

## GS II

SYLLABUS: SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S ACT.

### ONE CONSTITUENCY ONE ELECTION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

**News:** "Let's talk about 'one candidate, multiple constituencies'"

There were 44 by-elections for State Assemblies in November 2024 due to the resignation of sitting legislators.

If "one person, one vote" is the core democratic principle for voters, it is time to enforce "one candidate, one constituency" for candidates.

#### About One Constituency One Election:

- Contesting from 'multiple constituencies' has been dealt within the **Representation of the People Act 1951**.
  - Initially under the Act, there was no limit until 1996. Parliament amended the Act in 1996 to **limit the number of constituencies that a candidate can contest to two**.
  - RP Act 1951 which provides for a by-election within six months** of the occurrence of a vacancy.

#### Issues:

- OCMC goes against the fundamental right Article.19(1)(a)** to freedom of speech and expression of citizens—**Ashwini Kumar Case 2023**.
- By-election funding issues** come from Black Money, lack of financial transparency.
- Provides safety net for candidates** contesting from multiple constituencies.
- Voter apathy:** In Waynad (Kerala) the voter turnout was 65% in the by poll and 75% in the general election.

#### Recommendations:

- The practice of OCMC was once common in the **United Kingdom but has been banned** since 1983.
- ECI 2004 & 255th Law Commission report 2015** recommended the govt ban the practice of OCMC.
- ECI recommended **cost imposition on candidates** contesting from multiple constituencies in 2004.
- Delaying By-election by a year:** allowing voters ample time to make an informed decision.

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## BIODIVERSITY

PRE-CONTEXT

### OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 5.

**News:** "More carcasses of OliveRidley turtles continue to wash ashore in Vizag."

#### About Olive Ridley Turtle:

- A significant marine reptile both ecologically and culturally.
- Protection:**
  - IUCN (VU), CITES I (Appendix I), WLPA 1972 (Schedule 1).**
- Omnivorous:** Primarily feeds on jellyfish, crustaceans, and various invertebrates. Occasionally consumes algae and other plant matter.
- Distinctive features:** **Leopard like spot patterns** on shell.
- Sexual Dimorphism:** Females are generally larger than males.
- Long-lived:** Can live up to 50 years or more in the wild.
- Synchronous Nesting:** Known for mass nesting events called "**Arribada**", where thousands of females come ashore simultaneously to lay eggs.
- Distribution:**
  - Found in **warm and tropical waters** of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans.
  - India (across Coastline):**
    - Gahirmatha Beach (Odisha):** The world's largest known nesting site for Olive Ridley turtles.
    - Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

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## GS II

SYLLABUS: GOVERNMENT POLICIES & ISSUES ARISING OUT OF THEIR DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.

### SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "Why simultaneous elections are impractical and complicated."

#### Simultaneous Elections:

- Idea to **synchronise elections** to Lok Sabha, State legislative assembly, Municipalities & Panchayats **on the same day**.
- This practice continued till 1967** or 4th General election.
- Currently, **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana** elections to Lok Sabha and Assemblies held together.

#### Need: Based on Ram Nath Kovind Committee 2023

- Frequent elections **create an atmosphere of uncertainty**.
- Minimising disruptions & policy paralysis:** by ensuring stability and predictability.
- Helps in **reduction of election costs** and increase in **voter participation**. Eg. In 2019, the **General Election (Lok Sabha) costed Rs. 4500 crore**. If State elections added to this, expenses further multiply.
- Simultaneous elections lead to** increase in economic growth, a lower inflation, increased investments, and improved quality of government expenditure.
- Political parties behaviour:** keeps **politicians always in campaign mode** due to elections at different times (Local, State, National) rather than their work towards policy making.

#### Implementation:

- Requirement of Constitutional amendments:**
  - In relation to terms of Parliament and State assemblies and local bodies (**Art. 83, 172**)
  - For adoption of single electoral roll.
- Dissolution of Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies at once**, irrespective of their remaining term as a onetime measure.
- Municipal and Panchayat polls within 100 days of general election.**
- Single electoral roll:** Currently some State laws allow State Election Commission to prepare separate electoral rolls. Committee recommended that **empowering Election Commission of India to prepare single electoral roll** in consultation with SECs.
- Logistics requirement:** ECI & SECs to plan and estimate logistical requirements ahead of the rollout.

#### Note:

- Constitutional Amendment nature for above:**
  - In case of amending 'term' of Parliament and **State Assemblies, there is no requirement of ratification by States**.
  - However, ratification by States becomes **necessary in case of amending 'local bodies term'**.

#### Challenges:

- Premature dissolution of some State's Assemblies or Lok Sabha:** can undermine the federal spirit & concerns of delay in conducting new election.
- Case Hung Assembly:** if no party secures majority to form govt., a fresh election to the remaining period of 5 year cycle should be conducted—**Ram Nath Kovind Committee 2023**.

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- Case of No-confidence Motion:** if passed, it may curtail the term of Lok Sabha/ State Assembly. **Law commission recommended** replacement of no-confidence motion with 'constructive vote of no-confidence (govt. will only be removed if there is confidence in an alternate govt.)'.
- Cases of bye-elections:** due to Death, resignation or disqualification of members can be clubbed together and conducted once in a year—**Standing Committee 2015**.
- India is a Multiparty system** where coalition and collapses are common, new system will be a challenge.
- Logistics challenges:** in 2019 general elections about **4 million EVMs and 2 million VVPATs were used**. Simultaneous election can double the demand.
- Local issues may get overshadowed by National needs:** ultimately diminishing democratic representation at grassroot-level—**NITI Aayog report 2017**.

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#### PYQs

**GS II 2017:** 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss.

## GS I

SYLLABUS: DISTRIBUTION OF KEY NATURAL RESOURCES ACROSS THE WORLD.

### MINERAL DIPLOMACY

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

**News:** "India's firmer attempts at mineral diplomacy."

*India, a major critical mineral importer, still depends on other countries, primarily China, for its mineral security, which has become a cause of strategic concern.*

#### Initiatives by India:

- Developing International Engagement with mineral developing countries:**
  - India established Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.(KABIL):**
    - A joint venture company aimed to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the Indian domestic market.
    - It sought mineral security through agreements and acquisitions via govt-to-govt, govt-to-business, and business-to-business routes.
    - KABIL signed a MoU with Australia** for a critical mineral (**cobalt and Lithium**) investment partnership.
    - KABIL signed pacts** with Latin America's **Lithium Triangle (Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia)**.
    - India and Kazakhstan** formed a joint venture, to produce **titanium slag** in India.
- Mineral Diplomacy:**
  - An intl. engagement forging and strengthening partnerships with minor and major initiatives related to mineral security such as:
    - QUAD**, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (**IPEF**), Mineral Security Partnership (**MSP**) and the **G-7**, for cooperation in the critical mineral supply chain.
    - Ministry of Mines signed a MoU** with the **International Energy Agency** to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals.

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## ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

### COP 29 & CARBON MARKETS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "How would a carbon market function?"

#### • **Baku COP29 Summit: Carbon Markets.**

- **Accepted common global standards for carbon credit market.**
- Agreement on *carbon markets to be supervised by the UN.*
- Such a market would allow countries to trade **carbon credits** — **certified reductions of carbon emissions** — among themselves and whose *prices are determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by countries.*

#### • **About Carbon Markets:**

- Carbon markets promote climate action by enabling the **trading of carbon credits**, which are earned through reducing or removing GHGs from the atmosphere.
- Credits are achieved by actions like shifting from *fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and enhancing or conserving carbon-rich ecosystems* such as **forests, planting trees, protecting existing carbon sinks.**

#### • **Emission control mechanisms:**

- **2 methods:**
  - Perform, Achieve, Trade (**PAT**) method, setting targets for efficient use of energy to reduce emissions.
  - Carbon Market System.
- **India currently follows PAT method.**
- *Now India is making its transition from PAT* to its own carbon market system similar to European Union Emission Trading System (ETS).

#### • **PAT method:**

- India launched this in 2012 as one of its eight missions comprising the **National Action Plan on Climate Change.**
- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency is the regulator** to reduce specific energy consumption in energy-intensive industries.
- It **uses market-based mechanism** where excess energy savings can be certified and traded.

#### • **Emission Trading (Cap and Trade):**

- Market based approach to controlling emissions by setting emission caps for polluters.
- **Focus solely on emission ceilings**, no energy efficiency standards are considered.
- **Provides economic incentives** for reduction of emissions to polluters.
- **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act of 2022** provided a statutory mandate for such a **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).**
  - Through this, India aims to align its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement with broader economic goals.
- **United Nations Carbon Offset Platform:** e-commerce platform where a company, an organization or a regular citizen can purchase units (carbon credits) to compensate greenhouse gas emissions.

#### • **Issues associated with Carbon Markets:**

- **No common global standards** for carbon credit market.
- **Inadequate accountability in credit generation**, leading to instances of greenwashing.

- **Authenticity of generated carbon credits concern** Eg. Double counting of carbon credits.
- **Absence of independent third-party verifiers** to assess the quality of carbon reduction projects.
- **High costs of establishing monitoring**, reporting, and verification systems.
- **Carbon Leakage:** product is cheaper in nature due to its country owing to less strict emission norms. This hurts the other nations export competitiveness for following strict emission norms.

#### • **Clean Development Mechanism:**

- One of the flexible mechanisms **Kyoto Protocol.**
- CDM allows **industrialised (Developed) countries** to carry out **climate-friendly projects in developing countries.**
- **Certified Emission Reduction (CER) units** are awarded in return to industrialised nations.
- These **CER units can be traded** or used to meet their own emission reduction goals.
- By 2011, **India had become the world's second-largest supplier of these CER units**, following China.

#### • **India Nationally Determined Contributions: related to energy**

- **Reduce emissions intensity** by 45% by 2030 from 2005 level.
- Generation of **50% of total electricity from non-fossil fuel sources** by 2030.

#### • **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**

- Statutory body under **Energy Conservation Act 2001.**
- Works under **Ministry of Power.**
- Primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- **Assigns Energy codes for Commercial buildings.**
- Develops **minimum energy performance standards** for equipment and appliances under Standards and Labelling.

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GS III

SYLLABUS: LINKAGES BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND SPREAD OF EXTREMISM.

LEFT WING EXTREMISM

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

**News:** "Committed to eliminating Naxalism in Chhattisgarh by 2026, says Home Minister."

"From my childhood i have heard... Security forces here take our lands if they establish a base, and the police torture us for links with Naxals, while the Naxalites torture us too"— **Tribal Resident of Gawadi Village Chattisgarh.**

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), commonly known as **Naxalism**, the areas impacted are primarily concentrated in the so-called "**Red Corridor**," which extends across central and eastern India.

**The 'Red Corridor':**

- **West Bengal:** Jangalmahal area.
- **Chhattisgarh:** Bastar region (includes Sukma, Dantewada, Bijapur).
- **Bihar:** Gaya and Aurangabad.
- **Jharkhand:** Latehar, Palamu, Giridih.
- **Odisha:** Malkangiri and koraput districts.
- **Maharashtra:** Gadchiroli and Chandrapur.
- **Andhra Pradesh & Telangana:** Khammam and Warangal regions.

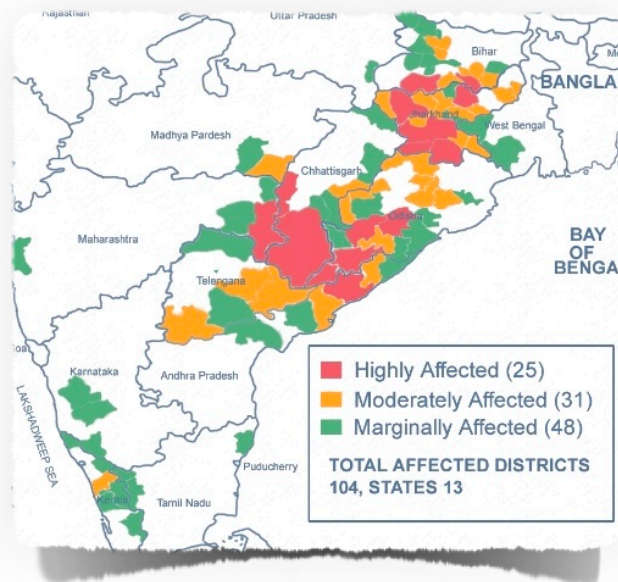
**Causes for Left Wing Extremism:**

- **Poverty and Unemployment:** Both Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have higher poverty rates (~40%) — **NITI Aayog's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021.**
  - Significant income disparities in these areas, fostering economic injustices — **Gini coefficient.**
- **Land and Forest Right Issues:** ~2 million claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 were rejected, denial of forest rights leading to displacement — **Ministry of Tribal Affairs reported 2018.**
- **Displacement due to Mining, Industries, large-scale infrastructure projects:** Eg., the Polavaram Dam project in Andhra Pradesh is expected to displace over 300,000 people, many of whom are tribal.
- **Lack of basic infrastructure:** like roads, healthcare and education are lacking. In LWE-affected districts, up to 40% of villages lacked all-weather roads — **CAG report 2018.**
- **Tribal and marginalised communities often feel excluded from political processes.** Eg. In 2019, general elections saw voter turnout in Bastar district as low as 50%, compared to the national average of 67%.
- **Corruption and Inefficiency:** Mismanagement of development funds and corruption erode trust in government institutions — **Corruption Perception Index.**
- **Maoist ideology** capitalises on local grievances, promoting an agenda against perceived exploitation by the state and corporate entities.
- **Youth are susceptible to radicalisation:** due to a lack of employment and education opportunities. Eg. dropout rates in secondary education in these regions are above 30% — **UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report 2020.**

**Initiatives:**

**Security measures:**

- **Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF):**
  - **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** lead agency in anti-naxal operations. As of 2021, approximately 55,000 personnel were deployed in LWE-affected areas.



P.T.O

- **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA):** a specialised unit of CRPF trained in guerrilla warfare and jungle survival.
- **SAMADHAN Doctrine: 8 Pillars to fight LWE.**
  - Comprehensive strategy announced by Ministry of Home Affairs, focusing on key elements like **Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable Intelligence, Dashboard based KPIs, Harness technology, Action plan for each theatre, No access to financing.**
- **State-Level Forces:** Greyhounds (undivided Andhra Pradesh), Jaguar (Jharkhand), Bastar Battalion.
- **Unified command structure** established in 2010 for better coordination in LWE-affected areas.
- **National Technical Research Organisation:** for real-time intelligence using drones, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

**Development & Empowerment initiatives:**

- **PESA 1996:** Grants special powers to tribal communities in scheduled areas to manage their resources. This helps to reduce the alienation and discontent among tribal communities.
- **Forest Rights Act 2006:** this addresses the long standing grievances related to land and resources. Most LWE affected areas often have large tribal population.
- **Surrender and Rehabilitation Policies 2018:**
  - During period of 2014-2018, over 2,500 maoists surrendered.
  - Monetary assistance of Rs.5 lakhs for higher ranked cadres.
  - Vocational training for skill development.
  - Housing assistance under govt. housing schemes.
- **Special Central Assistance Scheme 2017:** to fund infrastructure projects in most affected districts in education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities.
- **Aspirational District Programme 2018:** by NITI Aayog, inclusive programme covers 112 backward districts, many affected by LWE. Eg. Bijapur district saw an increase in immunisation rates from 40% in 2018 to 80% in 2020.
- **Special Infrastructure Scheme:** to strengthen local police stations and improve mobility.
- **Installation of mobile towers:** to improve Communications for residents and aid security operations.

**Impacts of initiatives:**

- Reduction of LWE violence to 70% and 85% decline in deaths as compared to 2010 — **MHA annual report.**





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- Shrinking geographical influence: reduced LWE affected districts from 100 in 2010 to 50 in 2020—**MHA annual report.**

**Institutions:**

- **Left Wing Extremism Division under Ministry of Home Affairs:** Nodal agency for policy formulation and implementation.
- **Multi-Agency Centre:** facilitate intelligence sharing among agencies like IB, RAW, CAPF etc.

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**PYQs**

**GS III 2020:** What are the sound determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?



**Thank you!**