



## GS-II EXPLANATIONS

**1. “The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court.” Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws.**

**Answer:** The Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life under Article 21, which provides that “no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedures established by law.”

Indian Courts, especially the Supreme Court time to time have used the right-to-life provision to protect the environmental rights of the citizens by defining the scope and meaning of the Constitutional provision.

Constitutionalisation of Environmental problems links environmental problems with the Constitutional provisions and fundamental rights of individuals or communities. It advocates the protection, restoration and improvement of the natural environment to control pollution or protect plant and animal diversity.

Supreme Court through various judgments has protected Environmental degradation and also promoted Environmental conservation by using constitutional provisions to solve environmental problems. Some of the Supreme Court verdicts are mentioned below:

**In Subhash Kumar vs. State. of Bihar:** The Court expanded the right to life by including the right to a pollution-free environment under the fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution

**In M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India:** The Court introduced the “principle of absolute liability”. This means that hazardous industries will be held liable for environmental damage.

**In the Dehradun Quarrying Case:** The right to live in a healthy environment was recognized as part of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

**In the Tarun Bharat Sangh vs. Union of India case:** The Supreme Court banned all mining activities inside the Wildlife Sanctuary.

**In the S. Jagannath v. Union of India case:** The court ordered that no part of the agricultural land and the salt farms could be converted into Aquaculture farms.

**In the Vellore Citizens, Welfare Forum v. Union of India case:** The Court suggested the creation of Green Benches to deal with environmental matters to ensure speedy and expeditious disposal of environmental cases.

Supreme Court of India as the protector of the Constitution and fundamental rights has utilised the Constitutional provision and various modern-day laws to protect and promote a clean environment for citizens.

**2. “Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. “ Comment.**

**Answer:** The Right to Freedom of Movement and residence throughout the Indian Territory is the fundamental right under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution. It is only available to Indian citizens. The aim is to promote national feeling and Unity.

Indian citizens can freely move from between states or within a state, but these rights are not absolute but qualified. **The state can impose certain reasonable restrictions on them. The grounds for imposing restrictions are;**

**In the Kharak Singh v/s State of Uttar Pradesh case;** The Supreme Court of India declared the relevant provisions that allowed police to make domiciliary visits to 'habitual criminals' or individuals likely to become habitual criminals as unconstitutional.

To protect the interest of Scheduled tribes (STs); the Supreme court in the Dhan Bahadur v/s state case stated that Outsiders' entry into tribal areas is restricted to protect their culture, language, and customs.



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In the State of Uttar Pradesh v/s Kaushaliya case; The Supreme Court held that the freedom of movement of prostitutes, persons affected by AIDS, and habitual offenders can be restricted on the ground of public health and in the interest of public morals.

In the Interest of Public health; State imposed a lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state can also impose reasonable restrictions on the movement of people inside military areas, biosphere reserves, protected areas, etc.

**Right of movement and residence are not absolute but are subject to certain restrictions.** These restrictions help in maintaining a fine balance between the freedoms and rights of the people. They strike a balance between the rights of the individual and those of society as a whole.

### **3. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?**

**Answer:** The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments formally recognised the third tier of government at the grassroots level and provided structures for local self-government to improve grassroots democracy by creating the legal conditions for local self-rule i.e. Panchayati Raj and Municipalities.

#### **Significance of Decentralization of Power**

The 73rd and 74th amendments have given a reservation for SC/STs, Women in Local Self-governing bodies like Panchayats, and Municipalities.

Decentralised Authority Provides flexibility in decision-making, as the local people can participate in decision-making for local-level matters. This Promoted Transparency and accountability in the administrative structure.

33% of women's reservations helped to increase women's participation and representation at the ground level of democracy.

It ensures Greater devolution and delegation of functions and resources to the local levels.

It enables the Poor and marginalized to Say in Public Policy and Service delivery to improve their lives.

With increasing Literacy rate and life expectancy, and declining Child Mortality rate, India became open-defecation-free, etc all these achievements were possible only because of the ground-level work done by local bodies.

#### **Some challenges obstruct the effective implementation of the Decentralization of Power in Letter and Spirit;**

The many States have not taken adequate steps to transfer functions, funds and functionaries to the local bodies.

In some States, the local bodies have been placed under control by bureaucracy.

Excessive dependency on government funding, as money received and their fund sources are inadequate.

Very few Panchayats use their fiscal power to levy and collect taxes.

Poor infrastructure and lack of manpower; around 25 % of the Gram Panchayats do not have basic office buildings.

Decentralization is recognized as an effective tool for development. It develops institutions at the grassroots level and provides the socio-economic service delivery to meet people's needs. India has made remarkable progress in decentralization, but still, several steps need to be taken to strengthen grassroots-level democracy.



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### 4. Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

**ANSWER:** The office of the Vice-President of India is the second highest constitutional post after the President of India; Vice-President also acts as the Presiding Officer of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament). Articles 63-71 in Part V of the Indian Constitution deal with the office of the Vice-President.

#### **Role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha:**

He presides over the meetings of the Rajya Sabha and ensures that the proceedings of the House are conducted in accordance with constitutional provisions and conventions.

He communicates the decision of the House to the President and concerned authorities.

He can adjourn the House or suspends its sitting during the absence of a quorum.

He is not a Rajya Sabha member; therefore he cannot vote, however in the event of a tie, he can cast a "Casting Vote."

He determines the question of disqualification of a Rajya Sabha member on grounds of defection.

When a Bill is passed in the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman attests to the Bill before presenting it to the President for assent.

He acts as the custodian and guardian of the rights and privileges of the House and its members.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat functions under the control and direction of the Chairman.

He faces many challenges such as regulating the conduct of the members, protecting the constitutional values inside the house and ensuring the smooth functioning of the house, this all requires managing skills. The Vice-President of India plays an important role as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha by representing a collective voice of the Rajya Sabha and ensuring that the Rajya Sabha works as per the principle value of the Indian Constitution.

### 5. Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.

**Answer:** In the Mandal case verdict, the Supreme Court mandated the Union government to form a permanent statutory body for grievances redressal of backward classes. Accordingly, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was set up in 1993. Later, the 102nd Amendment Act inserted a new Article 338-B to grant constitutional status to the Commission.

With the constitutional status, the roles assigned to the Commission are also widened to ensure the effective safeguarding of the interests of the socially and educationally backward classes.

Set up Earlier as a statutory body, it derives its powers from laws passed by parliament. However, as a constitutional body, now it derives its powers and authority from the constitution of India.

NCBC was initially constituted by the Union Government in 1993 and till 2016 the Commission had been reconstituted 7 times. The present Commission (8<sup>th</sup>) has been accorded Constitutional Status and constituted through the 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018.

Article 338B inserted by the 102nd Constitutional Amendment granted authorised the Commission to examine complaints and initiate welfare measures. This power was lacking earlier.

It shifted focus from reservation to the development of the backward class and their grievance redressal.

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) plays a significant role in safeguarding the Interest of socially and educationally backward classes and also suggests the central and state governments on all major policy matters affecting the backward classes.



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**6. The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.**

**Answer:** Gati Shakti yojana is India's national master plan for the development of multi-modal connectivity to ensure better infrastructure development in economic zones and boost last-mile connectivity. The programme aims to unite the infrastructural initiatives planned and started by different Union ministries and departments.

Gati-Shakti targets to promote socio-economic growth and sustainable development in; Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, and Logistics Infrastructure.

### **Significance of Gati Shakti**

Gati Shakti targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce transportation time.

It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal.

Different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through continuous interactions.

It will assist different ministries in planning for projects after the identification of critical gaps.

It will provide the entire data in one place with GIS-based spatial planning and analytical tools.

The success of the initiative depends on the level of coordination between the Government and the Private sector. Better Coordination is needed to:

Improve quality and efficiency of service delivery.

Ensure investments and Finance availability.

Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation and technology development.

To Maximise utilization of government investment and infrastructure.

Gati Shakti yojana aims to strengthen the infrastructure and logistics sector. Reduced logistics costs and increased logistic efficiencies will fuel the economy in multiple ways and take us closer to the goal of emerging as a global manufacturing powerhouse.

**7. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.**

**Answer:** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016 has replaced the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995, to fulfil the commitment made by India at the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

### **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

The types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21 and it authorized the Union Government to add more types of disabilities.

Speech and Language Disabilities, Specific Learning disabilities, Acid Attack Victims and Dwarfism were included in the list of disabilities for the first time.

Reservation in Public vacancies has been increased from 3% to 4% for persons with benchmark disabilities.

Every child between the age group of 6 and 18 years with the benchmark disability shall have the right to free education.

Ensure their accessibility in public buildings (both Government and private).

District-level committees by the State Governments to address their local concerns.

National and State Funds to provide financial support to persons with disabilities.



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### Challenges faced by Disabled People

Most buildings in India are not disability-friendly.

The majority of reserved posts are vacant.

Inaccessible medical facilities and educational institutions.

Very few special schools for disabled students, and low employment opportunities than others.

Social Discrimination, Stigma attached to them, make it difficult for them to live with dignity.

Insensitive approaches by Government authorities, such as Certifying authorities often demand the person be physically present.

Lack of Resource allocation and Non-utilisation of resources/funds.

The Act provided an effective tool for ensuring their empowerment and true inclusion of disabled people into mainstream society in an acceptable manner, but still, disabled people face challenges due to poor implementation and weak social acceptance of the law. Mainstreaming of the Disabled would not be possible only through the legal route, it must be supported by social awareness campaigns, promoting education and providing them employment opportunities, strict implementation of the law, and adoption of welfare policies to improve their socio-economic condition.

### 8. Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment.

**ANSWER:** The process of directly transferring the subsidy amount and making other transfers directly into the account of beneficiaries is known as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). In this context, a transfer can be defined as the payment that the government makes directly to the beneficiary without receiving any returns. Some examples are PM KISAN YOJANA, MGNREGA Scheme, etc.

#### The outcome of the DBT scheme

DBT improved the Government's delivery system and redesign the welfare schemes by making the flow of funds and information faster, and more secure, and reducing the number of frauds.

DBT brings about accountability, transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency in the Administrative system.

Funds are sent directly to the beneficiaries' accounts, which remove the possibility of fraud through a middleman.

It aids in the distribution of subsidies to deserving applicants living below the poverty level. It helps the Government reach out to the intended beneficiaries with ease.

DBT has proven to be an effective technique for connecting with people to distribute relief funds.

#### DBT is surely a landmark in the government delivery system but it also has some limitations such as;

Low banking penetration due to this many beneficiaries are excluded as they don't have access to banking services.

Poor digital and Financial Literacy, users who do not know how to read and write would need assistance, which gives scope for the middleman and may misuse the information.

Implementation challenges (e.g. the server has gone down), Aadhaar card data and biometric data mismatch exclude the beneficiaries from the service delivery system and sometimes also led to a delay in service delivery.

Inclusion and Exclusion error: During the survey, some families hid their income or provide wrong information about income.

DBT helped in reducing subsidy leakage, curbing corruption and providing ease to beneficiaries, but it is not suitable in every case. A grassroots-level study must be conducted before extending the services under DBT, and also present structure needed to be improved through technical





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infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives, ensuring better Collaboration and coordination among various government departments, and promoting financial literacy awareness programs for utilizing the true potential of the Direct Benefit Scheme.

**9. India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.’ Discuss India’s role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement.**

**ANSWER:** India and Sri Lanka have a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic interaction and the relationship between the two countries are more than 2500 years old. Buddhism is one of the strongest pillars connecting the two nations and civilizations from the time of the Great Indian Emperor Ashoka.

Sri Lanka is going through an economic Crisis, which is affecting millions of people as they are struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other daily essentials.

### **How Sri Lanka Fell into Economic Crisis**

Since its Independence, there were a lacked foreign currency; the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel.

The root of the present crisis lies in economic mismanagement.

The covid-19 Pandemic has affected the exports of tea, rubber, spices and garments.

The tourism industry was negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in a huge decline in foreign reserves and rises in the current account deficit, further credit rating agencies downgraded Sri Lanka and effectively locked it out of international capital markets.

The government’s ban on chemical fertilizers to become the first country to fully adopt organic farming backfired, as it affected the productivity of crops.

As of February 2022, the country was left with only \$2.31 billion in its reserves but faces debt repayments of around \$4 billion in 2022.

### **India’s Support to Sri Lanka in the present Crisis**

India has extended financial assistance to the tune of \$2.4 billion in the last three months to Sri Lanka, which includes a \$400 billion RBI currency swap, deferral of a \$500 million loan and a \$1.5-billion credit line for importing fuel, food and medicines.

A diesel shipment under a \$500 million credit line signed with India.

Sri Lanka and India have signed a \$1 billion credit line for importing essentials, including food and medicine.

**Sri Lanka is a geopolitically important country and India** wants a stable neighbourhood to counter increasing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean region, but at the same time, India doesn’t want to get involved in any regional Politics. Therefore India clearly stated that “**India will continue to provide Sri Lanka with economic support but not political support**” to ensure peace and stability in the region.

**10. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation?**

**ANSWER:** The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was founded in 1997. It is an international organisation that provides a unique link between 5 countries; Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka from South Asia and two countries; Myanmar and Thailand from South-East Asia.



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The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985. It is a regional inter-governmental organisation of South Asian countries; India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

### Similarities and Dissimilarities between SAARC and BIMSTEC

Both are inter-regional organisations in South Asia.

India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh are common members.

Both focus on economic and regional cooperation.

SAARC has a Free Trade Agreement, but BIMSTEC free trade agreement is under negotiation.

SAARC does not have any mechanism for resolving disputes or mediating conflicts.

SAARC maintains permanent diplomatic relations with the United Nations as an observer, but BIMSTEC does not have this status.

In BIMSTEC, bilateral issues are not discussed because grouping is structured on the lines of ASEAN and focuses more on economic deepening, whereas bilateral issues including the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan are highlighted in every SAARC conference.

SAARC is more about territorial connectivity, while BIMSTEC focuses more on maritime association.

### Role of BIMSTEC in India's foreign policy

**Pakistan's non-cooperation is one of the important reasons behind the inefficiency of SAARC,** which forced India to look for an alternative to SAARC.

**BIMSTEC promote cooperation between South Asian and Southeast Asia** in terms of science, technology, trade and commerce.

BIMSTEC member countries have **much greater trade potential** as compared to SAARC countries.

Better coordination and communication among BIMSTEC member countries would support **India's goal of net security provider** in the Indian Ocean Region.

India's Act East Policy supports more engagement with BIMSTEC and therefore India is investing diplomatic energy in BIMSTEC.

SAARC was formed to achieve economic integration in south Asia but failed in its objective due to the diplomatic position of Pakistan. The BIMSTEC provides a good alternative platform to engage with regional countries and deepen economic relations with them, but SAARC and BIMSTEC are not Parallel, as both cover different regions. Currently, BIMSTEC might be working more effectively than SAARC, but SAARC member Countries like Maldives, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are significant for India's Economy and security, therefore steps must be taken to make SAARC more efficient in working by sidelining bilateral issues.

**11. Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws.**

**Answer:** The Representation of the People Act, 1951 contains provisions for the actual conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these Houses, the corrupt practices and other election offences, and the decision of election disputes.

**The election of a candidate can be declared void if the High Court believes that the candidate was involved in:**

Any corrupt practice, bribery, promoting social crimes such as dowry, preaching and practice of "untouchability", sati, etc.



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Insulting the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India and preventing the singing of the National Anthem.

Non-compliance with the provisions of the Indian Constitution or Representation of the People Act.

Conviction of an offence punishable under the offence of promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.

Offences relating to rape, cruelty towards a woman by a husband or relative of a husband.

The person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years.

The procedure to decide on election disputes begins with filing an election petition in the respective High Court by any candidate, or an elector related to the election personally. The petition must be filed within 45 days from the results declaration date.

The aggrieved party can file an appeal petition to the Supreme Court within 30 days of the order of the High Court.

**In the Azhar Hussain v. Rajiv Gandhi case:** The election petition by Azhar Hussain was dismissed both by the High Court and the Supreme Court due to a lack of evidence to support the allegation of corrupt practices by the winning candidate.

**Abhiram Singh v/s E.D. Commachen case:** Promoting the feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of India on grounds of religion, race, caste, and community was considered unconstitutional and grounds for disqualification.

The Representation of the People Act, of 1951 is essential for the efficient functioning of the Indian democracy as it provides the critical redressal mechanism to the aggrieved parties.

**12. Discuss the essential conditions for the exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of the re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature.**

**Answer:** Part VI of the Indian Constitution under Articles 153 to 167 deals with the state executive. The state executive consists of the Governor, the Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers and the advocate general of the state. The governor is the nominal executive head of the state.

The State Governor has some legislative powers and functions. **There are various essential conditions under which the Governor uses their legislative powers:**

To summon or prorogue the state legislature and dissolve the state legislative assembly.

Address the state legislature at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session of each year.

He can appoint any member of the State legislative assembly to preside over its proceedings when the offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant.

He nominates one-sixth of the members of the state legislative council from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

He decides on the question of disqualification of members of the state legislature in consultation with the Election Commission.

If the office of the speaker or the deputy speaker (chairman or deputy chairman in case of the legislative council) is vacant, then Governor can appoint any member from the State Legislative Assembly to preside for the meeting.

Under Article 213 of the Indian constitution, the most important legislative power of the Governor is that he can issue ordinances when the state legislature is not in session and he can re-promulgate the ordinance.

Governor can promulgate ordinances when the state legislature is not in session.

He can issue ordinances only on those subjects on which the state legislature can make laws.

**In DC Wadhwa Case,** the Supreme Court held that the legislative power of the executive to promulgate ordinances is to be used in exceptional circumstances and not as a substitute for the law-making power of the legislature.





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**In Krishna Kumar Singh's Case, the Supreme Court stated that the re-promulgation of ordinances is a fraud on the Constitution and a subversion of democratic legislative processes.**

Separation of powers among the legislature, executive, and judiciary is the fundamental principle of the Indian Constitution, where enacting laws is the function of the legislature. However, the Governor can re-promulgate the ordinances if certain circumstances arise, but only after giving a proper explanation to some queries like urgency and absolute needs.

**13. While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy.” Comment.**

**Answer:** Centralization means the concentration of Planning and decision-making power to bring uniformity in Governance. It is frequently understood as the consolidation of power or decision-making authority.

State autonomy means the authority and power of a state to decide and execute certain functions independently as outlined by the Indian Constitution. It indicates that there must be non-interference from the central government in the day-to-day affairs of the states.

Under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968, Political parties are recognised as national parties or state parties depending upon their performance in the general election of the Lower House of Parliament (Lok Sabha) or State legislature (Vidhan Sabha).

**National Political Parties favour centralisation as they aim to achieve uniformity in the goals and objectives, to have better control over party cadre members, to achieve uniformity in the programme to target the public at large, and to increase their chances of winning elections.**

**Regional parties favour state autonomy as they are formed along the regional identity, near the local issues, against the bureaucratic bottleneck, to secure the decision-making at ground level.**

The rise in regional political parties tends to overlook national demand at the cost of regional demand, and more often members of small regional parties are involved in horse trading. This is not a good sign for any democracy. Thus, the demands of regional parties and National parties must be aligned with National Interest.

**14. Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected.**

**Answer:** France has a unitary form of government and the nature of the government is called a semi-Presidential type; it has some features of the Parliamentary system and others of the Presidential system.

The President of India and the President of France are the executive heads of the state. As the executive head of the state, both offices enjoy certain ceremonial positions as commander-in-chief of their respective armed forces.

**Similarities between the election procedure of the President of India and France**

Presidential Election is held after every 5 years.

There are several rounds of voting till the candidate secures an absolute majority through the different colleges of electors to win the election.

Commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country.

**Dissimilarities between the election procedure of the President of India and France**

The minimum age for the President of France is 18 years. In India, the minimum age is **35 years**.

The President of France is elected by direct universal adult suffrage. All French citizens aged 18+ can vote in the direct election. Whereas, the President of India is elected indirectly by the elected members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

Candidates for the President of France must be nominated by at least 500 elected representatives. However, the nomination of the President of India requires 50 electors as proposers and 50 electors as seconders.



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There is no procedure for security deposits in French Presidential elections, unlike the Indian Presidential elections.

The five-year term of the President of France is renewable once, with no such limit on the Indian President.

In France, the President presides over the meetings of the Council of Ministers. This provides him with a direct opportunity to influence, guide, direct and control the policies of the government. In India, Prime Minister presides over the meetings of the Council of Ministers.

There are some similarities as well as dissimilarities in the election procedure of the President of India and the President of France. The procedure of election may be different but their role as heads of their Nation is equally important for the growth and development of the nation.

### **15. Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.**

**ANSWER:** Article 324 of the Indian constitution establishes the Election Commission of India and gave the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India. It is a permanent and independent body established to ensure free and fair elections.

The Election Commission of India aims to maintain independence, integrity and autonomy for delivering free, fair, and transparent elections to strengthen the trust in electoral democracy and governance. In this context, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) plays an important role.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates. MCC is a set of norms which has evolved with the consensus of political parties. It comes immediately into effect after the announcement of the election date and remains until the result announcement.

#### **Model Code of Conduct Evolution**

**In 1960, the Kerala State** administration prepared a 'Code of Conduct' in the Assembly elections.

In 1962, during the Lok Sabha elections, The Election Commission of India circulated the Code of Conduct to all recognized political parties and State Governments.

In 1991, the Election Commission decided to enforce the Model Code of Conduct more strictly.

#### **Role of the Election Commission in the Enforcement of MCC**

Election Commission ensures that official machinery for electoral purposes is not misused.

It ensures that electoral offences, malpractices and corrupt practices such as impersonation, bribing and inducement of voters, threats and intimidation to the voters are prevented by all means. In case of violation, appropriate measures must be taken.

Ban on the transfer and posting of all officers/officials directly or indirectly connected with the conduct of the election. If any transfer or posting of an officer is considered necessary, prior approval of the Election Commission shall be obtained.

Election Commission introduced the CVIGIL mobile app through which audio-visual evidence of malpractices can be reported.

During elections, Election Commission prohibits politicians who breach the Code of Conduct.

Dinesh Goswami's recommended: A check on advertisements on new papers and strengthening of the election commission. A series of legislative measures should be set up to eradicate booth-capturing rigging and intimidation. The committee also called for an amendment to the anti-defection law to restrict disqualification.

Currently, the Model Code of Conduct as a whole is voluntary in its implementation. Therefore the code should also be accorded statutory backing to ensure free and fair elections to safeguard



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democratic values. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice also recommended to accord statutory backing to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

### **16. Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss.**

**ANSWER:** For the socio-economic development of the poor and the underprivileged sections of society and to provide them with a dignified life, the Indian Government is implementing several Welfare Schemes such as; PM Kisan Samman Nidhi for Farmers, Ayushman Bharat Yojana for Health Insurance, PM Ujjwala Yojana for free LPG Connection, PM Adarsh Gram Yojana for rural development, etc.

Welfare Schemes aim to reduce poverty, Improve health and standard of living, etc. Despite various **welfare** schemes, a large section of Indian lives below the poverty line, and their condition are getting worse due to the increasing Inflation and Unemployment rate. Therefore it is important to take the necessary steps to manage inflation and unemployment.

#### **Management of inflation and unemployment can;**

Ensure smooth functioning of demand-supply in the economy and contribute to a positive growth cycle which can generate employment opportunities and minimize unemployment.

Reduce production costs to minimize the inflation rate, this will also reduce the poverty rate as the purchasing power of the people will increase.

Create favourable investment opportunities for businesses to create new employment opportunities.

Reduce fiscal deficit to provide more resources to welfare schemes.

Address the socio-economic challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Policymakers need to focus on the Proper implementation of the welfare schemes, with the management of inflation and unemployment rate to promote the socio-economic development of the citizens and to improve their standard of living.

### **17. Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.**

**ANSWER:** Community participation can be defined as the involvement of people in a community in projects to solve their problems. **Community participation can take place due to the following reasons:**

Expressing opinions about desirable improvements, prioritising goals and negotiating with agencies.

Formulating objectives, setting goals, and criticizing plans.

Raising awareness in a community about needs, establishing or supporting organisational structures within the community.

Participation in formal or informal training activities to enhance communication, construction, maintenance and financial management skills.

Engaging in management activities; contributing directly to construction, operation and maintenance with labour and materials; contributing cash towards costs, paying of services or membership fees of community organisations.

Participating in the appraisal of work done, recognising improvements that can be made and redefining needs.

Community work requires funds and manpower to plan and implement, and the funds arranged by them are insufficient for managing their task; therefore they depend on donor agencies for financial resources. With time the dependency on donor agencies is increasing. However, this increasing dependence diverts community participation from their main target of strengthening grassroots-level stakeholders in the developmental process.



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Strong financial backing from donor agencies ensures smooth implementation of the Community development work. However, they have less accountability in the whole process and are also selective in taking on projects.

Donor agencies can have their own rules related to labour wages and working conditions. This goes against the value of community participation.

They are more technology-oriented and productivity-focused. This results in a decrease in labour force participation.

The top-down approach may be unaware of ground realities, the local language, and culture.

Community participation motivates people to work together; people feel a sense of community and recognise the benefits of their involvement. To ensure an effective development process, community participation must involve local people. Donor agencies are helpful but being over-dependent on them will ignore domestic or local needs and will affect the traditional nature of community participation. Therefore, a balanced approach is required to ensure the developmental process of communities.

### **18. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse**

**ANSWER:** Under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Right To Education) Act, 2009, all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years have the right to elementary education (class 1-8) in a neighbourhood school. The Act states that a child cannot be detained in any class till the completion of elementary education. Under the Act, all private schools reserve 25 % of their seats for children belonging to socially disadvantaged and economically weaker sections.

#### **Challenges that are obstructing quality education**

Automatically promoting all children to the next class reduces the incentive for children to learn and for teachers to teach.

Poor learning outcomes due to lack of professionally qualified teachers, teacher absenteeism, limited infrastructure, and inadequate Comprehensive Evaluation method of assessment.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) highlighted that the current education system is not equipped adequately to fully implement the RTE. These issues are related to teachers, school accountability, the nature of assessment, and age-appropriate training.

Poor quality of the content of teacher education in the curriculum of B. Ed and D. Ed courses.

Inadequate pupil-teacher ratio, teacher vacancies and deployment of teachers for non-educational purposes.

Lack of awareness among child labourers, migrant children, and differently-abled children about free education, books, uniforms and other incentives.

Lack of awareness about 25% reservation for disadvantaged sections of the society.

Proper implementation of the provisions of the RTE act with a mass awareness campaign needs to be taken to Create Awareness about the provisions of the Act.

People need to know that under RTE, there is no direct (school fees) or indirect cost (uniforms, textbooks, mid-day meals, transportation) to be borne by the child or the parents to obtain elementary education. The government will provide schooling free of cost until a child's elementary education is completed.

The representative of local bodies and Panchayat members should organise campaigns in their local areas.

Awareness campaigns can be done with the help of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, etc.



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The Government teachers and members of the education department should visit backward areas to aware people of the incentives provided under the RTE like mid-day meals, free books and uniforms, etc.

RTE aims to create an education system that contributes directly to transforming the country, providing high-quality education to all, and making India a global knowledge superpower. However, it improved the education system as India achieved nearly Universal enrolment at the primary level, but it is still far from the target of providing quality education to all. The act ensures quality education and food at the school level, but due to limited awareness, many deserving children are missing the opportunity to improve their life. Therefore, traditional and digital media campaigns and the local-level awareness campaign would further improve the outcome of the Indian Education System.

### **19. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transforms India's position in global politics?**

**Answer:** I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the UAE and the US, and It is also frequently referred to as the 'West Asian Quad'. The objective is to discuss "common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond".

**Role of I2U2:** The Grouping have mutually recognized 6 areas of association to encourage joint investments in these areas: water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security. It aims to Strengthen the relationship between Israel and Gulf partners of the I2U2 grouping.

#### **Significance of the 'I2U2' for India**

It will Strengthen India's relations with Israel and West Asian countries or Gulf partners. It will help India to close the diplomatic gap between Israel and the Gulf countries.

It will Safeguard and promote India's interests; as UAE and Saudi Arabia are important oil exporters to India and Israel is India's important defense partner.

It will strengthen India's ties with the USA; India and the USA now have two platforms to engage; QUAD and I2U2 group.

With the help of "private sector capital and expertise", India will look to modernize infrastructure, explore low-carbon development avenues for industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.

West Asia region is infamous for diplomatic tension and mistrust, to make the group effective and efficient; there is a need to take confidence-building measures between Israel and the Arab countries as they have historical trust issues due to frequent conflicts between them.

I2U2 grouping is a good opportunity for India to deepen its economic and diplomatic relations with other members, and India can also act as a communication channel to build trust between Israel and the Arab countries.

### **20. Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.**

**Answer:** Renewable energy, often referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished. For example, sunlight or wind keeps shining and blowing, even if their availability depends on time and weather.

Over the years, **India's climate change policy has shifted from desiring energy security to taking the global initiative in clean energy.** The following steps were taken by India at the International level to promote clean energy:





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In the Paris Agreement, India has committed to an Intended Nationally Determined Contributions target of achieving 40% of its total electricity generation from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

In the 26th Conference of Parties (CoP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Prime Minister of India announced:

India will get its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030.

India will meet 50% of its energy requirements by 2030 with Renewable energy.

India will reduce its projected carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030.

India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent by 2030.

India will achieve net zero by 2070.

**Climate change results in increasing Sea levels, and ice mass loss in glaciers worldwide**, impacts can be **direct** (heat waves, floods) or through **natural systems** (air quality, water and vectors), or **socioeconomic systems** (food production, health care, poverty.), may cause social disruption, economic decline, and displacement of populations.

**Steps taken by the Indian government to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change:**

**National Solar Mission** to promote the development and use of solar energy for power generation and other uses.

**National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency:** to enhance energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.

**National Mission on Sustainable Habitat** to promote energy efficiency as a Core Component of urban planning.

**National Water Mission** to improve water use efficiency through pricing and other measures.

**National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem** to Conserve biodiversity, forest cover, and other ecological values in the Himalayan region.

**National Mission for a Green India:** Afforestation of degraded forest lands and expanding forest cover from 23% to 33% of India's territory.

**National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture** to Support Climate adaptation in agriculture through the development of Climate-resilient Crops, expansion of weather insurance mechanisms, and agricultural practices.

**National Afforestation Program** for afforestation of degraded forest lands.

As of January 2022, India's installed renewable energy capacity stood at 152.36 GW, representing 38.56% of the overall installed power capacity.

India continuously observes and modifies its climate change policy according to global events and has taken initiatives to mitigate climate change issues while keeping in mind its geopolitical objectives.