

ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (BBNJ)

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

News: "Between hope and hurdles on the high seas."

- **About: Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement (High Seas Treaty):**
- It is an *international treaty* under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Aims to **address the growing concerns over the longterm protection of marine biodiversity** in the high seas.
- **Legally binding agreement.**
- **'High Seas'**, areas beyond national jurisdiction are the global common oceans **open to all** for internationally lawful purposes such as navigation, overflight, laying submarine cables and pipelines, etc.
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** implements the BBNJ Agreement.
- **Parties can't claim or exercise sovereign rights over high seas** marine resources and ensure fair sharing of benefits.
- Particularly **SDG14** (Life Below Water).

About Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

- Zone prescribed by United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**).
- **Coastal state has special rights** to explore and use marine resources including energy production from water (i.e off shore oil and gas etc).

Territorial waters:

- Extends **upto 12 nautical miles from baseline** or coastline.
- Here **costal state have full sovereignty**.

EEZ:

- Extends **Upto 200 nautical miles(370km) from baseline/** coastline.
- Here **coastal state have sovereign rights** for resource exploration but not full sovereignty.
- **Other countries can freely navigate and fly over** the coastal state's EEZ.
- **Other countries cannot fish in** Coastal sates EEZ.

About UNCLOS:

- Also referred to as "**The Law of the Sea Convention.**"
- More than **160 countries have ratified UNCLOS**. It is vital to maintaining order, equity, and fairness in using the world's oceans.
- It is **crucial for the environmental protection of the seas and addressing maritime boundaries, rights to marine resources, and dispute resolution.**
- It **established the International Seabed Authority** to regulate mining and related activities on the ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction.

Territorial Dispute Redressal Mechanism:

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea:

- Settles disputes related to **UNCLOS**.
- **Hears disputes related to EEZ boundaries, maritime issues, resource rights** etc.

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International Court of Justice:

- **Principal Judicial organ of United Nations.**
- If both parties submit the case it can adjudicate maritime boundaries including EEZ disputes.

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GS II

SYLLABUS: INDIAN CONSTITUTION—HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS, EVOLUTION.

SECULARISM

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "SC ruling on socialism, secularism."

Secularism in India:

• Role of State in context of Secularism:

- State **neither supports any religion nor penalises** the profession and practice of any faith.
- **State maintains principled equidistance** from all religious matters, while at the same time regulating (intervening) religious practices in a manner consistent with the demands of a modern society.
 - **Art.25(2)(a)**: provides constitutional permission for the State to regulate or restrict "any economic, financial, political, or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice".
- In essence, the concept of secularism represents one of the facets of right to equality.
- **Secularism is implicit in the entire constitutional framework.**
 - Guarantee of equality in **Art. 14**.
 - The promise of non-discrimination in **Art. 15 and 16**.
 - Protection from religious taxes and religious instruction instate-funded institutions in **Art. 27 and 28**.
 - Permission of educational institutions of choice to linguistic and religious minorities in **Art. 29 and 30**.
 - The promise of equal ballots devoid of sectional preferences in **Art.325**.
 - Uniform Civil Code in **Art. 44**.
- All the above ensure a constitutional architecture without religious preference. **God is notably absent in the Constitution.**
- Word '**Secular**' added to Preamble of Indian Constitution through **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1976**.

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GS I

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

SOCIALISM

THE HINDU, PG. NO: 8 & 10.

News: "Timely reiteration."

News: "SC ruling on socialism, secularism."

• Socialism in India:

- **Democratic Socialism:** *Unlike authoritarian socialism*, India's approach integrates democratic principles, ensuring welfare state that **provides equality of opportunity and does not prevent the private sector from thriving**.
 - *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.
- Word '*Socialist*' added to Preamble of Indian Constitution through *42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1976*.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar opposed amendments to include the word 'socialist' in the Constitution, arguing that the Assembly shouldn't bind future generations to a specific economic form.

• 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.

P.T.O

• 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.

• Economic reforms and Inequalities:

- Since 1991, *Indian economy has shifted from a socialist model to a market-oriented one*. This growth has lifted most people from extreme poverty in the last three decades, but *inequality is also growing* and needs to be addressed.
- **Indian Income Inequality, 1922-2015: From British Raj to Billionaire Raj?" (2019).**
 - The top 1% earners had less than 21% of total income in the *1930s*. However after independence, welfare state intervention based on constitutional ideology reduced this gap to 6% of total income in the *1980s*.
 - By *2022-23* Top 1% of income and wealth shares have reached 22% and 40%, which is considered very high.
- A constitutional vision of **creating an egalitarian social order by minimising income inequality faces threat from the neoliberal ideological order**.

"Social and economic inequality will put political democracy in peril"—Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

News: "NGT issues notice to Centre on expansion of glacial lakes".

National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme:

- **Implemented by:** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in **four States** Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Programme involves detailed **technical hazard assessments**, installing **Automated Weather and Water level monitoring Stations**, **Early warning systems** at lakes and down streams.

Glacial outburst: A glacial outburst is a **sudden release of water from a glacier or glacial lake**, often caused by the **failure of a natural dam** formed by ice or moraines.

Recent events:

- Lhonak Lake Sikkim outburst 2023.

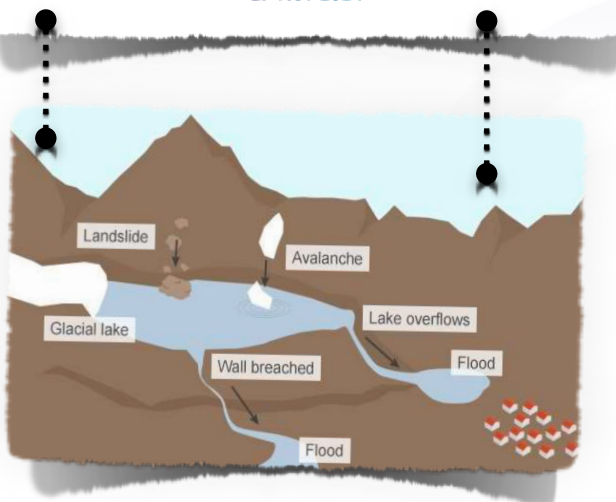
About NDMA:

- **Statutory body** under **Disaster Management Act 2005**.
- **Ministry: Home Affairs**.
- Chaired by **Prime Minister**.
- **It approves the National Plan** and plans prepared by the ministries/ departments of the Govt. of India.
- NDMA Act further provides for establishment of **State and District Disaster Management Authorities**.

Central Water Commission:

- **Not a statutory body**, Works under **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Entrusted with Control, conservation and utilisation of water resources in the country **for the purpose of Flood control, Irrigation, Navigation, Water power development**.

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GEOGRAPHY

PRE-CONTEXT

MAPPING

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "SC seeks report on Pennaiyar water sharing between T.N. and Karnataka."

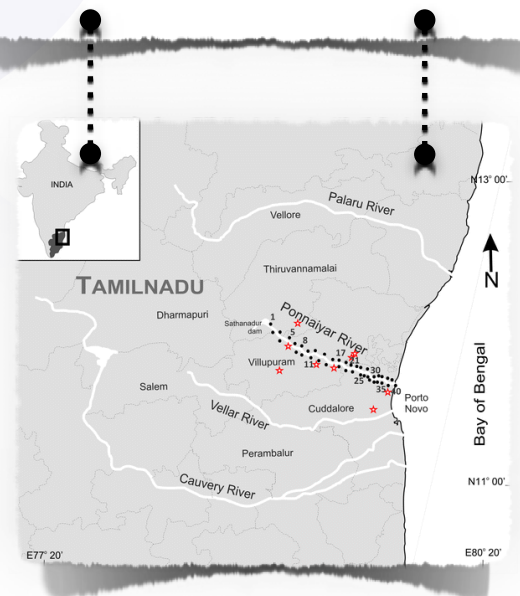
The Ponnaiyar Basin:

- Originating in the **Eastern Ghats**.
- **Second largest interstate East flowing river basin** among the 12 basins lying between the Pennar and Cauvery basins.
- It covers a large area in the State of **Tamil Nadu** besides the areas covered in the States of **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.

Interstate River Water Disputes: Art.262:

- **Adjudication under Article. 262:** provided by Parliament through Law.
- **Bar on courts:** to entertain Water Disputes.
- **Laws for Dispute Resolution:**
 - River Board Acts 1956.
 - Inter-State Water Dispute Act 1956.
- **River Boards:** are established on request of State Govt. Concerned. (no such board has been established till now)
- **Ad-hoc Tribunal under (Inter-State Water Dispute Act 1956):** setup by Central govt. for adjudication & **decision is binding & final**. Eg. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

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GS II & ESSAY

SYLLABUS: INDIAN CONSTITUTION—HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS, EVOLUTION..

LIBERALISM AND INEQUALITIES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "From a republic to a republic of unequals."

Liberalism & Constituion:

- There was the **belief that only in a free environment could human potentialities, be they intellectual, moral, and physical, be realised.** Thus, liberty became the core value of liberalism.
- **With liberalism, as a political ideology,** there was an insistence that there should be freedom for citizens to carry out activities without any state interference.
- **Constitution-makers accepted the liberal framework but wanted the State to actively reduce inequality due to poor social indicators** at Independence.
 - Thus, **affirmative action and reservation policies to treat unequals in an unequally** to achieve the constitutional vision of equality have become an important aspect of the Indian Constitution.

Constituion aim to create Egalitarian Indian Society:

- Reflecting **John Rawls' egalitarian liberalism,** including the three important principles:
 - **Equal basic liberties, equal opportunities, and difference.**
 - The fundamental rights in **Part III and DPSP in Part IV** of the Constitution reflect all the above three principles of egalitarian liberalism.
 - **Egalitarian liberalism** aims to reduce inequality and not create an absolute equal society this is reflected in **Art.38(2) of DPSP.**
 - **Article 39(c)** emphasises that the economic system should **not to result in a concentration of wealth** and means of production to the common detriment.

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SPACE

PRE-CONTEXT

PRIVATE SECTOR IN SPACE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 20.

News: "Six decades since Thumba launch, slew of private entities prepare for flight."

Space Organisations of India

New Space India Limited (NSIL) 2019:

- **Commercial arm of ISRO.** under **Dept. of Space.**
- **Under 2020 space sector reforms:**
 - **NSIL** is required to Build, Launch, Own, and Operate satellites in a "Demand-driven mode."

Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL) 1992:

- Commercial arm of ISRO, **wholly owned GOI.**
- It provides space products and services to **international customers.**

IN-SPACE:

- **Autonomous agency** under Dept. of Space (DoS).
- It **regulate's,** promote's, guide's, monitor's, space **activities of Non-Governmental Private Entities** (NGPEs) in India.

Indian Space Association (ISpA) 2020:

- ISpA is an **apex non-profit industry body,** setup for **development of the private space industry in India.**

Recent FDI amendments in space sectors:

- **100% FDI allowed** in all space and spaceflight segments.
- **74%** ceiling in satellite manufacturing.
- **49%** in launch infrastructure.

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Thank you!