

GS II

SYLLABUS: PARLIAMENT & STATE LEGISLATURE: ISSUES ARISING OUT OF THESE.

ANTI DEFECTION LAW

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Speaker should settle disqualification pleas in reasonable time."

"First step towards cleaning up public life"—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

• Anti Defection Law:

- **52nd Amendment Act 1985** added 10th schedule to the Constitution of India to prevent defection by politicians to uphold integrity of institutions.
- **Greater Stability:** Eg. *Adds the USA's political stability* into the Indian system.
- **Reduces corruption:** Constitutional recognition of political parties.

• Role of Chairman and Speaker:

- **Rule Making power** with defections lies with Speaker/Chairman.
- **Disqualification deciding power:** Speaker or Chairman of Parliament for MPs, Speaker and Chairman of State Legislative Assemblies for MLAs.
- **His/her decisions are final** and cannot be challenged in any court **but are subjected to Judicial Review.**

• Grounds for disqualification:

- **Voluntary give-up** of membership.
- **Abstain from voting** or standing **contrary** to direction issued by party.
- If **independent member joins political party.**
- **Nominated member** joins political party **after 6 months.**

• Exceptions:

- If **two-thirds of the members of party agreed for a merger**, the disqualification can be avoided.
- If a **person elected to Speaker of Lok Sabha** or **Chairman of Rajya Sabha** can **voluntarily give up membership** in his party.

• Recent issues:

- **2022:** Maharashtra State Legislature defections.
- **2021:** Calcutta HC gave a 3 month deadline to WB Assembly Speaker on defection.
- **2020:** Supreme Court removed Manipur Minister due to no action from Speaker of Assembly.
- **2017:** Opposition members defected to ruling party and there were made ministers in Andhra Pradesh.

• Political cleansing tool with several lacunae:

- **Curtail Freedom of Conscience:** Eg. *Whip* doesn't allow to vote against political party.
- **Accountability to party:** rather Representatives (Legislator to Party agent).
- **Compromises the Duty of Legislators:** Decides policies, Bills, Budget etc.
- **Discrimination:** Independent members vs Elected members, former's joining stands disqualified.

Implementation challenges:

- **Sceptical about decision making authority:** Eg. *Loksabha Speakers Rabi ray 1991, Shiv raj Patil 1993* expressed doubts on suitability to adjudicate issues of defection by the Speaker.

P.T.O

- **Discretion of speaker in deciding defection cases:** causing delay and allowing defectors to continue holding their positions.
- **Lack of transparency in Issuance of Whips:** kills individual initiative or his/her constituency stance.
- **Bar on Courts interference:** until Speaker makes a decision in the matter.
- **Judicial Activism:** SC in 2020: **Exercised Art.142** & removed Minister in Manipur against whom disqualification petition is pending before speaker since 2017.
- **Constitutional Sin:** Eg: In AP, main opposition members were ministers (2017). If speaker is not acting on defection case, it is violation of constitutional duty — **Rajendra Rana case.**
- **Ambiguities on voluntary give up of membership:** Eg. SC interpreted it as—absence of formal resignation.
- **Voters Behaviour:** Legislators disqualified are being re-elected in by-polls, Eg: KA, MP.

• Suggestions to strengthen ADL:

- **Kihoto Hollohan 1992 case:**
 - Speaker's decision is subjected to judicial review & speaker should function as a tribunal.
- **Decision maker of Disqualification:**
 - **ARC, ECI, Dinesh Goswami & other:** decision making authority should be President/ Governor on the aid & advice of Election Commission of India.
 - **Supreme Court:** call for creation of permanent tribunal headed by retired justices of SC or HC to substitute speaker.
- **Law commission:**
 - **Issuance of whips:** only when government is in grave danger.
 - **Pre poll Election fronts:** should be considered as Political Parties.
- **NCWRC:**
 - **Extension of Defection Period:** minimum 6 years from contesting elections.
 - Strengthening internal party democracy.
- **Defection in other countries:** **UK, USA** members free to switch sides.

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ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

PURCHASING MANAGERS INDEX

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 15.

News: "Flash PMI signals Nov.private sector activity at three-month high."

Purchasing Managers Index (PMI):

- Released by **S&P Global.**
- Measures the **health of manufacturing and services** sectors in an economy.
- It **measures the activity at the purchasing or input stage.**
- It **does not capture informal sector** activity.
- **PMIs above 50** mean industries are expanding, **less than 50 means contracting.**

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GS III

SYLLABUS: LINKAGES BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND SPREAD OF EXTREMISM.

LEFT AND RIGHT EXTREMISM

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "Understanding the changing face of extremist violence."

Characteristics:

- **Right-wing extremism (RWE)** in India refers to ideologies and movements that promote:

- **Ultra-nationalism, religious fundamentalism, and cultural chauvinism.**
- These groups often seek to impose a **singular cultural identity, oppose secularism.**
- **Methods of Mobilisation:** propaganda, cultural programs, and sometimes violent actions like riots, lynchings etc.

- **Left-wing extremism** in India, often associated with **Maoist or Naxalite movements**

- Advocates for **radical socio-economic transformation** through the overthrow of existing political structures (Marxism).
- These groups **aim to establish a classless society** by mobilising the rural poor.
- **Methods of Mobilisation:** Guerrilla warfare, armed insurgency, sabotage of infrastructure, and mobilisation of tribal and rural populations.

Historical Context:

- **RWE:**
 - **Pre-Independence:** **Hindu Mahasabha 1915** promoted Hindu nationalism.
 - **Post-Independence:** **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** emphasising concept of Hindutva.
 - **Contemporary Manifestations:** communal tensions (**Gujarat riots, Bajrang Dal**), **Kashmir Militancy, cow vigilantism.**
- **LWE:**
 - **Naxalbari Uprising (1967)** in West Bengal.
 - The "**Red Corridor**," affecting states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, and parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Government Responses:

- **Countering RWE:**
 - Enforcement of laws like the **UAPA and IPC (Now BNS)** provisions against hate speech and violence.
 - Promoting Secularism: Eg. Efforts to implement **Uniform Civil Code.**
 - **Judicial interventions:** Eg. **Ayodhya dispute 2019 verdict.**
- **Countering LWE:**
 - **Security Operations:** Deployment of specialized forces like **CRPF** and establishment of the Counter Insurgency and Anti-Terrorism (CIAT) schools.
 - **Integrated Action Plan (IAP)** for development in affected districts.
 - **SAMADHAN Doctrine:** 8 Pillars to fight LWE.
 - **Aspirational District Programme 2018:** by NITI Aayog.

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SYLLABUS: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES LIKE COMMUNISM, CAPITALISM, SOCIALISM ETC.

SOCIALISM

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "Socialism in India means a welfare state, not a dictatorial dogma: CJI."

Socialism in India:

- **Democratic Socialism:** **Unlike authoritarian socialism**, India's approach integrates democratic principles, ensuring political freedoms alongside economic interventions.
 - **Combines elements of both socialism and capitalism**, allowing private enterprise within a regulated framework to achieve social objectives.
- Socialism **part of the Basic Structure** of the Constitution.
- Socialism added to Preamble of Indian Constitution through **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1976.**

Evolution:

- **Pre-Independence:**
 - Early socialist ideas influenced by leaders like **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who envisioned a planned economy to address colonial exploitation and socio-economic disparities.
- **Post-Independence: Adoption of Socialist principles:**
 - **DPSP:** reflects socialist ideals aiming for social justice and equitable resource distribution.
 - **Five-Year Plans:** Inspired by the Soviet model, these plans focused on centralized planning to drive economic growth and development.
- **Neo-Liberal Reforms 1991:**
 - Marked a shift towards **market-oriented policies**; however, the government retained a significant role in key sectors to balance neoliberalism with socialist objectives.

Policies Supporting Socialism in India:

Till 2000s:

- **Land Reforms 1950:**
 - Eliminated intermediaries in agriculture, granting **land ownership to tenant farmers.**
 - **Tenancy Reforms:** Provided security of tenure and fair rent to cultivators.
- **Five year plans:**
 - **1st FYP:** Focused on agricultural development to address food shortages.
 - **2nd FYP:** Emphasized industrialization, establishment of PSUs, and infrastructural development.
 - **7th & 8th FYP:** Integrated social sectors like education and health into planning.
- **Nationalisation of Key Industries:**
 - **Insurance Nationalization (1956):** Led to the formation LIC.
 - **Bank Nationalisation 1969:** to extend banking services to rural areas and ensure financial inclusion.
 - **Coal Mines Nationalization 1973 and Steel Plants Nationalization:** Ensured state control over critical resources.
- **Public Sector Expansion:**
 - Establishment of **SAIL, BHEL, ONGC etc.**
- **Social welfare schemes:**
 - **PDS (Public Distribution System):** Ensured food security by distributing essential commodities at subsidized rates.

- **Maternity Benefit Act (1961) and Employees' Provident Fund (1952):** Promoted social security and workers' welfare.

• **Post year 2000:**

• **Social Security Schemes:**

- **PMJDY:** Financial inclusion by providing universal access to banking services.
- **PMAY:** Affordable housing initiative aimed at equitable living conditions.
- **MGNREGA:** Guarantee 100 days of wage employment per year to rural households, promoting livelihood security and reducing rural poverty.

• **Education and Healthcare initiatives:**

- **Right to Education Act (2009):** Guarantees free and compulsory education to all children aged 6-14.
- **Ayushman Bharat (2018):** Health insurance scheme aiming for universal health coverage.

• **Poverty Alleviation Programs:**

- **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):** Promotes self-employment and organizes rural poor into self-help groups.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Streamlines welfare schemes by transferring subsidies directly to beneficiaries, ensuring equitable distribution.

• **Labor Laws:**

- **Protect workers' rights** and promote equitable labor practices.

• **Regulatory Frameworks:**

- **Competition Act (2002):** Prevents monopolistic practices, ensuring fair competition and protecting consumer interests.
- **Minimum Wage Laws:** Protect workers' rights and ensure fair compensation.

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ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

COASTAL REGULATION ZONE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

News: "HC stays demolition of 'illegal' constructions in Bengal beach town."

Coastal Regulation Zone

- CRZ notification **issued by MoF&CC** under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986.**

Classification of Coastal Regulation Zone(CRZ):

CRZ-I:

- **Ecologically sensitive areas** sanctuaries, reserve forests, mangroves etc which gets flooded on high tides.
- **No new constructions permitted** except projects related to Atomic energy, natural gas, desalination plants etc.

CRZ-II:

- **Areas that are already developed upto shoreline** Eg. Villages, areas within limits of municipal corporation.
- Buildings permitted on landward side.

CRZ-III-A:

- Areas with **population density of ~2000 per sq.km.**

CRZ-III-B:

- Rural areas with population density less than ~2000 per sq.km.

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CYBERSECURITY

PRE-CONTEXT

TELECOM CYBERSECURITY RULES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Govt. notifies telecom cybersecurity rules."

New Notified Rules:

- Rules **empowered central govt/ its authorised agency to seek traffic data and any other data (other than the content of messages)** from a telecom entity for the purpose of ensuring cybersecurity.
- Telecom entities would be required to appoint a **Chief Telecommunication Security Officer.**
- **Report security incidents within six hours** to the Centre.
- **In 24 hours**, telecom entities would be required to furnish information on:
 - Number of **users affected, duration, geographical area**, the **extent to which functioning of the network or service** is affected.
 - The **remedial measures taken** or proposed to be taken.

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BIODIVERSITY

PRE-CONTEXT

KING COBRA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "King cobra of Western Ghats officially gets a new name."

About Indian King Cobra:

- **Status:** IUCN: Vulnerable; CITES: Appendix II, WLPA 1972: Schedule II.
- **Habitat:** Western Ghats, Eastern Coast, Sundarbans, Northeast forests, Himalayan foothills.
- In November 2024 King Cobra of Western Ghats *officially named Ophiophagus Kaalinga*.

Facts:

- World's *longest venomous snakes*, growing up to 18.5 feet long.
- King cobras are *primarily snake eaters*, preying on both venomous and nonvenomous snakes.
- Only snakes that *build nests for their eggs*.
- *Mongoose is the king cobra's most famous predator*. Mongooses are naturally resistant or immune to snake venom.
- A king *cobra's growl is as loud as that of a German shepherd*.
- *King cobras can raise their heads up to 6–7 feet* from the ground.

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ज्ञानं नेतृत्वं जनसेवा

Thank you!