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GEOPOLITICS AT GLANCE

INDIA MALDIVES RELATIONS

RELEVANCE

☐ Syllabus:

- PSIR: India and South Asia.
- GS2-India-Maldives Relations.

Context: Maldives election on September 30,2023 and the election of new President Mohamed Muizzu.

INTRODUCTION

The Maldives' geographical position in the Indian Ocean holds significant strategic importance for India. With President Solih, who is generally seen as favorable to India, failed to get re-elected amid growing support for the 'India-Out' campaign led by the Opposition, the result of the Maldives' Presidential election carries broader geopolitical consequences for India.

HISTORY OF INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS

1. Historical Cultural Ties:

- ☐ India and Maldives share deep cultural ties dating back to ancient times, with the name "Maldives" believed to have Sanskrit origins.
- ☐ References to Maldives can be found in ancient texts like the Mahavamsa, and the islands have been inhabited since the 5th century BC, with settlers from Sri Lanka and Southern India.
- ☐ The Dhivehi language in Maldives traces its roots to Sanskrit and Pali, common in Southern Indian languages.
- ☐ Both nations maintained close trade relationships during ancient and medieval periods.

2. Diplomatic Relations After Independence:

- ☐ Following Maldives' independence from British rule in 1966, India swiftly recognized its sovereignty and established diplomatic relations.

- ☐ The relationship evolved over time, encompassing military, economic, and cultural aspects.

3. Resolution of Territorial Dispute:

- ☐ The territorial dispute over Minicoy Island was peacefully resolved through the Maritime Boundary Treaty of 1976, with Maldives acknowledging Minicoy as part of India.

4. Comprehensive Trade Agreement:

- ☐ In 1981, India and Maldives signed a comprehensive trade agreement, further enhancing their economic cooperation.

5. Preventing 1988 Coup Attempt:

- ☐ In 1988, an attempted coup in Maldives involving local Maldivians and mercenaries from a Sri Lankan Tamil secessionist group was thwarted by Indian Armed Forces through Operation Cactus.

6. Humanitarian Support:

- ☐ India consistently provided humanitarian assistance to Maldives, including immediate aid after the 2004 Tsunami and during the water crisis in Malé in December 2014.

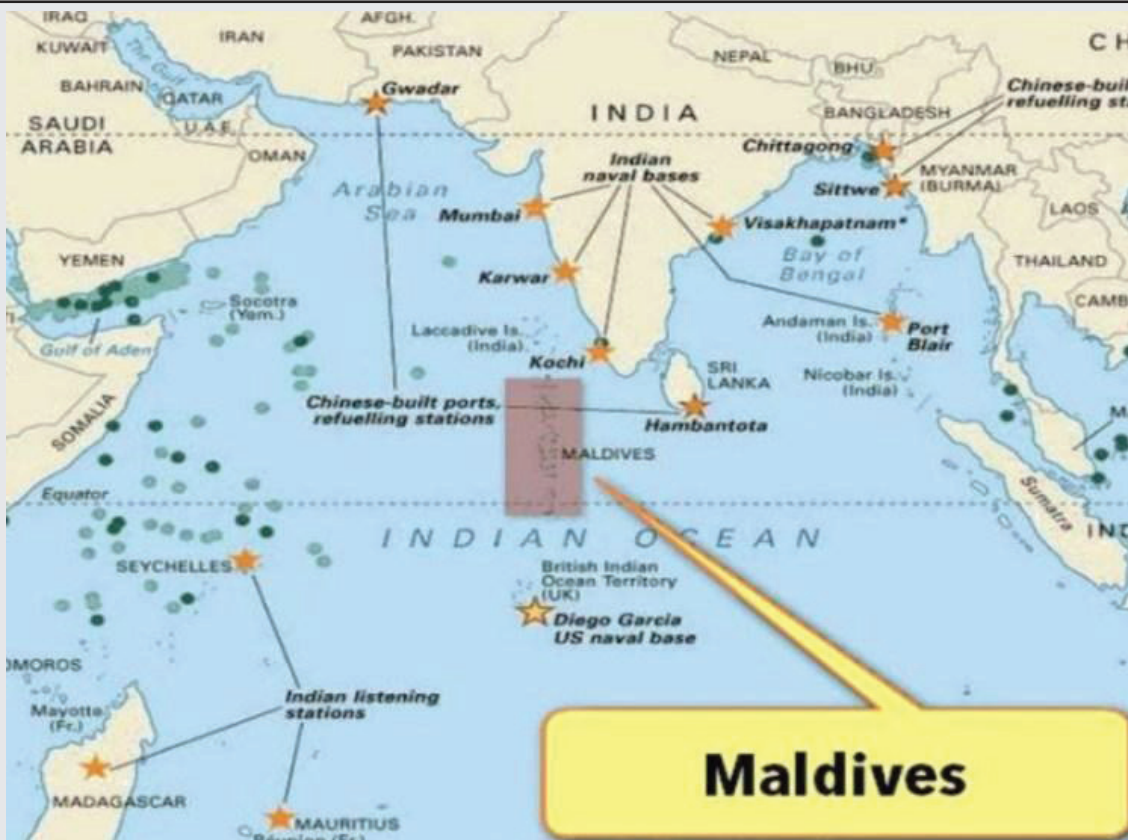
7. Strengthening Bilateral Ties:

- ☐ Cooperation between India and Maldives significantly expanded since the 1990s, including the construction of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Malé.

☐ India increased scholarships for Maldivian students and improved telecommunications and air links.

8. COVID-19 Assistance:

☐ During the COVID-19 crisis, India extended support to Maldives through vaccine supplies, financial aid, material assistance, and logistical support, further solidifying their relationship.



Strategic Location of Maldives

SIGNIFICANCE OF MALDIVES FOR INDIA

<p>Geopolitical Significance</p>	<p>The Maldives is situated in a strategic position that resembles a natural barrier between the key maritime passages of the western Indian Ocean, such as the Gulf of Aden and the Strait of Hormuz, and those of the eastern Indian Ocean, like the Strait of Malacca.</p> <p>During Abdullah Yameen’s presidency, there was a significant surge in radicalization, and it was often noted that the Maldives had one of the highest ratios of foreign fighters in Syria relative to its population. Yameen’s administration, which spanned from 2013 to 2018, also displayed a notable pro-China orientation that had adverse implications for India’s strategic interests in the Maldives and the broader Indian Ocean region.</p>
<p>Geostrategic Significance</p>	<p>The Maldives has gained growing importance in global geopolitics due to China’s expanding naval presence in the Indian Ocean. It has now become a focal point in international affairs. The Republic of Maldives actively participates in regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC).</p>
<p>Geo Economic Significance</p>	<p>This region holds a strategic position where multiple crucial trade routes intersect within the Indian Ocean. It serves as the gateway for over 97% of India’s international trade in terms of volume and 75% in terms of value.</p>

**Cultural
Significance**

Maldives is home to a significant Indian diaspora, with a substantial number of individuals tracing their ancestry back to India. This community plays a vital role in various sectors of the Maldivian economy, including education, healthcare, tourism, and hospitality, where many Indians are employed.

**AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
INDIA AND MALDIVES**

Security Cooperation:

- ❑ **Maritime Security Cooperation:** India and the Maldives collaborate with Sri Lanka to address maritime security threats, including illicit trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing. This involves enhancing maritime security, domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) through ongoing projects and capacity building initiatives.
- ❑ **Military Cooperation:** India has provided Landing Assault Craft and Utility Vehicles to bolster Maldives' maritime security. A grant of US\$50 million has been approved for multiple defense projects. The 5th Meeting of Colombo Security Conclave in Malé expanded membership and introduced a new pillar for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). An Action Plan for Defence was signed in 2016, and India offers the majority of training opportunities for the Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF).

Economic Cooperation:

- ❑ India and the Maldives have signed multiple bilateral agreements, including US\$500 million in grants and financing for maritime connectivity, an US\$800-million line of credit from the Export-Import Bank of India, and an agreement on exchanging information about commercial maritime vessels.
- ❑ India has become the Maldives' 2nd largest trading partner, with a 31% increase in bilateral trade in 2021 compared to 2020. Tourism is a significant sector, with many Indian tourists visiting the Maldives.

Infrastructure Cooperation:

- ❑ India is a key partner in the ambitious Greater Male Connectivity Project, which aims to connect Male to Villingili, Gulhifalhu, and Thilafushi islands through bridges, causeways, and roads. This project is crucial for the future Maldivian economy, generating jobs and economic activity.
- ❑ A Buyers Credit Agreement has been signed for the design and construction of 61 police infrastructures across the Maldives to improve policing access and community safety.
- ❑ Strategic harbor projects like Uthuru Thila Falhu are underway, including the development of a dockyard facility and a coast guard harbor.
- ❑ India is also involved in the Airport Redevelopment Project at Hanimaadhoo International Airport.

Humanitarian Assistance:

- ❑ An MoU for grant assistance for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) was signed in 2019, funding various socio-economic development projects across the Maldives.
- ❑ India provided 100,000 Covishield vaccines to the Maldives in January 2021 and handed over two sea ambulances to the Ministry of Defence.
- ❑ The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in the Maldives' capital was built with aid from the Government of India.
- ❑ India offered assistance during recovery efforts after the 2004 Tsunami and addressed drinking water shortages in 2014.
- ❑ The Water and Sanitation project in 34 islands aims to improve water supply and sewerage facilities through Indian contractors.

Education and Technology Cooperation:

- ❑ The National Knowledge Network connects research and education institutions in both countries, with the National Informatics Centre operating it.
- ❑ The Peering Agreement connects over 1,500 Indian institutes and institutions worldwide to Maldives.
- ❑ India helped establish the National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPL) in Addu City.
- ❑ Collaboration in the academic field includes the development of a sports complex in Gahdhoo, cooperation between Cochin University of Science and Technology and the Maldives National University, and the provision of school books to 260 schools in the Maldives by India.

ISSUES IN INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS

Political Dynamics:

(a) Pro-Indian Stance of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih:

- ❑ Former President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih had adopted a notably pro-Indian foreign policy approach.
- ❑ His administration has prioritized strengthening ties with India.

(b) Anti-India Position of Former President Abdulla Yameen:

- ❑ Former President Abdulla Yameen, leader of the political opposition, is perceived as anti-India.
- ❑ During his tenure, Yameen forged significant development partnerships with China.
- ❑ Yameen also championed the 'India Out' Campaign, opposing India's military presence in the Maldives.

Radicalization and Security Concerns:

- ❑ The Maldives has witnessed a concerning trend of its citizens joining violent extremist groups, including the Islamic State (IS).

- ❑ Over the past decade, there has been a steady increase in Maldivian recruits joining jihadi organizations in Pakistan.
- ❑ This poses a heightened risk of these terrorist groups based in Pakistan using the Maldives as a launching pad for attacks on India and Indian assets.

Chinese Influence and Geopolitical Significance:

- ❑ China has significantly expanded its influence in the Maldives and across the broader Indian Ocean region.
- ❑ The Maldives occupies a crucial position in China's 'String of Pearls' initiative in South Asia, which seeks to establish a network of strategic ports and bases to enhance China's maritime capabilities and influence.
- ❑ Chinese investments and infrastructure projects in the Maldives have deepened economic ties between the two countries, potentially giving China greater leverage in the region.

These dynamics reflect the intricate political, security, and geopolitical landscape of the Maldives, with implications for regional stability and the balance of power in the Indian Ocean.

WAY FORWARD FOR INDIA MALDIVES RELATIONS

- 1. Increase Development Assistance:** India should enhance its development assistance to Maldives, focusing on projects that have a significant impact on the general population. This will help improve India's goodwill among the Maldivian people.
- 2. Engage with Political Opposition:** India should engage in discussions with the political opposition in Maldives. Address their concerns and emphasize that the projects being undertaken are for the benefit of the Maldivian population. For instance, investments like the Hanimaadhoo airport development can boost the tourism sector, a vital part of the Maldivian economy.

3. **Avoid Interference in Internal Politics:** India must avoid any perception of interference in Maldives' internal politics, including Presidential elections. Political interference could be exploited by opponents and harm India's interests.

4. **Set an Example for Neighbourhood First Policy:** The exemplary bilateral cooperation between India and Maldives can serve as a model for building relations with other neighboring countries. This aligns with India's commitment to prioritize its neighbors and promote regional development and cooperation. Maldives has consistently benefited from India's assistance and development initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The strategic location of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean makes it of paramount importance to India's interests. The India-Maldives relationship is built upon a solid foundation, primarily rooted in India's historical support to the Maldives during various crises. Nevertheless, this relationship has encountered fresh challenges in recent years, particularly with the growing influence of China in the Indian Ocean Region. India should make a concerted effort to strengthen its ties with the Maldives, while also taking into consideration the sensitivities and concerns of the Maldivian government and people.

INDIAN TROOP REMOVAL FROM MALDIVES

RELEVANCE

□ Syllabus

- PSIR: India and South Asia: Regional Cooperation
- GS2- India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

Context: The newly elected President of the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, has stated his intention to withdraw Indian troops from the Maldives.



BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES

□ India and Maldives have historically shared a supportive relationship, marked by instances of Indian assistance during crises such as Operation Cactus in 1988 and aid during

natural disasters like the 2004 tsunami. India's support during the Covid pandemic further strengthened ties between the two nations.

PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF TROOP REMOVAL

- **Diplomatic Balance Shift:** The removal of Indian troops could lead to a shift in the Maldives' diplomatic alignment, possibly leaning toward China, causing concerns for India, France, and the US.
- **Strained Relations:** India might face strained relations with Maldives, necessitating diplomatic efforts to maintain cordiality.
- **Relocation and Diplomatic Efforts:** India could consider relocating troops and radar stations to an Indian island in the Laccadive Ridge. Diplomatic efforts with Maldives should persist

to underline India's significance in the Indian Ocean region.

IMPACT ON INDIA'S POSITION IN IOR

- ❑ **Opportunity for Diplomatic Adjustments:** The withdrawal might offer India a chance to recalibrate its diplomacy in response to China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean region.
- ❑ **Past Tensions:** Past tensions with Maldives have not significantly damaged bilateral ties, suggesting that the current statement by Muizzu requires careful observation before drawing conclusions.

CONCERNS FOR IOR COUNTRIES ALIGNING WITH CHINA

- ❑ **Chinese Debt Trap:** Countries in the IOR are wary of falling into the Chinese debt trap, making it a genuine concern for their economic stability.
- ❑ **Critical Infrastructure Acquisition:** Chinese acquisition of critical infrastructure like ports, as seen in Sri Lanka, raises concerns about long-term dependency and sovereignty issues.
- ❑ **India's Engagement:** India's long-standing engagement and support for IOR nations through organizations like Saarc and IORA present an alternative to the relatively new entrant, China.

INDIA'S RESPONSE TO CHINESE CHALLENGE IN IOR

- ❑ **Cooperation with Like-minded Nations:** Foreign Minister Jaishankar's approach of aligning logistics chains and improving naval interoperability with nations like the US, Australia, and Japan presents a united front to counter the Chinese threat in the IOR.
- ❑ **Enhanced stature:** India's history of naval exercises with IOR nations and successful hosting of international forums like the G20 enhance its stature, making it an attractive partner for IOR countries.

CONCLUSION

India's response to the evolving situation in the IOR involves diplomatic agility, continued engagement, and cooperation with like-minded nations to maintain its influence and strategic importance in the region. As per structural realism, actors or human nature does not play a major role in International Politics. Hence, India should focus on deepening its structural ties with Maldives which are grounded in regional cooperation.

CLOSURE OF AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY

RELEVANCE

- ❑ **Syllabus:**
 - **PSIR:** Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy
 - **GS2:** India and its Neighborhood

INTRODUCTION

The Afghanistan embassy in Delhi is closing, citing issues like lack of support from India.



REASONS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN DELHI

Lack of Cooperation: The Afghan embassy cited a lack of cooperation from the Indian government as a significant reason for its closure. The absence of necessary support hampered the embassy's functioning.

Insufficient Resources: Limited resources made it untenable for the embassy to continue operations effectively. The lack of adequate resources hindered its ability to carry out essential functions.

Representation of a Deposed Government: The embassy symbolically represented the previous Afghan government, which was overthrown by the Taliban in August 2021. The departure of the ambassador of the former regime left a leadership void.

Request to Maintain Afghan Flag: Despite the closure, the embassy requested India to continue

flying the flag of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The embassy aimed for the mission to be handed over to a "legitimate" Afghan government in the future.

IMPACT ON AFGHAN-INDIAN RELATIONS

Closure of the Symbolic Embassy: The closure of the embassy in Delhi is symbolically significant as it represented the ousted Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, not the current Taliban-led government. This closure signifies the end of formal representation of the previous Afghan administration in India.

Ambiguous Diplomatic Relations: India does not recognize the Taliban government, leading to complex diplomatic relations. The embassy had been functioning as a "stateless mission," aiding Afghan citizens and travelers in India without officially representing the current rulers in Kabul.

Continuation of Consulates: Despite the embassy closure, consulates in Hyderabad and Mumbai will remain open. The Consul General, Zakia Wardak, has committed to continuing services to support Afghan students, refugees, and traders in India. This ongoing consulate presence maintains a level of connection and assistance between the two nations.

CONCLUSION

India sustains a unique connection through a “technical team” in Kabul, providing visas to Afghan traders and travelers to India. This indicates that, despite the closure of the embassy, informal ties continue, facilitated through specific channels and initiatives.

INDIA-CANADA: A LOVE HATE RELATIONSHIP

□ Syllabus:

- **PSIR:** Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy
- **GS2:** Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India’s interests, Indian Diaspora.

INTRODUCTION

The India and Canada relationship has seen a downtrend due to current concerns about Khalistan militant groups in Canada.

EVOLUTION OF INDIA-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

- **Historical Idealism:** India and Canada shared idealistic principles, advocating for a normative global order until the mid-1970s. They collaborated on global issues during the Cold War era, such as the Korean War and the Suez Crisis.
- **Nuclear Collaboration:** Canada played a significant role in India’s nuclear development by assisting with projects like the CIRUS research reactor and CANDU power reactor. However, relations soured after India’s 1974 nuclear test, which Canada criticized.
- **Strain due to Political Factors:** Canada’s association with Khalistani groups since the 1980s, leading to domestic political tensions in India, added strain to the relationship.
- **Fluctuating Relations:** The Conservative rule under Stephen Harper hinted at improved

bilateral ties, but concerns escalated under Justin Trudeau’s leadership due to perceived softness on Khalistani extremists.



CURRENT CONCERNS IN INDIA-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

- **Khalistan Extremist Groups:** India is concerned about Khalistani militants operating in Canada and seeks a response from Ottawa regarding these groups’ activities on Canadian soil.
- **Moralpolitik and Political Stances:** India is troubled by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s approach, which appears to prioritize vote bank politics and support for Khalistani groups over addressing India’s concerns. Trudeau’s administration is seen as adhering to a moral

high ground in international affairs, which creates tension.

Recommendations for Resolving the Issues

- ❑ **Address Khalistani Concerns:** Canada should acknowledge and address India's concerns about Khalistani militants' activities on Canadian soil, taking a political stance to curb their influence.
- ❑ **Reassess Political Strategies:** Trudeau's administration should reconsider its approach, moving away from vote bank politics and adopting a firmer stance on Khalistani groups to strengthen bilateral relations.
- ❑ **Promote Collaboration:** India suggests cooperation based on credible intelligence-

sharing. Collaborative efforts can form the foundation for enhanced bilateral ties, emphasizing shared interests and mutual benefits.

- ❑ **Action Against Extremists:** India expects Canada to take concrete actions against Khalistani extremists, curbing their empowerment, addressing their political impunity, and preventing their violent activities.
- ❑ **Rebuild Trust:** Both countries should work on rebuilding trust by moving beyond past tensions, focusing on common interests, and fostering a relationship based on mutual trust and cooperation.

FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

RELEVANCE

❑ Syllabus:

- **PSIR:** India and Global centers of power.
- **GS2:** Bilateral, Global groupings affecting India's interest.

Context: Representatives from the United States and the United Kingdom have consistently emphasized the importance of allowing Canada to thoroughly conduct its investigation into Nijjar's death. These nations, in addition to Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, together constitute the Five Eyes Alliance.

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Prime Minister has recently connected the assassination of a prominent Khalistani leader that took place on Canadian soil to alleged involvement or support from the Indian government. This development has brought increased attention to the intelligence-sharing coalition known as the 'Five Eyes,' as there are suspicions that information provided by this alliance played a role in assisting Canada's investigation into the matter.



WHAT IS FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

- ❑ The 'Five Eyes' alliance is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network comprising five countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ❑ This alliance focuses on surveillance and the exchange of signals intelligence (SIGINT).
- ❑ Intelligence documents shared among these member countries are labeled as 'Secret—AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only.'
- ❑ The name 'Five Eyes' is derived from the classification of these shared documents.

ORIGIN OF ALLIANCE

- ❑ In 1943, the BRUSA agreement was established, involving the US War Department and the UK's intelligence and security agency, Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS).
- ❑ The primary goal of BRUSA was to facilitate the sharing of intelligence information between the United States and the United Kingdom. This collaboration aimed to support US forces in Europe during World War II.
- ❑ BRUSA also involved the exchange of personnel between the two countries, fostering cooperation and collaboration in intelligence activities.
- ❑ Joint regulations were developed as part of BRUSA to govern the handling and distribution of highly sensitive intelligence material, ensuring secure and effective information sharing.
- ❑ Subsequently, in 1946, the UKUSA agreement was established, building upon the foundation laid by BRUSA.
- ❑ Canada became a signatory to the UKUSA agreement in 1949, further expanding the

alliance's reach and intelligence-sharing capabilities.

- ❑ In 1956, New Zealand and Australia also joined the UKUSA agreement, solidifying the alliance between these English-speaking nations for intelligence cooperation and security.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF FIVE EYES ALLIANCE AS OF NOW?

The Five Eyes alliance's primary focus has evolved in response to significant global changes, notably the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new global challenges, such as terrorism and the increasing influence of China. This alliance has expanded its scope to encompass a wide range of activities, including ocean and maritime surveillance, scientific research, defense intelligence analysis, medical intelligence, geospatial intelligence, counterintelligence efforts, counterterrorism initiatives, and the ongoing exchange of intelligence through a clandestine shared database referred to as 'Stone Ghost.'

CONCERNS RELATED TO FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

The intelligence alliance has faced significant scrutiny regarding its privacy, security, and operational practices, which were veiled in secrecy for a considerable duration.

In 2013, the alliance became the center of a major controversy when Edward Snowden, a former contractor for the National Security Agency (NSA), released classified documents. Mr. Snowden characterized this network as a transnational intelligence organization that operates without being beholden to the laws of its individual member countries.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE SHOWDOWN

RELEVANCE

□ Syllabus:

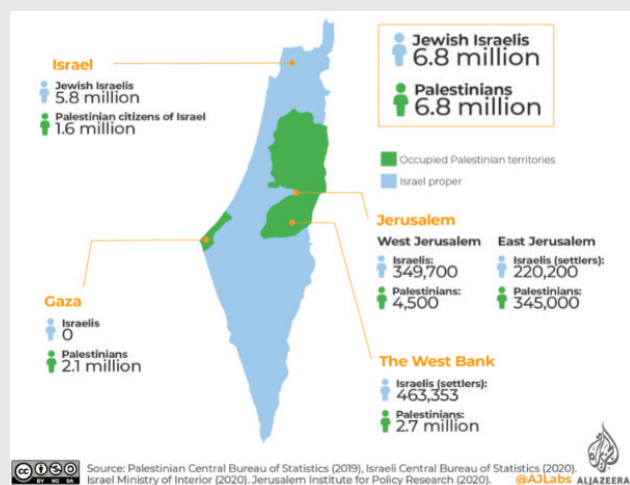
- **PSIR:** India and Global centers of Power.
- **GS2-** Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.

Context: The recent war broke out between Israel and Hamas, further affecting global community

WHAT IS THE CONFLICT



The Israel-Palestine conflict is a protracted and contentious dispute, representing one of the world's longest-running conflicts. It revolves around two competing self-determination movements: the Jewish nationalist project and the Palestinian nationalist project, both claiming rights to the same territory.



Source: Al Jazeera

The historical claims of Jews and Arab Muslims trace back thousands of years, but the modern political conflict emerged in the early 20th century. Over time, there has been a gradual expansion of territory occupied by Israel, leaving Palestinians predominantly confined to two regions: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

CHRONOLOGY OF CONFLICT

The Israel-Palestine conflict has deep historical roots, primarily stemming from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It involves the clash of national and political aspirations of two groups with historical and cultural ties to the same land.

□ Zionism and Jewish Settlement

- **Late 19th Century:** The rise of Zionism, a Jewish nationalist movement advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland, gained momentum in Europe, particularly among Jews facing persecution.
- **Balfour Declaration (1917):** The British government expressed support for the establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine, then under Ottoman rule.

□ Arab Nationalism and Palestinian Identity

- **Early 20th Century:** Concurrently, Arab nationalism grew in response to the declining Ottoman Empire. Palestinians, mainly Arab Muslims and Christians, developed a sense of national identity.
- **1947 UN Partition Plan:** The United Nations proposed a partition plan to divide Palestine

into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city. Jewish leaders accepted the plan, but Arab leaders rejected it, leading to conflict.

❑ Israeli Independence and Arab-Israeli Wars

- **1948:** The State of Israel was established, leading to the first Arab-Israeli war. Arab states opposed Israel's existence and declared war, resulting in displacement and refugee crisis for Palestinians.
- **1967 Six-Day War:** Israel won a decisive victory against Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, and Syria) and occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights.

❑ Occupation and Settlements

- **Post-1967:** Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories led to the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has been a major point of contention and a significant obstacle to peace negotiations.

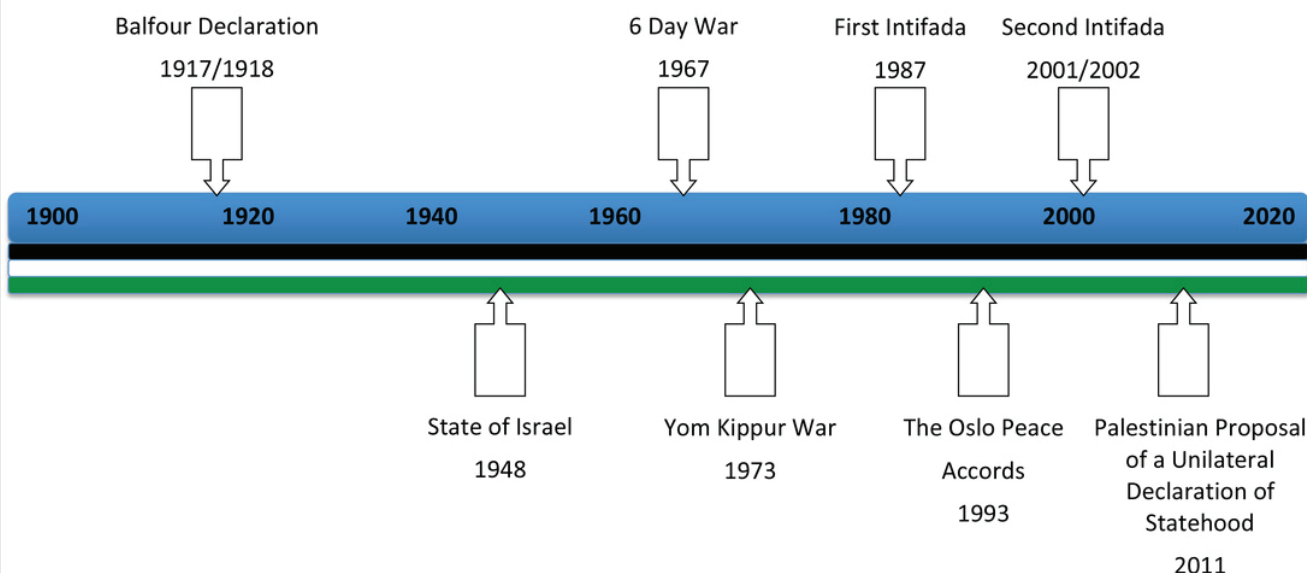
- **Oslo Accords (1993):** A peace process began with the Oslo Accords, aiming to establish a two-state solution, but progress has been hindered by various issues, including settlement expansion and security concerns.

❑ Current Situation

- **Gaza Strip:** Controlled by Hamas, an Islamist Palestinian group. Subject to Israeli blockade, leading to humanitarian challenges.
- **West Bank:** Partially controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Presence of the Israeli military and settlements continue to be contentious issues.
- **Jerusalem:** Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestinians seek East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, leading to ongoing tensions, especially around religious sites like Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The conflict remains unresolved, with periodic escalations in violence and international efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful solution through negotiations.

History of Israel and Palestine



INCREASING ISRAEL'S AREA UNDER OCCUPATION



Source: Al Jazeera

Current situation

- ❑ **Gaza Strip:** Hamas governs the Gaza Strip, and its borders are tightly controlled by Israel and Egypt. Since 2007, Gaza has been subjected to an Israeli sea and air blockade.
- ❑ **West Bank:** As per the Oslo Accord, the occupied West Bank was divided into three areas: Area A (under Palestinian control), Area B (under joint control), and Area C (under Israeli control). The agreement mandated the gradual transfer of control from Israel to Palestine. However, Israel has constructed separation walls, increased security checkpoints, and allowed illegal settlements in these areas, solidifying its influence over the West Bank.
- ❑ **Jerusalem:** West Jerusalem has been Israeli territory since 1948, predominantly inhabited by Jews. East Jerusalem, home to the Old City, including the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, is majority Palestinian and was occupied by Israel

in 1967. Israel claims the entirety of Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestinians assert East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.



Source: BBC

REASONS OF ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

- ❑ **Normalization of Relations:** Efforts like the **Abraham Accords**, which aimed to establish peace between Israel and Arab nations, have been disrupted by groups like Hamas, preventing reconciliation.
- ❑ **Hamas's Leadership Ambitions:** Hamas seeks to challenge the Palestinian Authority's leadership by using attacks, taking advantage of the Authority's **legitimacy crisis in Gaza** due to corruption and misgovernance.
- ❑ **Support from External Entities:** Hamas receives support from external groups like **Hezbollah**, Iran, and Qatar, escalating the conflict with logistical, technological, and financial aid.
- ❑ **Unresolved Jerusalem Dispute:** The status of Jerusalem, with Israel claiming the entire city as its capital and Palestinians insisting on East Jerusalem, remains a major point of contention.
- ❑ **Increasing Israeli Settlements:** Israel's construction of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, considered illegal by much of the international community, fuels tension.
- ❑ **Border Dispute:** Disagreement persists over borders, with Palestinians advocating for pre-1967 ceasefire lines, while Israel insists on an extended eastern border to the Jordan River.
- ❑ **No Consensus on Palestinian Statehood:** Disagreements exist regarding the recognition of Palestinian statehood and Israel's demand to be recognized as the "nation-state of the Jewish people."
- ❑ **Political Division among Palestinians:** Division between Fatah and Hamas hampers unified negotiations, with Israel refusing to negotiate with Hamas, complicating peace efforts.
- ❑ **Lack of Perusal of Peace Process:** Both sides have not consistently pursued peace, with Israel's construction activities and security

measures, coupled with Hamas's attacks, hindering progress toward peace.

GLOBAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CONFLICT

- ❑ **Disruption of Geopolitical Realignments:** The conflict disrupts the ongoing peace and normalization processes in the Middle East, including Israel-Arab reconciliation and Iran-Saudi détente, affecting regional stability.
- ❑ **Turning the Middle East into a Theater of War:** The conflict has the potential to escalate into a full-blown war, drawing in foreign powers like the US and EU. This involvement could turn the region into a theater for proxy wars, reminiscent of previous conflicts like the Gulf War and Iraq War.
- ❑ **Disruption of Global Connectivity Projects:** Prolonged conflict hampers international projects such as the India Middle East Economic Corridor (**IMEC**). Additionally, escalation endangers vital supply routes like the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, impacting global trade and connectivity.
- ❑ **Disruption of Global Supply Chains and Increased Inflation:** The conflict affects oil production and disrupts the supply of goods. This disruption in **supply chains**, coupled with increased military spending, could further inflate global prices, exacerbating the existing economic challenges worldwide.

EVOLUTION OF INDIA'S POSITION ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

From 1947 to 1992:

- ❑ India staunchly **supported the Palestinian cause**, voting against the partition of Palestine in 1947.
- ❑ India **supported the formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** in 1964 and recognized the State of Palestine in 1988.

After 1992:

- ❑ India adopted a **de-hyphenated approach**, treating Israel and Palestine as separate and independent entities.
- ❑ In **1992**, India **established full diplomatic ties with Israel** while continuing to support the Palestinian cause.
- ❑ India opened a Representative Office in Gaza in 1993 (later shifted to Ramallah in 2003).
- ❑ India **supported Palestine's full membership in UNESCO in 2011** and backed a UNHRC resolution investigating Israel's human rights violations in Gaza in 2014. However, India abstained from voting against Israel in UNHRC the following year.
- ❑ The de-hyphenation policy allowed for independent engagement with both Israel and Palestine. India maintained its moral support for Palestinian self-determination while enhancing strategic relations with Israel.

On Current Conflict:

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned Hamas attacks on Israel as "**terrorist attacks**" and expressed **solidarity with Israel** during the recent conflict.
- ❑ The conflict has posed diplomatic challenges for India, especially concerning the Abraham Accords and the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Israel, which had the potential to reshape long standing Middle East tensions. India's hopes for peace dividends in the region have been tested.

IMPACT ON INDIA DUE TO ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

India, by supporting Israel, has taken a stance in the recent conflict, but a prolonged conflict could pose challenges:

Effects on India's Policies:

- ❑ India's de-hyphenation policy in the Middle East, maintaining relations with both the

Arab world and Israel, is at risk. India is in a **diplomatic dilemma** as it cannot afford to lose either side.

Economic Implications:

- ❑ Prolonged conflict in the Middle East affects oil and gas production, leading to increased inflation in India due to its heavy dependence on imported oil and gas.
- ❑ India's financial market faces challenges with decreased Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), causing a rise in the Current Account Deficit (CAD) and **depreciation of the Indian Rupee**.
- ❑ **India-Israel trade**, valued at **\$8.4 billion in exports** and **\$2.3 billion in imports in FY23**, could decline significantly.

Impact on Indian Diaspora:

- ❑ India's large diaspora in West Asia, a source of substantial remittances (around **\$40 billion**), faces uncertainty. The conflict could lead to a reduction in remittances, and ensuring the safety and evacuation of Indian expatriates becomes a serious concern.

THE WAY FORWARD

- ❑ Adoption of the **Arab Peace Initiative**, recognizing a Palestinian state in lands occupied by Israel in 1967, could be the basis for lasting peace.
- ❑ The conflict should be treated as an Israel-Arab issue, involving other Arab nations such as Egypt, Jordan, Iran, and Syria in negotiations, with formal recognition from the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
- ❑ The UN Security Council (UNSC) should play a proactive role, brokering peace talks and preventing the Middle East from becoming a theater of warfare.
- ❑ Adherence to **UNSC resolution 2334**, focusing on removing illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, is crucial for resolution.

- ❑ Following the ICC ruling of February 2021, investigating war crimes in the Palestinian Territories is essential.
- ❑ India, with its positive relations with both the Arab world and Israel, should act as a **mediator**, employing its **soft power** and **diplomatic outreach** for dispute resolution.

CONCLUSION

The global landscape, already challenged by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, stands at a critical juncture. It is imperative that we prevent another devastating war, especially one that could disrupt global supply chains further. The international community must actively work towards instilling peace between Israel and Palestine.

INDIA-ISRAEL RELATIONS

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- ❑ **GS2:** Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.
- ❑ **PSIR:** Growing relations with US and Israel

Context: India-Israel relations have strengthened further as the Indian Prime Minister expressed unequivocal support for Israel during the recent Israel-Palestine conflict. India fully endorsed Israel in response to Hamas terrorist attacks.

EVOLUTION OF INDIA-ISRAEL RELATIONS

In 2022, India and Israel celebrated 30 years of full diplomatic relations. However, India's relationship with Israel has been a roller coaster over the past seven decades. From 1947 to 1992, India firmly supported the Palestinian cause, rejecting the idea of two nations based on religion. During this period, India's relations with Israel were limited to bilateral recognition. Major milestones included India voting against the partition of Palestine in 1947, recognizing Israel in 1950, and supporting Palestinian causes such as the intifada in 1987.

From 1992 to 2017, India's policy underwent significant changes. Factors like Arab countries' neutrality during India-China wars and Israel's assistance in the 1962 and 1965 wars led to a shift. India adopted the Link West Policy, treating Israel and Palestine as mutually independent.

India established full diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992, received precision target bombs from Israel during the Kargil War in 1999, and saw high-level political visits, including Ariel Sharon's visit in 2003. Despite deepening engagement with Israel, India continued to support Palestinian self-determination and took steps like opening a Representative Office in Gaza in 1993.

After 2017, India showed a preference for Israel as a major partner. The support for East Jerusalem dropped, and Indian PM's visit to Israel did not include Ramallah in 2017. Despite attempts to balance relations with Palestine, in the recent conflict, India sided with Israel for the first time and condoned Hamas' actions.

India Israel Relations

In-depth Analysis



SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIA-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Economic and Commerce: India maintains a positive trade balance with Israel and stands as its third-largest trade partner in Asia. Bilateral merchandise trade has grown substantially over the years, reaching USD 6.35 billion (excluding defence). Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, IT, telecom, and homeland security have witnessed diversification. Israeli companies have established R&D centers in India, leading to technology transfers.

Defence: India relies on Israel for crucial defence technologies, with nearly 41% of Israel's defence exports directed towards India. Indian armed forces utilize various Israeli defence systems, including Phalcon AWACS, Heron drones, and Barak anti-missile defence systems. The two countries have collaborated closely on counter-terrorism efforts, and Israel has supported India during conflicts, offering intelligence inputs and weaponry.

Energy: India has acquired exploration licenses for natural gas extraction from Israel's Tamar and Leviathan gas fields, marking a shift towards energy cooperation between the nations.

Science & Technology: India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) facilitates joint industrial R&D projects. A Joint Committee on Science & Technology cooperation was established under the 1993 S&T Cooperation Agreement.

Space: Collaborative agreements in 2002 led to space cooperation, including successful satellite

launches such as TecSAR and RISAT-2 radar imaging satellites of Israel by ISRO's PSLV.

Agriculture: India benefits from Israeli expertise in horticulture mechanization, orchard and canopy management, micro-irrigation (drip irrigation technology), and post-harvest management. The countries launched a joint three-year working program in 2021 to enhance agricultural cooperation.

Diaspora: Israel is home to approximately 85,000 Jews of Indian origin, fostering a strong emotional connection between India and Israel. This diaspora population holds Israeli passports, further strengthening the bond between the two nations.

CHALLENGES OF INDIA-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Balancing Relations: India faces the challenge of balancing its relations with Israel and the Arab world, especially considering Israel's strained ties with countries like Iran. Arab countries are home to a large Indian expatriate population and play a vital role in India's energy security.

Israel-Palestine Skirmishes: The recurring conflicts between Israel and Palestine pose challenges for India, as it's challenging to delink Israel and Palestine in its foreign policy. These conflicts impact India's socio-political and economic dynamics.

Human Rights Concerns: Israel has faced accusations of human rights violations against Palestinians, leading to diplomatic challenges for India in international forums like the UN, UNHRC, and UNSC, where resolutions against Israel are frequently discussed.

Chinese Influence: China's growing influence in Israel, marked by significant trade partnerships and technology collaborations, has reduced India's diplomatic space in the region. China's investments and projects in Israel have posed challenges for India.

Trade and Investment: Despite progress, bilateral trade between India and Israel remains around \$6 billion (excluding defence), primarily focused on diamonds and defence. Progress on the Free Trade Agreement has been slow, hindering the realization of the full economic potential between the two countries.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Diffuse Tensions:** Mediate between Israel and Palestine to maintain global financial stability by resolving conflicts peacefully.
- ❑ **Uphold Abraham Accords:** Engage diplomatically with Arab nations and encourage Saudi Arabia to sign a rapprochement deal with Israel, ensuring adherence to the principles of the Abraham Accords.
- ❑ **Counter Chinese Influence:** Implement proactive diplomacy to counter the increasing

influence of China in Israel and safeguard India's interests in the region.

- ❑ **Accelerate FTA:** Expedite the negotiation and signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Israel to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation.
- ❑ **Implement Dehypenation Policy:** Balance India's partnership with Israel by addressing human rights concerns in Palestine, aligning geostrategic interests with international moral obligations.

CONCLUSION

India needs to navigate through the choppy waters of middle east in these challenging times, with Israel as its fulcrum. The diplomatic tightrope must be managed through strategic thinking, tactical positioning and must be in line with India's vision of new world order.

WEST ASIA AND CHANGING GEOPOLITICS

RELEVANCE

❑ Syllabus:

- **PSIR:** India and Global Centres of Power.
- **GS2-**Bilateral, Regional and Global groupings and agreements affecting India's interests.

Context:The changing policy of West towards West Asia is essential to understand present crisis going on in West Asia(Israel Palestine Conflict).

INTRODUCTION

President Joe Biden, along with other stakeholders, recently introduced a United States-supported infrastructure initiative designed to establish interconnected transportation routes, including shipping lanes, railways, pipelines, and data cables, linking India, West Asia, and Europe. This has led to reconfiguring of West Asian geopolitics which has wider implications not only on West Asia but also on other actors like India.



MAIN COMPONENT OF USA'S STRATEGY FOR WEST ASIA

- 1. Middle East Friction Reduction:** Continuing Trump's Approach
 - ❑ Trump aimed to unite key US allies in the Middle East: Gulf Arab states and Israel.
 - ❑ Objective: Address shared geopolitical challenges, particularly Iran's rise.
 - ❑ The Abraham Accords initiated positive changes in Israel's relations, notably with the UAE.
 - ❑ Success hinges on a diplomatic pact between Israel and Saudi Arabia.
 - ❑ Biden administration sees this as a way to enhance Arab-Israeli relations and strengthen US influence in the region without increased military commitments.
- 2. Enhancing US Presence in the Middle East:**
 - ❑ Biden's goal is to reassure America's friends and allies of continued US involvement in West Asia.
 - ❑ In 2012, leaders from India, Israel, the US, and the UAE convened for a virtual summit.
 - ❑ This summit has since evolved into the I2U2 Mini lateral.
 - ❑ I2U2 platform's purpose: Promote economic integration between West Asia and South Asia.
 - ❑ It offers economic and technological solutions to address challenges faced by Global South countries.

REASONS BEHIND USA'S CHANGE IN STRATEGY TOWARDS WEST ASIA

The United States initially shifted its strategic focus away from the West Asia region, reducing its security commitments there, while increasing attention on Eastern Europe and East Asia. However, several key factors have compelled the US to reengage in West Asia:

- 1.** China's heavy reliance on oil imports, accounting for more than 70% of its oil needs,

has prompted increased Chinese involvement in the West Asia region to secure its energy sources.

- 2.** China has emerged as the largest trading partner for America's Gulf Arab allies and a significant investor in the region. Additionally, China has expressed a growing interest in playing a more substantial role as a mediator in regional conflicts, as evidenced by its involvement in the Iran-Saudi reconciliation agreement.

Due to these factors, it is clear that the United States cannot simply withdraw from West Asia, as it risks creating a power vacuum that China could readily fill.

ISSUES IN USA'S REENGAGEMENT WITH WEST ASIA

- 1. Rise of Independent Foreign Policies:**
 - ❑ U.S. deprioritization weakens its influence on allies.
 - ❑ Security vacuum prompts regional powers to pursue independent foreign policies.
 - ❑ Examples: Saudi-UAE détente with Iran, ending Saudi-led blockade of Qatar, Arab reconciliation with Syria's Bashar al-Assad.
 - ❑ Saudi Arabia and the UAE seek policies not solely reliant on U.S. objectives.
 - ❑ Decision to join BRICS group signifies their move away from client state status.
- 2. Diminished Importance of Iran:**
 - ❑ Central geopolitical tension in West Asia remains Iran-Israel rivalry.
 - ❑ Gulf Arabs aim to avoid involvement in Iran-Israel rivalry.
 - ❑ Involvement could destabilize the region.

GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INDIA IN USA'S WEST ASIA POLICY

The rivalry between the United States and China in the West Asia region opens up fresh avenues

for India to engage. India seeks to position itself as a reliable partner in shaping novel economic engagement and integration standards, and it seems keen to embrace this role, as evidenced by the following developments:

1. India's involvement in the Abraham Accords.
2. The announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor during the G20 summit.
3. India's participation in the I2U2 multilateral initiative.

WHAT SHOULD BE INDIA'S POLICY TOWARDS WEST ASIA

India should seize this opportunity without interpreting it as another Cold War scenario.

Instead, India's approach to the region should revolve around a strategy of multifaceted engagement, avoiding the mistakes made in its previous Afghanistan policy.

India is already an integral part of the International North-South Transport Corridor, and the possible establishment of a "Middle East Corridor" could open up additional economic prospects.

India should aspire to assume a prominent geopolitical position in West Asia and the surrounding regions while maintaining its traditional equilibrium. This would involve refraining from merely appeasing or containing major powers in the area.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND HUMAN SHIELDS

RELEVANCE

❑ Syllabus:

- PSIR: Contemporary Global Concerns: Human Rights

Context: Ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict and associated issue of forced displacement and human shields.

INTRODUCTION

United States President Joe Biden has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using innocent Palestinians as human shields. Israel has also leveled similar allegations against Hamas, with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu stating that they "target our civilians while hiding behind their civilians." Simultaneously, protests are ongoing in various parts of the Arab world and beyond, expressing condemnation for the forced displacement of Palestinians, especially in Gaza, by Israel.

For many, this forced displacement has been a long-standing concern among supporters of the Palestinian cause. Arab leaders are worried that this displacement not only leads to a refugee

crisis in neighboring countries, notably Egypt and Jordan, but also raises the fear of permanent Israeli occupation in the Holy Land.



In this context, it's essential to understand the terms 'human shield' and 'forced displacement'

and how they are viewed under International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

WHAT ARE HUMAN SHIELDS?

- ❑ **Definition of Human Shields in IHL:**
- ❑ In International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the term 'human shields' pertains to civilians or other protected persons whose presence or movements are exploited to make military targets immune from military operations.
- ❑ **Broad Interpretation:**
- ❑ The concept of human shields does not necessarily involve using civilians as literal shields against bullets; it encompasses various scenarios.
- ❑ Forcing protected persons to stay near military targets or positioning military objectives within or adjacent to buildings housing civilians falls under the category of using human shields.
- ❑ **Diverse Categories of Protected Persons:**
- ❑ IHL safeguards not only civilians but also various other categories of protected persons during armed conflicts:
- ❑ Sick, wounded, and shipwrecked individuals not participating in hostilities.
- ❑ Prisoners of war and detainees.
- ❑ Additionally, it extends protection to civilian objects in conflict zones.

HOW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN LAWS SEES HUMAN SHIELDS?

Human Shields and IHL

1. The use of human shields is regarded as a war crime and is explicitly prohibited by Rule 97 of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
2. It is universally condemned as an unethical practice during armed conflicts.
3. Attacking human shields is also prohibited under IHL, irrespective of the intentions behind their presence.

Gaza's Unique Challenges

1. Gaza faces a complex situation due to its high population density and the presence of Hamas combatants.
2. In Gaza, there is little space for Hamas fighters to operate without exposing civilians to danger.

Legal Restrictions on Attacking Targets in Gaza

1. Regardless of whether Hamas intentionally uses civilian homes for military purposes or due to necessity, it is not legally permissible for Israel to attack these targets.
2. International law demands that combatants take utmost care to avoid civilian harm during conflicts.

WHAT IS FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND HOW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SEES FORCED DISPLACEMENT?

- ❑ On October 13, 2023, Israel issued an order for hundreds of thousands of civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate within 24 hours, seemingly in preparation for a forthcoming ground invasion.
- ❑ According to the Statute of the International Criminal Court, displacing civilians for reasons related to a conflict, except when it is necessary for their security or imperative military reasons, is considered forcible displacement.
- ❑ The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Norwegian Refugee Council have both declared this order to forcibly transfer civilians as unlawful.
- ❑ Jan Egeland, the secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, stated that demanding 1.2 million northern Gaza civilians to relocate to the south within 24 hours without guarantees of safety or return amounts to the war crime of forcible transfer.
- ❑ It's important to note that while warning civilians about legitimate military operations that might endanger them is necessary, it is illegal to threaten people to leave.

❑ The absence of guarantees of safety or return is a significant issue. Displacement of civilians should be temporary, only lasting until the conflict ends, and should primarily serve their safety.

❑ Professor Dill emphasized that the distinction between evacuation and forced transfer depends on whether the action genuinely benefits the security of the civilians involved.



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INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS(IGP)

WHAT IS DELIMITATION EXERCISE

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

❑ **GS2-Indian Constitution: Amendments,legislations,provisions.**

Context: The government brought The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assemblies which has now become an Act Of Parliament.

INTRODUCTION

The Delimitation exercise conducted by the Delimitation Commission has gained significant attention in recent parliamentary debates surrounding the Women Reservation Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhinyam.

According to the proposed bill, the implementation of women's reservations in political representation will be contingent upon the completion of delimitation based on the population figures from the first census conducted following the bill's passage.



CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR DELIMITATION

1. Article 82 of the Constitution stipulates that the

Parliament is required to pass a Delimitation Act and establish a Delimitation Commission following each Census.

- Article 170 of the Constitution outlines the process by which the Delimitation Commission is tasked with redefining the boundaries of territorial constituencies within states after every Census.
- The Delimitation Act bestows significant authority upon the Delimitation Commission, declaring their decisions to be final and not subject to legal challenges, in order to prevent delays in elections. Once the Commission's orders are presented to the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they cannot make any alterations to them. Furthermore, the Delimitation Commission operates independently without undue executive influence.

COMPOSITION OF DELIMITATION COMMISSION

- Appointment Authority:** The President of India appoints the Delimitation Commission, which operates in conjunction with the Election Commission of India.
- Composition of Members:** The Delimitation Commission is comprised of a retired Supreme Court judge serving as the Chairperson, the Chief Election Commissioner, and the Election Commissioners from the respective states.

HISTORY OF DELIMITATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA

DELIMITATION COMMISSION	OUTCOME
FIRST DELIMITATION COMMISSION 1953	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Based on 1951 Census data. <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Lok Sabha seats at 494
SECOND DELIMITATION COMMISSION 1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Based on 1961 Census data. <input type="checkbox"/> Increased Lok Sabha seats to 522
THIRD DELIMITATION COMMISSION 1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Based on 1971 Census data. <input type="checkbox"/> Increased Lok Sabha seats to 543 <input type="checkbox"/> 42nd CAA had frozen the delimitation exercise till 2001 Census.
FOURTH DELIMITATION COMMISSION 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Based on 2001 Census data. <input type="checkbox"/> There was only readjustment of boundaries of the constituencies and there has been no increase in number of seats in Lok Sabha or State Assemblies. <input type="checkbox"/> 86th CAA 2002 froze any increase in seats till 2026.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DELIMITATION EXERCISE

- Proportional Representation through Delimitation:**
 - The Delimitation Commission's primary objective is to ensure proportional representation in legislative constituencies.
 - It achieves this by selecting the number and boundaries of constituencies with an aim to

equalize the population of each seat as closely as possible.

- Reservation of Seats for SCs and STs:**
 - The Delimitation Commission also addresses social justice concerns by designating specific constituencies in areas with substantial populations of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

- ❑ These designated constituencies are reserved exclusively for SCs and STs to enhance their political representation.

3. Impartial Exercise of Delimitation:

- ❑ The Delimitation Commission operates independently, free from government or political party influence.
- ❑ Its decisions and rulings are not subject to challenge in parliament or any court, which ensures the commission's impartiality throughout the delimitation process.

ISSUES WITH DELIMITATION EXERCISE

No Change in Seat Numbers Despite Population Increase

- 1. 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976):** This act froze the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies based on the 1971 census figures.
- 2. 84th Constitutional Amendment Act:** This amendment continued to freeze the number of seats based on the 1971 census until 2026.
- 3. Limited Impact of Delimitation Exercises:** Delimitation exercises conducted by delimitation commissions result in only cosmetic changes, primarily involving alterations to boundaries.

Skipping Delimitation Exercises

- 1. Constitutional Mandate:** The Indian Constitution mandates the conduction of delimitation exercises after each census to adjust seat allocations based on population changes.
- 2. Government Non-Compliance:** Governments have chosen to skip the creation of delimitation commissions following the 1981, 1991, and 2011 censuses.
- 3. Population Growth Not Reflected:** Due to these omissions, the significant population growth over the years is not accurately

reflected in the allocation of seats, leading to potential representation imbalances.

CHALLENGES IN CONDUCTING DELIMITATION EXERCISE

1. Population Control Impact:

- ❑ Disadvantageous for States with Controlled Populations.
- ❑ States in Southern India, which have effectively controlled their population growth, may suffer from the delimitation exercise. They could end up with fewer seats in the Lok Sabha.
- ❑ Advantage for States with Growing Populations:
- ❑ Conversely, states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which have not effectively controlled their population growth, could benefit from delimitation with an increase in their Lok Sabha seats.

2. Impact on Regional Parties:

- ❑ Disadvantageous for Southern Regional Parties.
- ❑ Regional parties in the southern states, such as DMK, TDP, and YSRCP, which primarily have a presence within their states, may find themselves at a disadvantage. Their representation and bargaining power in the Lok Sabha could decrease.

3. Potential Fuel for Separatist Movements:

- ❑ Risk of Fueling Separatist Movements.
- ❑ Delimitation based on recent census data could potentially fuel separatist regional movements, such as the Dravida Nadu movement in Southern India. This could threaten the federal political structure of the country.

4. Delay in Women's Reservation

- ❑ Impact on Women's Reservation Implementation
- ❑ The Women's Reservation Bill, or Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, has been linked with the delimitation process. The contentious nature of delimitation could lead to delays in

implementing the women's quota, affecting gender representation in politics.

WAYFORWARD

1. National Consensus for Delimitation:

- Prior to initiating the delimitation exercise, it is imperative to establish a national consensus.
- Allowing regional political parties to voice their concerns and fears is essential.
- The process should be built on a foundation of collective agreement and understanding among stakeholders.

2. Addressing Regional Political Party Concerns:

- Engage in open dialogue with regional political parties to address their apprehensions.

- Ensure their perspectives are considered and integrated into the delimitation process.

- Strive to alleviate any fears or reservations they may have regarding the exercise.

3. Incentivizing Population Control through the Finance Commission:

- The Finance Commission should develop a formula that incentivizes states effectively managing their population.
- Consider financial rewards for states that have successfully controlled population growth.
- Use financial incentives to encourage states to adopt population control measures and policies.

DELIMITATION AND POPULATION

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- GS2:** Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure
- PSIR:** Inter-state disputes

INTRODUCTION

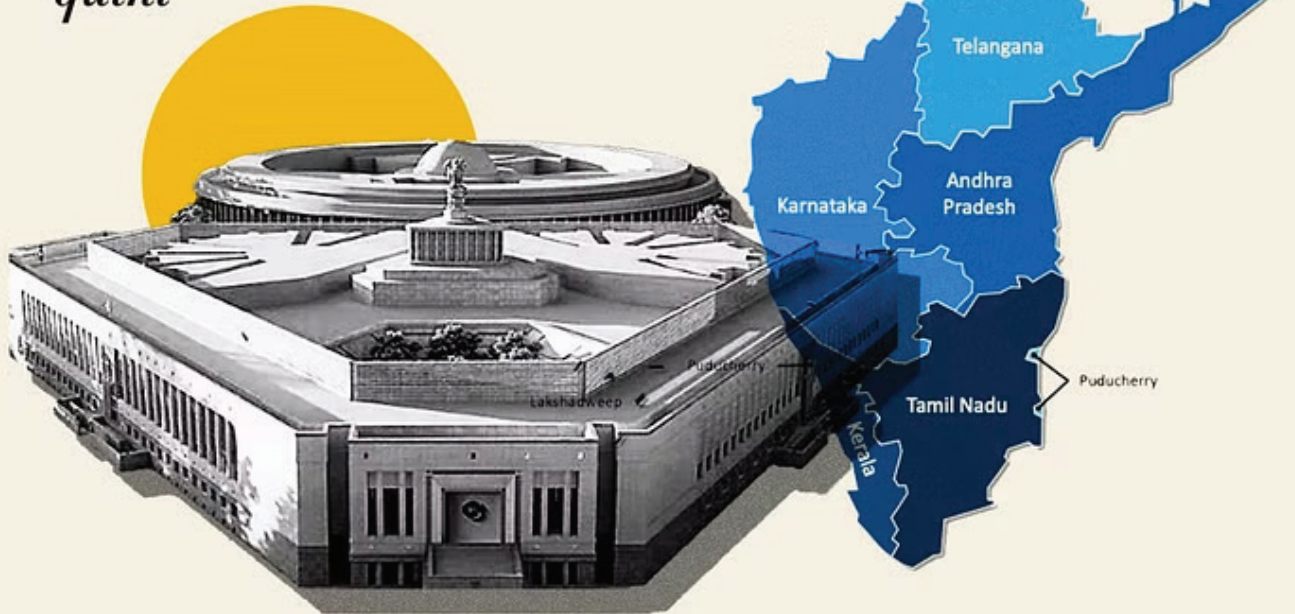
India's political and financial systems, which are based on population size, put southern states at a disadvantage due to controlled population growth. At the same time, they favor northern states with larger populations in terms of political representation and financial allocations, leading to a policy dilemma.

IMPACT OF POPULATION SIZE ON POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

- Lok Sabha Seats Allocation:** According to Article 81 of the Indian Constitution, Lok Sabha seats are distributed based on population size to achieve equal representation across constituencies.

- Historical Basis:** Seats were historically distributed using the 1971 Census data, with amendments suggesting its usage until the first census after 2026.

- Population Control Consequences:** Southern states' effective population control might lead to a loss of 23 seats, while northern states could gain 37. MPs from northern states represent more people compared to those from southern states, creating inequality in representation.



Source: The quint

CONSEQUENCES OF PENALIZING POPULATION CONTROL

- ❑ **Reduced Representation:** Southern states might witness a decrease in seats, leading to increased representation disparity between regions.
- ❑ **Decreased Fiscal Share:** States controlling their populations could receive a smaller share of the Union government's tax revenue, potentially impacting their developmental initiatives.
- ❑ **Political Incentives:** Penalizing population control might discourage states from prioritizing such efforts in the future.
- ❑ **Societal Impact:** Successful population control states might face unintended negative consequences, altering their societal and economic development trajectories.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ **Maintain Seat Freeze:** Suggest continuing the freeze on Lok Sabha seat distribution based

on the 1971 Census until states stabilize their populations, ensuring fair representation without penalizing southern states.

- ❑ **Incentivize Population Control:** Encourage population management policies without penalizing states that have effectively controlled populations through family planning and social development efforts.
- ❑ **Fair Fiscal Distribution:** Reevaluate fiscal distribution formulas to prevent financial penalties for states controlling populations. Protecting declining shares in the Union government's tax revenue is crucial.
- ❑ **Equitable Representation:** Implement systems ensuring equal representation per elector across states, upholding the democratic principle of "one person, one vote."
- ❑ **Promote Balanced Development:** Encourage policies fostering balanced social and economic development in all states, ensuring uniform progression and stability across India.

ELECTORATES

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- ❑ PSIR-Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

Context: Bihar government released caste based survey data on 2nd October 2023 which has led to debate on caste politics in India

INTRODUCTION

The historical discourse known as the “Gandhi-Ambedkar debate” primarily centered on the differing viewpoints of these two prominent

figures regarding the caste system. Today, Gandhi’s ultimate “triumph” is evident in India’s system of reservations, which reflects his influence on policies addressing social inequality.

GANDHI AND AMBEDKAR’S VIEWS ON CASTE

Gandhi’s views on caste	Ambedkar’s views on caste
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Gandhi’s views evolved as he became a central figure in India’s national movement. ❑ His transformation was influenced by the emerging Dalit movement. ❑ He began advocating unity and rejected untouchability. ❑ Gandhi started referring to untouchables as “harijans” or “children of God.” ❑ In 1936, he acknowledged the harmful nature of untouchability, both spiritually and nationally. ❑ Despite his criticism of untouchability, Gandhi did not reject the institution of caste itself. ❑ Gandhi was not against the varna system as he consider it as functional specialization. However he rejected the caste by birth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Ambedkar’s stance was notably more radical compared to Gandhi and other upper-caste reformers. ❑ He believed that traditional reformist efforts were insufficient in dismantling centuries of discrimination. ❑ Ambedkar asserted that any meaningful challenge to the caste system required the oppressed to reject their subjugation, which was often justified as divine will. ❑ According to him, breaking free from the caste system necessitated the initial rejection of the divine authority conferred upon the shastras, or holy scriptures.

ISSUE OF SEPARATE ELECTORATE FOR DEPRESSED CLASSES

Ambedkar’s demand for separate electorate	Gandhi’s opposition to separate electorate
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Distinct Group: Ambedkar stated that the depressed classes were a distinct and separate group within the Hindu community. Not Integral Part of Hindu Community: He emphasized that the depressed classes were not an integral part of the larger Hindu community. Political Power Concern: Ambedkar expressed concern that the depressed classes would not gain political power unless there was a special political mechanism. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate Representation for Lower Castes: Gandhi’s primary objection to separate electorates was that they provided insufficient political representation for lower castes. He believed that lower castes should aim for more significant political influence rather than settling for a limited number of seats. Aspiring for Global Influence: Gandhi encouraged lower castes to aspire to a position where they could have a more significant impact, even on a global scale.

Ambedkar's demand for separate electorate	Gandhi's opposition to separate electorate
<p>4. Special Political Machinery: He advocated for the creation of a unique political system for the new constitution.</p> <p>5. Separate Electorates with Double Vote: Ambedkar's proposed political machinery included separate electorates for the depressed classes, allowing them to vote twice - once for an SC candidate and once in the general electorate.</p> <p>6. Shift in Position: Initially, Ambedkar rejected communal electorates, but his stance evolved over time.</p> <p>7. Reason for Shift: He realized that joint electorates, which he had previously supported, might not effectively challenge the subordinate position of the depressed classes.</p> <p>8. Joint Electorates and Majority Influence: Ambedkar believed that unqualified joint electorates allowed the majority to dominate the election of Dalit representatives, leaving them unable to protect their interests against the majority's tyranny.</p>	<p>3. Concerns About the Material and Social Conditions: Gandhi acknowledged that the harsh reality of lower castes' material and social conditions did not place them in a position to rule the world.</p> <p>Fear of Divisions within Hinduism: Gandhi was also concerned that separate electorates would lead to divisions within the Hindu community.</p>

RESULT OF DEADLOCK BETWEEN GANDHI AND AMBEDKAR: POONA PACT

On September 20, 1932, Mahatma Gandhi initiated a hunger strike in Yerawada Jail in Pune to protest the British government's decision to introduce separate electorates based on caste. Gandhi saw this as a divine opportunity to sacrifice his life for the benefit of the oppressed.

This situation placed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in a challenging position. While he disagreed with Gandhi's approach of reservations, as he believed that reserved seats would still enable the numerical dominance of upper castes and hinder

more profound social change by allowing them to choose lower-caste candidates, he also recognized Gandhi's immense popularity as a national leader. Ambedkar was concerned that any harm to Gandhi could have serious repercussions for the emerging Dalit movement, including potential violence against vulnerable Dalits by upper-caste individuals. With a heavy heart, Ambedkar eventually yielded to Gandhi's pressure and signed the Poona Pact. This pact guaranteed reservations for lower castes but effectively put an end to the idea of separate electorates.

CASTE: THE ETHNIC MOSAIC OF INDIAN POLITICS

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- PSIR: Caste, Religion, and Ethnicity in Indian Politics

INTRODUCTION

Bihar has recently released comprehensive caste survey (CCS) data. It is historic as it's the first time such results of large-scale exercise have been made public.

GOVERNMENTS' RELUCTANCE TO CONDUCT CASTE SURVEYS

- Control over Social Statistics:** Modern states exercise control over social statistics, which include caste data. Totalitarian regimes misuse

this data to manage public opinion and hide their failures in addressing societal disparities, leading to reluctance in conducting and disclosing caste surveys.

- ❑ **Exposing Shortcomings:** Caste surveys might expose the government's shortcomings in addressing social disparities, leading to hesitancy as it could potentially highlight the failure of policies aimed at societal equality.



CASTE BASED CENSUS

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF CASTE CENSUS:

- ❑ **Caste as a Determinant:** Caste significantly influences life opportunities in India. Recognizing and addressing these differences is vital for achieving true political unity and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens.
- ❑ **Addressing Disparities:** Caste-based census is the initial step toward addressing genuine differences and disparities rooted in caste, providing a basis for targeted policies to uplift marginalized communities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST CASTE CENSUS:

- ❑ **Concerns about Equality:** Caste data, falling under social statistics, reveals social inequalities and holds the ruling government accountable. This transparency might challenge the government's actions in addressing these disparities.
- ❑ **Reservation Limit Concerns:** Caste enumeration could lead to exceeding the 50% reservation limit. The recent Supreme Court

ruling allowing 10% reservation for EWS raises concerns about the balance between equality and reservation rights.

- ❑ **Focus on Class:** Focusing on class-based politics and economic development rather than caste-based politics might yield better results, avoiding the complexities associated with caste divisions.
- ❑ **Caste Divisions:** Collecting caste data might strengthen caste divisions, hindering progress toward a casteless society. This could slow down societal integration and create further divisions.

CHALLENGES IN CONDUCTING CASTE CENSUS:

- ❑ **Deepening Caste Divide:** India aspires to be a casteless society, and conducting a caste census might reinforce caste identities, deepening societal divisions along caste lines.
- ❑ **Political Manipulation:** Politicians might exploit caste census data to further their caste-based political agendas. Some might use the data to demand more reservations, while others could argue for the abolition of caste-based reservations, leading to political tensions and conflicts.
- ❑ **Administrative Complexity:** India has a vast and diverse population with numerous castes and sub-castes. In the 1931 census, there were 46 lakh caste names, and adding sub-castes would exponentially increase this number. Managing and categorizing such a vast array of castes and sub-castes poses a significant administrative challenge.
- ❑ **Data Accuracy:** Ensuring the accuracy of caste data is challenging. People might misreport their caste due to various social, political, or economic reasons, leading to unreliable data.
- ❑ **Potential Backlash:** Some communities might oppose being categorized under specific castes

or sub-castes, leading to social tensions and protests.

- ❑ **Resource Intensiveness:** Conducting a comprehensive caste census requires substantial resources in terms of manpower, time, and funding. Allocating these resources amid other pressing priorities can be a challenge for the government.
- ❑ **Privacy Concerns:** Collecting sensitive information about individuals' castes raises privacy concerns. Ensuring data security and privacy protections for individuals could be challenging.

- ❑ **Data Utilization:** Even if collected, there might be uncertainties about how the data would be used effectively for policymaking without exacerbating social tensions or political conflicts.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Accountable political representation across social differences is crucial. Initiatives like the Bihar Comprehensive Caste Survey, despite challenges, represent a step toward acknowledging societal differences. Genuine efforts to bridge gaps and promote equality are necessary for a unified and inclusive society.

INDIA'S ABORTION LAWS UNDER SCRUTINY

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- ❑ **GS2:** Government Policies
- ❑ **PSIR:** Salient Features of the Indian Constitution

Context: The spotlight is back on India's abortion laws following the Supreme Court's rejection of a married woman's request to terminate her 26-week pregnancy. The woman, a mother of two already, cited post-partum depression and expressed her inability, both physically and emotionally, to carry, deliver, or raise another child. Despite her plea, the Supreme Court denied her request for an abortion.

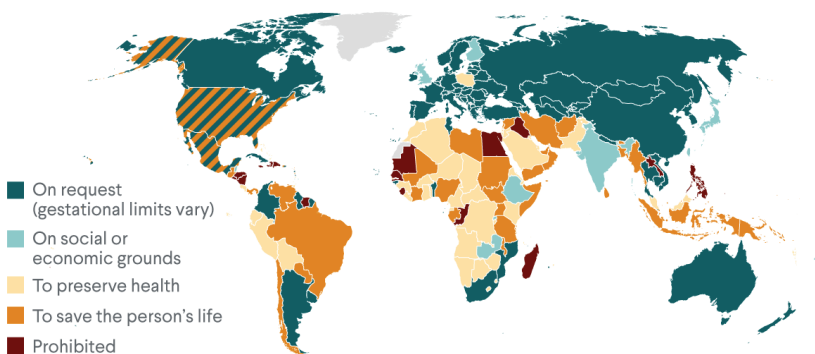
INTRODUCTION

Abortion refers to a medical procedure used to terminate a pregnancy, either through medication

or a surgical intervention. This procedure has sparked a contentious debate between the 'Pro-Choice' and 'Pro-Life' movements.

DEBATE SURROUNDING ABORTION

Access to abortion as of June 2022



- ❑ Pro-Choice: Advocates for women’s abortion rights, emphasizing a woman’s ‘bodily autonomy’ as paramount, allowing her the right to make decisions about her own body.
- ❑ Pro-Life: Opposes abortion rights, prioritizing the ‘right to life’ of the fetus, arguing against terminating pregnancies on moral and ethical grounds.

CURRENT STATUS OF LEGISLATION ON ABORTION

India: India follows a Pro-Choice approach and has legalized abortion. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP Act 1971), enacted based on the recommendations of the Shantilal

Committee, legalizes abortion and has been amended over the years to align with progressive ideas regarding women’s reproductive rights and bodily autonomy.

United States: In the US, the Supreme Court’s landmark Roe vs Wade Judgment (1973) initially granted women the constitutional right to abortion before the fetus reaches viability (around 24-28 weeks). However, recent developments have led to a regression in abortion rights. The Supreme Court overturned the Roe vs Wade decision, removing abortion from constitutional protection. Consequently, individual US states are now responsible for framing their own abortion laws, leading to varying regulations across states.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MTP ACT 1971 AND MTP AMENDMENT ACT 2021

Criterion	MTP Act 1971	MTP Amendment Act 2021
Contraceptive Failure	Only applied to married women	Unmarried women are also covered
Gestational Limit for Termination	20 Weeks	Increased from 20 Weeks to 24 weeks but only for specific cases including rape survivors, minors, physically disabled, marital status change, mental retardation, disaster-stricken, and fetal abnormality. Beyond 24 weeks, termination is allowed only for ‘substantial fetal abnormalities’.
Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP) Approval	Till 12 Weeks- 1 RMP, 12-20 Weeks- 2 RMP	Till 20 Weeks- 1 RMP, 20-24 weeks- 2 RMP, Beyond 24 weeks- State-Level Medical Board
Privacy	Not Mentioned	Protects the confidentiality of data related to termination, violation can lead to a jail term

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AMENDED MTP ACT 2021

- ❑ **‘Bodily Autonomy’ to Vulnerable Pregnant Women:** The amended Act extends the upper gestation limit, granting more ‘bodily autonomy’ to vulnerable pregnant women, including rape survivors, allowing them to decide on their pregnancies up to 24 weeks.
- ❑ **Ease in Termination Process:** The amendment simplifies the abortion process, requiring only

1 registered Medical Practitioner’s opinion for pregnancies up to 20 weeks.

- ❑ **Lowering Burden on Courts:** The Act allows substantial fetal abnormalities abortion even after 24 weeks, reducing the burden on courts for seeking abortion beyond the permitted period.
- ❑ **Privacy and Confidentiality:** The Act ensures confidentiality of women undergoing termination, safeguarding their dignity and privacy.

- ❑ **De-stigmatization of Relations Outside Marriage:** Unmarried women can terminate pregnancies due to contraceptive failure, destigmatizing pregnancies outside marriage.
- ❑ **Reduction in Maternal Deaths:** Simplified abortion procedures aim to reduce maternal deaths resulting from unsafe abortions.

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH MTP ACT 2021

- ❑ **Lack of 'At-Will Abortion' Provision:** The Act doesn't provide for 'at-will abortion', making it provider-centric rather than focused on women's choices.
- ❑ **Limited Options for Rape Victims After 24 Weeks:** Rape victims and vulnerable pregnant women have limited options after 24 weeks, mainly relying on writ petitions.
- ❑ **No Time Frame for Medical Board Decisions:** The Act lacks a time frame for the medical board's decisions, leading to delays and complications.
- ❑ **Inadequate Representation in Special Categories:** Special categories of women given relaxation are not fully representative, omitting those facing financial constraints or menopause.
- ❑ **Fear of Criminal Persecution:** Fear of criminal persecution still exists among medical practitioners, driving women to unsafe abortions or courts.

- ❑ **Low Number of Registered Medical Practitioners:** Only a limited number of registered medical practitioners can perform abortions, leading to a shortage and reliance on less qualified personnel, increasing unsafe abortions.

WAY FORWARD FOR ABORTION LAWS IN INDIA

- ❑ **Follow WHO Guidelines:** India should decriminalize abortion, removing grounds-based regulation and gestational limits, ensuring non-discriminatory and equal abortion care.
- ❑ **Shift Power to Women:** Abortion choices should shift from doctors to women, adhering to the right of women to make reproductive choices under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❑ **Expand MTP Act Ambit:** Include transgenders and other vulnerable women, broadening the act's scope to cater to various circumstances.
- ❑ **Create Certified Medical Practitioner Cadre:** Develop a cadre of certified medical practitioners within India's healthcare system, including ASHA and ANM workers, to conduct institutional abortions, reducing the incidence of unsafe abortions and ensuring safe, respectful, and non-discriminatory access to abortion care, in line with Sustainable Development Goals.

OBC SUBCATEGORISATION AND THE POLITICS AROUND IT

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- ❑ **GS2-Indian Constitution: Amendments, legislations, provisions.**
- ❑ **PSIR-Role of Religion, Caste and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.**

Context: The recent release of the Bihar caste survey results has once again sparked the flames of caste-based politics in India.

INTRODUCTION

Earlier this month, the release of the caste survey findings in Bihar prompted discussions about the likelihood of other states initiating similar efforts. In a recent update, the Minister for Backward Classes Welfare in Andhra Pradesh has announced the commencement of a census focused on backward classes. The enumeration of castes and the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to promote equitable distribution of reservation benefits have been topics of ongoing debate.

ORIGIN OF TERM OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Origin of the Term OBC:

- ❑ The term “OBC” was coined to refer to socially and educationally backward or marginalized communities and castes in India.
- ❑ It specifically encompasses groups that are not classified as Scheduled Castes (SCs) or Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ❑ Social backwardness in India has historically been closely tied to caste status, leading to various forms of disadvantage.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFIRMATION OF THE TERM OBC:

- ❑ The Indian Constitution mandates affirmative action for OBCs through specific articles.
- ❑ Article 15(4) of the Constitution allows the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens.
- ❑ Article 29(2) ensures that non-discrimination is maintained in admissions to state educational institutions but still permits the State to make special provisions for the benefit of these backward classes.
- ❑ Article 16(4) empowers the State to reserve appointments or posts in government services

for backward class citizens who are deemed inadequately represented.

SUBCATEGORISATION OF OBC'S:A CASE STUDY

- ❑ OBCs (Other Backward Classes) in India have traditionally been identified based on their occupations, which include activities like cultivation of land, tenant farming, agriculture labor, selling of vegetables, fruits, and flowers, cattle-rearing, washing clothes, and various artisanal professions such as carpentry, blacksmithing, oilseed crushing, pottery, and stone-cutting.
- ❑ Within the OBC category, there is a distinction between those who own land, like the Yadavs and Kurmis in Bihar and UP, and those who do not.
- ❑ Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) have been a focus in Bihar. In 1951, a government survey identified 27% of the population as “pichhda” (backward) and 36% as “atyantpichhda” (EBCs).
- ❑ A 1951 government list initially identified 109 castes, with 79 considered more backward. However, in 1964, the Patna High Court declared these two lists unconstitutional.
- ❑ The Mungeri Lal Commission in Bihar, established in 1970, recognized 128 backward communities, with 94 categorized as the most backward. The recommendations of this commission were implemented during the Janata Party government of CM Karpoori Thakur.
- ❑ The Karpoori Thakur Formula provided a 26% reservation, with 12% for OBCs, 8% for economically backward OBCs, 3% for women, and 3% for the poor from upper castes.
- ❑ In Bihar, CM Nitish Kumar has aimed to broaden his political base beyond his Kurmi caste by focusing on backward OBCs, especially artisan castes, to the exclusion of upper OBCs,

primarily Yadavs, who align with his rival turned ally, Lalu Prasad.

- ❑ Similar to EBCs among OBCs, a category of Mahadalits has been identified among Scheduled Castes.

- ❑ OBC reservations in Bihar are currently divided into groups known as Backward Classes or BC-I, BC-II, and OBC Women. These allocations may change when the results of a new caste survey are acted upon.

TWO NATIONAL COMMISSIONS ON OBC'S AND THEIR OUTCOMES

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON OBC	ITS OUTCOME
FIRST OBC COMMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Panel led by Kaka Kalelkar, established by Jawaharlal Nehru's government in 1953, delivered its findings in 1955. ❑ The commission used the following criteria to identify socially and educationally backward classes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low social status within the traditional caste hierarchy of Hindu society. 2. Limited educational progress within the majority of the caste/community. 3. Minimal or no representation in government employment. 4. Inadequate presence in trade, commerce, and industry. ❑ The First OBC Commission compiled a list of 2,399 backward castes/communities, with 837 of them designated as the most disadvantaged. ❑ The Commission proposed the enumeration of castes in the 1961 census, as well as suggested implementing 25-40% reservations for various government job levels and 70% reservation for technical and professional institutions. ❑ Regrettably, the report never underwent discussion in Parliament and was not put into action because the government believed that a nationwide list created by the Central Government would serve no practical purpose.
SECOND OBC COMMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The Mandal Commission, appointed in 1979 by Morarji Desai's Janata government, recommended measures for the upliftment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in India. ❑ The implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations was announced in 1990 by the government of V P Singh. <p>Mandal Commission's Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Identified 3,743 castes and communities as OBCs, estimating their population at 52% of the total population. ❑ Recommended a 27% reservation in government jobs and admissions to all government-run scientific, technical, and professional institutions for OBCs. ❑ Did not recognize subcategories within the 27% OBC quota, despite dissent from one of the members, L R Naik, who suggested splitting OBCs into intermediate backward classes and depressed backward classes. <p>Official Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The Centre's Official Memorandum on the implementation of the Mandal recommendations stated that within the 27% reserved for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), preference should be given to candidates from the poorer sections of the SEBCs. <p>Creamy Layer Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The central government, following a Supreme Court ruling, has consistently implemented the quota by treating the entire OBC population as one block, excluding the "creamy layer" of affluent candidates based on specific criteria.

STATUS OF OBC SUBCATEGORISATION IN DIFFERENT STATES

- ❑ State governments have implemented their own criteria for distributing quota benefits among various OBC (Other Backward Classes) categories over the years.
- ❑ This process predates the implementation of the Mandal recommendations at the central level.
- ❑ In Andhra Pradesh, OBCs are categorized into five subgroups, including Aboriginal tribes, Professional groups (e.g., tappers), SC converts to Christianity and their descendants, and more.
- ❑ Karnataka divides its 207 OBC castes into five sub-groups for reservation purposes.
- ❑ Jharkhand classifies OBCs into two groups: Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and Backward Classes.
- ❑ West Bengal categorizes its 143 OBC castes into More Backwards and Backwards.

- ❑ Maharashtra allocates its 21% OBC reservation into the Special Backward Category (2%) and Other Backward Classes (19%).
- ❑ Tamil Nadu divides its 50% OBC quota among Backward Classes (26.5%), Backward Class Muslims (3.5%), and Most Backward Classes/ Denotified Communities (20%).

CONCLUSION

The release of the Bihar Caste survey report has ignited a nationwide discussion regarding the caste demographics and their representation, making it imperative for all political parties to address this issue. Experts suggest that this report will compel political parties to unveil and kickstart additional welfare programs aimed at benefiting the economically disadvantaged and marginalized segments of the population.

Additionally, there is a growing clamor for reservations within the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), as it is increasingly perceived that a small fraction of upper OBCs have disproportionately benefited from the existing 27% reservation system.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE

RELEVANCE

Syllabus:

- ❑ **GS 2: Government Policies and Interventions for development of various sectors and issues arising out of it.**
- ❑ **PSIR: Contemporary Global Concerns: Gender Justice.**

Context: Recent verdict by Supreme Court on same sex marriage.

INTRODUCTION

In India, a Constitutional Bench comprising five judges, with Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud at the helm, has declined to confer legal recognition to same-sex marriages. The verdict presented two differing perspectives on crucial aspects of

the case. The majority opinion was rendered by Justices S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli, and P S Narasimha, while the minority viewpoint was articulated by Chief Justice Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VERDICT

1. The right to marriage is not considered a fundamental right.
2. The petitioners' request to reinterpret the Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954 by replacing "man and woman" with "spouses" has been rejected.
3. Provisions in CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) that prevent queer couples from

adopting are deemed discriminatory, but the judiciary does not have the authority to strike down these provisions. It is the responsibility of the legislature and the executive to take the necessary actions.

4. A committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, should be established to define the rights available to queer couples in civil unions.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT IN DETAIL

KEY ISSUE IN QUESTION	MAJORITY OPINION	MINORITY OPINION
<p>FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO MARRY</p> <p>The petitioners sought to have the Supreme Court recognize marriage as a fundamental right, akin to the Court's 2017 declaration of privacy as a fundamental right.</p> <p>The question of declaring marriage as a fundamental right was dismissed by both the majority and minority opinions.</p>	<p>The majority view's rationale for rejection is that while marriage holds significance in an individual's life, it cannot be deemed essential for their very existence.</p>	<p>The minority viewpoint's reasoning for opposition is based on the assertion that marriage has gained its societal and legal importance primarily due to the state's regulation through legal frameworks.</p>
<p>Re-Interpretation of Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954</p> <p>The petitioners had approached the Supreme Court (SC) seeking an interpretation of the term 'marriage' within the Special Marriage Act (SMA). Their primary request was to redefine marriage as a union between "spouses" as opposed to the current definition of "man and woman." Additionally, the petitioners had sought the removal of provisions within the SMA that impose gender-based restrictions.</p> <p>The petitioners' request for a re-interpretation of the Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954 was not supported by either the majority or minority perspectives.</p>	<p>The rationale for the majority's rejection is based on the belief that, at the time the law was passed, it was intended to exclusively apply to couples of different faiths who are in heterosexual relationships.</p>	<p>The rationale behind the rejection by the minority view is that reinterpreting the SMA 1954 would essentially entail delving into the domain of legislative decision-making.</p>
<p>Queer couples' right to adopt a child</p> <p>The petitioners contended that the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) guidelines, which prohibit unmarried couples from jointly adopting children, constitute discrimination against queer couples who are unable to enter into legal marriages.</p>	<p>Majority view- Agreed with the minority view that CARA provisions are discriminatory. But these provisions cannot be struck down by the judiciary.</p> <p>Rationale for not striking down - The legislature and executive only should remove these discriminatory provisions.</p>	<p>Minority View: Invalidate Discriminatory Provisions of CARA Regulations</p> <p>Basis for Overturning: Challenging the Perpetuation of Inequality for the LGBTQ+ Community. Rejecting Assumptions of Parental Competence Based on Sexual Orientation.</p>
<p>Civil unions for queer couples</p> <p>Civil unions were initially seen as an interim step towards achieving full marriage rights, and the US Supreme Court had once followed this approach by initially recognizing civil unions before granting full marriage rights.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the petitioners made a compelling argument against civil unions, contending that they do not provide an equivalent substitute for the legal and social status of marriage. They maintained that designating non-heterosexual relationships as civil unions would convey a message to the LGBTQ+ community that their relationships are subordinate to those of heterosexual couples.</p>	<p>The majority view agrees with the minority view but emphasizes that the judiciary should not mandate civil unions as a preferred option for queer couples. Instead, the majority opinion suggests that the state, including the legislature and executive branches, should support and enable this choice, but only for those queer couples who voluntarily opt for it.</p>	<p>Minority View- Favoured the civil union and prescribed it as a 'choice' for the queer community. Located the right to form Civil Unions within the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.</p> <p>Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary should be constituted to set out the rights which would be available to queer couples in civil unions.</p>

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR AND AGAINST OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST
<p>Equality for Homosexuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Legalization of same-sex marriages promotes equality and non-discrimination. <input type="checkbox"/> The Constitution's Articles 14 and 15 prohibit discrimination based on sex. <input type="checkbox"/> The Supreme Court, in the Navtej Singh Johar case (2018), extended "sex" to include "sexual orientation." <input type="checkbox"/> Denying same-sex couples the right to marry is discrimination based on sexual orientation. <p>Right to Privacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In the K.S. Puttaswamy case (2017), the Supreme Court established the right to privacy as a fundamental right (Art 21). <input type="checkbox"/> This right includes making choices about one's body and intimate relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> Legalizing same-sex marriage safeguards the privacy of homosexual couples. <p>Legal Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex marriage provides legal protection for rights like wages, adoption, surrogacy, inheritance, joint property ownership, and healthcare. <p>Enlargement of Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex marriage is a human rights issue recognized by the United Nations. <input type="checkbox"/> It calls for the protection of the human rights of LGBT individuals, including their right to marry. <p>Significance to Homosexual Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Legalizing same-sex marriage grants same-sex relationships significance, direction, and identity. <p>Promotes Social Acceptance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Legalization of same-sex marriages fosters social acceptance, reducing discrimination and stigma against LGBT individuals. <p>Transformative Constitutionalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Legalizing same-sex marriage aligns with transformative constitutionalism and the progressive realization of minority rights. <input type="checkbox"/> The Navtej Singh Johar Case (2018) invoked these principles to invalidate Sec. 377 of the IPC. <p>No Unprecedented Move</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Granting marriage equality doesn't require a significant departure from established Supreme Court interpretation frameworks, as seen in the basic structure doctrine and right to privacy verdicts. <p>Homosexuality Beyond Urban Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexuality is not limited to urban areas; a substantial percentage resides in rural and town settings. <input type="checkbox"/> Proponents claim homosexuals make up around 7-8% of the country's population. <p>Evolving Institution of Marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage has evolved in response to prevailing social values, from Gandharva to Daiva and Arsha marriages. <input type="checkbox"/> The demand of modern times is same-sex marriage, reflecting changing social values. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Religious and Cultural Conflict: Many argue that legalizing same-sex marriage in India contradicts the prevailing religious and cultural norms, particularly those governing marriage, succession, and adoption, which are currently exclusive to heterosexual couples. 2. Legal Complexities: The introduction of same-sex marriage could potentially lead to legal complications, particularly in matters concerning adoption, child custody, inheritance, and tax regulations. 3. Children's Well-being: Opponents contend that children may fare better when raised by heterosexual parents. Given the limited societal acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community in India, this could result in stigma, discrimination, and negative effects on the mental health of children adopted by LGBTQIA+ couples. 4. Public Policy Authority: Marriage is deemed a matter of public policy and is traditionally determined by the Indian Parliament and the executive branch. Legalizing same-sex marriage would necessitate changes in various related laws, including those concerning the age of consent, bigamy, and divorce proceedings. 5. Potential for Social Unrest: In a society where same-sex marriage is not widely accepted, its legalization might provoke social unrest and disrupt established social norms and values. 6. Urban-Elitist Demand: Critics often perceive the push for same-sex marriage as an urban-elitist demand, arguing that it does not represent the wishes of rural and semi-urban areas. 7. Natural Order Argument: Some contend that marriage's primary purpose is procreation, and same-sex couples cannot biologically have children. Therefore, they argue that same-sex marriage should be prohibited as it is seen as contrary to the natural order of things.
<p>Global Acceptance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex marriage is legal in 34 countries globally. <input type="checkbox"/> Denying this right in a democratic society contradicts global principles. 	

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST
<p>Right to Marry as a Human Right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognizes the right to marry as a human right (Article 16). <p>Logical Next Step After Decriminalization of Section 377</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It's logical to assume that when a couple engages in a physical relationship, they may progress to a long-term relationship, including marriage. 	

PAST DEVELOPMENTS RECOGNISING RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDERS

Section 377 IPC and Decisions:

- Section 377 IPC previously criminalized non-heterosexual relationships, carrying a 10-year imprisonment penalty.
- In 2009, the Delhi High Court ruled Section 377 as unconstitutional in the Naz Foundation Case.
- However, the Supreme Court, in the Suresh Kumar Koushal Case in 2013, set aside the Delhi High Court's ruling.
- Ultimately, in the Navtej Singh Johar Case in 2018, the Supreme Court upheld the decriminalization of non-heterosexual relationships.

Gender Identity and NALSA Judgment (2014):

- The NALSA Judgment in 2014 established that individuals have the right to identify their own gender.
- This means that people can choose to identify as a gender different from their birth sex, such as changing from male to female or identifying as transgender.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019:

- In 2019, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act was passed by the Indian Parliament.
- This act outlines the procedures for changing one's gender and provides protection against discrimination in various establishments, both private and state-owned.

WAY FORWARD

- 1. Immediate Committee Formation:** The center should promptly establish a committee, as directed by the Supreme Court, led by the cabinet secretary. This committee's primary objective should be to grant civil union rights, inheritance, adoption, and other legal rights to homosexual couples.
- 2. Inclusive Family Laws:** The legislative body should work on enhancing Indian family laws, ensuring they are more inclusive, gender-neutral, and devoid of any discriminatory elements.
- 3. Awareness Campaigns:** Launching awareness campaigns is crucial for fostering equality and promoting acceptance of all sexual orientations, thereby broadening public understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- 4. Engagement and Dialogue:** Engaging in meaningful dialogues with religious leaders and communities can play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between traditional beliefs and contemporary attitudes towards same-sex relationships. Furthermore, there should be an increased effort to involve queer couples in discussions with politicians at local, state, and national levels.
- 5. Legal Reforms by Government:** The government should prioritize legal reforms, including amendments to the Special Marriage Act of 1954, to expeditiously address the demands of same-sex couples. Additionally, the legislature should strive to fulfill longstanding requests for horizontal reservations for transgender individuals, anti-discrimination laws, and equal access to marriage.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q) Discuss the contribution of B. R. Ambedkar in the emergence and growth of Dalit consciousness in India?

The discussion of the emergence of Dalit consciousness in India is incomplete without acknowledging the pivotal role played by B.R. Ambedkar. Dhananjay Keer has rightfully positioned Ambedkar as a prominent leader within the Dalit community, who significantly contributed to raising Dalit awareness, foregrounding their issues, and integrating them into the freedom struggle. Ambedkar's primary objective was to liberate the untouchables from the oppression of the upper castes and secure equal rights—human, civic, and political—for them. He envisioned them evolving into a distinct political force alongside Hindus and Muslims in a free India, sharing power and influence.

In 1920, after returning from the USA, Ambedkar collaborated with Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur to establish the Depressed Classes Forum. This organization paved the way for the first All India Conference of the Depressed Classes in Nagpur, where Ambedkar emphasized that the emancipation of the oppressed classes could only be achieved through their proactive efforts. By 1927, Ambedkar had initiated robust movements advocating for Dalit rights, including demands for universal access to public drinking water sources and the right for all castes to enter temples. He openly criticized Hindu Scriptures that perpetuated discrimination and organized symbolic protests to enter the Kalaram Temple in Nashik, as well as led a mass movement to access water from a public tank in Mahad.

Ambedkar worked diligently to unite the untouchables under a common banner to fight for justice and equality. He believed that their grievances could only be addressed when they gained a share in political power and were actively involved in the administration of the country. In 1936, he established the Independent Labour Party, which later evolved into the All India Scheduled Castes Federation.

During the Simon Commission and Round Table Conferences, Ambedkar asserted that untouchables should be treated as a distinct minority separate from the Hindu community, and he advocated for separate electorates.

Ambedkar's guiding principle was "Tell the slave that he is a slave, and he will revolt against his slavery." He opposed Gandhi's usage of "Harijan" and preferred the term "Dalit" as it accurately reflected the real status of the oppressed class in India. He also founded journals like "Mooknayak" to address the status of Dalits and established educational institutions for their upliftment.

Ambedkar challenged Gandhi and the Congress's commitment to Dalits by questioning the absence of Satyagraha for eradicating untouchability and criticizing the Harijan Sevak Sangh as inadequate.

In his work "Annihilation of Castes," Ambedkar called for the abolition of castes and suggested that Brahmanical priestly functions should be carried out by trained individuals from any caste under state supervision.

Ambedkar's theory of the Buddhist origin of untouchables offered a sense of pride in India's history and a psychological boost to those who had endured social discrimination. His assertion that the Mahars were the true sons of the soil instilled confidence among Dalits.

Through his writings, speeches, mass engagements, and interactions with British officials, Ambedkar relentlessly championed the cause of untouchables, aiming to improve their socioeconomic conditions. He repeatedly challenged the guardians of Hindu society while seeking support and empathy from the enlightened sections of society.

In the post-independence era, as the Chairman of the drafting committee, Ambedkar continued his mission by ensuring Dalit participation in the emerging power structure through reservation policies.

Therefore, as highlighted by Dhananjay Keer in his biography, B.R. Ambedkar brought global attention to the issues of civic, social, and political rights and liberties. He made these issues a prominent topic, garnering global publicity and international significance. His efforts instilled a sense of self-respect and human dignity among the oppressed, leaving an indelible mark on Indian history.

Q) Discuss the Afghanistan factor in India-central Asia relationship.

The significance of Afghanistan for India's regional approach lies in its geographical location and convergence of objectives with Central Asian countries, such as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. India's engagement with both Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics (CARs) is crucial for pursuing its interests in the region.

The recent developments in Afghanistan have raised geostrategic and geo-economic concerns, prompting India to recalibrate its engagement with Central Asia and the Caucasus. This has led to a need for India to adapt its approach to the changing situation.

India and the CARs share common concerns regarding Afghanistan. Strengthening strategic and security cooperation, particularly through consultations on the Afghan question, has been a key goal of India's "Connect Central Asia" policy.

The primary concern for India is the prospect of an unstable Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for radical extremists and terrorist groups. There is apprehension that groups like Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammed may utilize Afghanistan as a base for training and launching attacks against India. Additionally, the spill-over of the Afghan conflict into Central Asia is a worry for India's security environment.

Opium cultivation and drug smuggling from Afghanistan pose significant threats to both India and the CARs. The region faces challenges related to drug addiction, human trafficking, and the influence of powerful criminal networks.

India has established joint working groups on counterterrorism with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, which meet regularly. While such defense cooperation may not directly improve the security situation in Afghanistan, it can enhance the capacity of the Central Asian states to manage any potential spillover effects.

Afghanistan's significance for India lies in its relationship with the CARs, shared concerns regarding stability and terrorism, and the challenges posed by drug trafficking. Adapting India's engagement with the region and strengthening cooperation with the CARs are important in addressing these concerns and promoting stability in the wider Central Asia region.

Q) Discuss the changing dynamics of India-Israel relations under the present Indian government.

India's policy on the longest running conflict in the world has gone from being unequivocally pro-Palestine for the first four decades, to a tense balancing act with its three-decade-old friendly ties with Israel. Instances of India's balancing act in its approach towards Palestine and Israel can be observed in the following:

In favor of Palestine:

UNESCO Resolution: In December 2017, India abstained at UNESCO while voting in favor of a resolution in the General Assembly that opposed the recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital by the Trump administration.

UNHRC Voting: During the UN Human Rights Council's 46th session in Geneva, India voted against Israel in three resolutions. These resolutions focused on the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, Israeli settlement policy, and the human rights situation in the Golan Heights. India abstained on a fourth resolution seeking an UNHRC report on human rights in Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

ICC Investigation: When the International Criminal Court claimed jurisdiction to investigate human rights abuses in Palestinian territory involving Israeli security forces and Hamas, India did not take a stand against it as requested by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.

In favor of Israel:

Perceived Pro-Israel Policy: India's position has been perceived as pro-Israel in recent years.

Stabilizing Role in West Asia: While India's External Affairs Minister excluded a trip to the Palestinian territory during his visit to Israel, the Prime Minister of Palestine called for India's support to play a stabilizing role in West Asia by maintaining cooperation with all related parties.

Diplomatic Visit in 2017: In 2017, India's Prime Minister visited only Israel and did not include a visit to Palestine, breaking past trends of balancing visits to both countries.

Changing Voting Patterns: India has broken with its tradition of supporting Palestine at the United Nations. In 2019, India voted in favor of Israel at the ECOSOC to deny observer status to a Palestinian organization named Shahed. Additionally, India abstained from voting on a resolution calling for an investigation into Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip at the Human Rights Council.

These instances demonstrate India's attempts to balance its approach towards Palestine and Israel, considering various factors such as geopolitical dynamics, diplomatic engagements, and regional stability. India's stance may evolve depending on specific circumstances and its broader foreign policy objectives.

Q) What is the concept of "politicization of caste," and how does Rajni Kothari elucidate the dynamic interplay between caste and politics in the context of India?

The politicization of caste in India refers to the phenomenon where political leaders from various caste backgrounds seek to gain political advantages for themselves by harnessing caste sentiments, consciousness, and prejudices among the population. This manipulation of caste sentiments by politicians turns them into intense caste-based passions.

According to Rajni Kothari, the political process involves identifying and manipulating existing structures to mobilize support and consolidate political positions. In India, where the caste system is a prominent social structure, politics often revolves around caste-based organization. Kothari argues that this interaction between caste and democracy has led to a blend of traditional values with modernity and the modernization of traditional customs. This politicization of caste is a consequence of introducing democracy

into a traditional society, where politics often centers on conflicts and alliances between entrenched and emerging castes.

Kothari identifies three key aspects of politicization of caste: secularization, integration, and ideological. He believes that caste plays a crucial role in the success of democracy in India, setting it apart from other third-world countries that have struggled to establish democratic systems.

In conclusion, Rajni Kothari suggests that the politicization of caste has revitalized the electoral system in India. Various studies have demonstrated that due to this politicization, the influence of caste groups has grown, and even smaller castes have gained significant bargaining power thanks to their voting strength.



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HAMZA ALVI



INTRODUCTION

Hamza Alvi was a Pakistani Marxist Sociologist who is known for his analysis of State in Post Colonial Societies. His most notable contribution is the concept of **Overdeveloped State** which he gave in context of state of Pakistan.

STATE IN POST COLONIAL SOCIETIES:CONCEPT OF OVERDEVELOPED STATE

Hamza Alvi, a neo-Marxist scholar, employed a structural approach to analyze the nature of the state in Pakistan. Interestingly, his theory can be applied beyond Pakistan and is equally valuable for understanding the state in other third-world countries. Alvi firmly rejected the instrumentalist approach when it comes to third-world nations, as he believed it was only applicable to fully developed capitalist Western states.

According to Alvi, there exists a significant structural imbalance between the political and social development within postcolonial states. This imbalance implies that the political and socio-economic structures have not progressed in harmony. Consequently, these states often possess highly developed political apparatuses while their socio-economic structures remain in transition from primitive to modern. In essence, the political structure, or the state,

is disproportionately advanced compared to the socio-economic framework. Conversely, in Western countries, there is a seamless alignment between the political and socio-economic systems because both economic and political development evolved concurrently.

Alvi argues that this disparity in post-colonial states can be attributed to their colonial history. Unlike Western nations, where capitalist states naturally developed alongside the emergence of indigenous bourgeois classes, post-colonial societies inherited modern states imposed by imperial powers upon pre-modern societies. These states were primarily designed to serve the colonial masters rather than the indigenous populations. Consequently, states in these regions wield more power and enjoy greater immunity than their Western counterparts.

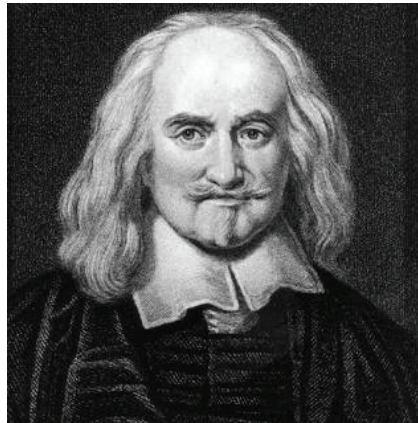
Regarding Pakistan specifically, Alvi contends that the state assumes the form of a military-bureaucratic oligarchy, where executive power is concentrated in the hands of a permanent ruling class. He suggests that states in such societies possess a distinct relative autonomy, allowing them to act as mediators or equilibrium maintainers among various classes, including the indigenous bourgeoisie, individual classes, feudal elites, and urban bourgeoisie.

CRITICISM OF OVERDEVELOPED STATE CONCEPT OF ALVI

Critics of Alavi's theory on the overdeveloped state argue that his analysis simplifies the state's role to a mere concentration of bureaucrats and military

personnel. John Saul, in particular, highlights a critical aspect missing in Alavi's analysis, which is the ideological dimension. Saul contends that Alavi's perspective overlooks the essential function of ideology in maintaining the state's role in upholding the capitalist system.

THOMAS HOBBS



INTRODUCTION

He was an English political philosopher who lived in the 17th century. He is best known for his work "Leviathan," which laid the groundwork for modern political theory. Hobbes believed that humans are naturally selfish and violent, and that a strong, centralized government was necessary to keep society from descending into chaos.

STATE OF NATURE

Hobbes believed that the natural state of humans is one of war and chaos. In the absence of government, individuals are in a constant state of competition and conflict, where life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." This state of nature is characterised by a "war of all against all," where individuals are constantly at risk of being harmed or killed by others. According to Hobbes, this makes life in the state of nature "nasty, brutish, and short."

SOCIAL CONTRACT

To escape the state of nature, Hobbes argued that individuals must enter into a social contract with each other. In this contract, individuals agree to give up some of their natural rights in exchange for protection from the government. The government, in turn, is responsible for maintaining law and order, and ensuring the safety and security of its citizens. Hobbes believed that the social contract was necessary to prevent society from descending into chaos and violence.

ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY

Hobbes believed that the best form of government was an absolute monarchy, where the ruler has unlimited power and authority. According to Hobbes, the sovereign should have complete control over all aspects of society, including religion and the economy. He believed that this was necessary to maintain order and prevent dissent. In Hobbes' view, the ruler's power was absolute and could not be challenged by the people.

RELEVANCE TO MODERN POLITICS

Hobbes' political philosophy has been influential in modern political theory, particularly in the areas of political sovereignty and social contract theory. His ideas about the need for a strong government to maintain order and prevent chaos have been echoed by many modern political thinkers. However, his view of absolute monarchy has been criticized as undemocratic and authoritarian.

CONCLUSION

Thomas Hobbes was a pioneering political philosopher whose work laid the foundation for

modern political theory. His belief in the need for a strong, centralized government to prevent society from descending into chaos and violence remains relevant today. However, his view of absolute monarchy has been met with criticism and has been replaced by more democratic forms of government. Nonetheless, his contributions to the field of political philosophy have been significant and continue to be studied and debated by scholars today.

HANNAH ARENDT



INTRODUCTION

Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) was a renowned political philosopher whose works continue to shape and challenge our understanding of politics. Through her unique lens, she examined various political phenomena and concepts, offering profound insights that resonate within the field of political science.

THE NATURE OF POWER

Arendt's examination of power is a key aspect of her political thought. She argued that power is not merely coercive force but a collective phenomenon that emerges from the actions and interactions

of individuals in a public realm. Her emphasis on power as a relational concept informs discussions on power dynamics, democratic participation, and the role of citizens in political processes.

THE CONCEPT OF AUTHORITY

Arendt delved into the concept of authority, highlighting its distinction from power. She viewed authority as rooted in legitimacy, consent, and respect rather than coercion. Her analysis sheds light on the sources of authority, the relationship between authority and obedience, and the erosion of authority in modern societies.

TOTALITARIANISM AND THE BANALITY OF EVIL

Arendt's seminal work on totalitarianism, particularly in "The Origins of Totalitarianism," remains highly influential. She examined the rise of totalitarian regimes, the erosion of individual freedoms, and the manipulation of truth in such systems. Her concept of the "banality of evil" challenged prevailing notions of evil as a result of extraordinary acts, emphasizing instead the ordinary individuals who participate in oppressive systems.

THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES

Arendt explored the distinction between the public and private realms, highlighting their significance in political life. She argued that genuine political action occurs in the public realm, characterized by plurality, freedom of speech, and public deliberation. In contrast, the private sphere represents the realm of necessity and personal affairs. Her analysis continues to shape discussions on the role of public engagement and the importance of political participation.

THE CRISIS OF MODERNITY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

Arendt critically examined the impact of modernity on the human condition. She analyzed the loss of meaningful public spaces, the rise of bureaucracy, and the challenges of individual identity in mass societies. Her insights into the disintegration of public life and the consequences for human agency and political action offer valuable perspectives for understanding contemporary political challenges.

CONCLUSION

Hannah Arendt's contributions to political science have been far-reaching and continue to provoke intellectual inquiry and debate. Her writings on power, authority, totalitarianism, the public sphere, and the human condition provide valuable frameworks for analyzing political phenomena and understanding the complex dynamics of our contemporary political landscape. By engaging with Arendt's ideas, political scientists can deepen their understanding of the intricacies of power, authority, and the nature of politics itself.

SAMUEL P. HUNTINGTON



INTRODUCTION

Samuel P. Huntington was an American political scientist known for his role as a consultant to several U.S. government agencies and his significant contributions to national discussions concerning

U.S. foreign policy during the late 20th and early 21st centuries. He was born on April 18, 1927, in New York, N.Y., and passed away on December 24, 2008, on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

CLASH OF CIVILIZATION THESIS

“The Clash of Civilizations” is a thesis put forth by American political scientist Samuel P. Huntington, which posits that in the post-Cold War world, cultural and religious identities will be the primary sources of conflict. According to Huntington, wars in this new era will not be fought between countries, but rather between different cultures.

Huntington’s line of thought began by examining various theories about the nature of global politics in the post-Cold War era. Some thinkers argued that human rights, liberal democracy, and the capitalist free market economy had become the sole remaining ideological options for nations. Francis Fukuyama, for instance, suggested that the world had reached the ‘end of history’ in a Hegelian sense.

However, Huntington contended that the age of ideology had concluded, and the world had returned to a more typical state of affairs characterized by cultural conflicts. In his thesis, he proposed that cultural lines would be the primary source of conflict in the future.

Huntington went on to predict and describe major clashes that would occur among different civilizations. He anticipated potential cooperation between Islamic and Sinic cultures in opposition to the West, identifying three key issues that separated the West from the rest. These issues included the West’s ability to maintain military superiority by controlling the proliferation of emerging powers, the promotion of Western political values like human rights and democracy, and the restrictions on non-Western immigrants and refugees entering Western societies. Non-Western countries saw these actions as Western attempts to impose and preserve their cultural dominance.

In one of his chapters, titled “The Global Politics of Civilizations,” Huntington foresaw a “small, fault line war” between Islam and the West, as well as the potential for an “intercivilizational war of core states” between the United States and China.

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ENRICH YOUR ANSWER

Q: Is it possible to bring together the perspectives of Gandhi and Ambedkar on modern India. In what ways do their perspective differ and in what aspect can it be reconciled.

Approach

Intro: Upendra Baxi → Understanding Gandhi is incomplete without understanding relation between Gandhi's and Ambedkar's views.

Body:

① Mention the differences in perspectives.

↳ On the issue of caste.

↳ On Varna system.

↳ On Path of development

↳ On method of social change.

② In what aspects their perspectives be reconciled.

↳ both shared vision of social justice.

↳ both supported secular state.

↳ both believed in social harmony, bridging gaps by compromises, avoiding conflicts.

Conclusion: Considering contemporary social movements which has lost emancipatory zeal, there is need to revisit the ideas of Gandhi and Ambedkar.

Q) Comment: Foucault's concept of power (10) (UPSC Mains, 2023)

Intro → start with post modernist idea - meta narratives
→ book name of Foucault - 'history of sexuality'

Body → establish knowledge - power connection
→ knowledge flows in society like blood in capillaries
→ Man is product of discourses
→ Concept of biopower and governmentality

Criticism → element of universalism
→ no alternatives provided

Conclusion → enriches and establishes political science as a borderless & bottomless sea (Dakshott)

Q) Examine communitarian critique of Rawls theory of Justice.

Introduction:

→ Start with key tenets of Rawlsian theory:

- i) Individualism
- ii) Original position
- iii) Justice as fairness
- iv) Veil of ignorance

→ Mention Rawls book - "A theory of Justice"

→ Communitarian critique of key tenets

→ use Michael Sandel

↳ book - Liberalism & the limits of justice "

→ Michael Walzer

↳ book → "spheres of justice"

Conclusion

→ Rawls accepted reasonable pluralism as pre-condition in book 'Political Liberalism'

→ gave concept of overlapping consensus.

Q) Analyze the concept of ideology from various viewpoints and distinguish between the ideas of the "End of Ideology" and the "End of History."

Approach to Answer

Intro: Define ideology
eg coherent set of ideas that provides the basis for organised political action which is intended to either preserve, modify or overthrow the existing political order.

Body

① Give different perspectives on ideology.

→ Marxist perspective
→ linked ideology to delusion & mystification
→ Gramsci linked it to hegemony.

→ Liberal Perspective
* ideology as 'closed system of thoughts'

→ Conservative Perspective
* ideology is equated with dogmatism of beliefs that are divorced from complex real world.

② Distinguish between 'End of Ideology' and 'End of History'

End of Ideology
Daniel Bell

* Economics has triumphed over politics and political ideology has come to an end

End of History
Francis Fukuyama

* With triumph of liberalism, the history of ideas has ended.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which one of the following reflects the nicest, appropriate relationship between law and liberty?
(a) If there are more laws, there is less liberty. (b) If there are no laws, there is no liberty.
(c) If there is liberty, laws have to be made by the people. (d) If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.
2. Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the "Rule of Law" ?
 1. Limitation of powers
 2. Equality before law
 3. People's responsibility to the Government
 4. Liberty and civil rightsSelect the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 4 only (c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
3. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?
(a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution
(b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV
(c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part. III
(d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution
4. Consider the following statements :
 1. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.
 2. The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of the judiciary.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
5. Which of the following articles of the Constitution of India empowers the government to conduct a caste census?
(a) Article 330 (b) Article 332 (c) Article 338 (d) Article 340
6. Which article of the Indian Constitution protects the freedom of the press?
(a) Article 19(1)(a) (b) Article 19(1)(b) (c) Article 19(2) (d) Article 21
7. The freedom of the press in India is subject to reasonable restrictions under which article of the Indian Constitution?
(a) Article 19(1)(a) (b) Article 19(1)(b) (c) Article 19(2) (d) Article 21
8. Which of the following is not a valid reason for curtailing the freedom of the press in India as per Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution?
(a) In the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India
(b) In relation to contempt of court
(c) In the interests of the economic well-being of the country
(d) In relation to defamation

9. In which case did the Supreme Court of India uphold the ban on a book critical of Islam in 2010?
- (a) The Romesh Thapar case (b) The Maneka Gandhi case
(c) The S. Rangarajan case (d) The Masood Ahmad case
10. Who/Which of the following is the custodian of the Constitution of India?
- (a) The President of India (b) The Prime Minister of India
(c) The Lok Sabha Secretariat (d) The Supreme court of India
11. “To uphold and protect the Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity of India” is a provision made in the
- (a) Preamble of the Constitution (b) Directive Principles of State Policy
(c) Fundamental Rights (d) Fundamental Duties
12. The ideal of Welfare State’ in the Indian Constitution is enshrined in its
- (a) Preamble (b) Directive Principles of State Policy
(c) Fundamental Rights (d) Seventh Schedule
13. Consider the following statements regarding the Directive Principles of State Policy:
1. The Principles spell out the socio-economic democracy in the country.
 2. The provisions contained in these Principles are not enforceable by any court.
- 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
14. Under which schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?
- (a) Third Schedule (b) Fifth Schedule (c) Ninth Schedule (d) Twelfth Schedule
15. With reference to the constitution of India, prohibition or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following?
- (a) The decisions taken by the Election Commission of India while discharging its duties can not be challenged in any court of law.
(b) The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by laws made by the parliament.
(c) In the event of grave financial crises in the country, the President of India can declare Financial Emergency without the counsel from the cabinet.
(d) State Legislatures can not make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of the Union legislature.
16. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017?
1. Pregnant women are entitled for three months pre-delivery and three months post-delivery paid leave
 2. Enterprises with creches must allow the mother minimum six creche visits daily
 3. Women with two children get reduced entitlements.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 1,2 and 3
- Q17. With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements :
1. No High Court shall have the jurisdiction to declare any central law to be constitutionally invalid.
 2. An amendment to the Constitution of India cannot be called into question by the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

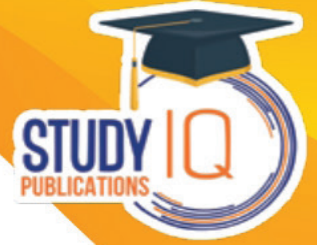
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (c)
4. (b)
5. (d)
6. (a)
7. (c)
8. (c)
9. (d)
10. (d)
11. (d)
12. (b)
13. (c)
14. (b)
15. (b)
16. (c)
17. (d)

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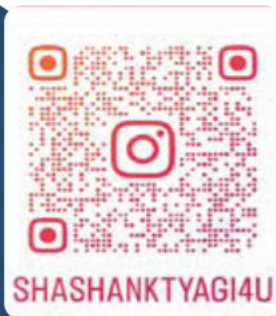
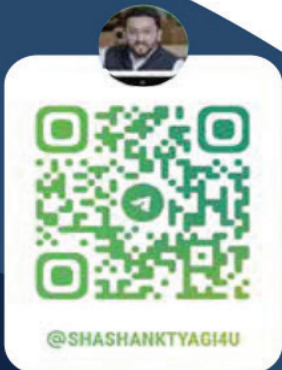
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