

GS II

SYLLABUS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE.

PRESIDENTS RULE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1, 8.

News: "Manipur as a case for imposing Article 356."

News: "5,000 troops of Central forces for Manipur to quell violence."

Current situation in Manipur:

- In Manipur, the unprecedented and **horrific violence** that erupted in May 2023, continues unabated.
- **Ordinary people are forced to resort to violence** for self-protection.
- Between May 11 and November 11, 2024, **over 250 people were killed**, and more than a **lakh were displaced** due to ethnic violence.
- Recent **centre's AFSPA intervention in Manipur** has limited impact.
- **Supreme Court's intervention** was **slow and ineffective**, despite there having been 27 hearings.
- State of Manipur reflects a **classic case of the failure of the Constitutional machinery**.
- Situation **demand the immediate intervention of the President**.

Emergency Provision's under Part XVIII:

- **Art.355:**
 - Duty of **Centre to protect every State** from external aggression and internal disturbance's.
 - Centre to ensure that every **State govt. operate according to provisions of the Constitution**.
- **Art.356:**
 - Imposition of President's rule, if President **is satisfied**, that State govt. is not functioning according to provisions of Constitution or "**Governor report**" or "**otherwise**".
- **Art.365:**
 - Imposition of President's rule, **if State govt. does not comply with directions of Centre**.
- **Note:** Art. 355 was incorporated to check any arbitrary or unauthorised use of Art. 356—**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**.

Important cases on president rule:

- **S.R.Bommai vs Union of India 1994: to restrict misuse.**
 - President rule is subjected to **Judicial Review**.
 - Satisfaction of President must be based on relevant material & **Centre must justify President rule**.
 - If President rule is unconstitutional, **State Legislature can be revived by court**.
 - State Legislature can be dissolved only after parliamentary approval, till then can **only suspended**.
 - **If State follows anti-secular policy**, Art.356 can be applied.
 - **Floor test of confidence is mandatory** before dismissal of State executive.
 - Art.356 is only a measure of **last resort**.

Proper Application President Rule :

- **Hung Assembly situation:** no single party or pre-existing coalition achieves a clear majority.
- If **State goes against Constitutional direction** of Central govt.
- **Internal subversion** Eg. Govt deliberately acting against Constitution or law.

- **Physical breakdown of govt.** law and order i.e, State endangering its security.

Misuse of Art.356:

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar **wished that Art. 355 & 356 should remain as 'dead letters'** but they were misused on several occasions:
 - Removing elected govts.
 - Loss in Lok Sabha elections.
 - Deterioration of law and order in States.

Impacts of President Rule:

- **On State Executive:**
 - President can **suspend** Constitutional provisions of any body of State.
 - President can **dismiss Council of Ministers** headed by Chief Minister.
 - Can vest State govt. executive powers with Governor or any other authority.
- **On State Legislature:**
 - **Parliament exercises State Legislature powers.**
 - **State budgets & bills passed by Parliament.**
 - President can promulgate **ordinances** for State.
 - **Laws** made by Parliament or President **continued to operate even after President rule**. Such laws can be repealed or altered by State Legislature.
 - **Parliament can dissolve State assembly only after** Parliamentary approval, till then (only suspended) —**S.R. Bommai case**.
- **On Judiciary:** No Impact.

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ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

News: "How can design help a building be more climate-resilient?"

Emissions related to Buildings:

- Buildings are **significant contributors to global emissions**, Globally, buildings account for **nearly 40% of total final energy consumption** over their lifespan i.e running Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems and lighting.
- In India, buildings account for** more than 30% of the national energy use and 20% of its carbon emissions— **Bureau of Energy Efficiency**.
- UNEP** also releases **Common Carbon Metrics for Buildings**.

Green Buildings:

- A **foundational step toward sustainable development**, with certification programmes playing a crucial role in their creation.
- Their **key areas of concern** are energy efficiency, water conservation, and materials sourcing.
 - Agrocrete:** carbon-negative building material.
 - Bada Imambara:** no use of concrete; made of crop residue.
- In India, they are **certified by Indian Green Building Council**.
- Two types of Ratings for green Buildings:** LEED by USA & **GRIHA** by India.

High Performance Buildings (HPBs):

- Designed with specific, measurable goals to achieve results **beyond what the local government requires**.
- They **use advanced technologies** and smart design strategies for **real-time tracking** of performance using **automation and artificial intelligence**.
- Advanced technologies include:**
 - Energy-efficient HVAC systems.
 - Grey-water recycling & rainwater harvesting.
 - Smart lighting controls, and advanced metering.
 - A 'building management system' (BMS) allows operators to monitor an HPB's performance.
 - Examples:** Unnati in Greater Noida, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan in New Delhi.

Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA):

- India's own Green building rating system.
- GRIHA** is a **five-star rating system**, valid for **5 years**.
- Jointly developed by the Energy & Resources Institute (**TERI**) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Energy Conservation Building Code:

- Energy Conservation Building Codes are assigned for Energy efficient buildings:
 - For **commercial buildings**, by **BEE** under Power ministry assigns.
 - For **residential buildings**, code called **Eco-Niwās** assigned under **Ministry of Power**.

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GS III

SYLLABUS:ROLE OF MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES IN INTERNAL SECURITY CHALLENGES.

SOCIAL MEDIA (CHALLENGES)

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "No 'X factor' – reconciling freedom and accountability."

Challenges with Users:

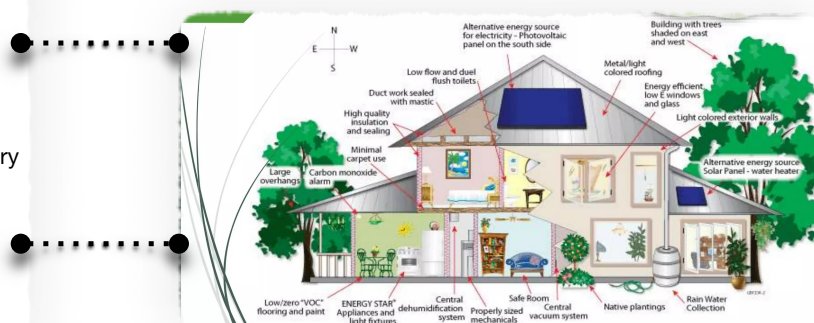
- Promotion of disturbing content:** Eg. **Racism, conspiracy theories** on X, Facebook etc.
- Communal violence:** **Delhi riots in 2020**.
- Misinformation & Fake news :** 2018 mob lynching rumours, **COVID Vaccine efficacy misinformation**.
- Hate speech** in the name of Freedom of Speech
- Political influence:** Eg. **weaponising social media**.
- Mainstream Media too shifted in focus on social media:** rather, focus on extensive reporting shifted to **opinion-seeking on issues**. Eg. Opinion on Gaza, Art. 370 dilution etc.
- Cyberbullying and Online Harassment:** female politicians and journalists have been targeted on X platform.
- Mental Health issues:** 36% of adolescents in India experienced **sleep disturbances, anxiety** due to social media—**Journal of Psychiatry 2019**.

Challenges with Intermediaries:

- Lack of Accountability:** lead to the unchecked spread of harmful content, **insufficient responsiveness to legal and ethical obligations** etc. Eg. **TheGuardian**, took a decision to stop posting on the social media platform X
- Lack of Social Responsibility:** by prioritising user engagement and **profit** at expense of their well-being.
- Privacy concerns:** Eg. **Whatsapp updated privacy policy 2021**, data sharing with parent company (Meta).
- Dilemma over Encryption and Security Concerns:** intermediaries prioritise user privacy's, govt. demands traceability of encrypted messages.
- Platforms claim moderation of content is less effective** due to **diversity of languages in India**.

"A thriving democracy is closely linked to a reliable information ecosystem. Media and social media act as a bridge, enabling informed decision-making."

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GS III

SYLLABUS: CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION.

NET-ZERO

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 20.

News: "How sustainable is India's path to net-zero with 45 years left?"

- **About Net-Zero:**
- A state where the **amount of GHGs released into the atmosphere is equal to the amount removed.**
- India committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by **2070.**

Carbon Emissions 2024 (Global Carbon Budget 2024):

- **Largest absolute contributions** to global fossil CO₂ emissions:
 - China (31%), United States (13%), **India (8%),** and the EU-27 (7%).
- **Global per-capita fossil CO₂ emissions** in 2023 were 1.3 tonnes of carbon per person per year and **0.6 for India.**

Challenges:

- **Significant food shortage** due to **groundwater depletion by the 2040s.**
- **Extreme heat stress in urban areas** due to ever-increasing vehicular pollution and AC use.
- **Irreversible biodiversity loss** due to **non-ideal land-use** changes encroaching on habitats, etc.
- **Power demand could increase ten-fold by 2070:** Meeting it entirely via renewables demands 5,500 GW of solar and 1,500 GW of wind, up from the current 90 GW and 50 GW.
- India's **thermal power plants employ about 4,00,000, people— Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).**

Long-term strategy:

Demand side measures:

- **Use of better construction materials** and passive design elements to provide thermal comfort that doesn't require air-conditioning. **Eg. Agrocrete**
- **Energy-efficient appliances.**
- **Public and/or non-motorised transport** within urban areas and railways for intercity travel.
- **Usage of local products** to reduce the demand for long-haul freight.
- **Mindful dietary choices.**
- **Alternative fuels in industries** in addition to some electrification.

Supply side measures:

- **Decentralise energy production** (including by the use of rooftop solar cells and of solar pumps for agriculture).
- **Expansion of nuclear power generation** capacity to diversify its energy mix.
- Combining demand and supply side measures India's power consumption here **could increase only six or sevenfold by 2070.**

A case study:

- Pitfalls of economic models. For instance, the **environmental Kuznets curve suggests economic growth can decouple from carbon emissions beyond a threshold.** However, even **wealthy countries haven't achieved this decoupling** (except by shifting emissions to

poorer countries). Therefore, it's **best not to aspire to Western lifestyle standards.**

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Net-zero carbon (CO₂)
 Net-zero carbon emissions = **only CO₂**
 Carbon neutrality Balancing the emissions and removals of CO₂

Net-zero GHG
 Net-zero GHG emissions = **all greenhouse gases**
 Climate neutrality Balancing the emissions and removals of all GHGs

GS II

SYLLABUS: GLOBAL GROUPINGS AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS.

GLOBAL SOUTH

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8, 14.

News: "This time for Africa."

News: "Global South hit by food, fuel crises due to conflicts."

- **India's foreign policy has long been intertwined with its commitment to the Global South**—a term that encompasses countries in **Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania** that are generally considered to be developing or less economically advanced.

India's foreign policy reflecting its commitment to the Global South:

- **India-Africa Cooperation:**
 - **India-Africa Forum Summit:** Held every three years (recent in 2022) saw participation from 54 African countries, reinforcing India's commitment to the continent.
 - **Lines of Credit and Investments:** As of 2023, India had extended over USD 5 billion in lines of credit to African nations for **infrastructure, energy, and healthcare projects.** Eg. USD 500 million credit to Kenya for railway projects.
 - **Capacity Building and Education:** Programs like the **Pan-African e-Network project**, which connects African institutions with Indian expertise, have trained over 10,000 African professionals.
- **Neighbourhood First Policy:** Strengthening ties with South Asian neighbour's through infrastructure projects like roads, railways, and digital connectivity
 - **Aiding Maldives** from BOP crisis in 2024.
 - **Investment in Afghanistan** till 2021, for reconstruction and development projects.
 - Eg. **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** connecting India to **Myanmar and Bangladesh.**
 - **South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9)**, launched in 2017, provides communication services to neighbouring countries.
- **Act East Policies:** enhancing economic and strategic ties with Southeast Asian countries. India signed 15 free trade agreements with **ASEAN nations** by 2023.



- **BRICS Leadership:** Promoting initiatives like the BRICS New Development Bank (*NDB*), with India contributing significantly to its capital.
- **South-South Cooperation and Development Assistance:** Eg. Providing expertise in areas like IT, agriculture, and renewable energy to Global South countries.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** ISA aims to *promote solar energy* usage among member countries, primarily from the Global South. As of 2023, ISA has 121 member countries.
- **Vaccine Diplomacy and Health Initiatives:** India *exported over 500 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines* to more than 150 countries between 2020 and 2023
- **Cultural and Educational Diplomacy:** Scholarships like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (*ITEC*) program to students of global south countries.
- **Digital and Technological Initiatives:** Sharing India's *digital public infrastructure expertise* with Global South countries to develop smart cities and e-governance systems.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):**
 - **Operation Rahat (2015):** Evacuated not only Indian nationals but also 2, 000 foreign nationals from 48 countries during the *Yemen crisis*.
 - **Assistance to Mozambique (2019):** Deployed Navy ships to provide relief after Cyclone Idai, delivering 15 tons of relief material.

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EXAMPLES FROM TODAY'S NEWS PAPER

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8

News: "Twin negligence."

Case Study Point of View:

- **Public outrage is mounting due to:**
 - **Negligence in Safety Protocols** in Intensive Care Units.
 - **Criticism over misallocation of funds:** public funds being allocated to building places of worship.
 - **Lack of Accountability:** There is a perception that state-appointed inquiry committees often fail to reveal the truth, leading to distrust among the public.

Challenges as a District Magistrate:

- **Ensuring the hospital's security** to prevent any violence and maintain uninterrupted health services.
- **Ensuring a Transparent Investigation.**
- **Restoring Public Trust:** that government's ability to provide safe healthcare.
- **Addressing Resource Allocation Concerns:** better allocation of funds towards essential services.
- **Urgent implementing Safety Measures:** in all hospitals in the district adhere to safety protocols to prevent future incidents.

Ethical principles and values involved:

- **Responsibility and Accountability:**
 - As a public servant, the DM ensures public institutions operate safely and effectively by holding individuals and organizations accountable for negligence.
- **Transparency and Integrity:**
 - Transparent investigations and decision-making processes reflect a commitment to integrity.
 - Open communication and honesty are crucial in maintaining public trust.
- **Justice and Fairness:**
 - The affected families deserve justice, and the broader community deserves fair allocation of resources that prioritize essential services over less critical expenditures.
- **Compassion and Empathy:**
 - Recognizing victims' suffering and their families' pain is crucial. Policies and actions should reflect empathy and a commitment to alleviating their suffering.
- **Public Interest:**
 - Decisions should be made with the public interest at heart, prioritizing safety, health, and well-being.

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Thank you!