposed tangible measures in this direction.
- New normative frameworks are needed to govern disruptive technologies and their weaponization. Investing in early warning systems can help anticipate potential flashpoints too.
- Working with middle powers and group platforms can help ease disagreements among the major UN powers (P-5) through positive mediation. The G20 has led the way in creating agreement across different viewpoints.

The UN faces a critical choice: reform its governance to address 21st-century challenges or risk becoming irrelevant. The struggle for change is hindered by entrenched power structures, yet it's essential for the UN to adapt to the complex, interconnected nature of global issues. Its ability to remain relevant hinges on updating its governance to reflect the current distribution of power and resources among its members.

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements about United Nations:

1. It is an international organization founded in 1945.
2. India has served in the UN Security Council seven times.
3. India has signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

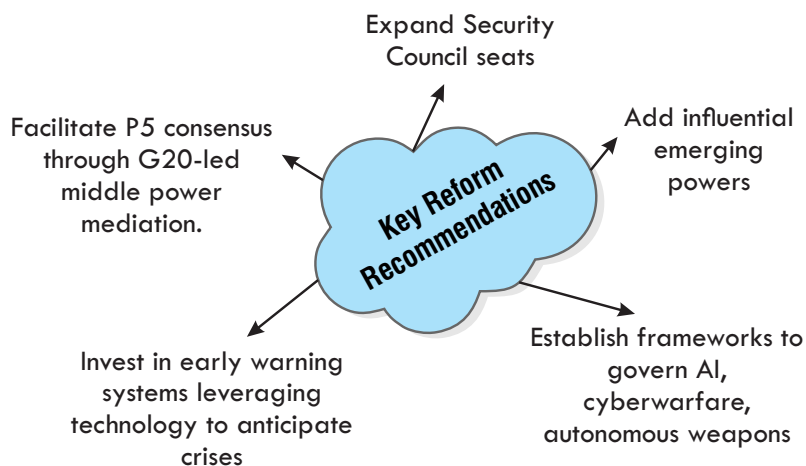
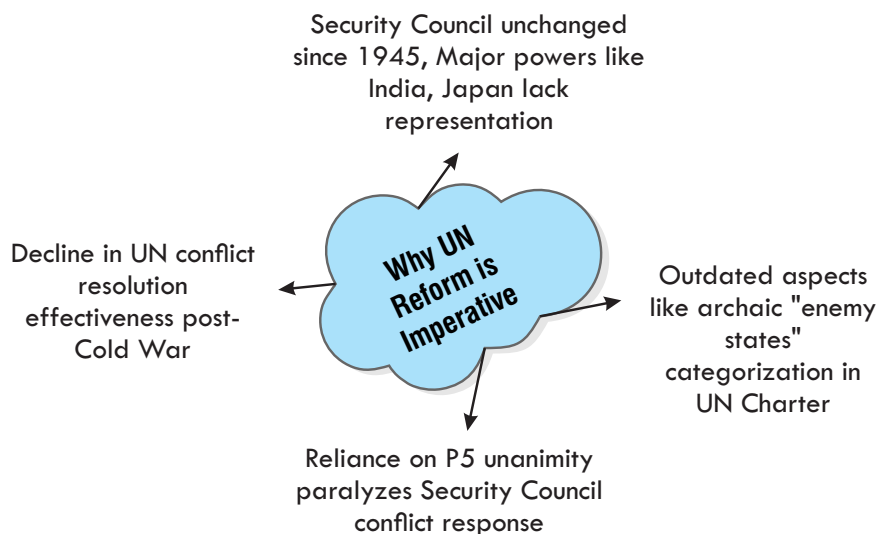
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a). 1 Only
- (b). 1 and 2 Only
- (c). 1, 2 and 3
- (d). None of the above

Practice For Mains

Q1. What are the challenges the collective security of the UN charter is facing, and also explain the obstacles to these reforms.

QUICK REVISION NOTES



2024-25

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*Indian Government
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SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT ON ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

Understand the basis of the judgement as it will help you to make the answers articulative and dynamic in the topic related to federalism.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday unanimously upheld the Central government's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution which conferred special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

WHAT IS THE JUDGMENT

- The Supreme Court ruled Article 370 as a 'temporary provision' for Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) integration into India, emphasizing its placement in the Constitution underlines its provisional nature.
- The Court stated that J&K's integration was permanent with the Indian Constitution's effect in 1950, dismissing any notion of a temporary union.
- It clarified that J&K did not retain sovereignty post-accession to India in 1947, and described Article 370 as part of asymmetric federalism, not sovereignty.
- Special provisions for states (Articles 371A to 371J) grant degrees of autonomy, not sovereignty. Initially, J&K had some internal sovereignty via Article 370, but this was meant to be temporary.
- During President's rule, the Union government can take irreversible actions without state legislature consent if reasonably connected to the proclamation's objectives, emphasizing the government's responsibility to govern effectively in such periods.
- The Supreme Court upheld the scrapping of J&K's special status and its bifurcation into Union Territories as rational decisions linked to the Presidential Proclamation.
- The court ordered that J&K's statehood restoration should occur promptly, with legislative assembly elections by September 30, 2024.



More to Explore

- Part XXI of the Indian Constitution, 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions', includes, apart from Article 370 — Temporary Provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir — special provisions for 11 other states, listed under Articles 371, 371A-H, and 371J.
- The special provisions in Articles 371, 371A-H, and 371J, though not as extensive as Article 370, highlight that various princely states negotiated their integration into the Union or secured special constitutional protections due to their unique circumstances.
- These provisions are all based on historical contexts.



- Justice Kaul proposed a Truth-and-Reconciliation Commission for J&K to address human rights abuses, emphasizing dialogue and reparations, leaving its establishment to the government.

CRITICISM OF THE JUDGEMENT

- **Pratap Bhanu Mehta** criticizes the verdict for undermining federal principles and constitutional procedures by allowing Parliament to enact irreversible changes on behalf of a state under President's Rule, potentially threatening the constitutional federal structure and state rights.
- **Fali Sam Nariman** has critiqued the judgment as being "politically acceptable, but not constitutionally correct."

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE JUDGEMENT

- **C Raja Mohan**- The Supreme Court's judgment will make one big difference to the geopolitics of Kashmir. It ends Delhi's prolonged defensive strategic orientation on Kashmir. The legal clarity provided by the Supreme Court — that India's "internal" relationship with Kashmir is not open for "external" negotiation — does provide a good basis to launch a new phase in India's Kashmir strategy.
- **According to Rakesh Kumar Kaul** -It has been contended that the repeal of Article 370 has had a positive impact on the social inclusion of minorities in J&K, particularly benefiting the Kashmiri Pandits.
- **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** argued that "Jammu & Kashmir has seen rapid development since it was made a Union Territory, suggesting that the abrogation has contributed to the region's progress".

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Parliament can change the area of the state without the consent of the concerned state .
2. Parliament is bound by the views of the concerned state government.

Select the Incorrect answer using the code given below:

- (a). 1 only
- (b). 2 only
- (c). Both 1 and 2
- (d). Neither 1 nor 2

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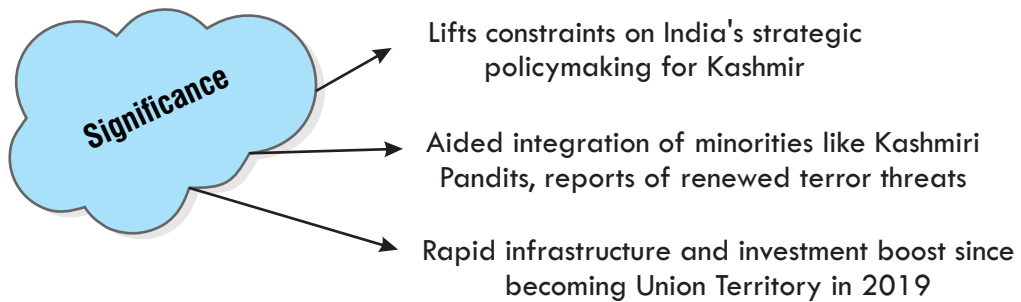
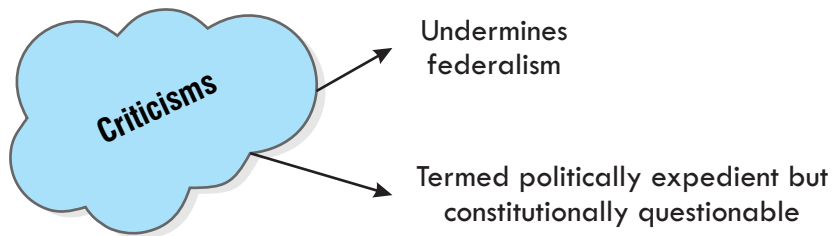
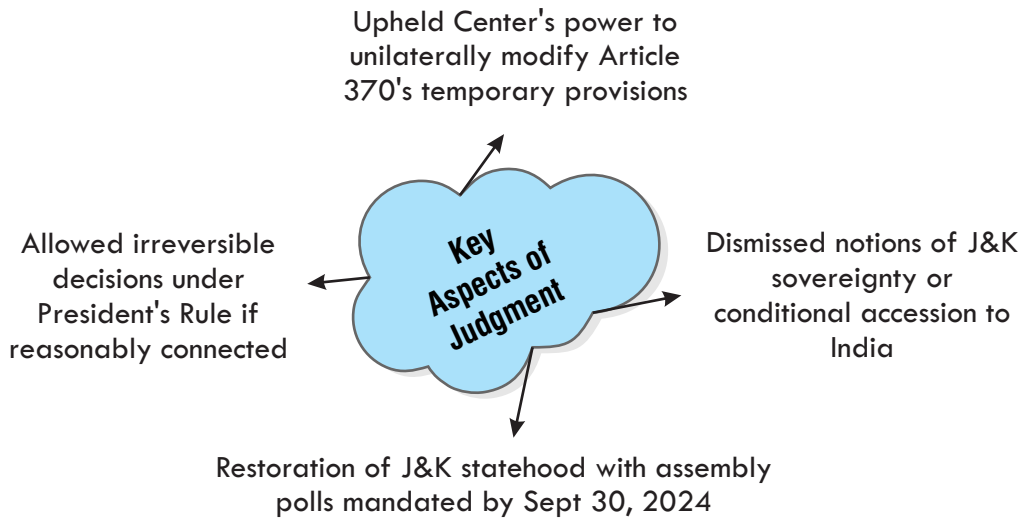
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



GOVERNOR'S POWER OF RESERVING THE STATE BILLS

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

UPSC has asked questions from this topic many times so it is important for the exam. Understand constitutional provisions, loopholes and what has been recommended by various commissions.

The Governor under Article 153-167 in the Indian Constitution deals with the provisions related to the state governments of the country. Governor is a nominal executive head of the state. **He forms an important part of the state executive where he acts as the chief executive head.** But in recent times it has been seen that there are many controversies related to the Role of Governor.

Recent Controversies:

- **Tamil Nadu** Governor R. N. Ravi has 'withheld' assent for certain Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. This follows the Supreme Court expressing 'serious concern' over inaction by the Governor on Bills presented for his assent.
- **Kerala** has accused the Governor of acting in a manner which "defeat the rights of the people" by withholding the passage of eight Bills on issues ranging from public health, higher education, lokayukta, etc.

RELATED CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- **Article 200 of the Constitution lays down that when a Bill**, passed by a State Legislature, is presented to the Governor for their assent, **they have four alternatives** — may give assent to the Bill; may withhold assent to the Bill, that is, reject the Bill in which case the Bill fails to become law; may return the Bill (if it is not a Money Bill) for reconsideration of the State Legislature; or may reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.
- The return of any Bill to the State Legislature for reconsideration is also to be done based on ministerial advice. However, Governors in the past have **exercised their discretion** in returning Bills, like the Tamil Nadu Governor with respect to the Bill prohibiting online gambling.
- As held by the Supreme Court in various cases including the **Shamsher Singh case (1974)**, the **Governor does not exercise their discretionary powers** while withholding assent or returning a Bill to the State Legislature. **They are required to act as per the advice of the Council of Ministers.**

CONSEQUENCES DUE TO THE MISUSE OF POWER

- **Violated Fundamental Rights:**
 - ▶ "The conduct of the Governor in keeping Bills pending for long and indefinite periods of time is manifestly arbitrary and also violates Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution.



- ▶ it defeats the rights of the people under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution, by denying them the benefits of welfare.
- ▶ Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal and advocate C.K. Sasi said the delay had grown to be an “endemic” among Governors of certain States.
- **Threatening day to day governance:** The State had argued that the Governor was stymieing day-to-day governance in a way which was threatening to bring administration in the State to a grinding halt a “serious concern”. ***The Governor is only the ‘titular head’ and that Bills being kept in limbo could result in the potential breakdown of parliamentary democracy.CJI***
- **Corroding the principle of cooperative federalism:** Nominating governors by the union government often results in their alignment with the ruling party, straining union-state relations and weakening cooperative federalism
- **Credibility of the institution of the governor:** The inordinate delay of governor/s in granting assent to the Bills diminish the credibility of the institution of the governor.
- **The conflict between governors’ offices and elected governments:** It leads to a strained relationship between the state and the governor, destabilizes elected governments due to governance pressures, and disrupts the federal structure of the constitution.

Way Forward:

- **Sarkaria Commission of 1987-** Governor’s power to reserve Bills for the consideration of the President should be used sparingly and **only in cases of potential unconstitutionality**. In all other cases, the Governor is expected to act on the advice of the state ministers.
- **Punchhi Commission of 2010** - Governor should make a decision on a Bill presented for assent within a period of six months.
- **R.Rangrajan-** Address the politicization of the gubernatorial post and suggest potential amendments to the Constitution to ensure responsible cooperation between Central and State Governments in matters related to the appointment and functioning of Governors. The Governor’s role should align more closely with ministerial advice, with time limits for decision-making and provisions for the removal of uncooperative Governors.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The president of India has both discretionary as well as situational powers.
2. Governor of the state has only discretionary power and not situational power.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a). 1 only
- (b). 2 only
- (c). Both 1 and 2
- (d). Neither 1 nor 2

Practice For Mains

Q1. Analyze the constitutional role of the Governor in the context of Article 200 of the Indian Constitution. How does this role impact the legislative process within a state?



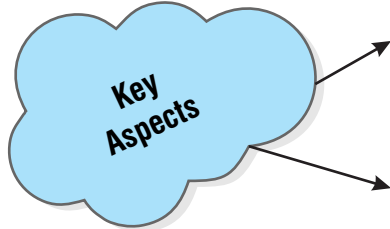
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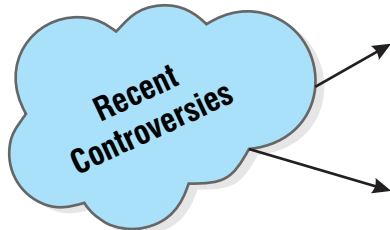
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



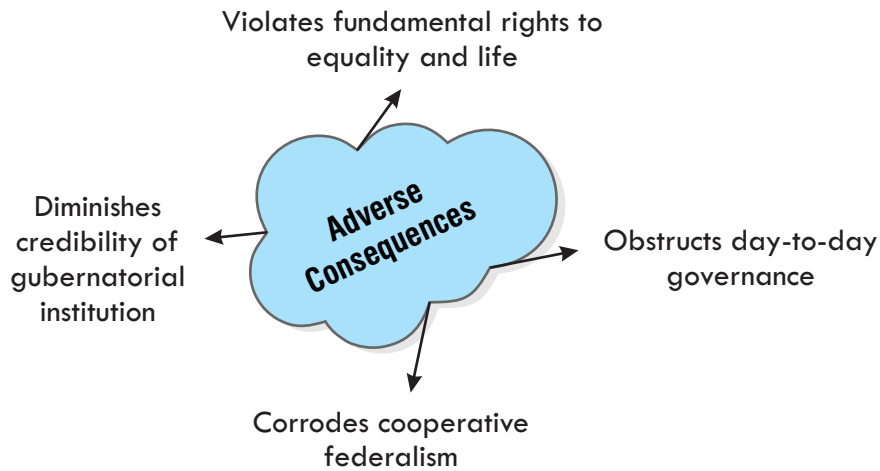
Article 200: Governor can reserve bills for President's consideration

Governor must act on Council of Ministers' binding advice



TN Governor withheld assent to bills passed by state assembly

Kerala accused Governor of arbitrary delays on 8 bills



Use reserve power rarely, only for unconstitutional bills (Sarkaria Commission)

Mandatory 6 month limit for Governor decisions (Punchhi Commission)

Address politicization of Governor post

CASTE CENSUS

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

This topic will enrich the answers related to caste and politics in India and how politics in India is closely intertwined with the social fabric.

India's census historically includes SC/ST data but not detailed caste data. Following a Bihar survey showing 63% in EBC/OBC categories, there's a rising demand for a nationwide caste census. However, this demand, supported by Congress and opposition parties, was rejected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

NEED OF CASTE CENSUS

- Caste plays a pivotal role in the perpetuation of institutional poverty because, historically, it determines occupation and skills. **Shaikh Rehman-** *"In the modern Indian economy, most occupations are network driven in which caste plays decisive roles in driving those networks, which is why a caste census is vital."*
- **CJI-** *"Indian courts have frequently emphasized the need for accurate reserve data. Given that courts look for "quantifiable facts" to support the current levels of reservation, it might also be a requirement under the law. "*
- **Egalitarian Society:** A chance to address **deep seated disparities** and shape a more egalitarian India. It will **reveal inequalities in social structures**, enable better policy formulation and identify obstacles in policy implementation to usher in an era of genuine equal participation and redistribution of power and resources. **Yogendra Yadav-** *"The caste census is a necessary and important tool for understanding and addressing caste-based inequalities in India. It is feasible, affordable, and the potential side effects are manageable."*
- **Caste data is key to understanding three important factors:** the functioning of the labor market, wealth inequalities and implementation of policy schemes. Since there is no current caste census data, the 2021 welfare policy formulation will be based on the caste estimations from 1931. A caste census is likely to present policymakers with new and updated data.



More to Explore

- Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes.
- Before that, every Census until 1931 had data on caste. However, in 1941, caste-based data was collected but not published.
- In the absence of such a census, there is no proper estimate for the population of OBCs, various groups within the OBCs, and others.



- **Access to public and private resources** : The purpose of collecting caste wise data is not only to know the scope and depth of caste based inequalities but also to understand how caste intersects with other identities like class, gender, and region that structure opportunities and access to public and private resources .
- **Satish Deshpande-** *“Not conducting a caste census is damaging to the cause of social justice. But the converse need not always be true. We need to treat the caste census as a way station on the road to social justice, rather than as a destination itself,”* .
- **M N Panini-** *“This is, perhaps, the reason for the demands from the more oppressed and deprived marginal castes and subcastes for special quotas within broader reservation categories.”*

WHY THERE IS OPPOSITION TO CASTE CENSUS?

- **Potential for Reservation Quota Conflicts:** A nationwide caste census could trigger disputes over positions and power due to fears of increasing the OBC reservation quota beyond 27%, especially after the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, despite OBCs possibly constituting over 52% of the population as estimated by the Mandal Commission.
- **Possibly dividing:** Caste based division will result from the caste census. A caste census would simply perpetuate the idea of caste, which India is trying to do rid of and undermine.
- **Validity of the information given:** Respondents may lie about their jati (or sub-caste) or their material goods because a caste census will be used to determine future reservations and welfare benefits. According to statistics, “non-sampling errors” are probably fairly prevalent.
- The problem of assuming that all “**shudra**” **communities are backward**. This is problematic because it doesn’t consider contemporary social and educational factors in determining backwardness.
- **Suhas Palshikar-** Counting caste will be a pseudo-radical gesture unless coupled with fundamental shifts in social justice policy.
 - ▶ **Suhas Palshikar says that** The main point is that it’s important to collect detailed information on how different caste groups are doing economically and socially. This helps find out which communities are struggling the most and need more support. However, updating who gets this support is challenging because some groups that are better off might resist changes, and politicians might not want to make these changes to stay popular. The goal is to make sure support goes to those who really need it by improving how we decide who is considered disadvantaged and encouraging more opportunities for these groups in private jobs.

WAY FORWARD

- **Need to reevaluate the concept of backwardness.** *It proposes moving away from fixed categories of more and less backward sections and adopting a backwardness index to determine affirmative action policies.* **Suhas Palshikar.**
- **Justice Rohini Commission,** which was constituted in 2017 by the Modi government to examine the sub-categorisation of OBCs in the Central list, submitted its report in August 2023. A nationwide socio-economic caste census is necessary to evolve scientific criteria for such sub-categorisation. This would also be necessary for all States, which have their own State-level OBC lists, given the wide variety in caste composition.





TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. SECC (Socio-Economic and Caste Census) in India was first conducted after independence.
2. The Constitution of India mandates the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes.

Which of the following statements is/are correct:

- (a). Only 1
- (b). Only 2
- (c). Both 1 and 2
- (d). Neither 1 and 2

Practice For Mains

Q1. Discuss the role of caste in Indian politics.

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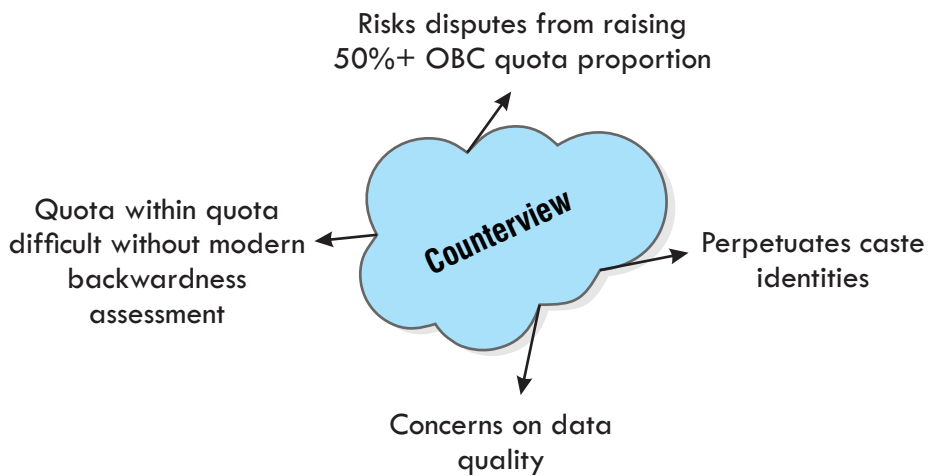
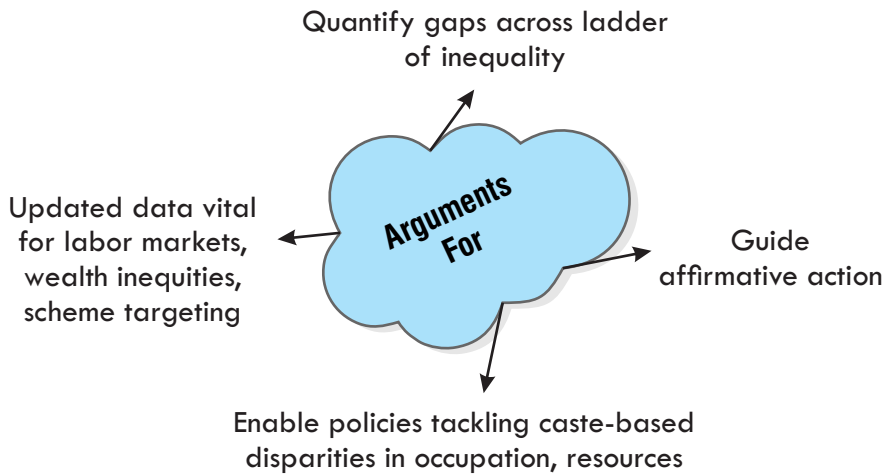
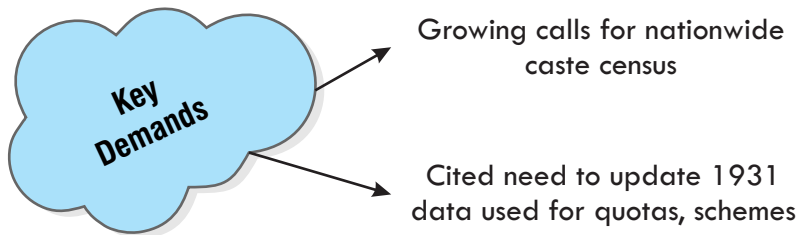
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



RIGHT TO MARRIAGE IS NOT A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

This judgement is useful to understand the approach of the judiciary to fundamental rights and the nature of fundamental rights.

On October 17, 2023, the Supreme Court of India ruled in **Supriyo Chakraborty v Union of India** case that the right to marry is not a fundamental right for anyone, regardless of sexual orientation. The decision unanimously made a distinction between the right to choose a partner, which is supported by precedents, and the right to marry. International laws were not considered in the ruling.

- The Indian Constitution does not explicitly recognise the right to marry as a fundamental right. However, that does not shun the possibility of it becoming a constitutionally guaranteed right.
- With respect to the right to marriage and choice of partner, the Supreme Court had developed a progressive and transformative jurisprudence.
- In the 2006 case of **Lata Singh v Union of India**, the SC held that the petitioner had the right to choose the partner whom she wanted to marry and the law does not prohibit inter-caste marriages.
- In **Justice KS Puttaswamy (retired) v. Union of India**, 2017 while upholding the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21, it was pointed out that vital personal choices related to marriage are included within the ambit of privacy and dignity of an individual.
- In **Shakti Vahini v. Union of India** 2018- consensually choosing life partners is a manifestation of their freedom of choice guaranteed under **Articles 19 and 21** of the Constitution.
- **Shafin Jahan v. K.M. Asokan**, 2018 the Court stated that the right to marry the person of one's choice is a fundamental component of **Article 21**. This right cannot be curtailed except through a law that is just and reasonable.
- Cases like **Laxmibai Chandaragi B. v. State of Karnataka 2021** depended on *Shafin Jahan* to hold that the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21.
- **Naveen Singh Johar v. Union of India**, 2018 - the Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality by reading down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Court clarified that consensual and private same-sex activities between adults constitutes an essential part of one's privacy.
- However, the Court refrained from addressing how these rights would apply in public aspects like marriage rights.
- **Supriyo Chakraborty v Union of India 2023** - There is no fundamental right to marry.

The impact of this decision



- The Supreme Court’s ruling impacts not just non-heterosexual couples but also challenges the Freedom to Religion (Love Jihad) laws, as it declares marriage is not a fundamental right.
- Upholding the challenge against the constitutionality of these laws would be more difficult.
- It is already difficult to get relief in case of inter-caste or interfaith couples. This is further intensified when the relationship is queer in nature.
- The judgment implies further discrimination by not recognizing marriage as a fundamental right, especially affecting queer couples by suggesting they are “not fit for marriage.”
- It denies them the rights conferred by the same court through the case of *Navtej Singh Johar* and leaves their rights at a further predicament.
- Beyond these precedents, India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Article 16(1) of the UDHR, recognises the right to marry as a human right. This right is affirmed by Article 23(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well.
- **Anand Grover**- critiques this decision for not recognizing marriage as a fundamental right, especially in the context of same-sex couples, despite India being a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which supports the right to marry regardless of gender.

The Supreme Court’s judgments underscore a recognition of individual autonomy in choosing life partners, yet reveal a reluctance to constitutionally enshrine marriage as a fundamental right. This reflects a cautious judicial approach, balancing personal freedoms with the traditional confines of marriage law, and leaves a significant gap in rights for non-heterosexual couples seeking marriage equality.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Which of the following provisions does not fall under the purview of Article 21 fundamental rights?

- (a). Right to Privacy
- (b). Right to travel
- (c). Right to shelter
- (d). Right to marry

Practice For Mains

Q1. Discuss the nature of the fundamental right enshrined under the Indian constitution.

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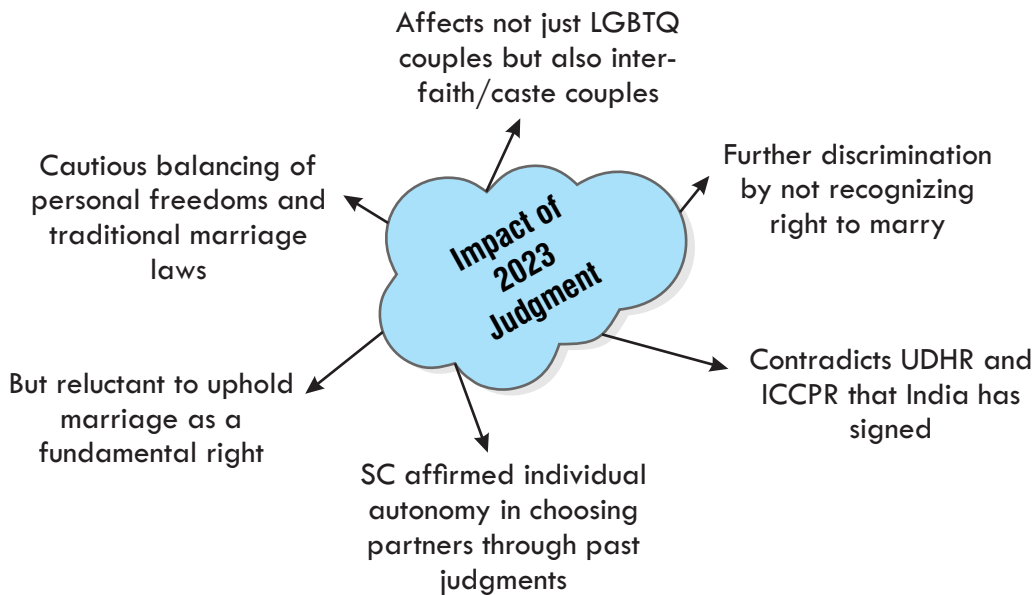
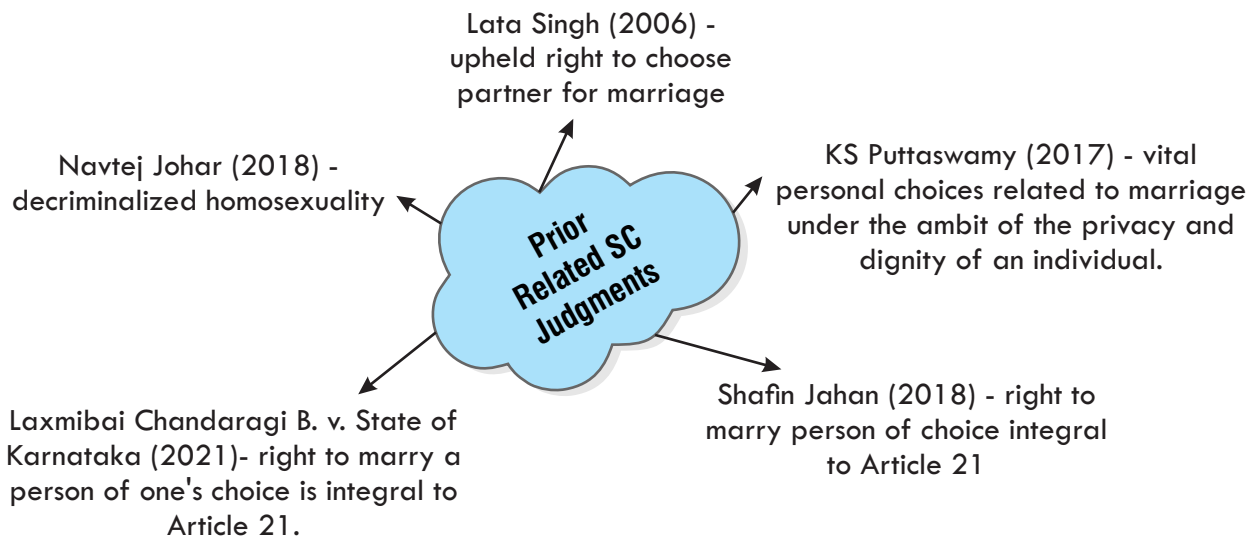
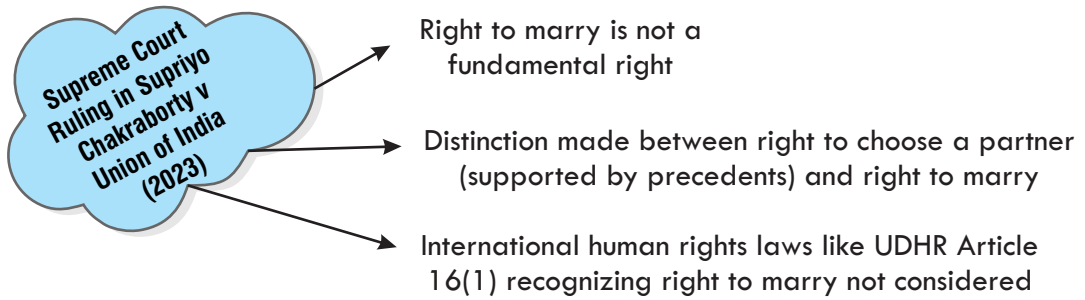
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

Understand the potential of the bill to increase the representation of women in Indian politics. Is this legislative measure enough to challenge the social mindset which acts as a hurdle in increasing the political representation of women?

Recently, The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was passed by an overwhelming majority in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, received the assent of the President of India.



REASON FOR INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL

- The Inter-Parliamentary Union ranks India 148th out of 193 countries for women's representation, far below the global average of 26.5%.
- State assemblies reflect dismal figures, ranging from 3.1% in Nagaland to 23.1% in Bihar.
- In the Lok Sabha, women constitute less than 15% of the total strength.
- The Rajya Sabha sees around 14% representation for women.
- **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** provides that discrimination against women must be eliminated in political and public life.
- **The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (2009)** noted that the reservation of seats for women in local bodies has enabled them to make meaningful contributions. It also noted that concerns regarding women being proxies to men in local bodies have turned out to be baseless.
- The **Inter-Parliamentary Union (2022)** has noted that legislated quotas have been a decisive factor in women's representation.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- **Reservation for women**- The Bill reserves one-third of all seats for women in Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Additionally, this reservation will also extend to the seats reserved for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.



- **Commencement of reservation**- The reservation will be effective once the census conducted after the commencement of this Bill has been published. Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women.
- **Period of Reservation**- The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.
- **Rotation of seats**- Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation, as determined by a law made by Parliament.
- **Articles to be amended:** To achieve the goal of women's reservation, the Bill proposed Amendments to the Constitutional provisions with respect to the NCT of Delhi
 - ▶ **Article 239AA** (Special provisions with respect to Delhi),
- **New Articles to be inserted:** The Women's Reservation Bill also introduced three new articles, namely Articles **330A, 332A, and 334A.**
 - ▶ The Articles 330A and 332A establish women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
 - ▶ Article 334a included a sunset provision that would gradually end this affirmative action policy after 15 years.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE BILL

- **Gender Equality:** enshrined in democratic societies, advocating for an equal representation of both men and women in decision-making bodies.
- **Political Empowerment:** Increased representation of women in legislatures is seen as a crucial step toward empowering women politically, giving them a voice in policy decisions.
- **International Standards:** Many countries worldwide have adopted measures to increase women's representation in politics, and supporting the Women's Reservation Bill aligns with global efforts toward gender equality.
- **Accommodative Decision Making:** Increased representation of women in politics and unique insights into issues such as healthcare, education, gender-based violence, and family welfare can result in better-informed legislation.
- **Inspiration for Women:** Increased representation of women in politics provides role models for young girls, encouraging them to aspire to leadership roles and break gender stereotypes. **Anne Phillips** argued that *"women can bring unique skills and political strategies rooted in their life experiences, making them role models for future generations"*.

According to a recent UN report there are some Asian countries that are doing much better on this count.

- The Philippines, among the first countries in the world to introduce reservations for women, has crossed the global average with 28 percent.
- Rwanda (61%), Cuba (53%), Nicaragua (52%) are the top three countries in women representation
- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and South Korea all have reservations for women—in the latter two countries, as many as 50 percent of seats are reserved.



ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE BILL

- **Lack of homogeneity among women:** Women do not form a homogeneous group like a caste, and reserving seats for them would go against the Constitution's guarantee of equality.
- **Balancing gender justice and social justice:** including reservations for backward, Dalit, minority, and tribal women.
- **Diversion from Core Issues:** emphasis on reservations might distract from addressing fundamental issues affecting women, such as economic empowerment, education, healthcare, and gender-based violence.
- **Competing on merit:** if a reservation is implemented, women would not be able to compete on their own merits, leading to a lower standard of representation.
- **Constitutional concerns:** According to **Arjun Ram Meghwal** claimed that *"it was against the provisions of the Constitution to provide reservation immediately, noting that someone may challenge it in a court of law"*.
- **Restriction of Choice of Voters-** Reservation of seats for women would restrict the choice of voters. Opponents of the Bill have suggested alternate methods like reservation for women in political parties and dual member constituencies (where constituencies will have two MPs with one of them being a woman).
- In the **Constituent Assembly, Renuka Ray** argued against reserving seats for women: *"When there is reservation of seats for women, the question of their consideration for general seats, however competent they may be, does not usually arise. We feel that women will get more chances if the consideration is of ability alone."*

CASE STUDIES ON PRESENT RESERVATIONS FOR WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- **Study in 2011 across 11 States by Ms. Dufl o and others:** It reaffirmed that women-led panchayats made higher investments in public services like drinking water, education, and roads.
- **2020 paper by Alexander Lee and Varun KarekurveRamachandra :** Examined reservations in Delhi and found that constituencies reserved for women are less likely to elect OBC women and more likely to elect upper-caste women.

SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BILL:

- **Deep-Rooted Patriarchy:** Societal norms and patriarchal mindsets have hindered the acceptance of women in leadership roles, leading to resistance in implementing the bill.
- **Intersectionality:** Women from marginalized backgrounds—such as those belonging to lower castes, indigenous groups, or economically weaker sections—might still face challenges in accessing these reserved seats due to multiple layers of discrimination they face.
- **Impact on Meritocracy:** reservations based on gender might compromise the principle of meritocracy. Political representatives should be elected based on their qualifications, experience, and capabilities rather than their gender.
- **Tokenism Concerns:** women elected under the reservation may be perceived as token representatives, lacking the necessary influence and authority to bring about meaningful change.



- **Lack of Consensus:** the lack of consensus among political parties has resulted in its delayed passage. Consensus-building remains a challenge.
- **Reservation Within Reservation:** debates about whether the reserved seats should be further divided among different categories of women, such as Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC). raises concerns about the complexity and potential conflicts in implementing such a system.
- **Resistance from Male Politicians:** who are hesitant to cede their seats or power to women.
- **Cultural Barriers:** restrict women's participation in politics, making it challenging to implement the reservation without addressing these underlying cultural challenges.
- **Lack of Awareness and Education:** among the masses contributes to resistance or lack of support for the bill.
- **Identification of reserved seats:** The Act does not specify the method for identification of the reserved seats for women.

WAY FORWARD

- Address the larger issues of electoral reforms such as measures to check criminalisation of politics and influence of black money to achieve the desired results of women reservation.
- Institutionalisation of Intra party democracy for wider pool of women candidates.
- Every Political Party must nominate 33% women and 67% men for every election to Rajya Sabha and State legislative councils to achieve true women representation.
- Promotion of women participation at panchayat level through strengthening women self-help groups. This will ensure able women candidates for MP/MLA elections.
- Promotion of girl's participation in College/Universities student political parties and political debate to increase their political prowess for future.
- According to **Kiran Mazumdar** said that the Women's Reservation Bill is a **"much-needed bill that ought to have been passed a long time ago"**.

The Women's Reservation Bill is a significant step towards gender equality and political empowerment in India. However, its implementation may face challenges such as lack of consensus on reservations for OBC and minority women, bureaucratic obstacles, and political opposition. To ensure the successful implementation of the bill, it is essential to foster inclusive dialogue and collaboration, provide a clear roadmap and timeline, and address the intersectionality of women's experiences. Despite the challenges, **From Sarojini Naidu's rejection of quotas in the Constituent Assembly to Sushma Swaraj's 2014 plea for support, perspectives within feminist circles have varied**, Bill represents a historic moment for women in India, and its successful implementation will contribute to a more representative and equitable political landscape.

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam or the Women's Reservation Bill recently passed by the Parliament aims to reserve one-third of all seats to women in Local Bodies.
2. According to the Global Gender Index India occupies the last position in the 2023 report.

Which of the following statements is/are correct:

- (a). Only 1
- (b). Only 2
- (c). Both 1 and 2
- (d). Neither 1 nor 2

Practice For Mains

Q1. Analyze the Key Provisions of the Women's Reservation Bill and Their Potential Impact.

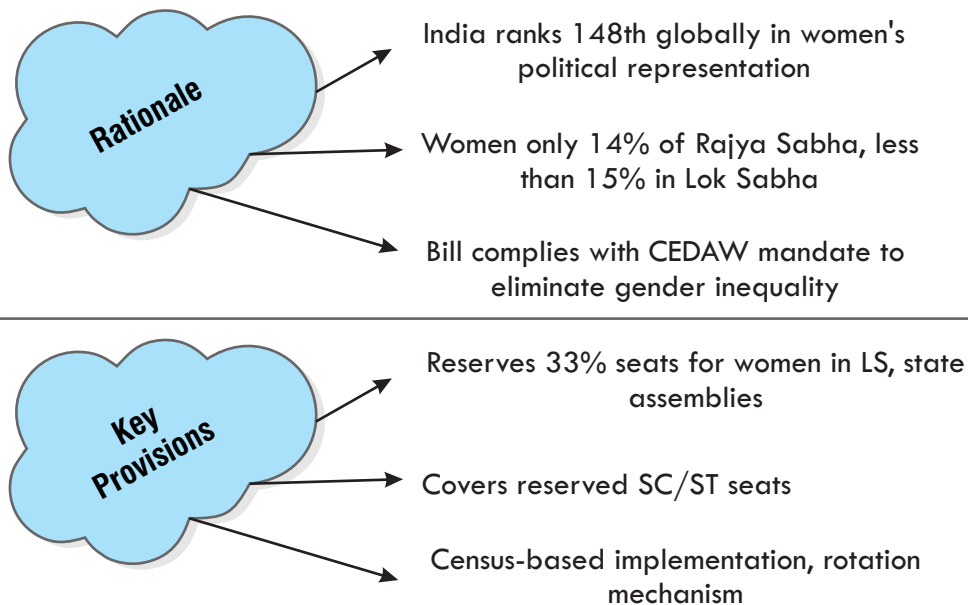
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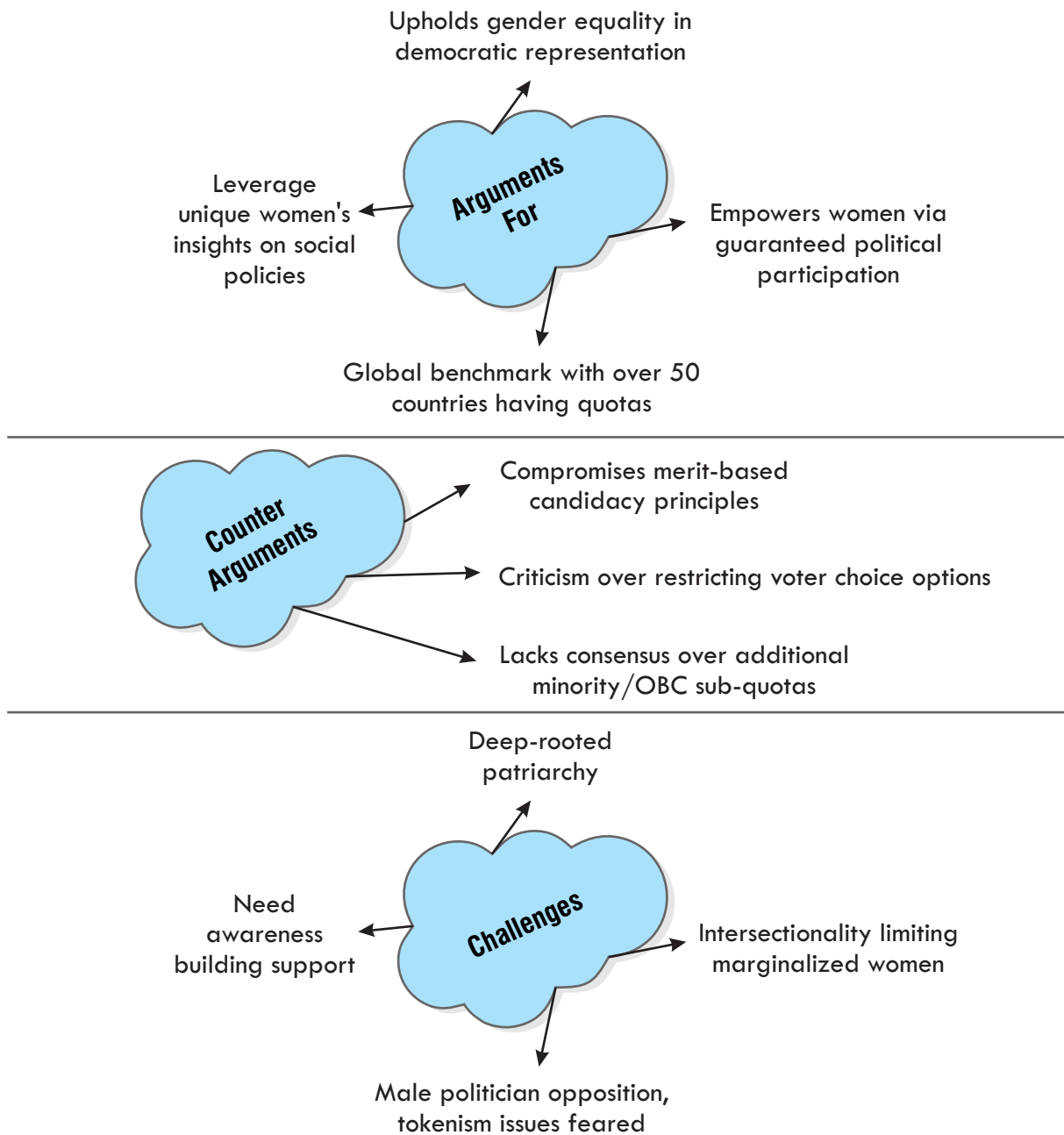
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QUICK REVISION NOTES





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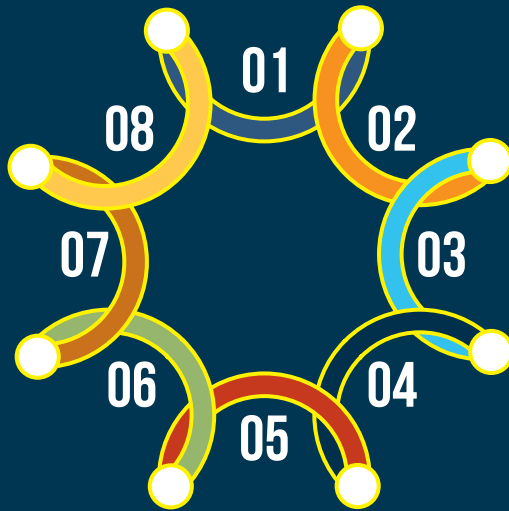
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Governance and Social Justice

AADHAAR

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

Understand the significance of Aadhaar in the context of good governance and what are the challenges Aadhaar has.

Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) based on biometric and demographic data. Established under the Aadhaar Act 2016 by the Indian Government's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), UIDAI ensures Aadhaar is not a citizenship proof but a unique identifier to eliminate duplicates and fake identities.

Objectives:

The main objectives of Aadhaar are:

- To deliver efficient, effective, and transparent governance.
- To create the system, process, and policies for issuing Aadhaar.
- To aid in the identification of government assistance program beneficiaries.

Benefits of Aadhaar:

- **Curbing Leakages through Targeted Delivery:** UIDAI's authentication services enhance social welfare programs by verifying beneficiaries before service delivery, reducing leakages and ensuring services reach the intended recipients. **Examples include subsidised food and kerosene delivery to Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries, worksite attendance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) beneficiaries, etc.**



More to Explore

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle.

- **Improving Efficiency and Efficacy:** The Aadhaar platform enhances government disbursement systems by providing accurate information, allowing for more effective and efficient use of development funds. One example of how Aadhaar has been used to enhance efficiency and



efficacy is in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

- **One Aadhaar:** Aadhaar's unique number and biometric linkage prevent duplicate identities, protecting individuals from personal information misuse.
- **Portability:** Agencies nationwide can authenticate identities by accessing the central Aadhaar database, making it a universal tool for verification. For example, it is easier for millions of Indians who migrate from one state to another or from rural areas to cities. So, this feature is critical in the delivery of various benefits and services by using the resident's Aadhaar number only.
- **Inclusion of those without any existing identity documents:** A problem in reaching benefits to poor and marginalised residents is that they often lack the identification documents they need to receive State benefits; **the "Introducer" system which has been approved for data verification for the UIDAI will enable such residents to establish an identity.**

Critiques of Aadhar:

- **Privacy concerns:** Since biometrics are not secret information, Aadhaar is vulnerable to unauthorised harvesting of biometrics and identity frauds. There is also risk of leakage of biometric and demographic data from the central Aadhaar repository or from point-of-sale or enrollment devices.
 - ▶ Workers may be unaware of the bank account linked to their Aadhaar, leading to wages being mistakenly sent to wrong accounts, such as Airtel wallets, making error detection and resolution difficult.
- **Centralization of sensitive personal information:** Users of such centralised systems—where a single institution controls and administers a user's identifying credentials—run the danger of experiencing security and privacy issues, according to the agency.
- **Service denials:** Lack of reliable internet, fading fingerprints among daily wage workers, lack of phone connectivity to get an OTP etc. leads to service denials.
- **Corruption:** the main type of corruption is quantity fraud, which happens when, say the entitlement for a ration card holder is 35 kg of rice but the dealer only gives 30 kg. Aadhaar has no role in either detecting or preventing this fraud.
- **Authentication errors:** A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) from 2022 states "UIDAI did not have a system to analyse the factors leading to authentication errors." In Aadhaar-based payments, error in any step results in payment failures. **Different spellings in the job card and in the Aadhaar database can result in authentication failures.**

K.S. PUTTASWAMY JUDGEMENT

- The Puttaswamy judgement recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution. A nine-judge bench decided this case and held that the right to privacy is a part of the right to life and personal liberty under the Indian Constitution.
- The Puttaswamy judgement has had significant implications for the Aadhaar system, including the introduction of restrictions on how Aadhaar information can be used to ensure that its use is appropriate and safeguards both privacy and the agency of individuals.
- The Supreme Court also upheld the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar Act, while striking down certain provisions as unconstitutional.



Way Forward:

- **Immediately pause the roll out of Aadhaar:** Before anything else, the Government of India should pause further roll out of Aadhaar until the major problems with Aadhaar have been addressed.
- **Establish a comprehensive law:** The Supreme Court of India has unequivocally found that privacy is a right of all Indians guaranteed by the Constitution, now it is up to the Government of India to enact privacy protections in law.
 - ▶ The Justice Srikrishna Committee's draft on India's data protection law has gaps and loopholes that need addressing, and a simpler way for citizen contributions to consultations is necessary.
 - ▶ **A strong and effective privacy law is vital to act as a check and balance to the far-reaching Aadhaar system.**
- **Release Aadhaar as open source software:** The Indian government must release Aadhaar as true open source software rather than use language of open source, and encourage the use, development, and adoption of open source as a pillar of the Aadhaar system.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements about Aadhaar:

1. Aadhaar is a 16-digit unique identity number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
 2. The Aadhaar Act, 2016, provides the legal foundation for Aadhaar, aiming to facilitate efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits, and services.
 3. Aadhaar enrollment is mandatory for all Indian citizens as a proof of citizenship.
- (a). 1 Only
(b). 2 Only
(c). 1 and 2 Only
(d). 2 and 3 Only

Practice For Mains

Q1. Evaluating the Role of Aadhaar in Promoting Good Governance in India.

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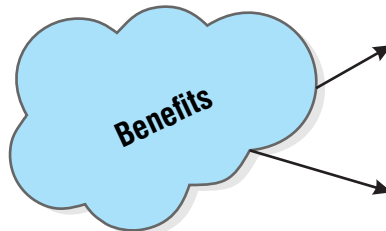
12-digit biometric and demographic ID

Over 1.3 billion generated by Unique Identification Authority of India



Streamline welfare delivery to save \$11 billion annually

Plug fake ID leakage hindering good governance



Saved \$9 billion in food subsidy leakages until 2019

320 million bogus job cards deleted saving \$2.3 billion



Exposed 1.1 billion citizens' data vulnerability as per audit report

Up to 49,000 authentication errors daily as per CAG 2022



Right to privacy as fundamental right upheld in Puttaswamy case

Makes Aadhaar use restrictions mandatory

TRANSFORMING AUDITING WITH AI: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE ROAD AHEAD

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

This article underderscores the importance of integrating Artificial Intelligence responsibly into auditing. This approach aims to boost efficiency, improve audit quality, and lower costs while tackling challenges such as dependence on AI, lack of transparency, and potential biases in AI algorithms.

A worldwide framework for uniform auditing practices in AI was emphasised during the G20 conference of Supreme Audit Institutions.

AI

- It is the engineering and science of creating intelligent devices, particularly computer programs.
- It is related to the similar task of using computers to understand human intelligence, but AI does not have to confine itself to methods that are biologically observable.

Role of AI in auditing:

- **Data Analytics:** AI-powered data analytics tools enable auditors to process vast amounts of structured and unstructured data quickly and efficiently. **This allows auditors to identify patterns, trends, and anomalies that may require further investigation.**
- **Continuous Auditing:** AI facilitates continuous auditing by automating the process of data collection, verification, and analysis on an ongoing basis. This real-time approach enhances audit quality and enables auditors to detect issues promptly.
- **Fraud Detection:** Audit artificial Intelligence algorithms can analyse transactional data to identify potential fraudulent activities or irregularities. By flagging suspicious patterns, AI helps auditors focus their attention on high-risk areas, leading to more effective fraud detection.
- **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** NLP enables AI systems to understand and process human language. Auditors can use NLP to extract relevant information from contracts, financial statements, and other textual documents, making data analysis more efficient.
- **Risk Assessment:** AI assists auditors in assessing risks by analysing historical data, industry trends, and financial ratios. This data-driven approach helps auditors identify high-risk areas that require closer scrutiny during the audit.
- **Predictive Analytics:** AI-powered predictive models can forecast financial outcomes, helping auditors assess the reasonableness of management's projections and identify potential financial issues in advance.



- **Audit Planning and Resource Allocation:** Artificial Intelligence in audit helps auditors optimise their audit plans by suggesting appropriate audit procedures and resource allocation based on the client's data and risk profile.
- **Machine Learning:** Machine learning algorithms enable AI systems to learn from past audit data and improve their performance over time. This iterative learning process enhances the accuracy and effectiveness of AI-driven audit tools.
- **Document Review:** Audit Artificial intelligence can automate the review of large volumes of documents, such as contracts, invoices, and financial statements, making the process faster and more accurate.

Benefits of Using AI in Audit:

- **Enhanced Effectiveness:** increased efficiency, streamlining various manual tasks such as data input and analysis.
- **Enhancing Audit Quality:** enhances audit quality by reducing the likelihood of errors and omissions.
- **Lower Costs:** Shortened audit times, made possible by AI-driven efficiencies, result in reduced overall audit expenses.
- **Better Analytics:** offer superior analytics capabilities, enabling auditors to uncover intricate trends and patterns that may be challenging to detect manually.
- **Improved Risk Assessment:** AI provides auditors with a deeper understanding of a company's financial status and potential risks. This valuable insight allows auditors to focus their testing efforts on high-risk areas.

Challenges of AI tools in auditing:

- **Absolute dependence on Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), **Girish Chandra Murmu**, warned that absolute dependence on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for auditing purposes may lead to inaccurate findings, and emphasised ethics as the cornerstone of responsible AI.
- **Lack of transparency:** One of the main challenges is the lack of transparency in AI systems, which can make it difficult to explain the reasoning behind the output and the decision-making process. **The EU AI Act** highlights transparency as a critical aspect, indicating a shift toward more transparency in AI systems.
- **Bias in AI algorithms:** AI algorithms can be influenced by the data used to train them, which may contain biases and inaccuracies. This can lead to unfair or discriminatory outcomes in the auditing process.
- **Integration issues:** Incorporating AI into the audit process may present difficulties, such as compatibility issues with existing systems and tools, as well as challenges in data sharing and collaboration between humans and AI systems.

Responsible AI in auditing emphasizes ethics and inclusivity to sustain trust and credibility. It's vital to ensure data used, including from social media, is complete, timely, accurate, and relevant to prevent bias. Auditors need deep AI knowledge, selecting appropriate AI designs for audits while prioritizing ethics, transparency, legal compliance, and IT governance. AI systems must be transparent from start to finish, ensuring responsible AI auditing practices.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice for Prelims

Q1. Which of the following is not a common application of AI systems today?

- (a). Speech recognition
- (b). Customer service through online virtual agents
- (c). Enhancing physical endurance in humans
- (d). Automated stock trading

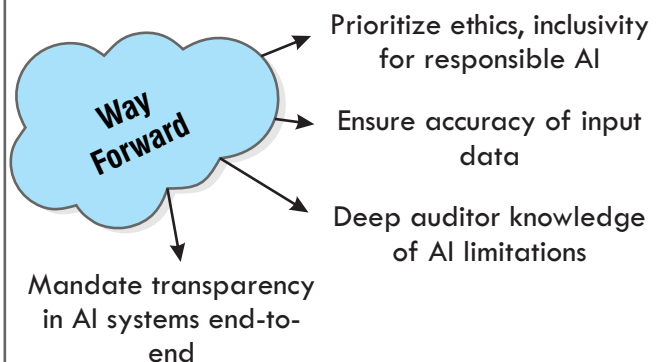
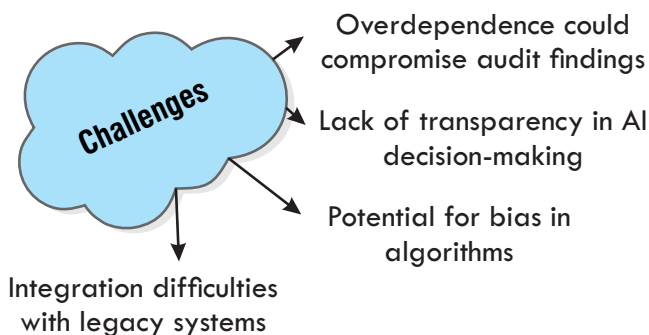
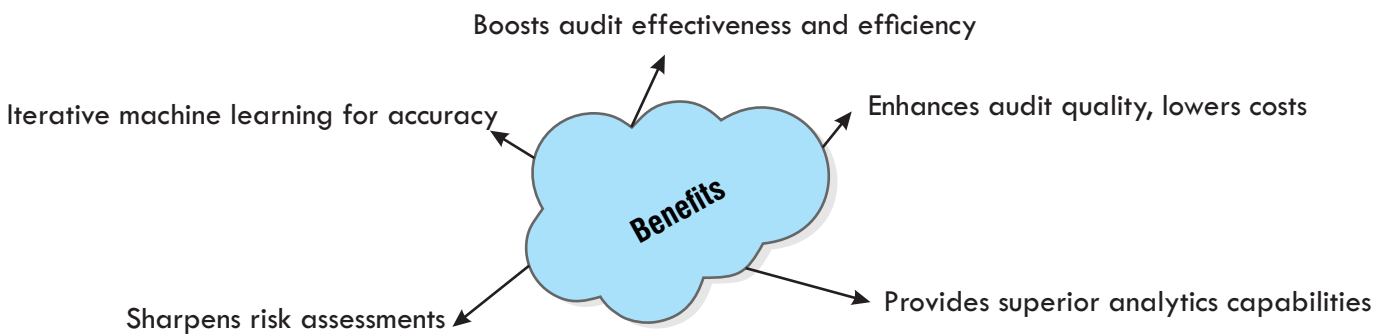
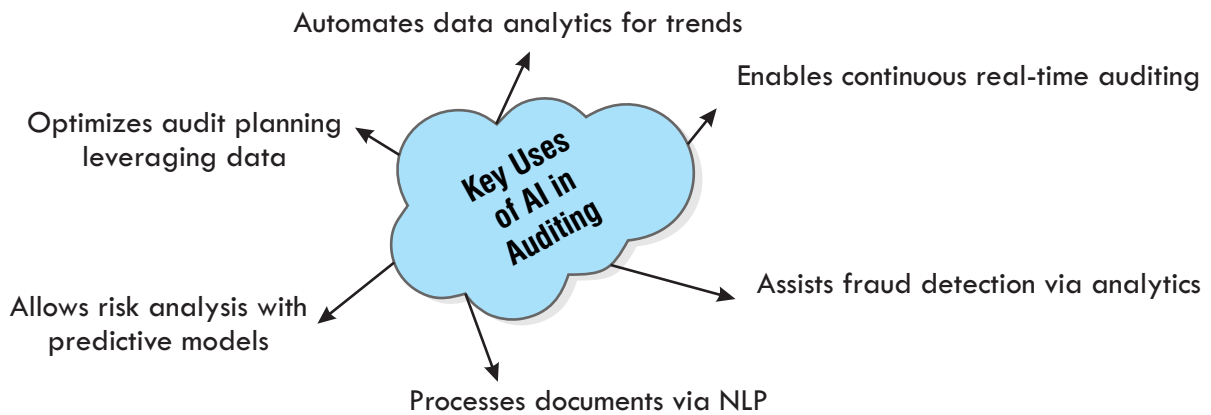
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



DIGITAL INDIA ACT (2023)

WHY READ THIS ARTICLE

The article discusses the Digital India Act 2023 which has been designed to modernize India's digital legal framework, addressing challenges brought by the rise in internet users, outdated regulations, and emerging digital risks. Understand how this act aligns with the Digital India vision, aiming to create a secure, innovative digital economy and safeguard citizens' rights in the digital domain.

DIA is a significant step in creating a future-ready legal framework for the nation's developing digital environment. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) program is in line with India's ambitious 'Digital India' plan.

What is the Need for the Digital India Act 2023:

- **Increasing Number of Internet Users and Issues:** India's internet users have reached 850 million, projected to rise to 1.2 billion by 2025, raising concerns over increased cyber trolling, gaslighting, hate speech, and misinformation spread.
- **Inadequacies of IT Act, 2000:** absence of adequate regulations to address the regulatory requirements of emerging technology, assessments of high risk automated-decision making systems modern, digital businesses including monopolies and duopolies.
- **Need for Modern Restrictions:** required due to the growth of e-commerce, digital transactions, and online content sharing.
- **Internet Usage Evolution and Emerging Risks:** The nature of internet usage has also evolved, with the emergence of various intermediaries and the proliferation of new forms of user harm, such as cyberstalking and doxing.
- **Aligned with the vision of Digital India-** The Prime Minister's Digital India vision aims for a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2025-26 as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. It focuses on creating a global innovation ecosystem, making India a leader in future technologies, and establishing it as a trusted partner in global digital value chains.

Components of DIA:

- **Open Internet:** An Open Internet should have Choice, Competition, Online diversity, Fair market access, and Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Compliance for Startups. This helps in prevention of concentration of market power and gatekeeping.
- **Online Safety and Trust:** It places a strong emphasis on online safety and trust, with a commitment to safeguarding citizen's rights in the digital realm while remaining adaptable to shifting market dynamics and international legal principles.



- **Accountable Internet:** The Act seeks to increase accountability for internet users and activities by establishing legal channels for grievance resolution, protecting constitutional rights in cyberspace, algorithmic transparency, regular risk assessments, and disclosure guidelines for information gathered by intermediaries.

Features of DIA

- **Guidelines for Responsible Use of New-Age Technologies:** The DIA acknowledges the significance of new-age technologies like artificial intelligence and blockchain, offering guidelines for their responsible use. It aims to encourage their adoption while ensuring alignment with ethical and legal principles.
- **Upholding the Concept of Open Internet:** It upholds the concept of an open internet, striking a balance between accessibility and necessary regulations to maintain order and protect users.
- **Strict KYC Guidelines for Wearable Technology:** The DIA mandates stringent Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements for wearable devices, accompanied by criminal law sanctions.
- **Review of “Safe Harbour” Principle:** The DIA considers reviewing the “safe harbour” principle that currently protects online platforms from liability for user-generated content, suggesting a potential change in online accountability standards.

What are the Challenges in the Implementation of the Digital India Act:

- **Impact on Innovation and Business Ease:** Stricter regulations, particularly in emerging technologies, could inadvertently stifle entrepreneurial initiatives and deter foreign investments.
- **Review of “Safe Harbour” and Freedom of Expression:** This could lead to a more cautious approach among these platforms, possibly impinging on freedom of expression.
- **Challenges in Effective DIA Enforcement:** The DIA’s success hinges on effective enforcement, which will require substantial resources, expertise, and infrastructure.
- **Balancing Stakeholder Interests and Citizen Rights:** Balancing the interests of various stakeholders, including tech giants, while ensuring the protection of citizen rights, poses a significant challenge.

The DIA is a crucial step towards ensuring a secure, accountable, and innovative digital future for India. It represents a forward-looking approach to regulation in an age of constant change and has the potential to shape the country’s digital landscape for generations to come.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice For Mains

Q1. Explore how the Digital India Act is aligned with the vision of Digital India.

PSIR WITH DR. PIYUSH CHAUBEY

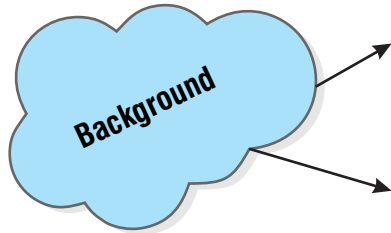
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QUICK REVISION NOTES



850 million internet users currently, expected to rise to 1.2 billion by 2025

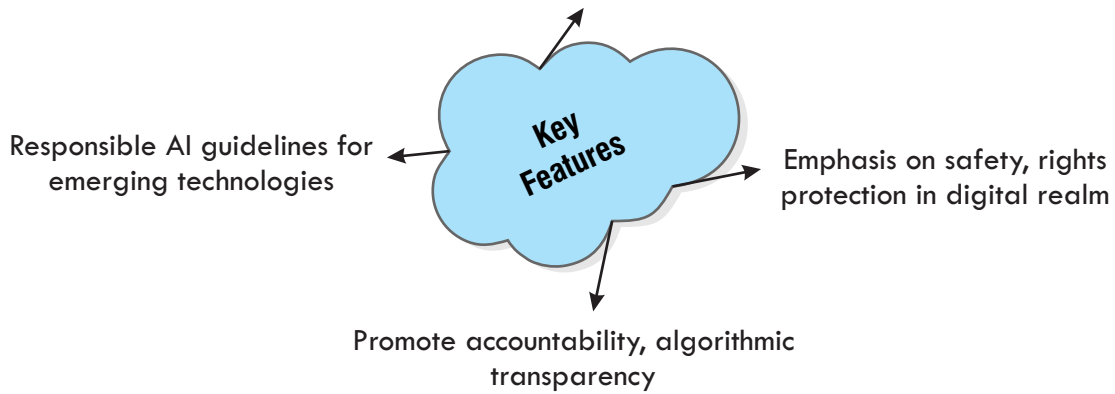
Gaps in prevailing IT Act 2000 concerning accountability



Lacks regulations to address risks

Align with Digital India \$ 1 trillion digital economy vision

Secure open internet balancing accessibility and oversight

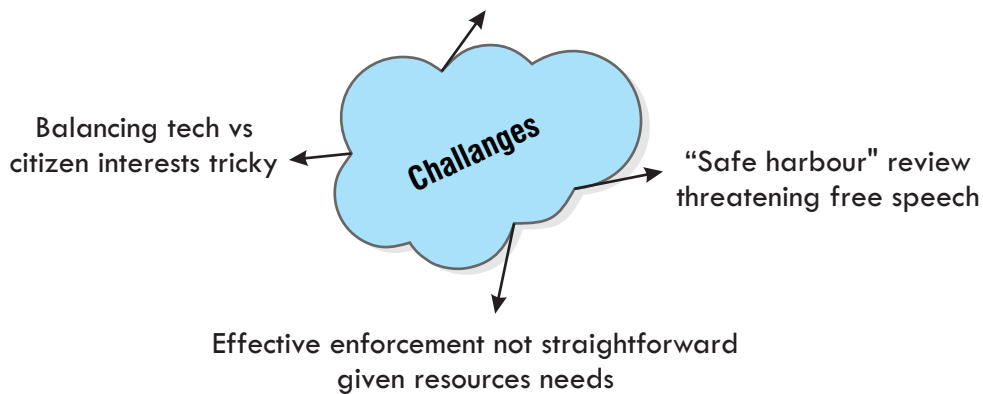


Responsible AI guidelines for emerging technologies

Emphasis on safety, rights protection in digital realm

Promote accountability, algorithmic transparency

Potential innovation stifling effect



Balancing tech vs citizen interests tricky

"Safe harbour" review threatening free speech

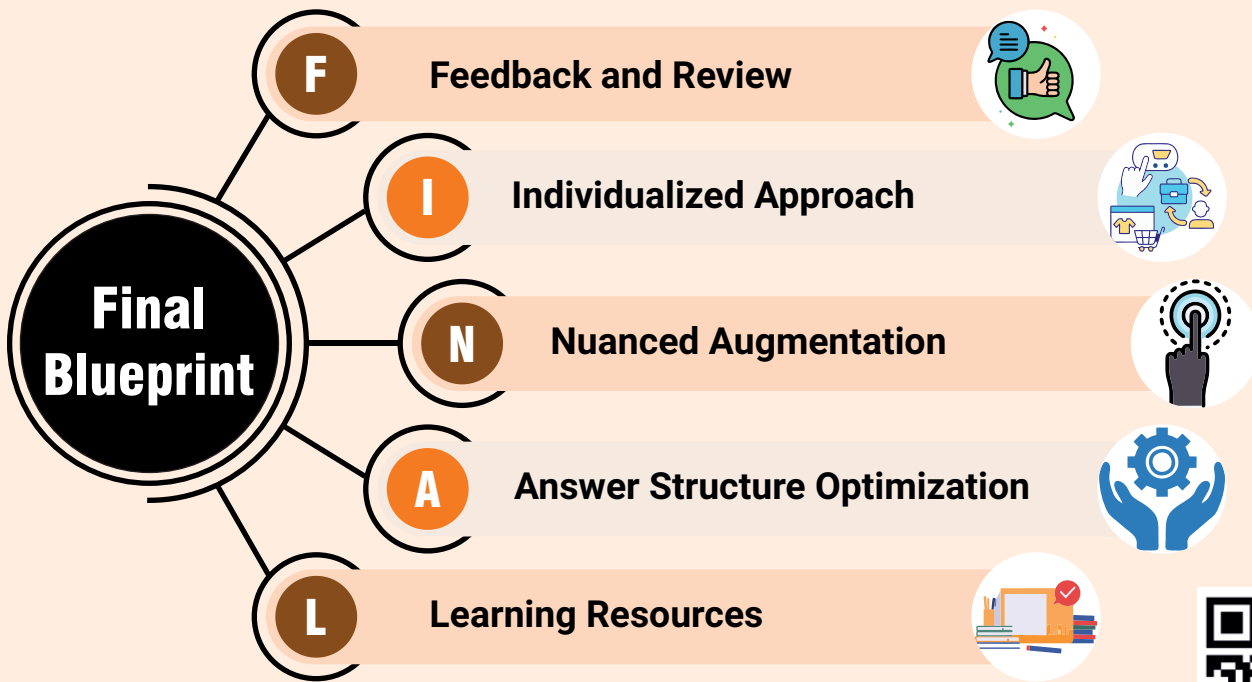
Effective enforcement not straightforward given resources needs



Dr. PIYUSH CHAUBEY

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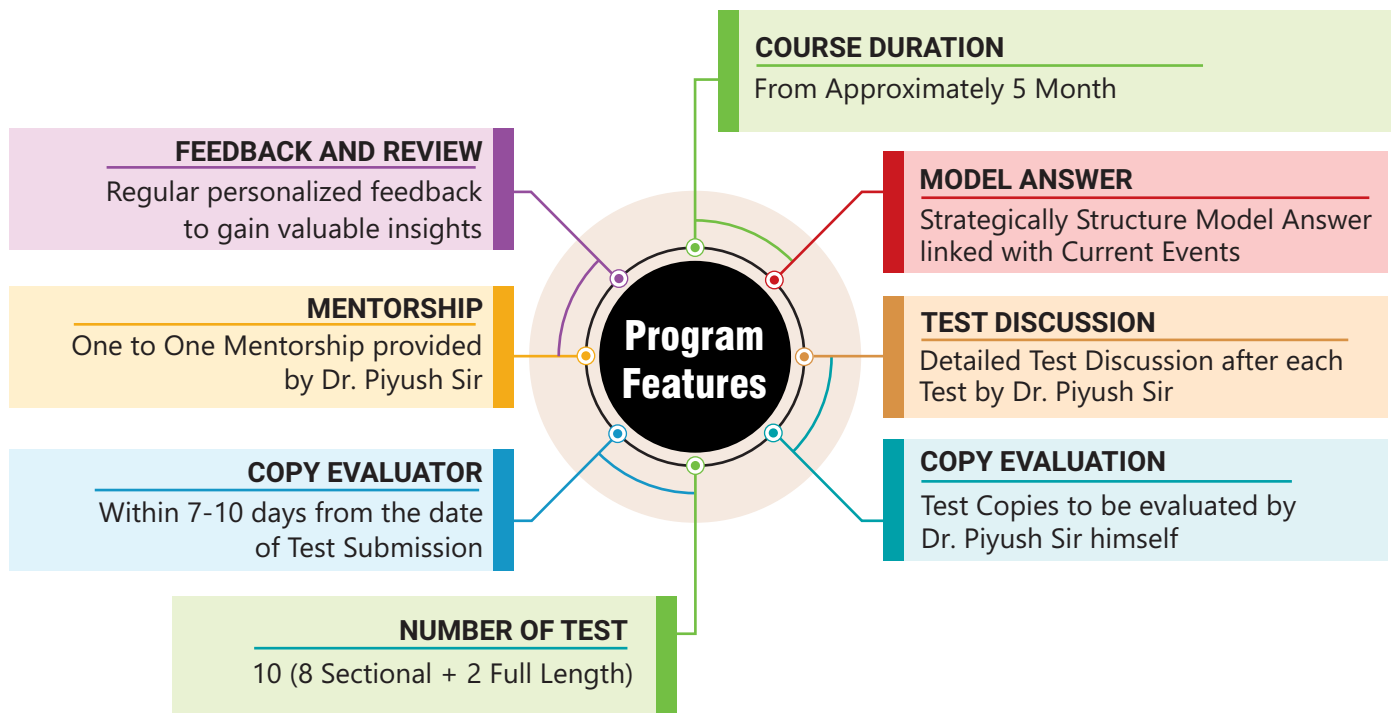


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Why?
Pro+



TEST WRITING PATTERN

PAPER- 1

SECTION 1A
2 Tests

SECTION 1B
2 Tests

Full Length: Paper 1
1 Tests

PAPER- 2

SECTION 2A
2 Tests

SECTION 2B
2 Tests

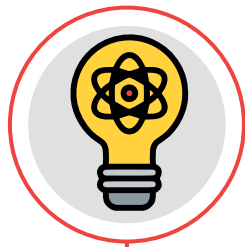
Full Length: Paper 2
1 Tests

TOTAL NUMBER OF TEST 10



F

Feedback & Review
for Continuous
Refinement of Writing
Skills



A

**Application of
Knowledge** to
Comprehend the Topic



S

Strategic Guidance to
Tailor the Learning
Process and Approach
Answer Writing



T

Time Management to
Write Concrete and
Concise Answer

TEST WRITING PATTERN

PAPER- 1

SECTION 1A

3 Tests

SECTION 1B

3 Tests

Full Length: Paper 1

2 Tests

PAPER- 2

SECTION 2A

3 Tests

SECTION 2B

3 Tests

Full Length: Paper 2

2 Tests

AFTER PRELIMS: 4 FULL LENGTH TEST

TOTAL NUMBER OF TEST 20

1A

***The State of Nature
as a State of War
(Hobbes)***

THE STATE OF NATURE AS A STATE OF WAR (HOBBS)

INFLUENCE OF HIS TIMES ON HIS THINKING

In the mid-17th century, during the tumultuous period of the English Revolution, Thomas Hobbes lived through a time of significant political upheaval. Hobbes was a young man of fifteen when James -I sought to reinforce absolute monarchy, advocating the divine right of kings while sidelining Parliament. This approach fostered widespread dissatisfaction, laying the groundwork for the conflict between the monarch and Parliament that erupted in 1642 and persisted until the establishment of a constitutional monarchy under William of Orange and Mary in 1688.

- The outbreak of the civil war in England prompted Hobbes to flee to France, where, during an eleven-year exile, he penned "Leviathan," published in 1651.
- This work, however, led to his disfavor with both royalists, who upheld the divine right of kings, and parliamentarians, who championed popular representation.
- Hobbes' political writings were subtly banned, and he spent his final years focused on physics, history, law, and classical literature.
- Although his major works, "The Cove and Society" and "Leviathan," advocated for monarchical government, Hobbes distanced himself from the then-dominant theory of the divine right of kings.
- His experiences throughout the English Revolution profoundly shaped his philosophical outlook, underscoring his belief in the necessity of strong sovereign authority to prevent societal collapse into chaos and violence.

THE STATE OF NATURE AS A STATE OF WAR

- Hobbes rejects the Aristotelian view that '**Man is by nature a political animal**' or the view of **Thomas Aquinas** that '**man is by nature a social animal**'. He believes that men tend to behave like wild animals in a weak state.
- Hobbes calls the imaginary situation or time, time before state came into existence, a '**State of Nature**'.
- In the state of nature, people behaved as per their intrinsic nature since there was no external control on their behavior either by state or society.
- Thus he is imperious and proud; and all objects which seem to get in the way of his appetite for power are ruthlessly crushed.
- But people soon realize that there are other people also who are behaving in the same wild manner and these people are equal to themselves.
- In the state of nature everyone is almost equal. If some are stronger than others, then others are cleverer than them. Hobbes calls this state of equality '**Natural Equality**'. It implies that if today one person is able to kill another, then he himself can be killed the next day.



- The idea is very similar to **Kautilya's description of Matsyanyaya in Arthashastra**. This is a situation where every fish is always in danger of being swallowed by another bigger fish. All men are potential enemies of each other; nobody knows what the other will do.
- With the mounting tension between them, each man eventually tends to break the tension by attacking each other. Thus, the state of nature turns into a state of war of everyone against everyone. In such a situation, **the life of man is "Solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short"**. **Thus this state of nature is a state of war.**
- No arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, **solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short**.
- There is no scope for progress or civilization. Everyone is free to amass whatever resources they can and there is no law or body to protect the weak from the strong.
- There is no morality, religion, consciousness, or obligation. These things can only exist when there is some order in the society.
- The state of nature is a state of limited resources and unlimited desires. Everyone wants to accumulate as many resources as he or she can. Man's desire for pleasure has no limits.
- Also, everyone wants to protect their possessions from others. **The man in the state of nature is therefore individualistic, materialistic, and utilitarian.**
- Now to extend one's pleasure or to preserve one's life and resources, there is a need for power. Life eventually turns into an endless struggle for power.
- This struggle ends only when a person dies.
- Hobbes proceeds by saying that the only thing natural in the state of nature is that everyone wants to preserve his or her life.
- In order to protect their life, men are compelled to give up this state of nature and establish laws and government.
- The so-called contract among men is formed only because of everyone's concern and need to save themselves from a violent death in the state of nature.

Thomas Hobbes, living through the turmoil of the English Revolution, saw human nature in a raw, untamed state, leading to his theory of the 'State of Nature'. He believed without government, life would be a brutal battle for power, with everyone fighting against each other. Hobbes thought that to escape this violent state, people agreed to form a government, sacrificing some freedom for safety. His ideas highlight the need for a strong authority to maintain peace and protect people from their own worst instincts.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice For Mains

Q1. State of nature is a state of war (Hobbes). comment

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04

Brief Discussion of Each Test with Strategized Model Answers

05

One to One Mentoring with Piyush Chaubey Sir

06

Total Test 20: 12 SectionI + 4 Full Length + 4 Full Length (After Prelims)

COURSE PATTERN

50 Classes

35 Classes

- Revision Of Fundatmentals
- New Development In Fundatmentals
- Question Answer Discussion On Fundatmentals

15 Classes

- Past 10 Years PYQ's Discussion Including Advance Topics

TEST WRITING PATTERN

PAPER- 1

SECTION 1A

3 Tests

SECTION 1B

3 Tests

Full Length: Paper 1

2 Tests

PAPER- 2

SECTION 2A

3 Tests

SECTION 2B

3 Tests

Full Length: Paper 2

2 Tests

AFTER PRELIMS: 4 FULL LENGTH TEST

TOTAL NUMBER OF TEST 20

2A

***Comprehensive
National Power
(CNP)***

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL POWER (CNP)

In the 21st century, with accelerating economic globalization and competition among countries, the concept of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) has gained relevance. The concept of CNP originated in China and is associated with thinkers like **Wu Chunqin**. It aims to quantify national power comprehensively using indices across hard power like military factors and soft power like economic and cultural factors. This distinguishes it from traditional Western notions of political power.

WHAT IS CNP

- CNP generally means the sum total of the power of strengths of a country's economy, military, science and technology, education and resources and its influence. More abstractly, it refers to the combination of all the powers possessed by a country for the survival and development of a sovereign state, including material and ideational ethos and international influence as well.
- **J S Bajwa**- *"CNP generally means the sum total of the powers or strengths of a country in economy, military affairs, science and technology, education and resources, and its influence."*
- **Rumel Dahiya**- CNP is 'comprehensive capability of a country to pursue its strategic objectives by taking the necessary actions internationally'. It can also be defined as 'degree of ability to mobilise and utilise strategic resources of a country to realise national objectives.

COMPONENTS OF CNP

- **CNP accounts for both tangible and intangible sources of power.** The examples like GDP, education levels, energy use, R&D spending, and armed forces personnel demonstrate the multi-factorial nature of CNP.
- The key components of CNP are economic resources, human capital, natural resources, knowledge resources, government resources and military power.
- One of the elements of CNP is **Fast Power**. It is the ability of the state to deploy its forces that determines the percentage of victory of the state. Rather than the ability of having power, the more important thing is how fast the state is deploying its forces.
- Another element of CNP is **Second Striking Capability** which means to have the capability of the state to counter attack after the first strike from another country.
- **Rumel Dahiya** says that although there are different factors considered by different people to measure CNP, the most commonly accepted factors are: economy; military strength; internal cohesion; governance; human capital; science & technology; knowledge and information; geography and natural resources; foreign policy and diplomacy; and, national will and leadership.



- **Michael Porter identified 5 major resources that are the base of CNP-** They are economic resource, human capital, natural resource, knowledge and technological resources and capital resource.
- China aspires to be a 'Great Power' and is deploying both hard and soft power strategies. Initiatives like the One Belt One Road (OBOR) project and investments in science, technology, and innovation (STI) are key components of its strategy

SIGNIFICANCE OF CNP

- For coordinating diplomacy, disintegrating enemies, and national development. **According to Wu Chunqin**, calculating CNP can aid a nation not just for war but also to coordinate a political and diplomatic offensive to psychologically disintegrate the enemy forces and subdue them.
- It provides an intrinsic analytical tool for identifying gaps and boundaries of national power and extrinsically balances interests in the international relations loop.
- CNP includes elements and determinants of power and capacity of the country to use it effectively for a long time (**sustainability**). Being powerful is not enough, effective use of power is equally important.
- In effective use of power, the decision making system of the country is very important. For example, India has a chain of command for the launch of nuclear weapons. Because there is always a concern of its misuse, security and safety. But this chain of command should be robust and effective.
- **Thus as an advanced concept, CNP aims to assess national power in a realistic, broad-based way considering a nation's overall potential.** This is useful in the age of globalization for nations to evaluate their strategic capabilities.

However, CNP has been critiqued for overemphasising material factors like military power over soft power. Its quantitative methodology is also questioned. But the concept provides a framework to understand national power that accounts for both hard and soft elements. Thus it can be concluded that CNP analyzes national power in a comprehensive manner spanning economic, military and cultural realms. Despite limitations, it adds value as an advanced analytical tool for nations to gauge their strategic capabilities.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Practice For Mains

Q1. Comprehensive National Power (CNP) is an advanced concept of power. Examine

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TEST WRITING PATTERN

PAPER- 1

SECTION 1A

3 Tests

SECTION 1B

3 Tests

Full Length: Paper 1

2 Tests

PAPER- 2

SECTION 2A

3 Tests

SECTION 2B

3 Tests

Full Length: Paper 2

2 Tests

AFTER PRELIMS: 4 FULL LENGTH TEST

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Kootnitik Avlokan



BOOK REVIEW-1

The Geopolitics of Shaming: When Human Rights Pressure Works— and When It Backfires *by. Rochelle Terman*

- Human rights have increasingly become a pivotal aspect of global politics, yet the enforcement of these rights is often inconsistent and selective.
- Terman's work sheds light on the dynamics of when, how, and under what circumstances states resort to "naming and shaming" other nations as a punitive measure for human rights violations.
- He notes that geopolitics plays a crucial role: states and their leaders use shaming strategically to seek power, status, and legitimacy.
- States are inclined to target the human rights abuses of their adversaries rather than those of allies, aiming more at inflicting reputational harm than genuinely addressing the abuses.
- Moreover, strategic interests can lead to a reluctance in condemning violators, as seen in the reluctance of many Muslim countries to denounce China's treatment of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, due to fears of jeopardizing significant trade relationships.
- Terman's examination reveals that nations often do not change their behavior following accusations of human rights violations, and in some instances, the act of shaming may even exacerbate the decline of human rights.
- While not undermining the significance of adhering to human rights standards, Terman adeptly illustrates that political motives and state interests are invariably intertwined with these efforts.
- Terman's underscores that despite the intention to uphold human rights standards, political motivations and relationships between countries significantly shape their responses to human rights violations.



BOOK REVIEW-2

Great Powers, Climate Change, and Global Environmental Responsibilities

by. Robert Falkner and Barry Buzan.

- The book offers an in-depth exploration of the role major world powers play in addressing global environmental challenges.
- For instance, the book scrutinizes the United States' how domestic politics shape its international environmental stance.
- The analysis of China's environmental strategy reveals a nuanced balance between its role as a developing nation and its aspirations for global leadership in green finance and renewable energy. This dual identity influences China's environmental policies, both domestically and internationally, including significant moves like halting funding for overseas coal projects under the Belt and Road Initiative.
- The EU is seen as a leading environmental authority, distinguished by its collaborative effort to address climate change. Its initiatives to lessen energy reliance on Russia and shift to renewable sources underscore its proactive environmental stance.
- BRICS countries' economic and political complexities often restrict these nations' engagement with stringent environmental regulations. Yet, their growing influence in global forums like the COP meetings signifies their potential to shape future environmental governance.
- The book suggests that tackling climate change requires a reevaluation of traditional concepts of power and security.
- The book argues for a more integrated approach to global governance, one that includes non-state actors and transcends national interests for the collective good.
- The book identifies future research directions, such as expanding the analysis beyond nation-states to include the complex interplay of global trade, finance, and multilateral organizations in environmental politics.
- It also proposes the development of new indices to measure environmental power and responsibility, akin to those used for democracy and corruption.