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STUDY IQ PUBLICATIONS

TRUMP ERA IS BACK

RELEVANCE

- **Syllabus:**
  - **PSIR:** India and the Global Centres of Power
  - **GS2:** International Relations

INTRODUCTION

In an unexpected outcome of the U.S. presidential election, Donald Trump has secured a second term as President. His first term included numerous drastic measures that were unconventional for U.S. leadership. His re-election signals possible economic changes in the U.S., which could influence global economies, including India.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

- **Strategic Policies**: President Biden has upheld several key strategies from Trump's tenure, emphasizing India's central role in the U.S.'s Asia strategy. This includes reducing Pakistan's importance while addressing China as a primary challenger.
- **Quad's Evolution**: The Biden administration elevated the Quad framework to summit-level discussions, boosting collaboration among India, Japan, Australia, and the U.S. on regional security matters.
- **Technology Initiatives**: January 2023 saw the launch of the iCET initiative to enhance India-U.S. cooperation on advanced technologies such as semiconductors and jet engine development.

- **Economic Policies**: Biden continued the Trump-era tariffs on China, aiming to minimize risks in U.S.-China economic ties while strengthening supply chains that involve India.
- **Defense Relations**: The U.S. has become India's top defense partner, accounting for nearly half of India's total defense exports.
- **Regional Stability Efforts**: Through the Quad, Biden expanded collaboration with India in areas like maritime security, disaster response, telecommunications, and cybersecurity, aligning with India's non-military vision for the alliance.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

- **Russia-Ukraine War**: India and the U.S. have differing stances on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While the U.S. expects India to criticize Russia outright, India has maintained a balanced position, exemplified by Prime Minister Modi attending a BRICS summit hosted by Russia.
- **Diplomatic Criticism**: Comments from U.S. officials about India's democratic and religious freedoms, as well as statements from Ambassador Eric Garcetti on Manipur and human rights, caused friction. India responded by summoning a senior U.S. diplomat.
- **Assassination Allegations**: Reports of a plot involving Indian security officials targeting a U.S. citizen have added to distrust and strained the bilateral relationship.

TRUMP'S CONTROVERSIAL GLOBAL POLICIES

- **Trade Policy**: His "America First" strategy has involved imposing tariffs on imports to protect domestic industries, with a proposed 10% tariff on all imports potentially disrupting global trade.
- **Foreign Alliances**: Trump criticized NATO allies for insufficient defense spending and considered reducing U.S. commitments to international alliances, which could weaken collective security frameworks.
- **Immigration Policy**: Stricter immigration rules, including limitations on H-1B visas, impacted global mobility, particularly for Indian professionals.
- **Climate Policy**: Withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and easing environmental regulations during his first term hindered global efforts to combat climate change.

POLICIES TOWARD INDIA DURING TRUMP'S FIRST TERM

- **Defense Partnership**: India was designated as a Major Defense Partner, facilitating advanced military technology transfers. The COMCASA agreement in 2018 improved interoperability between the two militaries.
- **Trade Growth and Disputes**: Although bilateral trade increased, disputes over tariffs and market access led to the U.S. revoking India's GSP status in 2019.
- **Strategic Realignments**: Reviving the Quad aimed to counter China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Immigration Restrictions**: Tightened rules on H-1B visas significantly impacted Indian IT professionals working in the U.S.

POTENTIAL NEGATIVES OF TRUMP'S RE-ELECTION FOR INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

- **Increased Tariffs**: Trump's proposed 20% tariff on all imports and 200% duties on automobiles could escalate trade tensions. His earlier withdrawal of India's GSP status and tariffs on Indian goods may be reinstated, harming industries like textiles and pharmaceuticals.
- **Volatile Trade Relations**: Trump's unpredictable trade negotiations could create frequent disputes, making it harder for India to ensure stable export growth.

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- **Budget Deficits and Global Markets**: Trump's tax cuts, despite a high U.S. deficit, could disrupt global bond markets, affecting India and other emerging economies.
- **Monetary Policies**: Trump's influence on the Federal Reserve could limit India's Reserve Bank from implementing rate cuts, reducing its ability to stimulate economic growth.
- **Space and Satellite Competition**: Increased lobbying by U.S. firms in the space sector could challenge India's ambitions and partnerships.

POTENTIAL POSITIVES OF TRUMP'S RE-ELECTION FOR INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

- **Revival of Trade Talks**: Trump's interest in resuming Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India could boost trade volumes and technology transfers.
- **Military Cooperation**: Trump has signaled support for providing advanced U.S. military hardware to India, aligning with its modernization goals.
- **Reduced Pressure on Human Rights**: India might face less scrutiny from the Trump administration on issues like minority rights and press freedoms.
- **Action Against Khalistani Separatists**: Trump is expected to act against Khalistan groups in the U.S., which could benefit India. His stance against Canada's Justin Trudeau government is also seen as favorable for India.
- **Immigration Reforms**: Proposed green card reforms for international students could encourage more Indian students to study and work in the U.S.
- **Corporate Tax Reductions**: Lower U.S. corporate taxes could increase demand for Indian outsourcing services.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIA

- **Strategic Partnerships**: Strengthen ties with the U.S. in defense and energy sectors to capitalize on Trump's policies.
- **Trade Diversification**: Enhance domestic demand and diversify export markets to mitigate risks from U.S. tariffs.
- **Cautious Monetary Policies**: The Reserve Bank of India should prioritize stability in response to global market fluctuations influenced by U.S. policies.
- **Immigration and Education**: Foster collaborations in education and technology to maximize benefits from U.S. immigration reforms.
- **Regional Leadership**: Use development programs to bolster India's influence in South Asia, compensating for reduced U.S. involvement in the region.

INDIA-CANADA AND KHALISTAN

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

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

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

India-Canada relations have historically fluctuated between cooperation and tension, impacted by various political, economic, and cultural factors. Here's an overview of the evolution and current status of these relations:

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

India and Canada established diplomatic ties in 1947, grounded in shared democratic values and people-to-people connections. However, the relationship has faced several phases of deterioration and improvement:

1. **Initial Tensions**: Canada's support for a plebiscite in Kashmir (1948) and opposition to India's nuclear tests (1974, 1998) strained relations. Canada's call for disarmament and India's refusal to sign treaties like the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) widened the divide.
2. **Khalistan Movement**: In the 1980s, Canada's perceived leniency toward the Khalistan movement became a point of contention, especially after the Air India bombing in 1985. The Khalistan issue has resurfaced since 2015, coinciding with Justin Trudeau's leadership and the influence of pro-Khalistan elements within Canada's political landscape.
3. **Renewed Cooperation**: From 2006-2015, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's administration saw a thaw, marked by multiple high-level visits and the celebration of the "Year of India in

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Canada." PM Modi's visit in 2015 elevated the relationship to a strategic partnership.

RECENT DIPLOMATIC STRAINS AND KEY ISSUES

India-Canada relations have recently deteriorated due to diplomatic fallout related to the Khalistan movement and accusations surrounding the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a pro-Khalistan leader in Canada. Tensions increased as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau suggested potential involvement by Indian agents, which India has firmly denied. Key challenges include:

1. **Khalistan and Separatism**: India has criticized Canada for its perceived leniency toward Khalistani sympathizers, citing incidents such as Trudeau's association with pro-Khalistan figures and increased anti-India activities in Canada. This has impacted diplomatic relations, with India recently expelling Canadian diplomats.
2. **Economic Implications**: The diplomatic fallout endangers the stalled Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and jeopardizes Canadian investments in India, such as the $75 billion in Canadian pension funds. Additionally, disruptions in bilateral trade—such as India's significant import of pulses and fertilizers from Canada—pose economic concerns.
3. **Indian Diaspora and Remittances**: Canada is home to over 1.6 million Indians, including 427,000 students, and ranks among the top ten sources of remittances to India. Tensions could impact the mobility of students and the welfare of Indian expatriates.

SIGNIFICANCE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION

Despite political strains, India and Canada have vital mutual interests that underscore the significance of their relationship:

1. **Trade and Investment**: Canada is India's tenth-largest trading partner, with strong investments from Canadian pension funds in Indian companies, including stakes in Kotak Mahindra and Infosys.
2. **Indo-Pacific Strategy**: Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy recognizes India as a key regional partner amid growing concerns over China, emphasizing shared values of democracy and pluralism.
3. **Education and Technology**: India is the largest source of international students in Canada, benefiting Canadian education institutions. Collaborative projects in science, technology, and space exploration also remain pivotal, including cooperation between ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Engagement with the Sikh Diaspora**: India could deepen engagement with the Sikh diaspora to mitigate Khalistani narratives and foster constructive relations within Canada.
2. **Separating Political and Economic Interests**: India and Canada should aim to "de-hyphenate" trade relations from political disputes. A return to FTA negotiations could bolster bilateral trade and promote economic stability.
3. **Track II Diplomacy and Civil Society Involvement**: Dialogue initiatives through civil society and media can help address misunderstandings and foster positive perceptions among the public in both countries.

CONCLUSION

A collaborative approach could help address the recent strains and re-establish strong diplomatic and economic ties between India and Canada.

INDIA-ASEAN RELATIONS

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

- **PSIR:** India and South Asia
- **GS2:** India and its neighbourhood

INTRODUCTION

The PM of India attended the 21st East Asia summit and ASEAN-India Summit in Laos, which will provide a boost to India-ASEAN relations. PM Modi announced a 10 point plan to strengthen India-ASEAN relations

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF INDIA-ASEAN RELATIONS

India and Southeast Asia share centuries-old connections rooted in cultural, religious, and commercial exchanges. Formal ties began in 1992 when India was granted the status of a Sectoral Dialogue Partner with ASEAN, allowing for Secretary-level discussions. By 1995, this relationship was elevated to a Dialogue Partner status, where interactions moved up to the level of Foreign Ministers, symbolizing a deepening political and economic engagement. The year 2002 marked another milestone when annual summits between India and ASEAN leaders became a norm, highlighting the importance of Southeast Asia in India's strategic thinking. This growth culminated in a Strategic Partnership in 2012, emphasizing maritime and security collaboration. In 2022, to celebrate 30 years of engagement, the relationship was upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnershipy

AREAS OF INDIA-ASEAN COOPERATION

1. **Geopolitical Cooperation**: ASEAN and India maintain multi-tiered engagements, including summits like the ASEAN-India Summit and regular foreign minister meetings. India's involvement in ASEAN-led frameworks, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional

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Forum (ARF), demonstrates its commitment to regional security and stability.

2. **Geostrategic Cooperation**: The **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** has been essential for promoting security and maritime stability, particularly amid rising tensions in the South China Sea. India and ASEAN also established funds such as the **ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund** to back collaborative initiatives.
3. **Geo-Economic Cooperation**: ASEAN ranks as India's fourth-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching around USD 70 billion in recent years. The **ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, signed in 2009 and expanded in 2014 to cover services and investments, remains vital to strengthening economic ties.
4. **Connectivity Initiatives**: Projects like the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** and **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project** aim to bolster regional connectivity, linking India's Northeast with Southeast Asia.
5. **Cultural and Social Engagements**: India offers **scholarships** and **cultural exchange programs** to ASEAN students, fostering a strong people-to-people bond.

KEY CHALLENGES IN INDIA-ASEAN RELATIONS

1. **Geopolitical Tensions**: The increasing rivalry between the U.S. and China has impacted regional dynamics, with India's involvement in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) raising some ASEAN members' concerns. Additionally, **India's strained relationship with China** and ASEAN's internal divisions over issues like the Myanmar coup complicate its efforts to maintain a united stance.
2. **Economic Hurdles**: India's decision to withdraw from the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** has caused disappointment among ASEAN nations. Moreover, trade imbalances and non-tariff barriers have hindered the full potential of ASEAN-India trade relations .
3. Comparatively slow progress on infrastructure projects, such as the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway**, contrasts with China's Belt and Road Initiative, affecting ASEAN's perception of India's regional commitment.
4. **Internal ASEAN Divisions**: The Myanmar crisis, for instance, has led to differing responses among ASEAN countries, making it challenging for India to align its policies consistently with the bloc's collective approach.

WAY FORWARD FOR STRENGTHENED RELATIONS

1. **Enhanced Trade Agreements**: Expanding the **ASEAN-India FTA** can address trade imbalances and non-tariff issues, facilitating smoother economic ties.
2. **Accelerated Infrastructure Projects**: Fast-tracking the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway** and the **Kaladan Project** would improve both trade and people-to-people connectivity.
3. **Geopolitical Reassurance**: India's continued support for ASEAN's centrality in regional security could further bolster its strategic partnerships within Southeast Asia.
4. **Exploring Emerging Sectors**: Focusing on digitalization, health, and advanced manufacturing will keep India-ASEAN relations dynamic and relevant to current global trends.
5. **Strengthening Semiconductor Diplomacy**: Expanding semiconductor collaborations beyond Malaysia and Singapore would help India and ASEAN deepen technological ties in line with global digital transformation.

CONCLUSION

India's commitment to ASEAN's unity, coupled with collaborative trade, security, and cultural initiatives, remains essential for sustained mutual growth and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

16TH BRICS SUMMIT

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

- **PSIR:** India and the global south
- **GS2:** Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

INTRODUCTION

The 16th BRICS Summit, organized by Russia, recently took place in Kazan. It marked the first summit at the level of BRICS+ expansion, where leaders of newly included BRICS nations—Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Iran, and Saudi Arabia—also participated. The summit included a special BRICS outreach session, which saw attendance from approximately 30 leaders from the Global South.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE 16TH BRICS SUMMIT

1. **Kazan Declaration** - The Kazan Declaration was formally adopted, highlighting the necessity for a fairer global governance framework and promoting peaceful solutions to international conflicts through dialogue.
2. **BRICS Pay** - A payment system alternative to SWIFT was introduced in Kazan, aimed at supporting trade within member nations and decreasing dependence on Western financial systems.
3. **BRICS Grain Exchange** - The BRICS Grain Exchange was established to strengthen food security and boost agricultural collaboration among BRICS members.
4. **Cross-Border Payment System** - Members examined the potential for a BRICS Cross-Border Payment System, intended to deepen economic integration among the countries.

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5. **Political and Security Cooperation** - The summit also advocated reforms in global institutions, such as the UN and IMF, to ensure developing countries receive fair representation.

HISTORY OF BRICS EVOLUTION

1. **2001 - Term 'BRIC' Coined**: The concept of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) was introduced by economist Jim O'Neill from Goldman Sachs, who predicted that these emerging economies would significantly impact the global economy by 2050.
2. **2006 - Initial Informal Engagement**: The BRIC countries held their first informal meeting at the G8 Outreach Summit in St. Petersburg, marking the start of diplomatic collaboration and dialogue on economic and developmental issues.
3. **2009 - First BRIC Summit**: The inaugural BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, focusing on global governance reform, economic cooperation, and common challenges in development and security.
4. **2010 - South Africa's Inclusion**: South Africa joined the group in 2010, resulting in the rebranding to BRICS, adding greater diversity and representing a larger portion of the Global South.
5. **2014 - Launch of New Development Bank (NDB)**: BRICS established the NDB to offer development finance for emerging and developing economies, with an initial capital of $100 billion, aiming to reduce dependency on Western-led institutions.
6. **2023 - BRICS+ Expansion**: BRICS added six new members—Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, Argentina, and the UAE—ushering in BRICS+ and broadening the platform's geopolitical and economic reach.

SIGNIFICANCE OF BRICS AS A MULTILATERAL GROUPING

1. **Promoting Multipolarity**: BRICS supports a multipolar world order, advocating for economic and political balance and diminishing Western hegemony by creating a space for emerging economies (representing approximately 41% of the global population and 28% of GDP).
2. **Representation of the Global South**: As a voice for the Global South, BRICS allows developing nations to address global issues collectively. The recent inclusion of countries like Egypt and Ethiopia enhances this representation.
3. **Alternative to Bretton Woods Institutions**: Institutions like the NDB and BRICS Contingency Reserve Agreement offer alternatives to the World Bank and IMF, addressing development and financial needs of the Global South.
4. **Reducing Western Dependence**: The group promotes de-dollarization by encouraging the use of local currencies in trade, aiming to reduce reliance on the dollar in global transactions.
5. **Energy Cooperation Platform**: The BRICS+ nations account for 45% of global oil production capacity, which can provide an alternative to OPEC+ and address energy concerns within the bloc.
6. **Focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**: BRICS prioritizes reducing poverty, food security, and sustainable development, aligning with United Nations' SDGs.

CHALLENGES FACING BRICS

1. **Expansion Pressures**: China's push for including nations like Belarus, perceived as being heavily influenced by Beijing, raises concerns that BRICS may lean towards a China-centric agenda, which India opposes.
2. **Balancing Core Identity**: As BRICS grows, it faces a choice between retaining its focus on South-South cooperation or becoming a larger

geopolitical force, which may dilute its original purpose.

3. **Political Divisions**: Members have distinct political systems and ideologies, from India's democracy to China's communist model, leading to differing stances on issues such as UNSC reforms and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
4. **Economic Disparities**: The economic size of BRICS members varies significantly, with China and India as major economic players while others like Brazil and Russia have smaller economies, creating an imbalance in influence.
5. **China's Dominance**: China's economic size and export dominance within BRICS have led to concerns of it exerting undue influence, raising tensions over its potential to steer the agenda.
6. **Limited Impact on Global Reform**: Despite efforts, BRICS has had minimal success in reforming Bretton Woods institutions or achieving significant de-dollarization.
7. **Consensus Difficulties on Key Issues**: Differences in member perspectives, notably on the Russia-Ukraine war, create challenges in reaching unified positions on major international matters.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR BRICS

1. **Establishing a Rule-Based Order**: A clear, rule-based framework can prevent any nation from dominating the grouping and allow BRICS to focus on constructive goals rather than anti-West sentiment.
2. **Balancing Influence within BRICS**: Reducing the influence of China, Russia, and India is crucial for BRICS to evolve into a more pan-continental representative of emerging economies.
3. **Transparent Membership Expansion**: A structured expansion policy would help BRICS grow systematically, ensuring that new members align with the group's objectives.
4. **Institutionalizing a Permanent Secretariat**: A permanent secretariat would enhance BRICS' operational efficiency and improve coordination on strategic initiatives across member states.
5. **Addressing Power Disparities**: Creative solutions, especially from India, can help mitigate Chinese influence and maintain equitable power distribution within BRICS, supporting a more balanced and united front.

CONCLUSION

Through these measures, BRICS can enhance its relevance as a voice for the Global South, balance geopolitical interests, and effectively pursue economic and developmental goals on the world stage.

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INDIA-CHINA LAC AGREEMENT SIGNED

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

- **PSIR:** India and the Global Centres of Power
- **GS2:** India and its Neighborhood- Relations

INTRODUCTION

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri recently announced that India and China had reached a mutual agreement on patrolling protocols along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This agreement is focused on resolving border issues that arose after the 2020 Chinese incursions. However, concerns still loom over unresolved "legacy disputes" in areas like Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE RECENT INDIA-CHINA LAC AGREEMENT

1. **Patrolling Protocols** - The agreement permits both nations to resume patrols along earlier established routes. This move aims to restore the pre-2020 status quo.
2. **Disengagement Process** - The agreement also emphasizes completing the disengagement process, a topic of ongoing negotiations for the last four years.
3. **Reduction of Military Presence** - Under this agreement, both India and China will withdraw a small number of forces to reduce the risk of conflict. Regular meetings for monitoring and review will ensure compliance with these protocols.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT FOR INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

The LAC agreement between India and China holds significant potential for their bilateral relations.

1. **De-escalation of Tensions** - This agreement is a step towards de-escalating tensions in a region that has seen heavy military presence from both sides. It decreases the chances of confrontations similar to the Galwan incident in 2020, fostering stability along the border.
2. **Restoration of Diplomatic Relations** - If the agreement is implemented successfully, it could open avenues for higher-level diplomatic engagements, particularly in forums like BRICS and SCO.
3. **Economic and Trade Relations** - A return to normalized military interactions is likely to improve economic ties, with possibilities like the resumption of flights and increased Chinese investments in India.
4. **Influence on Regional Stability** - A stable relationship between India and China could serve as a model for resolving other territorial disputes across Asia, affecting how neighboring countries view China's border policies.
5. **Path for Long-term Territorial Dispute Resolution** - This agreement could pave the way for resolving "legacy issues" like Depsang and Demchok in the future.

CHALLENGES IN RESOLVING THE INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

1. **Historical Disagreements and 'Legacy Issues'** - The India-China border conflict has a complex history dating back to the 1962 war. Long-standing issues, like disputes over the Depsang Plains and Demchok, continue to hinder resolution efforts.
2. **Unilateral Chinese Actions** - China's unilateral attempts to alter the LAC's status quo, including military incursions into Indian territories, have escalated tensions in the past, complicating resolution efforts.
3. **Strategic Concerns and Nationalistic Sentiments** - The strategic value of the disputed areas, combined with nationalistic sentiments on both sides, complicates the prospect of compromise.
4. **Military Build-up and Infrastructure Development** - Both countries have strengthened their military presence and infrastructure along the LAC, adding complexity to the conflict.
5. **Lack of Trust and Mutual Suspicion** - The Galwan Valley clashes in 2020 severely impacted trust levels between India and China, creating a volatile atmosphere unfavorable to long-term conflict resolution.
6. **Imbalance in Buffer Zones** - The disengagement process has established buffer zones that disproportionately affect India's territory, adding tension and complicating conflict resolution efforts.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Continued Dialogue and Negotiations** - Both nations must keep high-level communication open to encourage negotiations and understanding. Military, political, and diplomatic talks should remain active to reduce LAC tensions in the future.
2. **Establishment of Trust** - To foster mutual trust, both countries should refrain from unilateral actions aimed at altering the status quo.
3. **Resolve Legacy Issues** - Long-standing issues, including unresolved border claims, should be part of future LAC negotiations for a comprehensive dispute resolution.
4. **Balanced Disengagement** - Future disengagements should aim for balanced territorial allocation in buffer zones to maintain equilibrium, aiding in a peaceful resolution.

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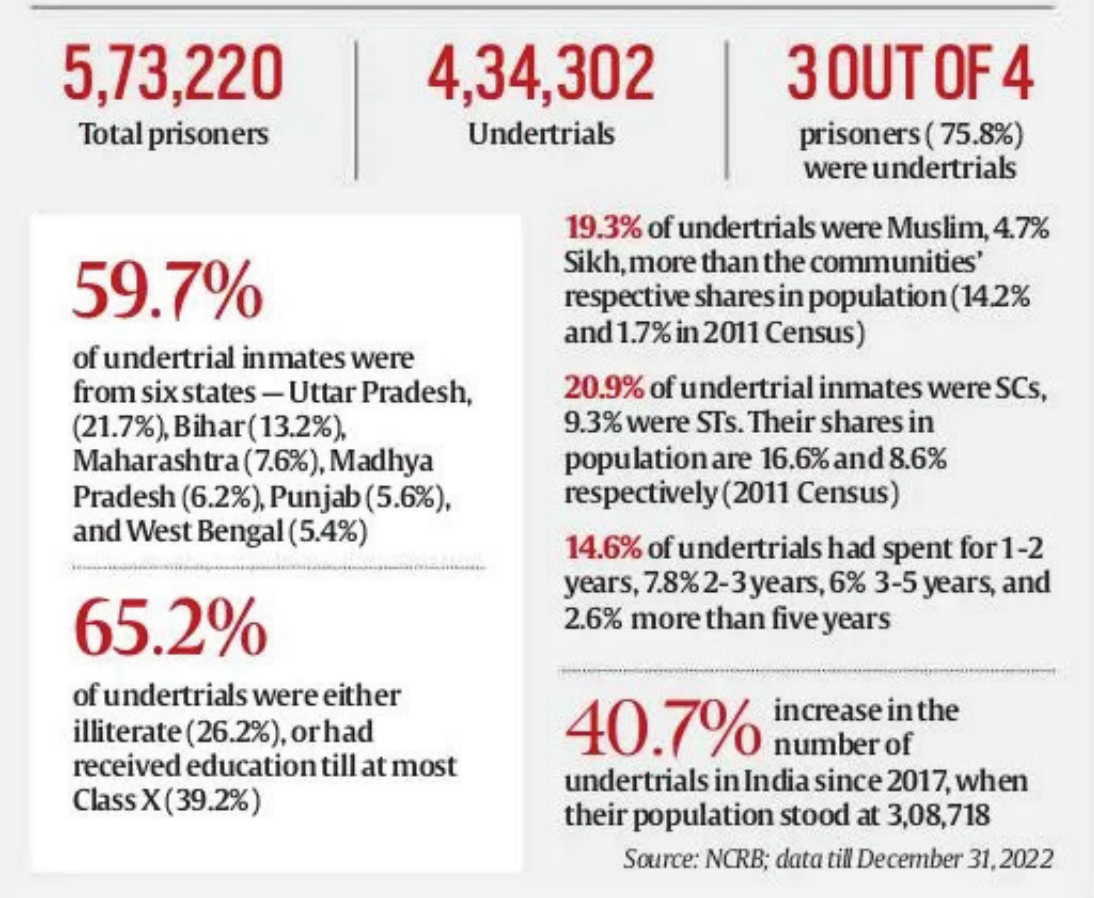
UNDERTRIALS IN INDIA

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

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



INTRODUCTION

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has urged the release of undertrial prisoners who have served over one-third of the maximum sentence, This directive reflects a step toward addressing overcrowding and ensuring justice for undertrial prisoners.

STATUS OF UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS IN INDIA

India's prisons are alarmingly overcrowded, with undertrial prisoners forming the majority of the incarcerated population.

1. **Population Statistics**:
   - As per the **NCRB Prison Statistics 2022**, undertrial prisoners constitute **75.8%** of

the total prison population, amounting to 4,34,302 out of 5,73,220 inmates.

- Among women prisoners, **76.33%** are undertrials.
- **8.6%** of undertrials have been in prison for over three years.

2. **Overcrowding**:
   - Overcrowded prisons result in inhumane living conditions and limited access to legal aid, exacerbating the plight of undertrials.

LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023:

❒ **Section 479** outlines new bail standards:

- **Eligibility**: Accused of non-capital offenses can be released if they have served **half the maximum sentence** for the alleged offense.
- **Relaxation for First-Time Offenders**: First-time offenders may seek bail after serving **one-third** of the maximum sentence.
- **Exceptions**: Does not apply in cases of multiple charges or ongoing investigations/ trials in other cases.
- **Role of Jail Superintendents**: They must apply for bail on behalf of eligible prisoners.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND JUDICIAL SAFEGUARDS

1. **Constitutional Provisions**:
   - **Article 21**: Protects life and liberty, ensuring no person is detained unlawfully.
   - **Article 22**: Provides rights to legal counsel and defense.
   - **Article 39A**: Mandates free legal aid for equitable access to justice.
2. **Supreme Court Interventions**:
   - In the case of **Re: Inhuman conditions in 1382 prisons**, the Court directed the retrospective application of Section 479 of the BNSS to ensure the release of eligible first-time offenders. States and UTs were asked to expedite this process.
3. **International Safeguards**:
   - **UDHR (1948)**: Presumption of innocence is a fundamental right.
   - **Nelson Mandela Rules**: Set global standards for the humane treatment of prisoners, including undertrials.

REASONS FOR HIGH NUMBERS OF UNDERTRIALS

1. **Judicial Backlogs**:
   - India has only **21 judges per million people**, far below the Law Commission's recommendation of 50 per million. This leads to a pendency of **4.5 crore cases** in courts.
2. **Socio-Economic Factors**:
   - Many undertrials belong to marginalized communities with poor financial resources, limiting access to bail or effective legal representation.
3. **Unnecessary Arrests**:
   - According to the **268th Law Commission Report**, over 60% of arrests are avoidable. Poverty often results in prolonged incarceration for minor offenses due to an inability to afford bail bonds or sureties.
4. **Delayed Investigations**:
   - A low **police-population ratio** (137 per lakh vs. the UN-recommended 222 per lakh) hampers timely investigations and trial proceedings.

PROBLEMS FACED BY UNDERTRIALS

1. **Prison Violence**:
   - Undertrials are vulnerable to violence, including physical assaults by other inmates or prison staff. Group violence and riots are

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common due to overcrowding and lack of effective management.

2. **Criminalizing Effect of Prison**:
   - Without a scientific classification system, first-time or circumstantial offenders are often placed alongside hardened criminals. This exposes them to negative influences, increasing the risk of criminal behavior upon release.
3. **Health Issues**:
   - Overcrowding in prisons results in insufficient space, poor hygiene, and inadequate medical facilities, leading to health complications among inmates.
4. **Mental Health Challenges**:
   - Prolonged detention without conviction causes severe mental health issues, especially for those later found innocent. Additionally, mental health support services in prisons are grossly inadequate.
5. **Drug Abuse**:
   - Many inmates are detained under anti-drug laws, and isolation in prison often exacerbates their desperation for banned substances. This fosters addiction and poses a risk of other prisoners being inducted into substance abuse.
6. **Impact on Families**:
   - Many undertrials are the sole breadwinners for their families. Their detention often plunges families into poverty and social stigma. Children of such families are particularly vulnerable to delinquency.
7. **Violation of Legal Rights**:
   - **Right to Speedy Trial**: Despite being recognized by the Supreme Court in Hussainara Khatoon vs. State of Bihar (1979), delays in trial violate this right.
   - **Right to Bail**: Undertrials often remain incarcerated due to unaffordable bail amounts, even for bailable offenses.
   - **Right to Legal Aid**: Many undertrials lack access to competent legal representation, exacerbating delays and injustices.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE

For Prisoners:

1. **Open Jails**:
   - Housing undertrials in open jails can allow greater freedom, enable them to earn a living, and maintain family connections.
2. **Compensation and Rehabilitation**:
   - Acquitted prisoners should be compensated for wrongful detention.
   - Rehabilitation programs offering vocational training and self-employment skills should be initiated.

For the Government:

1. **Bail Reforms**:
   - A comprehensive **Bail Law** is needed to prevent arbitrary arrests and reduce reliance on cash bail systems.
2. **Revamping Prison Laws**:
   - Outdated laws, such as the **Prisons Act**, should be revised to ensure constitutional compliance.
3. **Police Reforms**:
   - Separation of police functions into investigation and law enforcement can improve efficiency.
   - Sensitization programs can address biases and discriminatory practices in policing.
4. **Judicial Strength**:
   - Increasing the number of judges and addressing vacancies can reduce pendency and ensure timely trials.

Judicial Processes:

1. **Legal Aid**:
   - Expand the reach and capacity of **NALSA** (National Legal Services Authority) to provide free legal aid to undertrials.
2. **Prevent Arbitrary Adjournments**:
   - Lower courts must limit unnecessary adjournments to speed up trials.
3. **Technology Integration**:
   - Encourage video conferencing between jails and courts to avoid delays.
   - Digitize court records and procedures to streamline case management.
4. **Remand Reforms**:
   - Automatic extensions of remand periods should be discouraged, and periodic judicial oversight is essential.

CONCLUSION

Addressing the issues faced by undertrial prisoners requires coordinated efforts from all stakeholders—government, judiciary, and civil society. Legal reforms, better resource allocation, and efficient judicial processes can ensure a fairer criminal justice system, reducing the burden on undertrials and their families while upholding constitutional values.

URBAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**
- **PSIR:** Grassroots Democracy
- **GS2:** Government Policies

INTRODUCTION

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) form a crucial part of India's decentralized governance system, empowered by the 74th Amendment to manage urban development. However, their functioning is marred by financial and structural challenges, as highlighted by the recent CAG report.

CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE AND STRUCTURE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES IN INDIA

74th Amendment Act, 1992

❒ **Part IX-A** of the Constitution was introduced, containing Articles 243-P to 243-ZG, which provide the legal framework for ULBs.

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- **12th Schedule**: Lists 18 functional items under the jurisdiction of ULBs, including urban planning, public health, sanitation, and slum improvement.
- Established **three-tier governance** for urban areas:

1. **Municipal Corporations**: For cities with populations exceeding 1 million.
2. **Municipalities**: For smaller cities and towns.
3. **Nagar Panchayats**: For transitional areas moving from rural to urban.

Structure

India's urban governance includes diverse types of ULBs, tailored to specific administrative or demographic needs:

1. **Municipal Corporations (Mahanagar Palikas)**: Found in major cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi.
2. **Municipalities (Nagar Palikas)**: Operate in smaller urban areas with less than one million population.
3. **Notified Area Committees and Town Area Committees**: Handle developing towns and small settlements with basic civic needs.
4. **Cantonment Boards**: Govern areas with civilian populations in military zones, managed by the central government.
5. **Townships and Port Trusts**: Provide essential services in industrial zones or port areas.
6. **Special Purpose Agencies**: Handle specific tasks, like urban transport or water supply, outside the purview of general municipal administration.

SIGNIFICANCE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES

1. **Urban Planning and Development**:
   - Prepare and implement master plans to guide the structured development of cities, ensuring land use optimization.
   - Promote sustainable growth by integrating environmental concerns into urban policies.
2. **Service Delivery**:
   - Ensure essential services, such as water supply, waste management, street lighting, and public health, to improve the quality of urban life.
   - Efficient delivery of these services underpins the overall functioning of urban centers.
3. **Disaster and Pandemic Management**:
   - ULBs play a frontline role in disaster response and mitigation. For example:
     - ✓ The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) managed flood crises in Mumbai.
     - ✓ ULBs were instrumental in implementing COVID-19 containment measures, vaccination drives, and public awareness campaigns.
4. **Empowerment and Inclusivity**:
   - The 74th Amendment mandates reservations for women and marginalized groups, fostering their active participation in local governance.
   - Promotes equity and inclusive decision-making at the grassroots level.
5. **Community Participation**:
   - Facilitates mechanisms like **ward committees** and **public consultations**, enabling residents to engage in local governance.
   - Reflects Gandhiji's vision of **democratic decentralization**, fostering an "oceanic circle of power."

CHALLENGES FACED BY URBAN LOCAL BODIES (ULBS) IN INDIA

Urban Local Bodies are the cornerstone of decentralized governance in cities but face numerous challenges in financial, functional, and

administrative domains. These issues impede their ability to deliver efficient urban governance.

1. FUNDING CHALLENGES

1. **Dependence on Central and State Transfers**:
   - ULBs generate only a fraction of their revenue independently, relying heavily on state and central transfers (35% as per the RBI Municipal Finances Report, 2022). This dependency limits financial autonomy and delays fund disbursement.
2. **Post-GST Revenue Erosion**:
   - The GST regime subsumed key local taxes like octroi and entertainment taxes, significantly reducing ULB revenue. For example, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) lost ₹7,000 crore annually due to octroi's subsumption.
3. **Underutilization of Property Tax**:
   - Despite being a significant revenue source, property tax collections remain suboptimal. Indian ULBs collect only 10–11% of their revenue from property taxes, compared to 20–22% in China.
4. **Narrow Taxation Powers**:
   - Unlike ULBs in developed nations like Denmark (local income tax) or the US (wide-ranging municipal taxes), Indian ULBs have limited authority to impose taxes, restricting their fiscal space.
5. **Delay in State Finance Commission (SFC) Recommendations**:
   - States often fail to constitute SFCs or implement their recommendations timely, leading to a 15% shortfall in the grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

2. FUNCTIONAL CHALLENGES

1. **Parastatal Agencies' Overreach**:
   - State governments often create parallel bodies like urban development authorities, limiting ULBs' functional autonomy in areas like water supply, housing, and public transport.
2. **Incomplete Devolution of Powers**:
   - States retain significant control over urban governance, failing to delegate the 18 functions listed in the 12th Schedule.
3. **Non-functional District Planning Committees (DPCs)**:
   - Despite being mandated under the 74th Amendment, DPCs remain non-functional or ineffective in many states, undermining integrated urban-rural planning.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE AND STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

1. **Elections and Representation Issues**:
   - Delayed municipal elections leave cities without elected leadership, as seen in Bengaluru (BBMP) since 2020.
2. **Political and Bureaucratic Hurdles**:
   - Urban governance is plagued by criminalization, corruption, and bureaucratic dominance, reducing the effectiveness of elected representatives like mayors.
3. **Staff Shortages**:
   - ULBs face a significant workforce deficit, with around 35% of municipal positions vacant (2022 data).
4. **Inefficient Urban Planning**:
   - Inadequate planning leads to unregulated urbanization, growth of slums, traffic congestion, and insufficient public amenities.
5. **Corruption and Lack of Transparency**:
   - Corruption in procurement and contract awards erodes public trust. Only 11 out of 35 states/UTs have enacted public disclosure laws.

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6. **Poor Coordination**:
   - Overlapping responsibilities between central, state, and local agencies hinder the implementation of urban policies.

WAY FORWARD

Recommendations by the 6th ARC on Urban Governance

1. **Constitution of Metropolitan Planning Committees**:
   - Ensure coordinated urban development through integrated planning.
2. **Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA)**:
   - Improve traffic management and public transport services.
3. **National Urban Development and Housing Fund (NUDHF)**:
   - Establish financial support mechanisms for urban infrastructure projects.
4. **Regular Elections and Devolution**:
   - Empower ULBs with adequate funds, functions, and functionaries.
5. **e-Governance and PPP Models**:
   - Use technology and public-private partnerships to enhance efficiency and transparency.

NITI Aayog's Recommendations

1. **Financial Reforms**:
   - Increase ULBs' revenue-raising capacity and central grants. Constitute SFCs with clear terms of reference.
2. **Capacity Building**:
   - Train urban planners and local officials in modern governance tools.
3. **Citizen Engagement**:
   - Strengthen participatory governance through ward committees and civil society partnerships.

CAG's Recommendations

- ❒ Enhance ULB autonomy by revising laws and policies to foster decentralized governance.
- ❒ Strengthen institutional frameworks for sustainable and inclusive urban development.

CONCLUSION

ULBs in India are critical for managing urbanization challenges. Addressing their funding, functional, and administrative constraints requires systematic reforms guided by the 6th ARC, NITI Aayog, and CAG recommendations. Empowering ULBs through financial independence, efficient planning, and citizen-centric governance will pave the way for sustainable urban growth.

SOUTH INDIA- AGEING POPULATION

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

- **PSIR:** Planning and Economic Development
- **GS2:** Government Policies for vulnerable section

INTRODUCTION

South India is facing a significant demographic shift, characterized by declining fertility rates and a rapidly ageing population.

Recent reports from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) underscore the growing old-age dependency ratio, which is defined as the number of individuals aged 60 and above per 100 working-age individuals (ages 15-59).

This ratio rose from 10.9% in 1961 to 14.2% in 2011, and projections estimate it will reach 20.1% by 2031gional Ageing Trends and Variations Southern states like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh show accelerated ageing due to early declines in fertility rates. By 2036, projections indicate that 25% of Kerala's population will be aged 60 and above, the highest in India, while Northern states like Uttar Pradesh are expected to have only 12% of their population in this age group .

SOUTH INDIA'S FUTURE

1. **Increased Economic Burden**: A higher old-age dependency ratio means a greater financial strain on state resources, as a smaller working-age population supports an expanding retired demographic. States must prepare for increasing expenses in pensions, healthcare, and social security systems.
2. **Political Representation**: As population counts influence parliamentary seats, there is concern

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that Southern states with lower fertility rates may lose political representation in future delimitation processes. Meanwhile, Northern states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with higher fertility rates, could gain more representation in Parliament .

3. **Healthcare**: Ageing populations require robust healthcare infrastructure, especially for geriatric and chronic care. The Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) highlighted that a significant portion of India's elderly faces chronic diseases, with around 75% living with long-term illnesses. South India's healthcare systems will need major investments to meet this growing demand .

ADDRESSING THE AGEING: SUGGESTIONS

1. **Family and Childcare Support Systems**: Instead of incentivizing childbirth directly, South Indian states could adopt Scandinavian-style policies focusing on holistic family support, which may indirectly encourage larger families.
2. **Enhancing Migration Policies**: Encouraging migration from Northern to Southern states could help maintain a balanced working-age population, as seen in the United States' pro-immigration policies.
3. **Formalizing Elderly Care and Caregiver Economy**: Establishing a well-regulated caregiver economy with trained professionals could relieve some healthcare burdens. The NITI Aayog suggests that home-based care can reduce hospital costs and ease caregiver responsibilities .
4. **Replicating International Models**: models like Switzerland's time-bank system, where younger generations "bank" care hours for use when they are elderly, could offer a sustainable solution for South India.

CONCLUSION

Addressing these demographic shifts with sustainable and equitable policies will be crucial in ensuring South India's long-term economic and social stability

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR

RELEVANCE

❒ **Syllabus:**

- **PSIR**: Planning and Economic Development
- **GS2**- India and its Neighborhood

INTRODUCTION

The significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in both strategic and economic terms is gaining prominence within the corridors of power in New Delhi. This heightened attention is evident through the renewed emphasis on enhancing major military infrastructure in the region, including the revamping of airfields, jetties, and troop habitats. To address the holistic socio-economic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Government of India has previously established the Islands Development Agency (IDA) and a committee within NITI Aayog. These initiatives underscore the growing recognition of the islands' strategic importance and the need for comprehensive development measures to unlock their economic potential.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE ISLAND

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located in the Bay of Bengal, closer to the Southeastern coast of India. The entire island chain, consisting of two groups - the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands, spans an area of 8,249 square kilometers. Of the 836 islands, including islets and rocky outcrops, only 38 are permanently inhabited.

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Governance of the islands is overseen by the Central Government of India through the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, which governs them as a single Union Territory.

The historical association of India with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands dates back to various significant events:

1. **Post-1857 War of Independence: T**he British established a penal colony in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where they incarcerated many Indian revolutionaries and freedom fighters for life.
2. **February 1942**: During World War II, the islands were occupied by the Japanese, who viewed them as a potential springboard for invading India after their capture of Singapore.
3. **December 1943**: The islands saw a moment of liberation when Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose visited Port Blair and hoisted the Indian National Army (INA) tricolor flag.
4. **1945**: Following the Japanese surrender, the British reoccupied the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
5. **Independence**: On the eve of India's independence, the fate of the islands was uncertain. While the British Chiefs of Staff recommended retaining them as Crown possessions due to their strategic location, Prime Minister Clement Atlee decided to hand them over to India.
6. **1962**: In the years following independence, the islands experienced neglect from New Delhi, partly due to their dark symbolism associated with the penal colony and their remoteness. However, in 1962, concerns about security led to the deployment of a naval garrison after reports of a Chinese submarine sighting.
7. **2001**: In response to security challenges and the need for a unified command structure, India established its first joint and Unified operational command, the Andaman Nicobar Command (ANC), in Port Blair, following a security review after the Kargil War.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Geo-strategic and Geo-Political Significance:

1. **Crucial Node for Peace and Security**: The strategic position of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands allows India to emerge as a key security provider in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. **Enhanced Maritime Partnership**: The islands' location strengthens India's maritime partnerships with countries like the US, Japan, Australia, and France, facilitating joint exercises and cooperation.
3. **Counterbalancing Chinese Influence**: India's military presence on the islands acts as a deterrent to growing Chinese influence, particularly in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean region.
4. **Protection of Maritime Chokepoints**: By securing the Malacca Strait, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands play a crucial role in ensuring the safe passage of merchant ships, thus safeguarding global trade.

Geo-Economic Significance:

5. **Mineral Deposits**: The islands offer significant potential for undersea hydrocarbon and mineral deposits, contributing to India's economic growth.
6. **Tourism Potential**: The pristine beaches and natural beauty of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands attract tourists, offering opportunities for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the hospitality sector.
7. **Maritime and Startup Hub**: Initiatives by NITI Aayog aim to develop the islands as a maritime and startup hub, fostering economic development and innovation.

Social Importance:

8. **Cultural Diversity**: Home to several indigenous tribes, the islands contribute to India's cultural diversity and serve as a repository of anthropological knowledge.
9. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**: The islands serve as a base for India to undertake HADR operations, providing assistance during natural disasters, medical emergencies, and search and rescue operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Overall, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands hold immense strategic, economic, and social significance for India, playing a crucial role in shaping its regional influence and fostering development.

CHALLENGES FACED BY ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

1. **Environmental Concerns**: Development projects can endanger the islands' unique flora and fauna, leading to ecological imbalance and loss of biodiversity.
2. **Geopolitical Insecurity:** The presence of Chinese military facilities in the vicinity poses a threat to India's maritime security and blue economy.
3. **Maritime Challenges**: Illegal migration, human trafficking, poaching, and other maritime threats undermine the islands' security and stability.
4. **Geological Vulnerability:** The islands are prone to natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis, which can devastate communities and infrastructure.
5. **Lack of Coordination**: Development efforts require coordination among various ministries, departments, and agencies, leading to administrative challenges and delays.
6. **Encroachment in Tribal Areas:** Development initiatives often encroach upon tribal lands, leading to conflicts and displacement of indigenous communities.
7. **Socio-economic Challenges**: Influx of settlers and migrants, coupled with high cost of living and limited employment opportunities, create socio-economic disparities and tensions among the local population.

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive planning, sustainable development practices, and inclusive policies that prioritize environmental conservation, indigenous rights, and socio-economic well-being.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

1. **Japan's Overseas Development Assistance**: Japan approved a USD 265 crore grant aid for development projects in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2021.
2. **NITI Aayog's Project for Great Nicobar**: This project aims to develop an international container transshipment terminal, an airport, a power plant, and a township on Great Nicobar Island.
3. **NITI Aayog's Proposal for Little Andaman**: The plan involves the development of a new greenfield coastal city on Little Andaman Island, envisioning it as a competitor to cities like Singapore and Hong Kong.
4. **Modernisation of Defence Infrastructure:** Initiatives include the establishment of a modern hangar and dispersal system at INS Utkrosh in Port Blair, as well as the development of Naval Communication Network (NCN) Centres at various locations to enhance communication and operational capabilities.
5. **Submarine Cable Connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI)**: A 2300 km submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is being laid to connect the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland, thereby improving connectivity and communication infrastructure.

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WAY FORWARD

1. **Embrace Sustainable Development:** Ensure that development activities in the Andaman and Nicobar Region align with the Sustainable Island Development Framework. Mandate Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for all projects to mitigate negative impacts. Encourage planned habitation of uninhabited islands by offering incentives like free or subsidized land to promote eco-friendly entrepreneurial ventures.
2. **Strengthen Island Security:** Develop a comprehensive Capability Development Plan for the Andaman and Nicobar Command, Coast Guard, and Andaman Police to establish an effective Island Security Model. Enhance maritime security to effectively monitor and secure the vast area surrounding the islands.
3. **Accelerate Development Initiatives:** Expedite socio-economic and infrastructural development projects to ensure holistic progress in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Focus on enhancing infrastructure, especially in the southern group of islands strategically positioned along key shipping routes, to bolster India's maritime economy.
4. **Establish Maritime Dominance:** Transform the Andaman Islands into a formidable maritime bastion to extend India's defensive perimeter and enhance its ability to project power and foster diplomatic relations with maritime neighbors. Strengthening maritime capabilities will contribute to regional stability and security.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. "Real Laws give birth to real rights"- Bentham. Critically Examine

Harold Laski defined rights as the essential conditions required for individuals to reach their full potential. Political theorists have offered various interpretations regarding the source of rights and the role of the state, with Bentham's Legal Theory of Rights being particularly influential.

Jeremy Bentham, a British philosopher and legal theorist, famously asserted that rights are "creatures of law." He explored the relationship between law and rights, arguing that it is the state, through its laws, that defines and establishes the Bill of Rights. Consequently, rights exist only as far as they are acknowledged and protected by the legal system. As a utilitarian, Bentham believed that legal rights are created to promote the greater good of society.

Bentham opposed the Natural Rights Theory of Social Contractualism, contending that tracing nature as the source of rights is abstract and merely "anarchical fallacies." He maintained that rights are neither prior nor subsequent to the state, as the state is the source of law. For instance, the right to freedom of speech is enshrined in many countries' constitutions, but without legal recognition and protection, individuals might not be able to exercise it without fear of persecution. Additionally, if the law changes, the substance of the right also changes, as exemplified by the Right to Property under the Indian constitution.

For Bentham, rights are not innate or natural but are instead created and defined by laws. Moreover, rights are not absolute and can be limited or curtailed if necessary for the greater good of society.

Bentham's perspective overlooks the fact that many rights exist independently of the law. For example, the right to life is a fundamental human right that is not created by law but is rather recognized and protected by it. Therefore, while the state can recognize rights, it cannot be the source of rights, as the legal system can be biased and discriminatory, failing to protect the rights of all individuals equally and privileging a few.

Additionally, social philosophers like Gandhi argue that the true source of rights is duty, a concept almost completely ignored by the Legal Theory of Rights. Gandhi believed that "every right comes with a responsibility," and if everyone fulfilled their responsibilities instead of insisting on their rights, the rule of law would be established among people immediately.

Bentham's view of rights was legalistic and utilitarian. Despite being contradicted by many, his ideas had a significant influence on the development of modern legal systems and on ensuring ways to safeguard basic human rights.

Q. Comment on: Because the society is federal, the authority must also be federal (Laski). (2007, 20 marks)

Harold J. Laski, a prominent political theorist and a key figure in the development of pluralist theory, emphasized the importance of aligning the structure of political authority with the nature of society. His statement, "Because the society is federal, the authority must also be federal," reflects his belief that the organization of political power should mirror the social and economic realities of a given society.

- **Federal Society**: Laski's concept of a "federal society" refers to a society that is inherently diverse, with multiple groups, communities, and interests coexisting. These groups may have distinct identities, traditions, and needs, which necessitate a decentralized approach to governance. In a federal society,

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local autonomy is crucial for accommodating this diversity, allowing different regions or groups to govern themselves in accordance with their unique circumstances.

- **Federal Authority**: Laski argues that in a federal society, political authority should also be decentralized or federal in nature. A federal authority divides power between different levels of government—central, regional, and local—ensuring that governance is more responsive to the specific needs of diverse communities. Federalism, as a system of government, allows for a balance between unity and diversity, where regional governments have significant autonomy, while a central government retains powers necessary for maintaining national cohesion.

Laski's broader political philosophy is rooted in pluralism, which posits that multiple sources of authority and power should coexist in society. He was critical of the centralization of power, arguing that it could lead to authoritarianism and the suppression of minority interests. Federalism, for Laski, is a practical manifestation of pluralism in the political sphere, where authority is dispersed across different levels, preventing any single entity from holding excessive power.

- **Autonomy and Democracy**: Laski believed that federalism is essential for democracy because it ensures that political power is exercised closer to the people. Local governments, being more in tune with the needs and preferences of their constituents, are better equipped to address specific issues, thereby enhancing democratic participation and accountability.
- **Preventing Centralization**: Laski's endorsement of federal authority also stems from his concern about the dangers of centralization. He argued that centralization can lead to a disconnect between the government and the governed, resulting in inefficient governance and potential oppression. Federalism, by contrast, prevents the concentration of power in a single authority, reducing the risk of tyranny and promoting political stability.

Laski's argument is particularly relevant in diverse and multi-ethnic societies, where regional autonomy can help manage social cleavages and prevent conflicts. Federal systems, such as those in the United States, India, and Germany, have been relatively successful in accommodating diversity while maintaining national unity.

However, critics of Laski's perspective might argue that federalism can sometimes lead to inefficiencies, particularly in policy implementation, where regional governments may lack the resources or capacity to address issues effectively. Additionally, too much regional autonomy can lead to centrifugal tendencies, where the unity of the state is undermined by regional separatism or parochialism.

Q. Comment on: Post-colonial theory of the State (2020, 10 Marks)

The post-colonial theory of the state provides a critical framework for understanding the nature and function of states that emerged from colonial rule, emphasizing the lasting impact of colonialism on their political, economic, and social structures. This theory primarily critiques the power dynamics and legacies of colonialism, focusing on how former colonies interact with global structures and their internal governance challenges.

One key aspect of the post-colonial theory is the analysis of how newly independent states often find themselves constrained by the economic and political systems established during colonial rule. Modernization theory, often advocated by Western institutions like the World Bank, suggests that by integrating into the global capitalist economy, Third-World nations can achieve development and prosperity. This approach

assumes that development follows a linear path similar to that of Western industrialized nations, implying that the global market offers equal opportunities for growth.

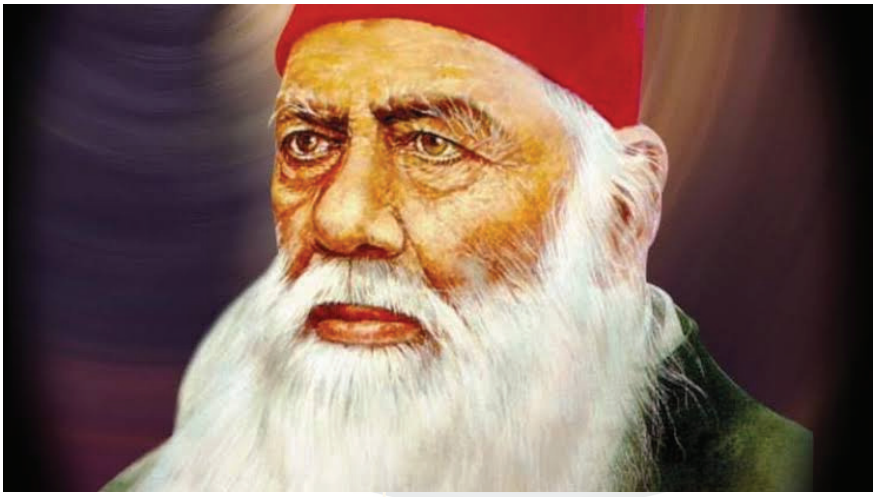
However, Marxist scholars such as Andre Gunder Frank, Samir Amin, and Immanuel Wallerstein offer a counter-perspective through dependency theory. They argue that the international economic system is inherently exploitative, benefiting developed nations at the expense of underdeveloped ones. According to them, post-colonial states are trapped in a structure of economic dependence, where the wealth of core nations (primarily in the Global North) grows by exploiting the peripheral nations (largely in the Global South). This dynamic reinforces underdevelopment and poverty in post-colonial states, maintaining their subordination within the global economy.

Hamza Alavi's concept of the "overdeveloped state" provides further insight into the nature of post-colonial governance. Alavi suggests that states in post-colonial societies, particularly in regions like South Asia, inherited bureaucratic and military institutions that were disproportionately large and powerful in comparison to the weak socio-economic structures of their societies. These states, having been shaped to serve colonial interests, were ill-suited to fostering genuine development and democracy. They became "overdeveloped" in terms of state apparatus but "underdeveloped" in their ability to meet the needs of their populations, resulting in political instability and authoritarian governance.

The post-colonial theory of the state critiques the notion that newly independent nations can seamlessly transition into modern, democratic states. Instead, it highlights how colonial legacies continue to shape the political and economic realities of these states. Post-colonial states often face challenges such as weak institutions, economic dependency, and internal divisions that reflect the socio-political fragmentation fostered by colonialism. The theory underscores the importance of understanding these states within the context of both their colonial past and their ongoing entanglement in global structures of power.

Post-colonial theory provides valuable insights into the structural inequalities that persist in the global system, which post-colonial states must navigate in their pursuit of sovereignty and development.

SIR SYED AHMED KHAN



INTRODUCTION

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (1817-1898) was a pivotal figure in the socio-political landscape of 19th century India. He was a visionary reformer, educationist, and statesman, who played a significant role in the intellectual and social upliftment of Muslims in India. His contributions laid the foundation for modern education among Indian Muslims and were instrumental in shaping the future of the community.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was born on October 17, 1817, in Delhi, into a family with strong Mughal connections. His early education was deeply rooted in traditional Islamic learning. He studied Arabic and Persian, which were the languages of administration and culture at the time. His curiosity and thirst for knowledge led him to study a wide range of subjects, including mathematics and medicine. This diverse educational background helped shape his progressive outlook and laid the foundation for his future endeavors.

CAREER AND EARLY REFORMS

Sir Syed started his career as a clerk in the East India Company, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become a judge. His exposure to British administration and legal systems influenced his thinking and approach to social reform. The events of the 1857 Revolt profoundly impacted him, highlighting the need for educational and social reforms within the Muslim community. He realized that the backwardness of Muslims in education and their alienation from modern sciences were major obstacles to their progress.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

One of Sir Syed's most significant contributions was in the field of education. He believed that the upliftment of Muslims could only be achieved through modern education. To this end, he founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh in 1875, which later became Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The college aimed to provide Western-style education while preserving Islamic culture and values. Sir Syed emphasized the importance of scientific knowledge and rational

thinking, encouraging Muslims to embrace modern sciences and English education.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Sir Syed was also a prolific writer and intellectual. He wrote extensively on various subjects, including history, politics, religion, and education. His works, such as "Asar-us-Sanadid," a comprehensive study of Delhi's monuments, and "Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq," a journal aimed at social reform, reflect his deep concern for the moral and intellectual revival of the Muslim community. His writings advocated for a rational approach to Islam, promoting an interpretation that harmonized with modern values and scientific thought.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Apart from his educational endeavors, Sir Syed was also actively involved in social and political matters. He was a strong advocate for Hindu-Muslim unity and believed that the future of India depended on the cooperation and mutual respect between its diverse communities. However, he also recognized the unique challenges faced by Muslims and worked tirelessly to address their concerns. He founded the All India Muhammadan Educational Conference, which aimed to promote education and socio-political awareness among Muslims.

LEGACY

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's legacy is vast and enduring. He is remembered as a pioneer of modern education in India and a visionary leader who foresaw the importance of education in the socio-economic development of the Muslim community. Aligarh Muslim University stands as a testament to his vision and dedication, continuing to be a leading institution of higher education in India. His efforts laid the groundwork for future generations, contributing significantly to the intellectual and cultural renaissance of Indian Muslims.

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.

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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.

MORGENTHAU

INTRODUCTION

Hans Joachim Morgenthau, born on February 17, 1904, in Coburg, Germany, and passing away on July 19, 1980, in New York, New York, U.S., was a prominent German-born American political scientist and historian. He gained recognition for his expertise as a leading analyst, focusing on the significance of power in the realm of international politics.

EARLY LIFE & EDUCATION

Morgenthau's academic journey commenced in Germany, where he pursued his education at the esteemed Universities of Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich. Following his studies in Germany, he furthered his knowledge through postgraduate work at the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva. After being admitted to the bar in 1927, he gained valuable experience by serving as acting president of the Labour Law Court in Frankfurt.

In 1932, he had the opportunity to teach public law in Geneva for a year. However, the political climate drastically changed with Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933, compelling him to extend his stay in Switzerland until 1935. During this period, he also taught in Madrid from 1935 to 1936.

Due to the troubling developments in Europe, Morgenthau emigrated to the United States in 1937, where he would later become a naturalized citizen in 1943. Throughout his American academic career, he contributed his expertise as a professor at various institutions, including Brooklyn College (1937–39), the University of Missouri–Kansas City (1939–43), the University of Chicago (1943–71), the City College of the City University of New York (1968–74), and the New School for Social Research (1974–80).

MAJOR WORKS

In 1948, Morgenthau published "Politics Among Nations," a highly esteemed study that introduced the classical realist approach to international politics. In this seminal work, Morgenthau argued that politics operates under distinct and unchangeable laws of nature, enabling states to deduce rational and objectively correct actions by understanding these laws. Central to his theory was the notion that power stands as the primary objective in international politics, defining a nation's interests.

Morgenthau's approach centered around the state, rejecting the idea that a state's moral aspirations should be equated with the universal objective moral laws. Instead, he emphasized that all state

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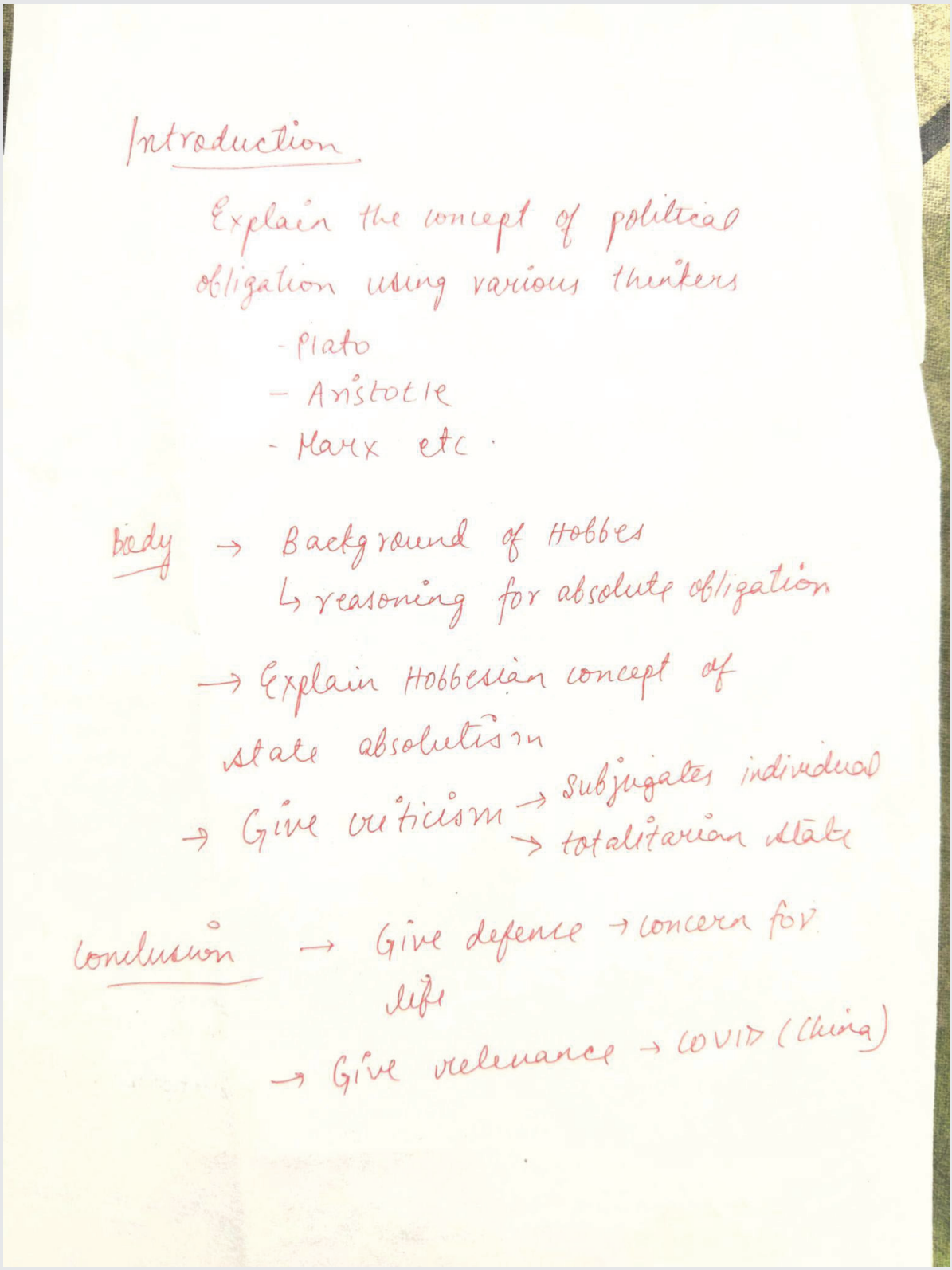
actions are driven by the pursuit of acquiring, showcasing, or enhancing power. He advocated for acknowledging the nature and limitations of power and advocated for the use of conventional diplomatic methods, including the willingness to compromise.

Morgenthau's "Politics Among Nations" laid the foundation for classical realism in international relations, stressing the centrality of power and state interests, while also cautioning against conflating moral aspirations with the practical realities of politics. He advocated for embracing traditional diplomatic approaches and finding common ground through compromise.

Q. Hobbesian Idea of Political Obligation.



Introduction

Explain the concept of political obligation using various thinkers

- Plato
- Aristotle
- Marx etc.

Body → Background of Hobbes
↳ reasoning for absolute obligation

→ Explain Hobbesian concept of state absolutism

→ Give criticism → Subjugates individual
→ totalitarian state

Conclusion → Give defence → concern for life

→ Give relevance → COVID (China)

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Q. Compare Ambedkar and Gandhi's views on Social Justice.

Q1) Compare Ambedkar and Gandhi's views on Social Justice.

Intro: Start answer by defining social justice.
Also give general introduction about Gandhi & Ambedkar

Body

(A) Mention the differences between views of Gandhi & Ambedkar

① Ambedkar was critic of Manusmriti (Manuvaad) while Gandhi believed in Varna system.

② Ambedkar held Vedas and Manusmriti responsible for social injustice while Gandhi didn't believed in it.

③ To achieve social justice
↳ Ambedkar emphasised on Affirmative Actions
↳ Gandhi emphasised on social reforms (raising the conscience of people)

④ Ambedkar preconditioned social justice to Nationalism while Gandhi believed that freedom struggle will result into social justice.

(B) Mention similarities

① Both believed in social justice and eradication of poverty

② Both have vision of egalitarian society.
Ambedkar → a society free of contradictions
Gandhi: → Ramrajya.

(Conclusion)
Can mention that both Gandhian and Ambedkar's ideas on social justice found place in Indian Constitution

Q. Circulation of elites. Comment

Approach to Answer

Intro : Start by exploining the concept of Power

Body

Explain the elitist theory of Power including Pareto's circulation of Elites theory.

↳ Elitist theory accepts broad division of society into dominant and dependent group.

↳ Pareto's theory of Power divides society into 'governing elite' and 'non governing elite'.

↳ Explain the 'governing elites' and 'non governing elites'.

↳ Can give criticism of his theory

Conclution

Show the significance of Pareto's theory in understanding the concept of Power

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PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following initiatives has been undertaken by India to promote the international use of the Indian Rupee (INR)?

(a) Establishment of the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

(b) Adoption of a fixed exchange rate regime for the INR.

(c) Imposing strict capital controls to limit INR flows across borders.

(d) Encouraging the use of foreign currencies for trade transactions.

2. The Cauvery River dispute primarily involves which Indian states, each vying for a fair share of its waters?

(a) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (b) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

(c) Tamil Nadu and Kerala (d) Kerala and Karnataka

3. The Election Commission of India consists of how many members, including the Chief Election Commissioner?

(a) One (b) Two

(c) Three (d) Four

4. Which article of the Indian Constitution outlines the provisions for the Election Commission of India?

(a) Article 320 (b) Article 340 (c) Article 324

(d) Article 330

Answers

1. (a) Establishment of the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

2. (b) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

3. (c) Three

4. (c) Article 324

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