

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.

- 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 reelected 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.

23 Nov 2024

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.

23 Nov 2024



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."

· Characterstics:

- 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.

23 Nov 2024

GS II

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.

P.T.O



 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.

23 Nov 2024

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.

23 Nov 2024

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.

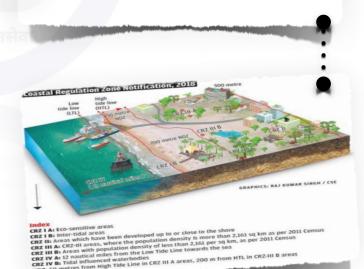
CRZ-IIIA:

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

CRZ-IIIB:

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

23 Nov 2024





BIODIVERSITY

PRE-CONTEXT

KING COBRA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

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

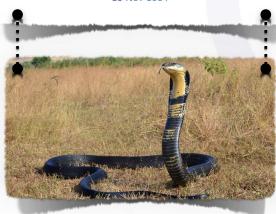
About Indian King Cobra:

- 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.

23 Nov 2024



Thank you!