

## GS II & ESSAY

SYLLABUS: INDIAN CONSTITUTION—HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS, EVOLUTION, FEATURES.

### CONSTITUTION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "At 75, constitutional justice and personal liberty."

**News:** "Foundational values, the journey of the Indian state."

**Context:** 75th anniversary of the Constitution.

#### Human rights concerns and cases in India:

- **Preventive Detention:** Detaining individuals without a trial to prevent potential threats. Eg. *A.K. Gopalan case (1950)*: Challenged constitutional contradictions leading to his detention.
- **Arbitrary Arrests:** Unjustified or random arrests without proper legal procedures. Eg. *Bhima Koregaon Case 2018*: 16 arrests involving writers, intellectuals, cultural activists, poets, performers, and teachers.
- **Denial of Fair Trial:** Lack of impartial and just legal proceedings.
- **Impunity in Anti-Terror Laws:** Laws that allow perpetrators to act without fear of legal consequences. Anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act 2019) registers detained under anti-terror laws like *UAPA*.
- **Criminalisation of Dissent:** Expressing opposition to government policies is being treated as a criminal offence. Under *Sedition*.
- **Rituals of Humiliation:** Systematic mistreatment and degradation of detainees.
- **Constitutional Contradictions:** Conflicts within the Constitution leading to legal ambiguities.
- *Puttaswamy Judgment (2017)*: A landmark Supreme Court case affirming the right to privacy, which has implications for preventive detention and personal liberty.

#### Current Federal Issues:

- **State Govts vs Governor of the State.**
- **Fiscal federalism issues:** under the dual regime of the Finance Commission and the Goods and Services Tax Act.
- **Delimitation exercise** issue between the Union and States that have controlled their population.
- **Tussles between State governments.**
- **Issues of regional languages** such as Tamil, Kannada, Bengali etc, simultaneous elections and other.

What is required today is clear-headed guidance on the future of our constitutional philosophy....

In *Plato's Republic*, he argues the case for a class of guardians who are **philosopher-kings**. India today needs guardians who can place the country above their creed more than ever: **they need to be guardians in the form of judges, bureaucrats, politicians, activists journalists and citizens**. Only then can we truly aspire to fulfil the promise of the Constitution.

25 JAN 2025

## ANCIENT HISTORY

PRE-CONTEXT

### IRON

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "India conducts 'historic' flight test of hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km."

#### Iron in Ancient Indian History:

- **Iron as a pure metal** was *first* made in *Mesopotamia* in 5000 BC.
- **After excavations in the mid-Ganga Valley** of Uttar Pradesh about 25 years ago, *early evidence of iron technology* was dated to **1800 BCE**.
- **New finding:** Origin of iron in the Tamil Nadu could be traced to the *first quarter of the 4000 BCE*.
- Metal itself is called *shyama or krishna ayas* (black metal) in the later Vedic texts.

#### About Archeological Survey of India:

- **British India:**
  - **Founded by Alexander Cunningham** in 1861, who also became its first Director-General.
  - *Lord Canning* was then Governor General of India.
  - *Lord Curzon* passed **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act in 1904**.
  - Under *John Marshall's* leadership as Director General, the Indus Valley Civilization, particularly the sites of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, was discovered in 1921.
  - *Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni* supervised the excavation of the IVC sites at Harappa in 1920-21.
    - Dayaram Sahni was the *first Indian Director General of the ASI* in 1931.
- **Independent India:**
  - ASI works *Ministry of Culture*.
  - Under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act(or AMASR Act), ASI administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

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## ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

### FOREX RESERVES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

**News:** "Forex reserves hit a near 11-month low as rupee slide continues."

#### Forex Reserves:

- Held by Central bank, **RBI in India**.
- They **consists both Assets and liabilities** denominated in foreign currency. Which comes from both current and capital accounts.
  - **Assets:** Gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) & Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with IMF.
  - **Liabilities:** External Borrowings, FPI & FII investments (in Gsecs or other), External Assistance, Short term credits.

#### Importance of Forex Reserves:

- Maintaining **Exchange Rate Stability**.
- **Ensuring Liquidity:** ability to pay for imports, service external debt.
- **Enhancing Investor Confidence:** Higher reserves can attract foreign investment by showcasing financial robustness. Cushion during economic downturns or financial crises.

#### SDRs & RTPs

#### Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):

- **International reserve assets** created by IMF in 1969.
- Value of SDR are based on **5 currencies (Euro, Yuan, Yen, Pound, US Dollar)**.
- **No interest is paid by IMF** on SDR allocation to countries.
- **A country receives SDRs based on its share in the global economy.** The bigger India's economy, the more SDRs it gets.

#### Reserve Tranche Position (RTP):

- Funds that a **country can draw from the IMF in times of need**.
- **RTP is determined by its IMF quota**, which reflects its relative position in the global economy.
- **Countries earn interest on their RTP** at the IMF lending rates.
- **Current Forex Reserves(2025 Jan):** 620 billion USD.
- **Current External Debt (2025 Jan):** 710 billion USD.

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## DEFENCE

PRE-CONTEXT

### PARLAY

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

**News:** "Pralay, India's first quasi-ballistic missile, to be showcased at Republic Day parade."

#### About Pralay:

- Developed by **DRDO**, an indigenous **short-range quasi ballistic missile (400 kilometres)**.
- **Surface to Surface Missile**, Pralay adds to the BrahMos and Parahar missiles.
- It lacks the capability to carry a nuclear warhead.
- The system features a **twin launcher configuration**.
- In 2023, the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved procurement of the Pralay and **Nirbhay long-range subsonic land attack cruise missiles with a range of 1,000 km**.
- **Agni V possesses** the capability to strike targets located over 7,000 kilometres away.

25 JAN 2025

