

GS II

SYLLABUS: GLOBAL GROUPINGS AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS.

GLOBAL SOUTH

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "India as a bridge between the Global North and South."

- **India's foreign policy has long been intertwined with its commitment to the Global South**—a term that encompasses countries in **Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania** that are generally considered to be developing or less economically advanced.

India's foreign policy reflecting its commitment to the Global South

India-Africa Cooperation:

- **India-Africa Forum Summit:** Held every three years (recent in 2022) saw participation from 54 African countries, reinforcing India's commitment to the continent.
- **Lines of Credit and Investments:** As of 2023, India had extended over USD 5 billion in lines of credit to African nations for **infrastructure, energy, and healthcare projects**. Eg. USD 500 million credit to Kenya for railway projects.
- **Capacity Building and Education:** Programs like the **Pan-African e-Network project**, which connects African institutions with Indian expertise, have trained over 10,000 African professionals.

Neighbourhood First Policy:

- Strengthening ties with South Asian neighbour's through infrastructure projects like roads, railways, and digital connectivity
- **Aiding Maldives** from BOP crisis in 2024.
- **Investment in Afghanistan** till 2021, for reconstruction and development projects.
- Eg. **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** connecting India to **Myanmar and Bangladesh**.
- **South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9)**, launched in 2017, provides communication services to neighbouring countries.

Act East Policies:

- Enhancing economic and strategic ties with Southeast Asian countries. India signed 15 free trade agreements with **ASEAN nations** by 2023.

Leadership Role:

- **BRICS Leadership:** Promoting initiatives like the BRICS New Development Bank (**NDB**), with India contributing significantly to its capital.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** ISA aims to **promote solar energy** usage among member countries, primarily from the Global South. As of 2023, ISA has 121 member countries.
- **Digital and Technological Initiatives:** Sharing India's **digital public infrastructure expertise** with Global South countries to develop smart cities and e-governance systems.
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:** Initiated by India to enhance climate and disaster resilience of infrastructure systems globally.
- **Vaccine Diplomacy and Health Initiatives:** India **exported over 500 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines** to more than 150 countries between 2020 and 2023.

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Others:

- **South-South Cooperation and Development Assistance:** Eg. Providing expertise in areas like IT, agriculture, and renewable energy to Global South countries.
- **Cultural and Educational Diplomacy:** Scholarships like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (**ITEC**) program to students of global south countries.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):**
 - **Operation Rahat (2015):** Evacuated not only Indian nationals but also 2,000 foreign nationals from 48 countries during the **Yemen crisis**.
 - **Assistance to Mozambique (2019):** to provide relief after Cyclone Idai.

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GS III

SYLLABUS: ISSUES OF BUFFER STOCKS AND FOOD SECURITY.

NFSA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "14 cr. Indians denied food security cover due to delay in census."

About National Food Security Act 2013:

About NFSA:

- Aims to provide food security **through PDS**, guaranteeing subsidised grains to the majority of the Indian population under two categories—**Priority households and Antyodaya families**.
- NFSA targets to cover **highly subsidised grains to 75% rural and 50% urban population**. **Currently only 60% had access to PDS** under NFSA.
- Currently **81 crore persons** are covered under NFSA.
- **Types of food grains:** **Rice** at Rs 3/kg, **wheat** at Rs 2/kg and **coarse grain** at Rs 1/kg.
- **Right to food** is a **fundamental right** under Article. 21.

Food grain entitlements:

- **Priority household:** receives 5kg of food grain per person per month.
- **Antyodaya household:** receives 35kg of food grain per household per month.
- **In case of non supply of entitled food grains**, beneficiaries are **entitled to food security allowance** from concerned **State govt**.
- **Elders women** of the house above the age of 18 years or above is mandated to be **head of household** for the purpose of issuing ration card under the Act.

Responsibilities:

- **Central Govt.:**
 - **Procurement** of food grains by Food Corporation of India (FCI).
 - **Allocation** of required food grains to States/UTs.
 - **Transportation** of food grains from FCI godowns to Fair Price Shops(FPS).
- **State Govt:**
 - Effective **implementation** of the Act.
 - **Identification** of eligible households and issuing ration cards.
 - **Distribution** of food grains through FPS.
 - Issuance of **license to FPS**.
 - Setting up effective **grievance redressal mechanism**.

New rules:

- **Free food grains** to all 81 crore beneficiaries for 5 years, starting from January 2024 under **PM-Garib Kalyan Yojana**.



POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

QUALIFICATION & DISQUALIFICATION OF MP

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

News: "How can convicted persons return to make laws, asks SC"

Qualifications

Under Constitution:

- Constitutional qualifications as per the **Art.84** (for becoming a member of Parliament).
- **Citizenship of India.**
- **Oath or affirmation** to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- **Minimum qualifying age:** 25 years of age.
- **Any other qualification** prescribed by **Parliament.**

Under RPA 1951:

- In the case of the **constituencies reserved for SCs or STs, the candidate should be a member of any of those castes or tribes**, in **any State** and an elector for **any Parliamentary Constituency.**

Disqualifications

Constitutional disqualifications:

- As per the **Art.102 (1)** (for becoming and being a member of Parliament).
- **Holding an Office of profit** under the Government.
- Unsoundness of mind.
- Un-discharged insolvent.
- **Non-citizenship of India** or acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State.
- Any other disqualification prescribed by Parliament.

Under RPA 1951:

- Sec 8-**conviction for certain offences for two or more years:**
 - **Disqualification period** varies from **minimum 6 months to six years.**
 - **Release on bail does not remove disqualification** unless conviction is also stayed during pendency of appeal.
- Sec 8A-**commission of corrupt practices:** Bribery, Booth capturing, free transport to voters to & from polling station etc.
- Sec 9-**Dismissal from govt. service** for **corruption or disloyalty.**
- Sec 9A-**Contract with "appropriate government".**
- Sec 10-**Holding office under government company.**
- Sec 10A-**Failure to lodge account of election expenses.**

Procedure for Disqualification of MP under RPA:

- **Process starts only after election is over, within 45 days** of completion of election via **filing Election petition in High Court.**
 - **High Courts have original jurisdiction** over election petition.
- **Election petition can only filed either by elector or candidate.**
- Court should give **verdict within 6 months.**
- If **MP or MLA convicted sent to jail for 2 years or more** stands **disqualified for 6 years** from the time of release.
- One can **appeal to supreme court** against High Court order.