

# **Sample Notes of Indian Economy**

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# POVERTY

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Different people think about poverty in different ways. Some people think that poverty is about being able to buy and sell but other people think about getting a fair share of education and health care or about being given respect, and having some influence over what happens in their life. Because of these differences it is useful to think about two main types of poverty - income poverty and non-income poverty.

**Income poverty** happens when a household takes in less than one US dollar per day. This means that people will not have enough food or medicine and they will have poor clothes and houses. Income poverty is due to people not having access to money or other assets. The best way to reduce income poverty is to encourage and support the development of effective businesses (small, medium and large) which make good use of our natural resources and talents to create wealth and jobs

**Non income poverty** happens when people may have a little bit of money but otherwise the quality of their life is not good. They do not have access to affordable social and physical services (schooling, health care, medicines, safe water, good sanitation, and good transport). The best way to reduce non-income poverty is to make sure that people have access to affordable and good quality social services and infrastructure, that they feel secure in their homes, that they trust the authorities and, if they are vulnerable, that there are safety net programmes to protect them.

:: Poverty is the **deprivation of common necessities** such as food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water, all of which determine our quality of life. It may also include the **lack of access to opportunities** such as education and employment which aid the escape from poverty and/ or allow one to enjoy the respect of fellow citizens.

*According to World Bank, "Poverty is an income level below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is usually called the "poverty line".*

Definition agreed by the **World Summit on Social Development** in Copenhagen in 1995:

- Poverty is a condition characterized by **severe deprivation of basic human needs**, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on **access to services**.
- It includes a **lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods**; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion.
- It is also characterized by **lack of participation in decision making** and in civil, social and cultural life.
- **It occurs in all countries**: as mass poverty in many developing countries, pockets of poverty amid wealth in developed countries, loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, sudden poverty as a result of disaster or conflict, the poverty of

low-wage workers, and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

### **Poverty has many dimensions**

- A **material** dimension (food, clothing etc.)
- A **psychological** dimension (respect, self-esteem, trust, fear)
- A **political** dimension (power, representation) and
- A **social** dimension (education, health, work).

:: The **latter 2 dimensions** point to the fact that poverty, while often suffered alone and in solitude, requires **social cooperation** if it is to be eliminated.

:: The **material, political and social dimensions can, to some extent, be measured**, which is necessary if we want to have an idea of the importance of the problem, its evolution over time, and the effectiveness and success of policy measures aimed to combat poverty. One can measure nutrition, housing, income, access to certain services, standard of living, quality of life etc.

:: The **psychological dimension** is much more difficult to measure, but no less important. This dimension also shows us that poverty is not just a matter of the current state one is in, and the resources one has or doesn't have. It is also about vulnerability, about the **future**, about trust and fear. Poverty means comparing yourself to others, feeling like a failure, humiliated, shameful etc.

The **insufficiency of resources to meet basic needs**, such as nutrition, shelter, health and education can result in following **material symptoms of poverty**:

- Low **income or consumption** levels.
- Low average **calorie** intake levels.
- High infant **mortality** rates.
- Low **life expectancy** rates.
- High **illiteracy** rates.
- High **unemployment**.
- Widespread **diseases**, especially curable ones.
- Famine or high risk of **famine**.
- High rates of economic **migration**.

:: Apart from these absolute monetary and non-monetary kinds of poverty, there is also **relative poverty**: people compare themselves to others, mostly others who are relatively close by and better off. This inequality of income or consumption can result in the following **psychological symptoms of poverty**:

- Feelings of loss of dignity
- Low self-esteem
- Feelings of relative powerlessness
- Feelings of lack of participation in culture and politics
- Feelings of discrimination and resentment

A third kind of poverty is **vulnerability**, actual or perceived risk of future poverty. This vulnerability can result in following **psychological symptoms** of poverty:

- Fear, stress
- Feelings of insecurity
- Irrational precaution measures

- Family planning decisions
- Migration

### **ANOTHER DIMENSION: ABSOLUTE POVERTY & RELATIVE POVERTY**

:: Poverty is usually measured as either **absolute** or **relative poverty** (the latter being actually an index of **income inequality**). Absolute poverty refers to a **set standard** which is consistent over time and between countries. The **World Bank** defines **extreme poverty** as living on **less than US \$1.25 (PPP) per day**, and **moderate poverty** as **less than \$2 a day** (but note that a person or family with access to subsistence resources, e.g. subsistence farmers, may have a low cash income without a correspondingly low standard of living- they are not living "on" their cash income but using it as a top up). It estimates that "in 2001, 1.1 billion people had consumption levels below \$1 a day and 2.7 billion lived on less than \$2 a day".

:: **6 million children die of hunger every year** - 17,000 every day. **Selective Primary Health Care** has been shown to be one of the most efficient ways in which absolute poverty can be eradicated in comparison to Primary Health Care which has a target of treating diseases. **Disease prevention** is the focus of Selective Primary Health Care which puts this system on higher grounds in terms of preventing malnutrition and illness, thus putting an end to Absolute Poverty.

:: The **proportion of the developing world's population living in extreme economic poverty** fell from 28% in 1990 to 21% in 2001. Most of this improvement has occurred in **East and South Asia**. In East Asia the World Bank reported that "The poverty headcount rate at the \$2-a-day level is estimated to have fallen to about 27% (in 2007), down from 69% in 1990." In **Sub-Saharan Africa** extreme poverty went up from 41% in 1981 to 46% in 2001.

:: In the early 1990s some of the **transition economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia** experienced a sharp drop in income. The collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in large declines in GDP per capita, of about 30 to 35% between 1990 and 1998. As a result poverty rates also increased although in subsequent years as per capita incomes recovered the poverty rate dropped from 31.4% of the population to 19.6%.

:: World Bank data shows that the percentage of the population living in households with **consumption or income per person below the poverty line** has decreased in each region of the world since 1990:

<b>Region</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
East Asia and Pacific	15.40%	12.33%	9.07%
Europe and Central Asia	3.60%	1.28%	0.95%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9.62%	9.08%	8.64%
Middle East and North Africa	2.08%	1.69%	1.47%
South Asia	35.04%	33.44%	30.84%
Sub-Saharan Africa	46.07%	42.63%	41.09%

:: However, there are **various criticisms** of these measurements. Although "a clear trend decline in the percentage of people who are absolutely poor is evident ... with uneven progress across regions...the **developing world outside China and India has seen little or no sustained progress** in reducing the number of poor".

:: The 2007 **World Bank report "Global Economic Prospects"** predicts that in **2030** the number living on less than the equivalent of **\$1 a day will fall by half**, to about 550 million. Much of **Africa** will have difficulty keeping pace with the rest of the developing world and even if conditions there improve in absolute terms, the report warns, Africa in 2030 will be home to a larger proportion of the world's poorest people than it is today.

:: The reason for the faster economic growth in **East Asia and South Asia** is a result of their relative backwardness, in a phenomenon called the **convergence hypothesis** or the **conditional convergence hypothesis**. Because these economies began modernizing later than richer nations, they could benefit from simply adapting **technological advances** which enable higher levels of productivity that had been invented over centuries in richer nations.

## RELATIVE POVERTY

:: Relative poverty views poverty as **socially defined and dependent on social context**, hence relative poverty is a **measure of income inequality**. Usually, relative poverty is measured as the percentage of population with income **less than some fixed proportion of median income**. There are several other different income inequality metrics, for example the **Gini coefficient** or the **Theil Index**.

:: Relative poverty measures are used as official poverty rates in several **developed countries**. As such these poverty statistics **measure inequality rather than material deprivation** or hardship. The measurements are usually based on a person's yearly income and frequently take no account of total wealth. The main poverty line used in the OECD and the European Union is based on "**economic distance**", a level of income set at 60% of the median household income.

:: **Ultra-poverty**, a term apparently coined by **Michael Lipton**, connotes being **amongst poorest of the poor in low-income countries**. Lipton defined ultra-poverty as receiving less than 80% of minimum caloric intake whilst spending more than 80% of income on food. Alternatively a 2007 report issued by **International Food Policy Research Institute** defined ultra-poverty as living on less than 54 cents per day. The depth of poverty should be measured. This **depth is the distance to the poverty line**. Just below the poverty line or way below makes a lot of difference.

## MEASURES OF POVERTY

**Not all of the kinds of poverty can be easily measured.** Some perhaps cannot be measured at all. Even the apparently easy ones, such as infant mortality rates or income levels, can and do pose problems, such as the **availability of data** (poor countries often do not have the institutional resources to generate high quality statistics), international comparability of data, definitions of data etc. However, it is important to measure the levels of poverty and their evolution as good as we can. Only if we have data can we **judge the effectiveness of specific programs** to alleviate specific symptoms of poverty.

Poverty is **not just a philosophical problem** because depending on the definition of poverty we use, our measurements will be radically different (even with an identical definition, measurements will be different because of different measurement methods). Roughly **6 different parameters for measuring poverty** are used:

- insufficient **income**

- insufficient **consumption** spending
- insufficient **caloric** intake
- **food consumption spending** above a certain share of total spending
- certain **health indicators** such as stunting, malnutrition, infant mortality rates or life expectancy
- certain **education** indicators such as illiteracy

**None of these parameters is ideal**, although the first and second on the list are the most widely used. A few words about the advantages and disadvantages of each are as follows:

**1 Income:** e.g. "**\$1 a day**" level, which is the **World Bank definition** of extreme poverty level; moderate poverty is less than \$2 a day; these levels are of course expressed in purchasing power parity

:: In **developed countries**, income is a common definition because it's easy to measure. Most people in developed countries earn a salary or get their income from sources that are **easy to estimate** (interest payments, the value of houses, stock market returns etc.). They don't depend for their income on the climate, crop yields etc. Moreover, developed countries have **good tax data** which can be used to calculate incomes.

:: In **developing countries**, however, income data tend to be underestimated because it's **difficult to value the income of farmers and shepherds**. Farmers' incomes fluctuate heavily with climate conditions, crop yields etc. Another disadvantage is that people are generally **reluctant to disclose their full income**. Some income may have been hidden from the **tax administration** or may have been earned from illegal activity such as **corruption**, smuggling, drug trade, prostitution, theft etc. For this reason, using income to estimate poverty means overestimating it.

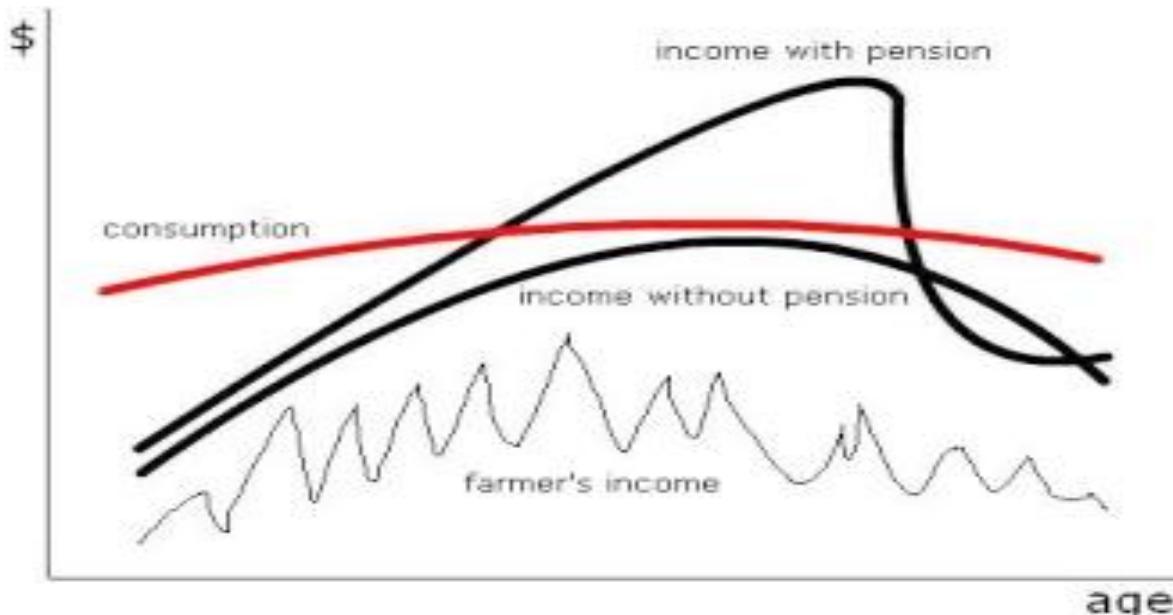
**2 Gross Domestic Product** (GDP, or total annual country income) per capita or per citizen is another measure of poverty. However, the problem with this measure is that it tells us about average and not how it is distributed over the spectrum. For example, in India, the people below poverty line are much below the average GDP per capita.

**3 Consumption:** The main advantage of using consumption rather than income to measure poverty is that consumption is **much more stable over the year and over a lifetime**. This is even more true in the case of farmers who depend on the weather for their income and hence have a more volatile income. As farmers are often relatively poor, this issue is all the more salient for poverty measurement. This is called the **lifecycle hypothesis** (shown in graph). Another advantage of using consumption is that people aren't as reticent to talk about it as they are about certain parts of their income.

:: However, consumption of goods like **durable goods and housing** is difficult to measure because it's difficult to value them. For example, if a household owns a house, it is difficult to estimate what it would cost to rent that particular house and add this to the total consumption of that household. Then the same has to be done for cars etc.

:: Another difficulty in measuring consumption is that in developing countries households **consume a lot of what they themselves produce** on the family farm.

This as well is often difficult to value correctly. And finally, **different people have different consumption needs**, depending of their age, health, work etc. It's not clear how these different needs are taken into account when consumption is measured and used as an indicator of poverty.



### Lifecycle Hypothesis

- 4 **Calorie intake:** the problem with this is that **different people need different amounts** of calories (depending on their type of work, their age, health etc.), and that it isn't very easy to measure how many calories people actually consume. An average adult male has to eat food representing **approximately 2000-2500 calories** per day in order to sustain the human body.
- 5 **Food spending as a fraction of total spending:** here the problem is that if we say people who spend more than x% of their total spending on food are considered poor, we still have to factor in **relative food prices**.
- 6 **Stunting as an indicator of malnutrition and hence of poverty:** stunting (height for age) is a notoriously difficult thing to measure.
- 7 Another measure of poverty is work out the **parameters related to education** such number of years in education, Literacy levels, drop-out rates etc.

:: Another issue with poverty measurement is that people may have comparable incomes or even consumption patterns, but they may face very **different social or environmental conditions**: an annual income of \$500 may be adequate for people living in a rural environment with a temperate climate where housing is cheap, heating isn't necessary and subsistence farming is relatively easy. But the same income can mean deep poverty for a family living in a crowded city on the edge of a desert. The presence or absence of public goods such as quality schools, roads, running water and electricity also makes a lot of difference, but poverty measurement usually doesn't take these goods into account.

:: For other types of **poverty such as income differences**, traditionally used measure is the **Gini coefficient** although most symptoms of this kind of poverty, as well as social, psychological poverty, are **intangible**. The difficulties of aggregating

the different available measures, together with the difficulties of measuring other indicators, result in the **impossibility to establish a single, binary poverty indicator**, "are you poor or not", yes or no type of indicator. As a result, many scientists and politicians use a simplified rule to establish poverty, for example the "1 \$ a day" rule, of some other kind of poverty level expressed quantitatively. It is also important to measure the time frame of poverty, i.e. **incidental or chronic poverty**. This difference should be taken into account when devising policies.

## POVERTY ESTIMATES IN INDIA

Poverty in India is still rampant, with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor, despite an impressive economic growth. An estimated **250 million people** are below the poverty line and approximately **75% of them are in the rural areas**.

:: The **World Bank's definition** of the poverty line, for underdeveloped countries, like India, is **US\$ 1/ day/ person** or US \$365 per year. As per this definition, more than 75% of all Indians are, probably, below the poverty line. However, according to a **2005 World Bank estimate**, **41%** of India falls below the international poverty line of **US\$ 1.25 a day [in terms of PPP (Purchasing Power Parity), in nominal terms ₹ 21.6 a day in urban areas and ₹14.3 in rural areas]**; having reduced from 60% in 1981.

:: According to the definition by **Planning Commission**, poverty line is drawn with an intake of **2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas**. If a person is unable to get that much minimum level of calories, then he/ she is considered as being below poverty line.

:: According to this criterion, **27.5%** of the population was living **below the poverty line in 2004–2005**, down from 51.3% in 1977–1978, and 36% in 1993–1994. The source for this was the 61st round of the National Sample Survey (**NSS**) and the criterion used was **monthly per capita consumption expenditure** below ₹356.35 for rural areas and ₹538.60 for urban areas. As per GOI, this amount will buy **food equivalent to 2200 calories per day, medically enough, to prevent death**. 75% of the poor are in rural areas, most of them are daily wagers, self-employed householders and **landless labourers**.

:: The definition of poverty in India has been **called into question by the UN** World Food Programme. In its report on **global hunger index**, it questioned the government of India's definition of poverty saying: The fact that calorie deprivation is increasing during a period when the proportion of rural population below the poverty line is said to be declining rapidly, highlights the increasing **disconnect between official poverty estimates and calorie deprivation**.

## OTHER POVERTY ESTIMATES FOR INDIA

Estimates by **NCAER** (National Council of Applied Economic Research), show that **48% of the Indian households** earn more than ₹90,000 (US\$ 1,998) annually (or more than US\$ 3 PPP per person). According to NCAER, in 2009, of the 222 million households in India, the absolutely poor households (annual incomes below ₹ 45,000) accounted for only 15.6 % of them or about 35 million (about 200 million Indians). Another 80 million households are in income levels of ₹45,000-90,000 per year. These numbers also are more or less **in line with the latest World Bank estimates** of the "**below-the-poverty-line**" households that may total about 100 million (or about 456 million individuals).

Income inequality in India is increasing, with a Gini coefficient of 32.5 in 1999-2000. Although the Indian economy has grown steadily over the last two decades, its **growth has been uneven** when comparing different social groups, economic groups, geographic regions, and rural and urban areas. Between 1999 and 2008, the annualized growth rates for Gujarat (8.8%), Haryana (8.7%), or Delhi (7.4%) were much higher than for Bihar (5.1%), Uttar Pradesh (4.4%), or Madhya Pradesh (3.5%).

Poverty rates in **rural Orissa** (43%) and **rural Bihar** (41%) are among the world's most extreme. A study by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative using a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (**MPI**) found that there were 645 million poor living under the MPI in India, 421 million of whom are concentrated in eight North India and East India states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This number is higher than the 410 million poor living in the 26 poorest African nations.

A 2007 report by the state-run **National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector** (NCEUS) found that 77% of Indians, or 836 million people, lived on less than 20 rupees (approximately US\$ 0.50 nominal; US\$ 2 PPP) per day. It is relevant to view poverty in India on a PPP basis as food etc. are purchased in Rupees.

According to a recently released **World Bank report**, India is on **track to meet its** poverty reduction **goals**. However by **2015**, an estimated **53 million people** will still live in extreme poverty and 23.6% of the population will still live under US\$ 1.25 per day. This number is expected to reduce to 20.3% or 268 million people by 2020. However, at the same time, the effects of the worldwide recession in 2009 have plunged 100 million more Indians into poverty than there were in 2004, increasing the effective poverty rate from 27.5% to 37.2%.

:: Despite this, India is sitting on **unused foreign aid of over ₹100,000 crore** (US\$ 22.2 billion) reflecting inadequate planning by ministries like urban development, water resources and energy, a report by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has said. "As on March 31, 2010, unutilized committed external assistance was of the order of ₹1, 05,339 crore," the CAG said in its report tabled in Parliament on 18 March 2011. In fact, the Indian government has **paid commitment charges** of ₹86.11 crore (US\$ 19.12 million) out of taxpayer-money during 2009-10 in the form of penalty for **not timely utilizing the aid** approved by multilateral and bilateral lending agencies.

## **PROBLEMS WITH EXISTING OFFICIAL POVERTY LINES**

:: The existing all-India rural and urban official poverty lines were originally defined in terms of **Per Capita Total Consumer Expenditure** (PCTE) at 1973-74 market prices and **adjusted over time and across states** for changes in prices keeping unchanged the original 1973-74 rural and urban underlying all-India reference **Poverty Line Baskets** (PLB) of goods and services. These all-India rural and urban PLBs were derived for rural and urban areas separately, anchored in the per capita calorie norms of 2400 (rural) and 2100 (urban) per day.

:: However, they covered the consumption of all the goods and services incorporated in the rural and urban **reference poverty line baskets**. Three major criticisms of these poverty lines have been commonly aired. One, the **consumption patterns** underlying the rural and urban PLBs remained tied down to those observed more than three decades ago in 1973-74 and hence had become outdated. Two, **crude price adjustment** for prices was leading to implausible results such as proportion of

total urban population below poverty line being higher than its rural counterpart in certain major states. Three, the earlier poverty lines assumed that **basic social services of health and education** would be supplied by the state and hence, although private expenditure on education and health was covered in the base year 1973-74, no account was taken of either the increase in the proportion of these in total expenditure over time or of their proper representation in available price indices.

## CAUSES OF POVERTY IN INDIA

- **Caste system:** Dalits constitute the bulk of poor and unemployed. Casteism is still widespread in rural areas, and continues to segregate Dalits despite the steady rise and empowerment of the Dalits through social reforms and the implementation of reservations in employment and benefits. Caste explanations of poverty, however, fail to account for the urban/rural divide. However, using the **UN definition** of poverty, 65% of **rural forward castes** are below the poverty line.
- **British era:** Jawaharlal Nehru claimed "A significant fact which stands out is that those parts of India which have been longest under British rule are the poorest today." The Indian economy was purposely and severely de-industrialized, especially in the areas of textiles and metal-working, through colonial privatizations, regulations, tariffs on manufactured or refined Indian goods, taxes, and direct seizures.
- **India's economic policies:** In 1947, the **average annual income** in India was US\$ 439, compared with US\$ 619 for China. By 1999, the numbers were US\$ 1,818 and US\$ 3,259 respectively. Thus **India was left far behind due to its economic policies** especially the **License Raj** and the accompanying **red tape** that were required to set up and run business in India. The License Raj was a result of India's decision to have a planned economy, where all aspects of the economy are controlled by the state and licenses were given to a select few. **Corruption** flourished under this system. Up to 80 agencies had to be satisfied before a firm could be granted a license to produce and the state would decide what was produced, how much, at what price and what sources of capital were used.
- **Over-reliance on agriculture:** There is a surplus of labour in agriculture. While services and industry have grown at double digit figures, agriculture growth rate has dropped from 4.8% to 2%. About 60% of the population depends on agriculture whereas the contribution of agriculture to the GDP is about 18%.
- **High population growth rate**, although demographers generally agree that this is a symptom rather than cause of poverty.
- **High Illiteracy** (about 35% of adult population)
- **Regional inequalities**

## CAUSES OF RURAL POVERTY IN INDIA

- Rapid Population Growth & Excessive Population Pressure on Agriculture
- Lack of Capital
- Lack of Alternate Employment Opportunities Other than Agriculture
- Illiteracy & Child Marriage Tradition
- Regional Disparities
- Joint Family System
- Lack of proper implementation of PDS

## **CAUSES OF URBAN POVERTY IN INDIA**

- Migration of Rural Youth towards Cities
- Lack of Vocational Education / Training
- Limited Job Opportunities of Employment in the Cities
- Rapid increase in Population
- Lack of Housing Facilities
- No proper Implementation of Public Distribution System

## **LIBERALIZATION POLICIES AND THEIR EFFECTS**

:: **75% of poor are in rural India.** There is a viewpoint that holds that the **economic reforms** initiated in the early 1990s are **responsible for the collapse of rural economies and the agrarian crisis** currently underway. P Sainath describes that the **level of inequality** has risen to extraordinary levels, when at the same time; hunger in India has reached its highest level in decades. He also points out that rural economies across India have collapsed, or on the verge of collapse due to the neo-liberal policies of the government of India since the 1990s.

:: The **human cost of the "liberalization"** has been very high. The huge wave of **farm suicides** in Indian rural population from 1997 to 2007 totaled close to 200,000, according to official statistics. Commentators have faulted the policies pursued by the government which, according to Sainath, resulted in a very high portion of rural households getting into the **debt cycle**, resulting in a very high number of farm suicides.

:: Government policies encouraging farmers to **switch to cash crops**, in place of traditional food crops, has resulted in an extraordinary increase in farm input costs, while market forces determined the price of the cash crop. Sainath points out that a disproportionately large number of affected farm suicides have occurred with cash crops, because with food crops such as rice, even if the price falls, there is food left to survive on.

:: He also points out that **inequality** has reached one of the highest rates India has ever seen. During the time when **Public investment in agriculture** shrank to 2% of the GDP, the nation suffered the worst agrarian crisis in decades, the same time as India became the nation of **second highest number of dollar billionaires**. Sainath argues that Farm incomes have collapsed. Hunger has grown very fast. Non-farm employment has stagnated. Only the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has brought some limited relief in recent times. Millions move towards towns and cities where, too, there are few jobs to be found.

## **SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY**

Since the early 1950s, government has initiated, sustained, and refined various planning schemes to help the poor attain self sufficiency in food production. Probably the most important initiative has been the **supply of basic commodities**, particularly food at controlled prices, available throughout the country as poor spend about 80 percent of their income on food.

Eradication of poverty in India is generally only considered to be a **long-term goal**. Poverty alleviation is expected to make better progress in the next 50 years than in the past, as a **trickle-down effect of the growing middle class**. Increasing stress on education, reservation of seats in government jobs and the increasing empowerment of women and the economically weaker sections of society, are also

expected to contribute to the alleviation of poverty. It is incorrect to say that all poverty reduction programmes have failed. The **growth of the middle class** (which was virtually non-existent when India became a free nation in August 1947) **indicates that economic prosperity** has indeed been very impressive in India, but the distribution of wealth is not at all even.

### **CONTROVERSY OVER EXTENT OF POVERTY REDUCTION**

:: While **total overall poverty in India has declined**, the extent of poverty reduction is often debated. With the rapid economic growth that India is experiencing, it is likely that a significant fraction of the rural population will continue to migrate toward cities, making the issue of urban poverty more significant in the long run.

:: While **absolute poverty** may not have increased India remains at an **abysmal rank in the UN Human Development Index**. India in recent years remained at lowest position in the index compared to last 10 years. It can even be argued that the situation has become worse on **critical indicators of overall well-being** such as the number of people who are **undernourished** (India has the highest number of malnourished people, at 230 million), and the number of malnourished children (43% of India's children under 5 are underweight ( $BMI < 18.5$ ), the highest in the world) as of 2008.

:: A study by the **McKinsey Global Institute** found that in 1985, 93% of the Indian population lived on a **household income of less than 90,000 rupees a year**, or about a dollar per person per day; by 2005 that proportion had been cut nearly in half, to 54%. More than 103 million people have moved out of desperate poverty in the course of one generation in urban and rural areas as well. They project that if India can achieve 7.3% annual growth over the next 20 years, 465 million more people will be lifted out of poverty. Contrary to popular perceptions, rural India has benefited from this growth: extreme rural poverty has declined from 94% in 1985 to 61% in 2005, and they project that it will drop to 26% by 2025. Report concludes that **India's economic reforms and the increased growth that has resulted have been the most successful anti-poverty programmes in the country**.

### **Persistence of malnutrition among children**

:: The World Bank, citing estimates made by the World Health Organization, states that "About 49% of the world's underweight children, 34% of the world's stunted children and 46% of the world's wasted children, live in India." The World Bank also noted that "while poverty is often the underlying cause of malnutrition in children, the superior economic growth experienced by South Asian countries compared to those in Sub-Saharan Africa, has not translated into superior nutritional status for the South Asian child". A special commission to the **Supreme Court** has noted that the **child malnutrition rate in India is twice as great as sub-Saharan Africa**.

### **INDIA: URBAN POVERTY REPORT 2009**

:: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has brought a report, **India-Urban Poverty Report 2009**. **Key findings** of the report are:

- The **urban population of India is increasing** but not as fast as other Asian countries. India's urban population is increasing at a **faster rate than its total population**. The researchers expect **rate of urbanisation** to also increase in the coming years. With over 575 million people, India will have **41%** of its population living in cities and towns by 2030 from the present level of 286 million. But this success has been accompanied by poverty in urban areas. Urban poverty in India remains high, at over 25%. Over **80 million poor people** live in the cities and towns of India. This is roughly equal to the population of Egypt.
- At the national level, **rural poverty is higher than poverty in urban areas** but the gap between the two has decreased over the last couple of decades.
- As per **2001 census report** the slum population of India in cities and towns with a population of 50,000 and above was 42.6 million, which is 22.6% of the urban population of the states/ UT reporting slums.
- The **incidence of migration** in India has shown an increase in 2001 as compared to consistent decline during 1961-1991. The economic motive remains the main reason for migration among male interstate migrants. Economically backward states keep losing people to developed states. **Poverty incidence was found less among migrants** as compared to non-migrants but it was higher among rural to urban migrants.

### **Proposed solutions to urban poverty**

- 1 There should be **greater equity in the provision of basic services** as interstate and intercity disparity has acquired alarming proportions.
- 2 **Small and medium towns**, particularly in backward states, should get special assistance from the central / state government as their economic bases are not strong enough to generate adequate resources.
- 3 **Constitutional amendments for decentralization** should be backed up by actual devolution of powers and responsibilities and their use by the municipal bodies
- 4 As much of the **subsidized amenities** have gone to high and middle income colonies, the restructure of these programmes and schemes is needed to ensure that subsidies are made explicit through strict stipulations, targeted through vulnerable sections of population.
- 5 There is good potential for **organising slum communities** as the average size of size of slum is small.
- 6 To **improve sanitation standards**, it is suggested to construct community toilets where individual toilets are not possible, to extend sewerage networks to slum areas and connect toilet outlets with that, and community management of toilets in common places.
- 7 **Solar, bio-gas and non-conventional energy needs** to be promoted for street lights as well as in household energy use wherever possible and feasible. Complete coverage of slum households through electric connections should be ensured.

### **TENDULKAR COMMITTEE REPORT**

:: There has been a growing concern on the official estimates of poverty. In view of this, **Planning Commission** set up an expert group under the chairmanship of **Suresh Tendulkar** to examine the issue and suggest a new poverty line and estimates. Following are the salient features of the proposed poverty lines:

- 1 The expert group has also taken a conscious decision to move away from anchoring the poverty lines to a **calorie intake norm** in view of the fact that calorie consumption calculated by converting the consumed quantities in the last 30 days as collected by NSS has not been found to be well correlated with the **nutritional outcomes** observed from other specialized surveys either over time or across space (i.e. between states or rural and urban areas).
- 2 NSSO has decided to shift to **Mixed Reference Period (MRP)** for all its consumption surveys in future, namely, **365-days for low frequency items** (clothing, footwear, durables, education and institutional health expenditure) and 30-days for all the remaining items. This change captures the household consumption expenditure of the poor households on low-frequency items of purchase more satisfactorily than the earlier 30-day recall period. The Expert Group decided to adopt the **MRP-based estimates** of consumption expenditure as the basis for future poverty lines as against previous practice of using **Uniform Reference Period** estimates of consumption expenditure.
- 3 The estimated urban share of the poor population (described as headcount ratio or poverty ratio) in 2004-05, namely, 25.7% at the all-India level, is generally accepted as being less controversial than its rural counterpart at 28.3% that has been heavily criticized as being too low. It was decided to recommend **MRP-equivalent of urban PLB** corresponding to 25.7% urban head count ratio as the new reference PLB to be provided to rural as well as urban population in all the states after adjusting it for within-state **urban-relative-to-rural** and rural and urban **state-relative-to-all-India price differentials**.
- 4 The new poverty lines have been arrived at after assessing the adequacy of **private household expenditure** on **education and health**, while the earlier calorie-anchored poverty lines did not explicitly account for these.
- 5 It may be noted that although those near the poverty line in urban areas continue to afford the original **calorie norm** of 2100 per capita per day, their actual observed calorie intake from 61st Round of NSS is 1776 calories per capita. This actual intake is very close to the revised calorie intake norm of 1770 per capita per day currently recommended for India by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO). Actual observed calorie intake of those near the new poverty line in rural areas (1999 calories per capita) is higher than the FAO norm.
- 6 Separate allowance for private expenditure on **transport and conveyance** has been made in the recommended poverty lines. For **rent and conveyance**, actual expenditure share for these items were used to adjust the poverty line for each state.

## **ENTRENCHED FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY**

- Scarcity of basic needs: Rise in the costs of living makes poor people less able to afford items. Poor people spend a **greater portion of their budgets on food** than richer people. As a result, poor households and those near the poverty threshold can be particularly vulnerable to increases in food prices.
- Third World debt: Third World debt plays a large part in **international inequality and poverty**. On average in 1999, \$128 million was transferred from indebted industrializing countries to debt holding nations for **debt repayments**. The World Bank and the IMF, as primary holders of Third World debt, attach **structural adjustment conditionalities** to loans. These conditionalities generally push for

economic liberalization, including reducing barriers to trade, elimination of state subsidies, Union busting, privatization of state assets and services etc. As a result of such policies, developing countries need to spend a large proportion of their budgets to repay foreign debt.

- Barriers to opportunities: lack of **economic freedom** inhibits entrepreneurship among the poor. New enterprises and foreign investment can be driven away by the results of **inefficient institutions**, notably corruption, weak rule of law and excessive bureaucratic burdens. Lack of financial services, as a result of restrictive regulations, such as the requirements for banking licenses, makes it hard for even smaller micro-savings programs to reach the poor. In India, businesses had to bribe government officials even for routine activities, which were, in effect, a tax on business. **Lack of opportunities** can further be caused by the failure of governments to provide essential infrastructure.
- **Colonial Histories:** One of the most important barriers to development in poor countries is lack of uniform, basic infrastructure, such as roads and means of communication. Some development scholars have identified colonial history as an important contributor to the current situation. In most countries with a history of colonization, the colonizers developed local economies to facilitate the expropriation of resources for their own economic growth and development.
- **Centralization of Power:** In many developing countries, political power is disproportionately centralized. Instead of having a network of political representatives distributed equally throughout society, in centralized systems of governance one major party, politician, or region is responsible for decision-making throughout the country. This often causes development problems. For example, in these situations politicians make decisions about places that they are unfamiliar with, lacking sufficient knowledge about the context to design effective and appropriate policies and programs.
- **Corruption:** Corruption often accompanies centralization of power, when leaders are not accountable to those they serve. Most directly, corruption inhibits development when leaders help themselves to money that would otherwise be used for development projects. In other cases, leaders reward political support by providing services to their followers.
- **Warfare:** Warfare contributes to more entrenched poverty by diverting scarce resources from fighting poverty to maintaining a military. Take, for example, the cases of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The most recent conflict over borders between the two countries erupted into war during 1999 and 2000, a period when both countries faced severe food shortages due to drought.
- **Environmental degradation:** Awareness and concern about environmental degradation have grown around the world over the last few decades, and are currently shared by people of different nations, cultures, religions, and social classes. However, the negative impacts of environmental degradation are disproportionately felt by the poor. Throughout the developing world, the poor often rely on natural resources to meet their basic needs through agricultural production and gathering resources essential for household maintenance, such as water, firewood, and wild plants for consumption and medicine. Thus, the depletion and contamination of water sources directly threaten the livelihoods of those who depend on them.
- **Social Inequality:** One of the more entrenched sources of poverty throughout the world is social inequality that stems from cultural ideas about the relative worth of different genders, races, ethnic groups, and social classes. Ascribed inequality works by placing individuals in different social categories at birth, often based on religious,

ethnic, or 'racial' characteristics. In South African history, apartheid laws defined a binary caste system that assigned different rights (or lack thereof) and social spaces to Whites and Blacks, using skin color to automatically determine the opportunities available to individuals in each group.

## EFFECTS OF POVERTY

:: The effects of poverty may also be causes, thus creating a "**poverty cycle**" operating across multiple levels, individual, local, national and global.

## HEALTH

- **Hunger, disease, and less education** describe a person in poverty. One third of deaths - some 18 million people a year or 50,000 per day - are due to **poverty-related causes**: in total 270 million people, most of them women and children, have died as a result of poverty since 1990. Those living in poverty suffer disproportionately from hunger or even starvation and disease. Those living in poverty suffer lower life expectancy.
- According to the **World Health Organization**, **hunger and malnutrition** are the single gravest threats to the world's public health and malnutrition is by far the biggest contributor to child mortality, present in half of all cases.
- **Women who have born children into poverty** may not be able to nourish the children efficiently and provide adequate care in infancy. The children may also suffer from disease that has been passed down to the child through birth. Asthma and rickets are common problems children acquire when born into poverty.

## EDUCATION

- There is a high risk of **educational underachievement** for children who are from low-income housing circumstances.
- This often is a process that begins in primary school for some less fortunate children. For children with low resources, the risk factors are similar to excuses such as **juvenile delinquency rates**, higher levels of teenage pregnancy, and the economic dependency upon their low income parent or parents.
- Poverty often **drastically affects children's success in school**. A child's "home activities, preferences, mannerisms" must align with the world and in the cases that they do not these students are at a disadvantage in the school and most importantly the classroom. Children who live at or below the poverty level will have far **less success educationally** than children who live above the poverty line.
- Poor children have a great deal less healthcare and this ultimately results in many absences from the academic year. Additionally, poor children are much more likely to suffer from **hunger, fatigue, irritability, headaches**, ear infections, flu, and colds. These illnesses could potentially restrict a child or student's focus and concentration.

## HOUSING

- **Slum-dwellers**, who make up a third of the world's urban population, live in poverty no better, if not worse, than rural people, who are the traditional focus of the poverty in the developing world, according to a report by the United Nations.

- Most of the children living in institutions around the world have a surviving parent or close relative, and they most commonly entered orphanages because of poverty.

## **VIOLENCE**

- According to a UN report on modern slavery, the most common form of **human trafficking** is for prostitution, which is largely fueled by poverty.
- In Zimbabwe, a number of girls are turning to **prostitution** for food to survive because of the increasing poverty.
- Also there are also many effects of poverty closer to home. For example after dropping out of school children may turn to violence as a source of income i.e mugging people, betting during street fights etc.

## **ADDRESSING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF POVERTY**

:: Building a more widespread commitment to overcoming poverty is an essential first step in overcoming poverty, and actions to address this are discussed below.

- **Share the benefits of economic growth** through an emphasis on more widespread employment: The phenomenon of **jobless economic growth** that increases income inequalities and generates too few jobs for low income groups poses a serious threat to the well-being of many nations, both North and South. **Government policies** should consider not only aggregate economic impact but also the distribution of employment. **Socially responsible venture capital and microcredit initiatives** can foster employment-generating businesses that complement the local culture and environment.
- **Root out corruption**, which harms society as a whole: Corruption, both in government and business, places heavy cost on society. Businesses should enact, publicize and follow codes of conduct banning corruption on the part of their staff and directors. Citizens must **demand greater transparency** on the part of both government and the corporate sector and create reform movements where needed.
- **Broaden access to education and technology** among marginalized groups, and especially among girls and women: The educational attainment of **women** has strong bearing on the well-being of their families, and efforts to improve education for women and girls must be strengthened. At the same time, steps should be taken to ensure that the **current revolution in information technology** benefits marginalized groups. This must begin in school.
- Improve **government capacity to provide universal access** to essential goods and services, including potable water, affordable food, primary health care, education, housing and **other social services**: Governments around the world have made commitments to this through the 20/20 Initiative, which calls for 20% of national budgets and 20% of foreign aid to be spent on human services. But raising adequate resources through effective taxation and other mechanisms is often politically difficult. New mechanisms for **public policy dialogue** that enable citizens of all classes to recognize the benefit of universal access to key services must be put in place. Nonprofit groups and even corporations can provide essential support here, helping articulate a **vision of a healthy society**. These nongovernmental actors can also help in the actual provision of services.

- **Investments in human capital** in the form of health, is needed for economic growth. Nations do not necessarily need wealth to gain health. Cheap water filters and promoting hand washing are some of the most **cost effective health interventions** and can cut deaths from diarrhea and pneumonia. Knowledge on the cost effectiveness of healthcare interventions can be elusive but educational measures to disseminate what works are available, such as the disease control priorities project.
- **Human capital**, in the form of education, is an even more important determinant of economic growth than physical capital. **De-worming children** costs about 50 cents per child per year and reduces non-attendance from anemia, illness and malnutrition and is only a twenty-fifth as expensive to increase school attendance as by constructing schools.
- **Good Infrastructure**, such as roads and information networks, helps market reforms to work. It was the technology of the steam engine that originally began the dramatic decreases in poverty levels. **Cell phone technology** brings the market to poor or rural sections. With necessary information, remote farmers can produce specific crops to sell to the buyers that bring the best price. Such technology also makes **financial services accessible** to the poor. Those in poverty place overwhelming importance on having a safe place to save money, much more so than receiving loans. Also, a large part of microfinance loans are spent on products that would usually be paid by a checking or savings account.
- **Aid in its simplest form is a basic income grant**, a form of social security periodically providing citizens with money. Some aid, such as **Conditional Cash Transfers**, can be rewarded based on desirable actions such as enrolling children in school or receiving vaccinations. Another form of aid is microloans, made famous by the **Grameen Bank**, where small amounts of money are loaned to farmers or villages, mostly women, who can then obtain physical capital to increase their economic rewards. Aid from **non-governmental organizations** may be more effective than governmental aid; this may be because it is better at reaching the poor and better controlled at the grassroots level.
- **Good Institutions:** Efficient institutions that are not corrupt and obey the rule of law make and enforce good laws that provide security to property and businesses. Efficient and fair governments would work to invest in the long-term interests of the nation rather than plunder resources through corruption. Examples of good governance leading to economic development and poverty reduction include Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Vietnam, which tends to have a **strong government**, called a hard state or development state.

# INCLUSION

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Inclusion is when all **people have the freedom to do** what anyone else can do, access to anyplace that anyone else can go, where full participation is available to everyone and all people embrace differences, and feel accepted, valued and respected for who they are. When considering the concept of inclusion one needs to be aware of the source of exclusion.

Inclusion is recognizing our **universal "oneness"** and **interdependence**. Inclusion is recognizing that we are "one" even though we are not the "same". We were all born "in". The act of inclusion means fighting against exclusion and all of the social diseases exclusion gives birth to - i.e. racism, poverty, hunger, etc.

The **difference between inclusion and exclusion** lies not with the individual, but within the society where the person lives. With this knowledge, the causes and strategies used to achieve inclusion the onus must fall upon societies. The causes and challenges of **exclusion result from social barriers** that exist within society as such; society is where the problems must be addressed.

## WHY BE CONCERNED WITH INCLUSION?

- First, there are serious negative effects for people who experience exclusion. Exclusion **creates division within a community** and separation of people causes vulnerability among the excluded groups, whether it is because of disability, race or class. This vulnerability puts people at risk of negative experiences in their lives.
- Lack of inclusion also leads to and exacerbates **social disparity** which, furthers the devaluation of these groups and reduces their quality of life. A lack of inclusion within a community creates an **atmosphere of inequality**, which prevents people from having equal access to all things that should be available to them in their society.
- This prevents those who are excluded from getting what they need to live effectively. The areas often affected include access to employment and as a result, **reduced financial status** which creates the risk of people not being capable of acquiring their basic needs.
- Those who are excluded are at increased risk of participation in many types **of unhealthy behaviors** and **reduced overall health**. Beyond the implications of exclusion on the individual and groups in society, there are also effects, which touch society as a whole in a negative way.
- A reduced level of inclusion leads to the **marginalization and segregation of groups**, which emphasize differences, and creates separation within a community. A community divided in this way, is a weaker society in its humanity.
- Separation also leads to **power differentials**, which create divisions, segregation and **inequality** within a community. These concerns develop into power imbalances and oppression of groups in communities.

## WHAT ARE THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO EXCLUSION?

- There are a number of issues which contribute to exclusion. The biggest contributing factor is **attitudinal barriers** held about a group of people because of difference such as disability, race, or gender.

- This type of barrier has been identified as leading to lack of acceptance perpetuation of negative stereotypes and adherence to **certain norms, habits and societal rules**. These rules are designed by and for the dominant group in society and the belief that if people do not fit they should not be included. Finally, attitudinal barriers are the root cause of a number of other factors which contribute to exclusion such as access barriers, power imbalance, superficial service inclusion and policy barriers.
- One of the barriers that are caused by the presence of attitudinal barriers is **lack of accommodation of differences**.
- This includes physical barriers that prevent access. **Lack of accommodation** and accessibility contribute directly to the exclusion of people. Not only are these physical barriers an issue as they exist, but they also affect efforts to remove them and stifle willingness to prevent future barriers from being created.
- Voluntary measures are limitedly successful. Project and policy directives need to be put in place to assist with the elimination of barriers, so an environment of inclusion can occur.
- **Power imbalances** also result from attitudinal barriers and contribute to exclusion. People within the dominant group make decisions, as they possess the power to do so, for those outside the dominant group there is often a lack of support needed and feelings of inequality develop.
- When power is held by one dominant group those outside are more likely to be excluded and their needs are left unheard and unmet. Attitudinal barriers about the excluded contribute to superficially inclusive services and systems.
- These types of systems may have the best intentions but a **lack of belief in and respect for people** leads to the excluded being silent recipients of services. This superficial type effort often leads to generic approaches which are ineffective for everyone.
- This also applies to segregated programs which do not provide an opportunity to promote inclusion and perpetuates the separation of people and the belief that they are different and should not be part of the mainstream of society.
- Service language of benevolence and gifting sends very strong messages to the people served and to the community. This perspective can lead to perpetuation of attitudinal barriers, **negative self-images**, and negatively impacts on the service and community environment.
- The final area where attitudinal barriers affect the **exclusion of people is around policy barriers**. Commonly held negative attitudes influence the political agendas that support negative policy development for excluded groups. The outcome of this type of policy development is patchwork ineffective programs that do not address the needs of the people they were created to support.
- It is these barriers which prevent adequate funds and resources from being directed to the efforts of inclusion in service and accessibility supports. Negative attitudes and beliefs have a major effect on the production of **legislative disincentives** in their programs, which put up another barrier for the excluded to overcome.

## **INCLUSION IN “INDIAN CONTEXT”**

In Indian context it implies, an **equitable allocation of resources** with benefits accruing to every section of society. A growth process which yields **broad-based benefits** and ensures **equality of opportunity** for all. It is concerned with the **Pro-poor growth**, growth with equity. It is aimed at **poverty reduction, human development, health** and provide **opportunity to work** and be creative. In order to

achieve inclusion, the allocation of resources must be focused on the indented short and long terms benefits and economic linkages at large and not just equitable mathematically on some regional and population criteria.

## THE INCLUSION INVOLVES FOUR ATTRIBUTES

- **The Opportunity** attribute focuses on generating more and more opportunities to the people and focuses on increasing their income.
- **The Capability** attribute concentrates on providing the means for people to create or enhance their capabilities in order to exploit available opportunities.
- **The Access** attributes focuses on providing the means to bring opportunities and capabilities together.
- **The Security** attribute provides the means for people to protect themselves against a temporary or permanent loss of livelihood.

All together it is a process in which economic growth measured by a sustained expansion in GDP contributes to an enlargement of the scale and scope of all four dimensions.

## NEED FOR INCLUSION IN INDIA

- India is the 7th largest country by area and 2nd by population. It is the 12th largest economy at market exchange rate and 4th largest by PPP. Yet, India is **far away from the development** of the neighborhood nation, i.e., China.
- The exclusion in terms of **low agriculture growth**, low quality employment growth, low human development, rural-urban divides, gender and social inequalities, and regional disparities etc. are the problems for the nation.
- Studies estimated that the cost of **corruption in India** amounts to over 10% GDP. Corruption is one of the ills that prevent inclusive growth.
- Although **Child labour** has been banned by the law in India and there are stringent provisions to deter this inhuman practice. Still, many children in India are unaware of education as they lives are spoiled to labour work.
- **Literacy levels** have to rise to provide the skilled workforce required for higher growth.
- **Economic reforms** in the country are overwhelmed by **out dated philosophies** and allegations by the politicians and opposition parties in India.
- Even at **international level** also, there is a **concern about inequalities** and exclusion and now they are also taking about inclusive approach for development.

## ELEMENTS OF INCLUSION-ORIENTED GROWTH

According to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the key components of the inclusion oriented growth strategy included a sharp **increase in investment in rural areas**, rural infrastructure and agriculture spurt in credit for farmers, increase in rural employment through a unique social safety net and a sharp increase in public spending on education and health care.

The five interrelated elements of inclusion oriented growth are:

1. **Poverty Reduction** and increase in quantity and quality of employment.

- 2. Agriculture Development**
- 3. Social Sector Development**
- 4. Reduction in regional disparities**
- 5. Protecting the environment.**

## **PROBLEMS BEFORE INCLUSION ORIENTED GROWTH STRATEGIES IN INDIA**

For a developing country like India, the need of inclusion-oriented growth is vital to achieve the overall progress of the country. Though it is positive for macro-economic stability, 2008-09 resulted a relative growth slowdown, mostly from the spillover effects of the weakening of the global economic momentum and volatile financial markets.

The following problems are the **major concerns for developing countries** like India to achieve the inclusive growth. They are:

- Poverty
- Employment
- Agriculture
- Problems in Social Development
- Regional Disparities
- Poverty
- Percent of population living under the poverty line, which is 356.35 rupees or around \$7 a month in rural areas.

The World Bank estimates that **456 million Indians** (42% of the total Indian population) now live **under the global poverty line** of \$1.25 per day (PPP). This means that a third of the global poor now reside in India. However, this also represents a significant **decline in poverty** from 60 percent in 1981 to 42 percent in 2005, although the rupee has decreased in value since then, while the official standard of 538/356 rupees per month has remained the same. Income **inequality in India (Gini coefficient:** 32.5 in year 1999- 2000) is increasing. On the other hand, the Planning Commission of India uses its own criteria and has estimated that **27.5% of the population** was living below the poverty line in 2004–2005, down from 51.3% in 1977–1978, and 36% in 1993-1994.

The source for this was the **61st round of the National Sample Survey** (NSS) and the criterion used was monthly per capita consumption expenditure below Rs. **356.35** for rural areas and **Rs. 538.60 for urban** areas. 75% of the poor are in rural areas, most of them are daily wagers, self-employed householders & landless labourers.

A proportionally large share of poor is lower castes. Many see the **caste system** as a system of exploitation of poor low-ranking groups by more prosperous high-ranking groups. In many parts of India, land is largely held by high-ranking property owners of the dominant castes that economically **exploit low-ranking landless labourers** and poor artisans, all the while degrading them with ritual emphases on their so-called god-given inferior status.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- Employment considered as one of the **big problems** for inclusion-oriented growth in India. Raising population at a great speed after independence showed its impact on employment. The **unemployment became the big worry** to the development of the country.

- Since poverty is much higher than unemployment, employment is the **only source to eradicate poverty**. The quality and quantity of employment in India is very low due to illiteracy and due to over dependency on agricultural employment. The quality of employment is also a problem.
- **Unorganized employed** people in India are **around 85%**. Workers in this sector do not have social security. The generation of productive employment for labour force in the economy, as employment is a key to inclusion-oriented growth is the toughest task for the country.
- The country is also facing in employment generation in all sectors, regions and for all socio economic groups particularly for poorer sections of population, backward regions, lagging sectors and SC/ST/OBC/women etc.

## **AGRICULTURE**

- Traditionally, India is considered as the agricultural based country. As the majority of Indians are engaged in agriculture for employment, the recent developments in the other sectors decreased this major sector's growth. Some of the **problems in Indian agriculture are:**
  - ✓ Long term factors like steeper decline in per capita land availability, shrinking of farm size.
  - ✓ Slow reduction in share of employment.
  - ✓ Low labour productivity in agriculture and the gap between agriculture and non-agriculture sector is widening.
  - ✓ Decline in yield growth due to land and water problems, vulnerability to world commodity prices, farmer's suicides.
  - ✓ Disparities in growth across regions and crops, i.e., growth rate declined more in rain fed areas.
- Thus these **problems became the hurdles** in the key area for the economic development of the nation, i.e., agriculture.

## **PROBLEMS IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Social development is also one of the key concerns in inclusion oriented growth. The social development became the hot criteria in the recent past in India. Social development is also **facing some problems** making the path critical to inclusion-oriented growth in the country. Some of the problems in social sector are:

- ✓ Significant regional, social and gender disparities.
- ✓ Low level and slow growth in public expenditures particularly on health.
- ✓ Poor quality delivery systems.
- ✓ Achievement of 127th rank among 170 countries on Human Development index.
- ✓ Social indicators are much lower for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- ✓ Malnutrition among children is one major problem.
- ✓ Since BPO brought the multi culture environment in India, this sector is facing under savior pressure due to global recession.

## **REGIONAL DISPARITIES**

Regional disparities are also a major concern for India due to **different culture and traditions**. Traditional cultures, caste system and the rich & poor feelings favored some specific groups as a result, the regional disparities raised in India before

and after independence. And also, due to the development in agriculture and industrial sector some regions in India developed fast and some other places still are facing the scarcity. Some of the regional disparities problems are:

- ✓ Per capita income is highest at Rs. 16,679 in Punjab and lowest per capita income is at Bihar with Rs. 3557.
- ✓ Female infant mortality varies from 12 in Kerala to 88 in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Female literacy varies from 33.6% in Bihar to 88% in Kerala.
- ✓ Richer states grew faster than the poorer states.

## **CHALLENGES BEFORE INCLUSION-ORIENTED GROWTH STRATEGIES IN INDIA**

The key components of the inclusion-oriented growth strategy included a **sharp increase in investment in rural areas**, rural infrastructure and agriculture spurt in credit for farmers; increase in rural employment through a unique **social safety net** and sharp **increase in public spending on education and health** care.

The government also should go for a variety of legislative interventions to empower the disadvantaged. Some of the challenges and opportunities before inclusion-oriented growth strategies in India are:

1. **Poverty alleviation** is one of the big challenges for India. Eradication of poverty in India is generally only considered to be a long-term goal. Poverty alleviation is expected to make better progress in the next 50 years than in the past, as a trickle-down effect of the growing middle class. **Increasing stress on education, reservation of seats** in government jobs and the increasing empowerment of women and the economically weaker sections of society, are also expected to contribute to the alleviation of poverty.
2. **For agricultural growth**, the private players can participate in to bridge the gap including providing micro finance. **Contract farming**, setting up **storage facilities** for agro-produce, and producing them from farmers. The private sector could also develop heritage sites and tourist spots and encourage the **promotion of traditional arts** and crafts in **joint ventures with rural enterprises**. The government of India should also increase its present moratorium on interest payments, lowering of farm credit rates for increase in agricultural growth.
3. **Government schemes** should target eradication of both poverty and unemployment (which in recent decades has sent millions of poor and unskilled people into urban areas in search of livelihoods) attempt to solve the problem, by providing **financial assistance** for setting up businesses, skill honing, setting up public sector enterprises, reservations in governments, etc. The decreased role of the public sector after liberalization has further underlined the need for focusing on **better education** and has also put political pressure on further reforms.
4. **Child labor** is a complex problem that is basically rooted in poverty. The Indian government is implementing the **world's largest child labor elimination program**, with primary education targeted for around 250 million. Numerous non-governmental and voluntary organizations are also involved.
5. Special investigation cells have been set up in states to enforce existing laws **banning employment of children** (under 14) in hazardous industries. The allocation of the Government of India for the eradication of child labor was \$10 million in 1995-96 and \$16 million in 1996-97. The allocation for 2007 is \$21 million. Failure to implement the law and poor rehabilitation policies need urgent attention which is a big challenge for India to achieve inclusive growth. Social development is

- possible through achieving **Women Empowerment** and eradicating the regional disparities.
6. Though the Government is giving the women empowerment by giving special reservations, the women's advancement in India is still not matched the expectations for inclusive growth. Presently, the **women** are dealing with the **top posts** in India like President, Lok Sabha Speaker and Railway Minister.
  7. To bring in inclusive growth, it is necessary to enhance the capabilities of women by providing education, so that they get the opportunity of getting employed and be self sustainable. Government of India has stepped up for inclusion-oriented growth by launching **many initiatives** with features that are innovative, flexible and reform oriented such as:
    - ✓ Rural Infrastructure(Bharat Nirman)
    - ✓ Employment(National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme)
    - ✓ Regional Development ( backward District Development Program)
    - ✓ Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)
    - ✓ Rural Health(National Rural Health Mission)
    - ✓ Urban Infrastructure (National Urban Renewal Mission)

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. Since, **agriculture holds the key** to rural income, food self sufficiency, relative stability in prices, the budget package for farmers, the **11th five year plan also gave 8.55% to the Agriculture and Irrigation** to the total Plan outlay. Hence, these benefits are expected to contribute for improved farm productivity and thus contribute to the economy as well as for inclusive growth.
2. **Gender equality and women's empowerment** are human rights that lie at the heart of development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Government's initiatives to achieve inclusion-oriented growth should reach to the end needy people in due time. If it is done, definitely inclusion-oriented growth can be achieved at a less time span.
4. **Poverty and Employment** has a good relation. If Poverty is to be removed, then definitely the employment is the key.
5. **Better infrastructure** facilities and through investments in public and private sector is likely to strengthen further, giving a boost to economic growth.
6. The Urban-rural divide has to be bridged ad rural areas integrated with the economic processes to **ensure equitable and inclusive growth**.
7. The **private sector** has an **important role to play** in enhancing employment opportunities in farm and non-farm enterprises in rural areas, and should provide the necessary expertise to these areas.
8. **Education, Increased technology, women's economic and social empowerment economic reforms and efficiency** improvements in the economy will reinforce the country's confidence in the high-growth phase and thus contribute to inclusive growth.
9. Development of **production sector, BPO's, infrastructure** and structural change in agriculture – industry – services will create productive employment.
10. For the global competition, country needs to have inclusive growth; hence all the above challenges and opportunities will contribute to the **inclusion-oriented growth strategies** in India.

# **Sample Notes of Social Issues**

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# PROBLEM OF GENDER INEQUALITY

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**Sex & Gender** are the 2 different concepts. Sex is a biological construct while gender is social or cultural construct. Sex being a biological concept, it determines biological differences which have been endowed by nature to men & women. Whereas gender which is a cultural concept refers to the set of all the different roles, traits which are assigned to and inculcated in males & females on the basis of the culture they practice & the society in which they live.

Therefore gender refers to male & female, characteristics defined by culture is making these characteristics changes as culture varies e.g. in patriarchal society female is confined to domestic household work – child bearing, child rearing for continuation of lineage.

Whereas in other societies- North-Eastern parts of the country it's the females who go to work whereas male remain at home e.g. Papua New Guinea, females are more aggressive & fierce which is generally considered to be a male trait in patriarchal society. Therefore overall gender, based roles are referred to the task and activity assigned by a given culture to the sexes.

## WHAT IS GENDER INEQUALITY?

When these sexual differences are considered as indicators to the level of intelligence, social status, productive capability, degree of adaptability & capacity to exercise authority resulting in discrimination bringing in unequal rewards in terms of power, prestige, personal freedom, control over property, political participation, role in family etc reflecting different positions of sexes, therefore legitimizing sexual differences resulting in gender stratification. Thus form of inequality on the basis of sexual differences is called as Gender inequality.

## REASONS & CONSEQUENCES OF GENDER INEQUALITY

It results mainly because of 2 reasons:

- 1) Relative economic contribution by both the sexes
- 2) Difference in control on access over such resources or contribution.

Such a distinction results in devaluation of women occupying a lower secondary position; consequently limiting productivity, slowing down economic growth & impeding social development of society.

## MAIN PROBLEMS OF INDIAN WOMEN

- **Malnutrition:** Generally in India, women are the ones who eat last and least in the whole family. As a result most of the times their food intake does not contain the nutritional value required in maintaining the healthy body. This nutritional deficiency has two major consequences for women first they become anemic and second they

never achieve their full growth, which leads to an unending cycle of undergrowth as malnourished women cannot give birth to a healthy baby.

- **Poor Health:** The malnutrition results in poor health of women. The women of India are prejudiced from the birth itself. They are not breastfed for long. In the want of a son the women wants to get pregnant as soon as possible which decreases the caring period to the girl child whereas the male members get adequate care and nutrition.
- **Maternal Mortality:** The mortality rate in India is among highest in the world. As females are not given proper attention, which results in the malnutrition and then they are married at an early age which leads to pregnancies at younger age when the body is not ready to bear the burden of a child. All this results in complications, which may lead to gynecological problems, which may become serious with time and may ultimately, lead to death.
- **Lack of education:** In India women education never got its due share of attention. Girls are supposed to fulfill domestic duties and education becomes secondary for them whereas it is considered to be important for boys. Although scenario in urban areas has changed a lot and women are opting for higher education but majority of Indian population residing in villages still live in medieval times. The lack of education is the root cause for many other problems.
- **Mistreatment:** In India violence against women is a common evil. Not just in remote parts but in cities also women bear the brunt. They are subjected to physical and mental violence. They are the one who work most but are not given their due. The women are not safe anywhere; neither at home nor at workplace. Every hour a woman is raped in India and every 93 minutes a woman is burnt to death due to dowry problem.
- **Overworked:** Indian women work more than men of India but their work is hardly recognized as they mainly do unskilled work. Their household chores is never counted as a work, if a woman is working in a field to help her husband it will also be not counted as a work.
- **Lack of power:** In India a large percentage of women do not have power. They cannot take decisions independently not even related to their own life. They have to take permission of male members for each and every issue. They don't have any say in important household matters and not in matter of their own marriage.
- **Marriage:** The family mainly fixes the marriages in India. The scenario in villages is very bad. The girl is not consulted but is told to marry a guy whom her family has chosen for him. They are taught to abide by the whims and fancies of their husbands. Going against the wishes of husband is considered to be a sin.
- **Dowry:** it's a serious issue. Nowadays parents have to give hefty amount in dowry, the in laws of their girl are not concerned whether they can afford it or not. If a girl brings large amount of dowry she is given respect and is treated well in her new home and if she does not bring dowry according to expectations of her in laws then she has to suffer harassment. Due to this evil practice many newly wed women of India have to lose their lives.
- **Female infanticide/ foeticide:** as women was supposed to be and in some areas of India is still considered to be curse by some strata of society their birth was taken as a burden. Today with the help of technology the sex of the unborn baby is determined and if it is a girl child then it is aborted down.
- **Divorce:** It is regarded as the sign of failure of marriage, especially of women. She is treated as if she has committed some crime by divorcing her husband. In some communities like Muslims women did not have the right to divorce their husband

## PROBLEMS OF WORKING WOMEN

It is an open truth that working women have to face problems just by virtue of their being women.

- A gender bias creates an obstacle at the **recruitment stage** itself. Thus women find employment easily as nurses, doctors, teachers the caring and nurturing sectors, secretaries or in assembling jobs-the routine submissive sectors. But even if well qualified women engineers or managers or geologists are available, preference is given to a male of equal qualification.
- When it comes to **remuneration** the law proclaims equality but it is seldom put into practice. The inbuilt conviction that women are capable of less work than men or less efficient than men governs this injustice of unequal salaries.
- Women going to work are often subject to **sexual harassment**. Public transport system is overcrowded and men take advantage of the circumstances to physically harass women.
- Women on the **higher managerial posts** discover that they must be much better than their male colleagues to reach the top. Once at the top, male colleagues and subordinates often expect much greater expertise and efficiency from a woman boss than from a male boss.
- Conditioned by social and psychological tradition, **women colleagues** too don't lend support to their own sex. Working in such conditions inevitably put much greater strain on women than what men experience.
- Women have to almost always shoulder the **burden of household chores** as well. In most families even now her salary is handed over to father, husband or in-laws. So the basic motive for seeking employment of getting independence is nullified in many women's case.
- Technological advancement results in **retrenchment** of women employees. No one thinks of upgrading their skills.
- **Maternity leave** is seldom given. It is much easier to terminate the woman's employment and hire someone else.
- **Trade Unions** do little to ameliorate the lot of women workers. Women's issues do not occur on the priority list of most of the trade unions.

## MEASURES OF GENDER INEQUALITY

### Social Development Indicators

1. **Sex Ratio**– Sex ratio is an indicator of social attitude of cultural factors in the society which generally favours a male child over females, apart from poverty & illiteracy responsible for low sex ratio. It is no. of females per 1000 of males in the country.

In 1901	972
In 1991	927
In 2001	933

Kerala leads in terms of **sex ratio** having 1072; In Pondicherry – 1007 and it is worst in Haryana (869) and Punjab (885)

2. **Life expectancy at birth** – which in 1901 was 23.3, improved to 61.8 in 1997 with highest expectancy in Kerala i.e. 75.9 & lowest in MP having 55.2

- 3. Maternal Mortality Rate:** MMR indicates regional variations attributed to access of medical facilities to pregnant women, economic position of families & level of the development of the state. In 1992, it was 424 per lakh of live births. In 1998 it was 540 per lakh of live births; Highest in U.P. 707 and Lowest in Gujarat – 250
- 4. Women health:** 2% of the female population of the country is absolute anaemic. 12% of the female population of the country suffers from repeated pregnancy & lack of nutrition.
- 5. Female literacy:** Highest in Kerala– 87.86% followed by Mizoram- 83.13%; Lowest in Bihar – 33.57%, Jharkhand- 39.38%

### **Women Empowerment Indicators**

- 1. Participation at Work:** Rural areas – highest participation is in Andhra Pradesh 48%, followed by Himachal 47%, lowest in Tripura – 7.6%, Assam –16%. In Urban areas: Highest in Mizoram– 26.5% followed by Kerala– 25.4%; lowest in J&K– 6.68%
- 2. Participation in PRIs in terms of voting percentage:** UP – lowest – 16%; Highest – Karnataka – 44%; Overall Indian Average – 27%
- 3. Crime against women:** They have increased by 6% per year; Home crime increased by 6% per year; Dowry deaths reduced by 3.96%; Harassment cases increased by 10% and Rape cases increased by 2.9%. In India there are 42 cases per day & 18 cases of dowry death per day. According to UNDP, India is at 115<sup>th</sup> position in terms of status of women. Its gender Related development index 0.555 and the 1<sup>st</sup> country is Norway with 0.774 Gender related development index.

## **PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

### **1. Constitutional Provisions**

- Art 14 – Right to equality & equal protection before law.  
 Art 15 (3) – Special provision for welfare of women & children  
 Art 16 – special provision in terms of public employment  
 Art 23 – bans trafficking in human being & forced labour.  
 Art 39 (a) – to secure adequate means of livelihood equally for both male & female.  
 Art 39 (b) – Equal pay for equal work  
 Art 42 – Just & human conditions of work & maternity relief.  
 Art 51 (a) (e) – Renunciation of practices derogatory to dignity of women.  
 Art 300 (A) - Right to property to women  
 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act 1992 – Reservation of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of seats in local bodies of panchayats & Municipalities for women. Bill has been introduced in Parliament proposing reservation for women legislations

### **2. Various Legislative Acts**

- a. Abolition of Sati Act** – Sati was abolished in 1829. It was revised in 1879 & made illegal in 1887.
- b. Amendment to criminal Act 1983** talks about domestic violence as an offence, under 376 (2) IPC, Custodial rape, gang rape, rape of pregnant women, rape of less than 12 years girl is made a punishable offense.

- c. **Special Marriage Act 1954** – prescribing age of marriage for Male – 21 years and Female – 18 years
- d. **Hindu Succession Act 1956:** Equal share to daughter from father's property, Widow has the right to inherit husband's property. It removes the distinction between streedhan & non-Streedhan. An amendment in this Act has been made in Aug 2005 enabling daughters to have equal share in ancestral properties. Therefore Parliament by passing this amendment has given equal rights in inheritance of property by Hindu women.
- e. **Dowry Prohibition Act – 1961:** It has also been significantly amended under 376 IPC defining cruelty against women & providing broader coverage to dowry deaths.
- f. **Maternity Benefits Act – 1961:** In 2004, this act has been amended increasing the maternity relief from 3 to 6 months
- g. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971:** Legalizing abortion in case if fetus is suffering from physical or mental abnormality, in case of rape & unwanted pregnancy to be conducted till 12 weeks of gestation period without any risk but within 12-20 weeks period to be performed with care.
- h. **Domestic Violence Act** was passed as a landmark act that seeks to determine domestic violence in all forms against women.
  - Domestic violence includes actual abuse or threat of abuse in terms of physical, sexual, emotional, verbal or economic violence.
  - It also includes harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands made before the women or her relatives.
  - It empowers a magistrate to pass protection orders in favour of the aggrieved female preventing the respondent from aiding or committing the act of domestic violence
  - Breach of this protection order by the respondent shall be an offence & shall be punishable with an imprisonment, which may extend to one year or fine which may extend to Rs 20,000 or both.

### **3. Institutions**

- a. **National Commission of Women:** established in 1990 as statutory body. Functions include:
  - Looking into social, economical & domestic problem of women offering speedy justice as it has got a complaint cell & Mahila Lok Adalats throughout the country to monitor & address women problem
  - It organizes different programs and seminars sensitizing NGOs, Police personnel, Judiciary & public at large about gender related problems
  - It also advises law making bodies to give adequate importance to the problems & needs of women.
  - It looks into rehabilitation of widows, prostitutes, women prisoners, training them & empowering them
  - It campaigns for active participation of women in electoral process, protecting rights of minority women in electoral process, protecting right of minority women & technological empowerment of women.
- b. **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development**, New Delhi: is an autonomous organization under the aegis of the Department of Women and Child Development. Its objective is to develop and promote voluntary action in social development, take a comprehensive view of women and child

development and develop and promote programmes in pursuance of the National Policy of children. It's the apex body for training of functionaries of the integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme.

#### 4. Various Schemes/ Programmes

- a. **STEP** (Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women) was launched as a Central Sector Scheme in 1986-87. It aims at making a significant impact on women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills.
- b. **Swawalamban:** Launched in 1982-1983, to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them obtain employment or self-employment on a sustainable basis.
- c. **Swayamsidha:** Integrated project for the development and empowerment of women. Formation of women into Self-Help Groups with emphasis on converging services, developing access to micro-credit and promoting micro-enterprises.
- d. **Swa-Shakti:** Project supported by the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); aims at enhancing women's access to resources for better quality of life through use of drudgery and time reduction devices, health and literacy.
- e. **Swadhar:** launched in 2001 as a central sector scheme for the benefit of women in difficult circumstances, such as destitute widows deserted by their families in religious places like Vrindavan and Kahsi; women prisoners released from jail and women survivors of disasters.

#### 5. Awards

- a. **Sree Shakti Puraskar:** instituted in 1999, are given in the name of five illustrious daughters of India-Kannagi, Mata Jijabai, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Rani Laxmibai or Jhansi and Rani Gaindiliu. Presented on 8th March (International Women's Day).
- b. **Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh Award on Women's Development:** Instituted in the name of Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh, the founder Chairperson of the Central Social Welfare Board, presented to any organization that has made contribution to the welfare of women.
- c. **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh:** 1993 – to facilitate credit support to poor women of their socio-economic upliftment.

#### 6. Other Measures

- a. **National Nutrition Mission** set up in 2003 to address the problem of nutrition in a comprehensive manner.
- b. **Food and Nutrition Board** transferred to Department of Women and Child Development. Department is in charge of the administration of the following five Acts in the field of women and child development –
  - (a) The Immoral **Traffic** (Prevention) Act, 1956.
  - (b) The **Indecent Representation** of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986.
  - (c) The **Dowry** Prohibition Act, 1961.
  - (d) The Commission of **Sati** (Prevention) Act, 1987.
  - (e) **Infant Milk** Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992.

- c. **Year 2001** was considered as Women Empowerment year. March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day every year.

## 7. Recent Programmes by the Government

### 1. Dhan Laxmi Scheme

- A **conditional cash transfer scheme** for the girl child. A significant amount of money will be provided to the family of the girl child on fulfilling certain conditions
- The **conditions** include registration of birth of the girl, following a total immunization schedule, school enrolment and delaying of marriage until the age of 18 years.
- In addition, an **insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh** will be provided to the girl child at birth. In all, a cash package of Rs. 2 lakh would be provided to the girl's family, preferably to the mother, through the scheme.
- It will cover those living below as well as above the poverty line.
- **Objectives:** Financial incentives for families to encourage them for better upbringing of the girl child and to educate her. Scheme would also help in changing the mindset of the family towards the girl by linking cash and non-cash transfers of her well-being.

### 2. Delhi Launches Ladli Scheme

- The "**Delhi Ladli Scheme-2008**" introduced for the protection of the girl child, would be applicable from the new academic year.
- Its aim is enhancing the social status of the girl child in society as well as in the family, ensuring proper education to make the girl child self-reliant, ensuring her **economic security** and protecting her from discrimination and deprivation.
- As part of the scheme, the Govt. will make a **payment of Rs. 6000** if the girl child is born in a hospital or nursing home in Delhi and will provide cash payment of Rs. 5000 each on admission of the child to Class I, VI, IX, X and XII.
- The eligibility criteria are that the applicant should have been a bona fide resident of the Delhi for at least 3 years preceding the date of application, the annual income of the parents of the girl child should not exceed a lakh and child must be born in Delhi as shown by Birth certificate.

### 3. Rajya Sabha Passes Maternity Benefit Bill:

Rajya Sabha has passed the Maternity Benefits Amendment Bill, 2007, that enables women working in factories, shops and plantations to get more maternity benefits.

The **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** regulates the employment of women in factories, mines, circus industry, plantations & shops or establishments employing 10 or more people except employees who are covered under Employees' State Insurance (ESI). Under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, women employees are entitled to maternity benefit at the rate of average daily wage for the period of their actual absence up to 12 weeks due to the delivery. In cases of illness arising due to pregnancy, etc., they are **entitled to additional leave with wages for a period of one month**. They are also entitled to **six weeks maternity benefit** in case of miscarriage.

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 also provides that every woman entitled to maternity benefit shall also be entitled to receive from her employer **medical bonus of Rs. 250**, if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided for by the employer free of charge. However, in the present economic scenario, it is felt that the medical bonus, which is presently Rs. 250, is inadequate. Therefore, the new amendment proposes- 1. To raise the **medical bonus** payable under the Maternity Benefit Act 1961, from Rs 250 to Rs 1000; 2. To give powers to the Central Government to revise medical bonus from time to time subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/-.

## **DECLINING CHILD SEX RATIO**

The sex ratio in India is 933 females per 1000 males whereas the child Sex Ratio in between 0-6 years age group of children is 927/1000 boys. Child sex Ratio of 950 is considered to be healthy because infant Mortality Rate among boys is higher and by nature females are stronger i.e. they are immune to many diseases. In 1991 this ratio was 945/1000 and since then it has been declining sharply especially in N-Western states of country e.g. in Punjab in 857 & in Haryana it is 867/ 1000. It's also declining in Rajasthan & Delhi.

### **Reasons**

- 1) Cultural preference of having a son especially among Hindus & Sikhs.
- 2) Religious preference.
- 3) Social factor like dowry.
- 4) Unholy alliance between technology & society.
- 5) Government policy – promotion of 2 child policy where there is need for a smaller family, therefore male child is preferred.

### **Social consequences**

- Greater demand for females & therefore early marriage hampering college education resulting in hampering job skills,
- it may also increase economic independence at early age.
- Crime rate against women may increase

### **What has been done?**

Parliament has enacted a law known as **Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation) Act**. This technique has been misused for determining the sex of baby yet to be born by using Ultra sonograms (USG). Under this act sex determination can be done using USG only for medical reasons & only registered hospitals can carry out these tests. It includes pre conception tests as well. **Supreme Court** intervening in a PIL ordered that-

- a. Pre natal includes pre-conception as well.
- b. All manufacturing units, manufacturing ultra- sound machines have to submit a list of hospitals clinics, nursing homes where the instruments have been supplied.
- c. Chief Secretary has to cross check whether such clinics etc have taken license & thereafter he has to submit the report on measures taken.

### **Suggestions**

1. Female feticide & infanticide is a social evil. It can only be eliminated by social education.
2. Child sex ratio is decreasing in urban centers also. Even educated families go for sex determination therefore awareness for girl child should be promoted by providing them reservation, special scholarship for poor girls, school attendance & enrollment incentives etc.
3. Strict enforcement of legal measures.

Most of the problems that beset working women are in reality rooted in the **social perspective of the position of women**. Traditionally men are seen as the bread winner and women as the house-keepers, child bearers and rearers. This typecast role model continues to put obstacles before the working women. A **fundamental change is required in the attitudes** of the employers, policy makers, family members and other relatives and the public at large.

The status of women in modern India is a sort of a **paradox**. If on one hand she is at the peak of ladder of success, on the other hand she is mutely suffering the **violence afflicted** on her by her own family members. As compared with past women in modern times have achieved a lot but in reality they have to still travel a long way. Their path is full of roadblocks.

Though there are problems in the lives of Indian women but they are always ready to fight all the odds and enjoy their life to the full they have their own talent, hobbies, and they socialize according to Indian customs.

# RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT

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Human empowerment has three essential ingredients: health, education and employment. Education is the **most important pre-requisite** of human empowerment. Education is the key to unlocking human potential. It empowers an individual to think, question and see beyond the obvious. Education **broadens mental horizon** and gives a better understanding of the world around us. Education enables people to come out of oppression and alienation and to take control of their lives. In a country where a large majority of people are illiterate, even the democracy fails to fulfill its objectives.

## EMERGENCE OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT

**Gopal Krishna Gokhale** in 1911 urged the Imperial Legislative Assembly to confer the Right to Education on the Indian people. The first step towards right to education was taken in 1950 when the Constitution (**Art 45**) by way of a directive principle promised free & compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years. In 1975, the Central government put the responsibility for primary education under "concurrent list" by **42<sup>nd</sup> amendment** to the Constitution. This paved the way for the centre to play a greater role in boosting the education sector in India.

In 1993, in **Unnikrishnan vs. the State of Andhra Pradesh**, a 5-member Bench of the Supreme Court laid down that the right to education was a fundamental right that flowed from the Right to Life (**Article 21**). Thus it held free education up to the age of 14 was a fundamental right of every child.

In **2002**, Free & compulsory elementary education was made a fundamental right under Article 21 by the **86th Amendment Act**. However, the amendment needed a corresponding enabling legislation by the Parliament which was passed in 2009 and came into force from **1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010**. With the passage of the Act, India joins the club of about 135 countries which according to the **UNESCO** have constitutional provisions for free & non-discriminatory education for all topped by Chile.

## MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT

- Every child of the age of **6 to 14 years** shall have a right to free & compulsory education in a **neighbourhood school** till completion of elementary education.
- Appropriate Government and the **local authority** shall establish within limits of neighbourhood, a school within a period of 3 years.
- It shall be the **duty of every parent or guardian** to admit his or her child or ward to an elementary education in the neighbourhood school.
- A school shall admit in class-I atleast **25%** of the strength of that class, children belonging to **weaker sections** & disadvantage groups from neighbourhood and provide free & compulsory elementary education to them.
- No school shall, while admitting a child, collect any **capitation free** and subject the child as his or her parents or guardian to any **screening procedure**.

- No child so admitted shall be **held back in any class or expelled** from school till the completion elementary education. No child shall be subjected to **physical punishment** or mental harassment.
- No child shall be denied admission in a school for lack of **age proof**.
- No school shall be established without obtaining a certificate of **recognition** from authority.
- A school shall constitute a **School Management Committee (SMC)** consisting of the elected representatives of the local authority, parents or guardians of children admitted in such school & teachers. It will perform the functions like: Monitor the working of the school; Prepare & recommend school development plan; Monitor the utilization of the grants received.
- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** shall also perform functions, namely: Examine & review the safeguard for rights provided under this Act and recommend measures for their effective implementation; and inquire into complaints relating to child's right to free & compulsory education.
- The Central Government shall constitute, a **National Advisory Council**. It will advise the Central Government on implementation of the provisions of the Act in an effective manner. Similarly, the State Government shall constitute **State Advisory Council** for similar functions.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACT**

The Act is being perceived as a **landmark step** towards educating India and has attained worldwide recognition. However it has left many stones unturned with serious implications hindering positive & successful implementation of the same.

What is left unexplained is what constitutes "**free**" education. Though it is understood that government schools shall not charge any tuition fees, it is also true that households incur substantial indirect costs of education (towards textbooks, uniforms and so on), which in turn constituted an important reason for the **non-participation** of children from poor families. Thus, the word 'free' has **limited connotation**. It can be said that education has become partially free & not completely. There is no obligation on schools to provide books, stationary, transport, uniforms etc.

Further, the word "**compulsory**" takes into account only one-way limited perspective. Compulsion is restricted to certain parameters like infrastructure, teachers etc. on the part of school. It does not put any compulsion on anybody to bring children to school. It only speaks about duty of parents/ guardians to send children to school with **no penalty if they don't send them**. It must be noted that the first law on compulsory education in the **State of Baroda** in 1906 by **Maharaja Sayajirao-III** succeeded due to imposition of penalty for not sending children to schools. Nor does it mention **monetary reward** to parents for sending their wards to school. In the absence of social and economic cushions, school will be a torture camp for children of disadvantaged sections.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

1. The law requires all **private schools** meet a certain set of infrastructure and teacher-qualification norms. There are, however, an enormous number of private

schools that are small, underequipped, and cater only to the poor in rural areas and urban slums. They are unlikely to be able to meet the requirements without help. In the absence of up-gradations, they may have to face **de-recognition** rendering many children school-less.

2. The Act makes recognition of schools mandatory. However, such recognition is based solely on infrastructural capabilities, pupil-teacher ratio and instruction hours and hence is no **benchmark of quality**. In the Act, there is the complete absence of any **qualitative enforcement mechanisms**.
3. In the RTE Act, proper **disciplinary channels for teachers** have not been defined. Schools should be allowed to design their own teacher salary packages and having autonomy to manage teachers.
4. There is no effective **mechanism to enforce the right** guaranteed under the Act. Provisions only states that a local authority having jurisdiction may take up the complaint.
5. The Act stipulates that the State must establish a school within the limits of **neighbourhood**. However, there is no attempt made to define what a 'neighbourhood' constitutes.

## SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Children in the **age group 0-6 years are not covered** by this Act. Early years are the most critical years for lifelong development and neglect during the early years can often result in irreversible reduction in the full development of the brain's potential. India cannot afford to deprive its youngest **16-crore** population of a right to nutrition, health and early childhood education.
2. The Act require all private schools (whether aided or not) to **reserve at least 25% of their seats** for economically weaker & socially disadvantaged sections in the entry level class. However it does not make it clear how to define 'weaker & disadvantaged sections', how to select these students for entry level class etc.
3. Act does not exclude the '**creamy layer**' from the purview of reservation. This is going to offer a very simple route to the unaided private schools to escape from becoming really inclusive. They can show strength of upto 25% of students as being from SC/ST category even though the parents of these children might very well be able to afford that school fees.
4. Whereas the Act guarantees a **right to seek transfer** to any other school where the child is required to move, there are no measures to ensure that such a transfer will be a smooth transition. Labour migrates between rural & urban areas; children would need specially adapted curricula that would serve to their linguistic and cultural requirements.
5. It does not adequately address the issue of **child labour**. The Act needs to categorically state that all forms of employment & engagement, which hinders the development of the child, should be banned and made a cognizable offence.
6. Act says children with '**severe or profound disability**', who cannot be provided elementary education in a neighbourhood school, shall have the right to be provided education in an appropriate alternative environment. This is against the principle of 'inclusion' and does not put the onus on the education system to meet individual needs of children.
7. Act gives no thought to food, which ought to be an integral part of any sustainable act of learning. The guarantee of education for 6 to 14 years category was

meaningless without taking responsibility for **Early Childhood Care & Education** (ECCE).

## POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Provisions of the Act clearly demonstrate the trend wherein that the centre has tried to retain a lot of powers vis-à-vis education in its own hands. If curriculum, teacher training standards etc are decided by centre, states have little role to incorporate local requirements. This vision while good does not fit well with the **federal structure** of our country. Education, being on the concurrent list, the state governments obviously would want an equal role.
2. Act asks for just 2 rooms and 2 teachers for a school with 60 children. This might quite likely exist in many places & hence **state governments** may claim that they are already in line with the provisions.

## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

1. As per the government's estimate, there will be a requirement of **Rs 1.71 lakh crore** in the next 5 years for its implementation. The Act does not adequately address the issue of **resource mobilization**. It puts an additional obligation on state governments.
2. Private schools will end up charging more to the 75% of students- who are paying tuitions- to make space for the 25% of students they are forced to take. This will drive up **tuition fees**.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

1. RTE Act includes 'provision of equitable quality of education', but fails to define the term '**equitable**' unequivocally. The Bill specifies norms for physical infrastructure but does not outline expectations on **learning outcomes** or to fulfilling certain pedagogic, linguistic and socio-cultural norms.
2. Further, the provisions result in a situation where the local authorities are both the implementing functionaries and **grievance redressal institutions**. Clearly, there would be several instances where interests conflict, which might result in an inappropriate enforcement of the right.

## CAN MAKING EDUCATION A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT BROUGHT A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION SCENARIO OF THE COUNTRY?

Like the majority of India's children, the Right to Education (RTE) Act has **completed its first year** facing malnourishment, neglect and routine criticism. A year after it was notified as law, the right to elementary education **remains a dream**. The law provides a 5-year window to its implementation but the dream it legislates looks as **elusive now** as it did when this countdown started. While one important clause is facing a writ in the highest court, other provisions are struggling to receive official attention in State capitals.

Any assessment of the progress of RTE in its first year must begin by underlining the **federal nature of governance** which assigns school education squarely

to the State. Few people recognize that India's federal character offers to the Ministry of HRD at the Centre the role of little more than a moral authority. No wonder the main news on RTE at the end of its first year is that the Ministry is **trying hard to persuade State governments** to own the new law and accept the responsibility of implementing it. The attempt has met with **rather limited success**. Let us examine why.

A key feature of RTE is that it emphasizes **quality as an integral aspect** of the child's right to be educated. Part V of the RTE Act lays down fairly specific terms under which the quality of elementary education is to be ensured. These include a comfortable teacher-student ratio, curriculum reform and improvement in evaluation methods. The success of these measures **depends on teachers**, and that is where the system is facing its worst obstacle. The current policy discourse prefers to use the word 'challenge' in place of 'obstacle.' This sweet advice of management gurus is not quite relevant to the problem at hand because it has been created as a matter of policy in many States. At the top is **Madhya Pradesh** which has radically lowered the status of teachers with the help of a two-decade long policy delusion. Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh present similar, though less intractable, cases.

The States in the north-east come next where a vast number of teachers have been appointed over the years **without any attention to basic qualifications or training**. West Bengal constitutes a case of its own kind, symbolizing isolation from national trends and norms. If we leave aside these dire instances, many among the remaining States also present a grim picture. Instead of improving teachers' working conditions and training, many States have opted for **cosmetic solutions**. Orissa has taken the lead in this respect by imposing a dress code requiring teachers to wear a pink sari and a black blouse. Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh may not face an acute shortage of teachers but the issues pertaining to the quality of training are just as relevant for them as they are to the northern States.

**Teacher training** comprises what one might call the single biggest mess the system of education has to sort out. When the **National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE)** was given statutory status as a licensing authority, it was seen as a powerful mechanism to bring order into a chaotic sector. Over the years, the NCTE has, by itself, **become a part of the problem**. Thousands of private outfits of dubious institutional integrity and quality have come up. The RTE requires each State to name an academic authority which will determine and improve curriculum, evaluation and training.

Most States have notified their State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) as the mandated academic authority. Some, like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and West Bengal have named their Boards of Secondary Education. Apparently, these States have **no institutional resources** to look after the implementation of RTE. But even the ones which have assigned this task to the SCERT need to assess the academic capacity of this institution. Barring Kerala, **no State has treated its SCERT with respect**; one only hopes that the political change in Kerala will not hurt the remarkable status its SCERT has achieved. All others will **need both guidance and money** to nurture their SCERTs.

The climate of governance, which set in during the 1990s, makes outsourcing preferable to institution-building. State officials, who have the responsibility to implement the RTE **do not know where to look for the knowledge** and **creative**

**energy** required to address the pedagogic concerns articulated in it. Terms such as child-centered teaching and continuous evaluation are alien to a system accustomed to **eliminating a majority of children by declaring them 'fail'** sooner or later. A **ban on corporal punishment** is similarly baffling to both officials and teachers who are used to inducing fear as a way to get children to work hard.

A peculiar development of the last two decades has further compounded the situation. This factor has to do with the **culture of trivia** that has become the norm of schooling of the poor. **Superficial training** has led many teachers to perceive their job as that of baby-sitters. A pattern of poorly conceived, shallow activities, aimed at keeping children occupied **without learning anything substantial**, has evolved into a full-fledged routine. Children come to school, get a free meal, and it matters to no one that they make tangible progress from day to day. The cult of 'joyful learning' has driven many among the poor to look for whatever private provision exists in their habitation. These private outfits impose a **harsh regime of home work** and **physical punishment** to show good examination results. The **paucity of good teachers** is just as acute in the low-fee private sector as it is in schools run by the government and local bodies.

According to current estimates, the **country will need well over a million teachers** over the next four years in order to meet the RTE norms. Who will train that many teachers? And who will orient the existing cadre of teachers towards the **child-centric vision** of RTE? One might have imagined that universities will play a major role in this national enterprise, but there is **no sign of such an initiative** being taken. Even the newly set up central universities have **ignored teacher education**. Distance education is perceived as the only viable solution to this conundrum. But even for this option, there seems to be little realistic assessment of the costs involved in creating the kind of infrastructure the SCERTs will require in order to liaison with providers of distance education.

The situation is apparently so desperate that even the **National Open School** is likely to join the list of providers of distance training. There is a great risk that a vast number of **nominally trained teachers** will be allowed to enter schools. The only barrier they might face is the **newly introduced eligibility test** which will qualify a person to seek appointment as a teacher. How that barrier works as a mechanism for ensuring quality is yet to be seen.

RTE is also facing a **major court case**, filed by a group of top-end public schools. They are upset with the clause which makes it mandatory for every fee-charging school to allot **one-fourth of its seats to children of the poor**. Our metropolitan public schools cannot bear the idea of mixing children of the poor with rich kids. Many have **started an afternoon shift** for the poor; others want to **test the poor kids** before enrolling them. RTE's radical vision **prohibits such screening procedures**.

The cutting edge of the legal case RTE is facing arises out of the rule that the government will **subsidize the reserved seats** for the poor only to the extent of the per capita amount it spends in its own schools. If RTE survives this court case, it will have the **potential to alter the exclusive and moribund character** of the **elite public schools**.

However, a lot of creative energy will need to go into **equipping teachers** serving in these schools to deal with a mixed population of children. The **Loreto School of Kolkata** provides a model in this respect, and one hope that elite schools throughout the country will want to learn from it. They also need to overcome their conceptual blinkers in order to recognize that mixed classrooms provide a **pedagogically superior opportunity** to bring the **best out of all children**.

## SUGGESTIONS

- Right to Free Education should also include providing **free text books**, notebooks, writing material and the Right to Food. The way to get the girl child into the educational system is by making **Early Childhood Care and Education** (ECCE) a fundamental right.
- After induction into the class, children from disadvantaged sections should be provided **special training** to cope with peer group in their respective classes.
- The government should establish **neighbourhood schools** in all habitations in the state within a walking distance of 1 km and 3 km for providing Primary and Upper-primary schooling facility.
- Government should make appropriate and safe transport arrangements for **children with disabilities** to attend the school. In case of severe disability, home-based education should be provided.
- Schooling may be provided when the children are free from domestic duties or paid or unpaid work through **night schools, mobile schools** and the like. Need is to make arrangements for the education of migrant children by duly setting up seasonal hostels, work-site schools etc. as per the requirement.
- The government must ensure that no child is subject to **caste, class, religion or gender abuse** in the school, and that no child is denied admission into any school, public or private, on its basis.
- The government should constitute the **Right to Education Protection Authority** (REPA) for the protection of educational rights of the children.
- **SMCs** should be given greater disciplinary power over teachers to ensure quality teaching.
- Since **unrecognized schools** could face closure in view of prescribed recognition standards within 3 years, government should support such schools to improve their facilities by resource support.
- Most well-meaning legislations fail to make significant changes without proper awareness and grassroots pressure. Schools need to be made aware of provisions of the Act.

Education requires substantive, not just symbolic action. Merely passing a law without sustained political attention and plugging the yawning gaps in the school sector, is going to fail. What required is the integrated effort on the part of all the stakeholders- administration, schools and people- to implement this wonderful piece of legislation in spirit and **make illiteracy a history**.

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# **Sample Notes of Modern India**

# CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

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## Questions Asked

- Why did Gandhi launch the Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and with what results?
- In what way did the CDM affect the different provinces of India? How did it foster peasant movement in India? (250 words)
- Why did Mahatma Gandhi launch CDM? Analyse the intensity of movement in different parts of India? (150 words)
- Analyze Mahatma Gandhi's main demands presented to Irwin. How did salt emerge as the central issue for launching the Satyagraha?
- We must be able to answer:-
  - Gandhiji's main demands to Irwin – Analyze
  - Why CDM
  - How salt became central issue
  - Its effect in different provinces
  - How peasants movement was a result of CDM
  - What results of CDM

## WHY CDM

British heralded a new era of "Modern India", the India which saw the process of geographical unification, nation building and genesis of political consciousness among masses. This mass consciousness manifested itself in the form of a spontaneous, organized and non-violent Civil Disobedience Movement.

The idea of Civil Disobedience was always there in the mind of Gandhiji, the 1929 Lahore Resolution of Poorna Swaraj, "**full and total independence**" provided the immediate spark. The background was prepared by:

1. **1919 reforms** were the shortest lasting reforms and had failed to bring any significant change for the Indians.
2. Failure of **Simon Commission** to fulfill demand of Dominion status of INC. Racial discrimination in the Simon Commission as no Indian Representative was taken.
3. **Swarajists** proved that there were no real powers delegated to them. The 1919 reforms were a retrograde step of the government.
4. December **1928 Calcutta Congress** – demand by younger nationalists like Pt. Nehru and S.C. Bose to adopt **Poorna Swaraj** as goal of national movement.
5. Gandhiji traveled extensively the villages during 1929 to prepare people for direct political action.
6. 1929 – CWC organized programme of **foreign cloth boycott** and its public burning.
7. Refusal of Lord Irwin to **Eleven Demands** of Mahatma Gandhi.
8. Spurt generated in the masses by revolutionary activities of **HSRA**.
9. The deteriorating **socio-economic condition of the masses** especially of the peasants and the great depression of early 1930s provided the spur to the movement. Widespread unemployment infused anger among the Indian youth.

The spark was more because of the **rise of left and induction of new blood in the Congress** during this period. This differentiated CDM from all earlier movements.

### **GANDHIJI'S DEMANDS**

Mahatma Gandhi knew that any movement for liberation must necessarily be a mass movement and for a movement to be a mass movement, it must incorporate **grievances of all the sections** of society. Thus,

1. The most prominent demand, common to all sections especially the poor, was abolition of **salt tax and government's monopoly on salt**.
2. Reduction in **land tax** so as to reduce burden on Indian peasantry.
3. Reduction of **expenditure on army** and administration to stop the drain of wealth.
4. **Total prohibition**; for emancipation of women and children.
5. Release of **political prisoners** and
6. Protection and development of **Indian Industry** through reduced exchange rate, protection to textile industry and exclusive right of coastal shipping for Indians.

### **WHY SALT**

**"Salt March" is one of the finest examples of 'the power of symbols'. It was not just a punch of salt but it represented the unity & integrity of Indian people against a common enemy. Gandhiji choose salt because:**

1. Salt links itself with **Indian women**, for whose emancipation, salt was the most important article.
2. Salt linked itself with the **ideal of Swaraj** with a universal grievance of rural poor.
3. Unlike in 'no-rent campaign', Salt excluded the **socially divisive implications** within the different sections of Indian society.
4. It offered **urban adherents**, an opportunity of symbolic identification with mass sufferings.

Finally, there is no other article like salt, outside water, by taxing which, government can reach starving millions, it was the **most inhuman poll tax**.

### **SPREAD & INTENSITY OF CDM – MOST INTENSE OF ALL MOVEMENTS**

1. Salt disobedience: In **Tamil Nadu**, C. Raja Gopalachari led a march from Tiruchirapally to Vedaranniyam and in **Malabar**, K.Kelappan held a march from Calicut to Poyannur.
2. Darsana: Sarojini Naidu, Imam Sahib and Manilal raided **Dharsana Salt Works**, and were brutally lathi-charged.
3. **NWFP** - Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan organized Pathans as **Khudai Khidamatgars** to lead a non-violent movement.
4. **Peshawar**: a Muslim Province, urban crowd and tribesmen joined agitation against arrest of Congressmen. **Garwal Rifles** refused to fire on the crowd.
5. **Chittagong**: Surya Sen revolted and established a provisional government.
6. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Central Provinces: against the **forest laws**.
7. Sholapur: '**War Council**' set up and National Flag was hoisted in the town.
8. Assam: agitation against '**Cunningham Circular**'.
9. **Manipur and Nagaland**: Movement under 13 year old **Rani Ganidinliu**.

**10. Peasant's Movements:** In U.P, Bihar, Bengal and Gujarat.

## **PEASANT'S MOVEMENTS**

During 1901 to 1939, the agriculture production per head fell by 14%, while the per capita production of foodgrains by 24%. **Growing taxation in a stagnant economy invariably carries with it the penalty of popular revolt.** This was manifested during CDM in the states of Bihar, Bengal, UP and Gujarat. The great depression of early 1930s added fuel to the fire.

1. United Provinces: Non-revenue campaign by Zamindars against paying revenue to the government and a No-Rent Campaign by tenants against Zamindars.
2. UP Kisan Sabha under Swami Shahjananda and Bihar Kisan Sabha nucleus for All India Kisan activities were formed.
3. Bihar: Anti-Chowkidara tax campaign.
4. Bengal: Anti-Chowkidara tax and anti union board tax campaigns.
5. Gujarat: No-tax movement was organized for refusal to pay land revenue.

## **OUTCOME**

Dandi March was a pilgrim's progress. It rejuvenated the Indian Nationalism and eroded the British legitimacy to the core. CDM is considered as the war of positions, not a war of maneuver. It was the most-organized of all Gandhian movements.

1. **Women Participation:** Leading role in **picketing shops** selling foreign goods or liquor and government institutions, courted arrest. British observers wrote that if CDM hadn't accomplished anything else, it **contributed greatly to mass social emancipation of Indian women.**
2. **Muslims:** Though Muslim League called Muslims not to join the movement, still Muslim participation was overwhelming in NWFP, besides their participation in Dacca, Bihar, Delhi & other parts. They **belied government's policy of 'divide & rule'.**
3. **Tribals:** Came forward in Peshawar, Nagaland, Central Provinces, Maharashtra and Karnataka. This was their **first such participation** in a national movement.
4. **Peasants:** First time **organized** themselves. Mainly in UP, Bihar, Bengal and Gujarat.
5. Besides, the students, **workers and traders** played an important role in the movement in different parts of the country.
6. Signs of **cracks in discipline of Army:** **Garhwali Soldiers** refused to fire on crowd even though it meant facing court martial. It shows **nationalism begun penetrating Indian army.**
7. **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** at one stroke enhanced the prestige of **Congress as the equal of government.**
8. **Second Round Table Conference** placed **India on equal footing with Britain.**
9. It further strengthened the principle of **Satyagraha**

Throughout the movement, Gandhiji urged people to be non-violent first because he didn't want to achieve Swaraj at the cost of sacred principle of Satyagraha, and secondly because **he was leading an unarmed struggle against an armed power and he knew who would win if violence were let loose.**

## **CONCLUSION**

Though **Subhas. C. Bose and Vithalbhai Patel** had declared that "the Mahatma as a political leader has failed", CDM succeeded in further politicizing the people, and in further deepening the social roots of freedom struggle. **Indians had won independence in their hearts. It accomplished in weeks, what three-quarters of a century of social reform movements had failed to do for emancipation of Indian women.**

# UNIFICATION OF PRINCELY STATES IN INDIA

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Under the **June 3 Plan**, more than 600 princely states were given the option of joining either India or Pakistan, or choosing independence. There was a prevailing fear that if these states did not accede, a vast majority of the people and territory would be fragmented and there shall be **Balkanization of India**. **Sardar Patel** was chosen for the task of achieving unification of the princely states with the Indian dominion.

The rulers of the princely states were not uniformly enthusiastic about integrating their domains into independent India. Some kings, such as the kings of **Bikaner and Jawhar**, were motivated to join India out of **ideological and patriotic considerations**, but others insisted that they had the right to join either India or Pakistan, to remain independent, or form a union of their own.

A **number of factors contributed to the collapse** of this initial resistance and to nearly all princely states agreeing to accede to India.

1. An important factor was the **lack of unity** amongst the princes.
2. The smaller states did not trust the larger states, **rulers did not trust princes**.
3. Others, believing **integration inevitable**, sought to build bridges with the Congress, hoping to gain advantage in the final settlement.
4. Many princes were also pressured by **popular sentiment favouring integration** with India, which meant their plans for independence had little support from their subjects.
5. Princes felt **abandoned by the British** & saw themselves as having little other option.
6. By far the most significant factor that led to the princes' decision to accede to India was the **policy of the Congress**. The Congress' stated position was that the princely states were not sovereign entities, and as such could not opt to be independent notwithstanding the end of paramountcy. The princely states therefore must accede to either India or Pakistan.
7. In July 1946, **Nehru** pointed that no princely state could prevail militarily against the army of independent India. In January 1947, he said that independent India would not accept the **divine right of kings** and in May 1947, he declared that any princely state which refused to join Constituent Assembly would be treated as an enemy state.

Patel and Menon took a more **conciliatory approach** than Nehru. The official policy statement of the Government of India made by Patel on **July 5, 1947** made no threats. Instead, it emphasized the unity of India and the common interests of the princes and independent India, reassured them about the Congress' intentions, and invited them to join independent India "to make laws sitting together as friends than to make treaties as aliens." He reiterated that the States Department would not attempt to establish a **relationship of domination over the princely states**.

Patel and Menon backed up their diplomatic efforts by producing **two types of treaties** to be attractive to rulers of princely states.

1. The first was the **Standstill Agreement**, which confirmed that the agreements and administrative practices that existed as between the princely state in question and the British would be continued by India.
2. The second was the **Instrument of Accession** by which the ruler of the princely state in question agreed to the accession of his kingdom to independent India, and to granting India control over specified subject matters. The nature of the subject matters varied depending on the acceding state.

The Instruments of Accession implemented a **number of other safeguards**. It provided that the princes would not be bound to the Constitution of India as and when it was drafted. It also **guaranteed their autonomy** in all areas in which authority was not expressly ceded to the Government of India. Rulers who agreed to accede would receive guarantees that their **Extra-territorial rights**, such as **Immunity from prosecution in Indian courts** and exemption from Customs duty, that **none of the 18 major states would be forced to merge**, and that they would remain eligible for **British honours**.

Lord Mountbatten reinforced the statements of Patel and Menon by emphasizing that the documents gave the princes all the "**practical independence**" they needed. Mountbatten, Patel and Menon also sought to give princes the impression that if they did not accept the terms put to them then, they would subsequently have to accede on substantially less favourable terms.

The limited scope of the Instruments of Accession and the promise of a wide-ranging autonomy and the other guarantees they offered, gave sufficient comfort to many rulers, who saw this as **the best deal they could strike** given the lack of support from the British, and popular internal pressures.

Between May 1947 and August 15 1947, the vast majority of states signed Instruments of Accession. And all but three of the states (Jammu and Kashmir, Junagadh, and Hyderabad State) willingly merged into the Indian union. For these, following actions were taken:

**Junagadh**- Nawab under pressure from Shah Nawaz Bhutto acceded to Pakistan. It was however, quite far from Pakistan and 80% of its population was Hindu. Patel combined diplomacy with force, demanding that Pakistan annul the accession, and that the Nawab accede to India. He sent the Army to occupy three principalities of Junagadh to show his resolve.

Following widespread protests and the formation of a civil government, both Bhutto and the Nawab fled to Karachi, and under Patel's orders, Indian Army and police units marched into the state. A plebiscite later organised produced a 99.5% vote for merger with India.

**Hyderabad**- Its ruler, the Nizam Osman Ali Khan was a Muslim, although over 80% of its people were Hindu. The Nizam sought independence or accession with Pakistan. In September 1948, Patel emphasized military action and ordered the Indian Army to integrate Hyderabad (in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister) when Nehru was touring Europe. Hyderabad was comfortably secured into the Indian Union. After defeating Nizam, Patel retained him as the ceremonial chief of state.

**Kashmir**- Kashmir was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, a Hindu, although the state itself had a Muslim majority. Pakistan, attempting to force the issue of Kashmir's accession, cut off supplies and transport links. Pathan tribesmen from the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan crossed the border and entered Kashmir. The Maharaja of Kashmir

wrote to India, asking for military assistance, offering an Instrument of Accession (Jammu and Kashmir), and setting up an Interim government headed by Sheikh Abdullah. The accession was accepted.

Indian troops secured Jammu, Srinagar and the valley itself during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947, but the intense fighting flagged with the onset of winter, which made much of the state impassable. Prime Minister Nehru declared a ceasefire and sought UN Arbitration arguing that India would otherwise have to invade Pakistan itself, in view of its failure to stop the tribal incursions. On January 26 1957, the Constitution of India came into force in Kashmir, but with special provisions made for it in the Constitution's Article 370.

Although this process successfully integrated the vast majority of princely states into India, it was not as successful in relation to a few states, notably the former princely states of Kashmir, Tripura and Manipur, where active secessionist movements exist.

# **Sample Notes of Indian Constitution & Polity**

# BILLS IN PARLIAMENT & BUDGET

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## ORDINARY BILL

- A bill other than Money Bill & Financial Bill
- May **originate in either house** of parliament
- When passed by both the houses and signed by the President, it becomes a law
- In passing a Bill, each House follows a procedure. The stages in passing the Bill are called **Readings** i.e. First Reading, Second Reading and Third Reading

## MONEY BILL (ARTICLE 110)

- **Whether a Bill is a Money Bill** or not is **decided by the Speaker** of the Lok Sabha. Speaker issues a **certificate** of endorsement that a Bill is Money Bill.
- **Art 109** says that Money Bill can **only be introduced in Lok Sabha** and not in Rajya Sabha. It can only be introduced with the **prior recommendation of the President**.
- When a money Bill is passed by Lok Sabha, it is sent to Rajya Sabha for **recommendations**. It must return the Bill with or without recommendations, within **14 days** from the date of receipt of Bill. It **cannot amend** the Bill. It is the **discretion of the Lok Sabha** whether to accept or reject recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill now will deem to be passed by the Lok Sabha and will be sent to the President for his assent.
- **President cannot hold his assent** on the Money Bill (**Art 111**) as it was introduced with his recommendation only.
- There is **no provision for a joint sitting** in the case of Money Bills in which the Lok Sabha has final say.
- Money Bill has been defined under **Article 110** as a bill that contains **only provisions** dealing with all or any of the following matters:
  1. The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any **tax**
  2. The regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the Government or amendment of law w.r.t. any government **financial obligations**
  3. The custody & operation of **Consolidated Fund or Contingency Fund** of India
  4. The appropriation of moneys out of the **Consolidated Fund** of India
  5. The declaring of any expenditure charged on the **Consolidated Fund** of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure
  6. The receipt of money on account of the **Consolidated Fund** of India or the **public accounts** of India or the custody or issue of such money.

## FINANCIAL BILLS

- They are of **3 kinds**
  1. Money bills
  2. Other financial bills
  3. Bills involving expenditure

- A financial bill, apart from dealing with one or more matters mentioned in Art 110 (1) regarding Money Bill, deals with other matters also. Therefore **all money bills are financial bills** but all financial bills are not money bills.
- Under **Article 117**, the **Financial Bills** which **do not receive the Speaker's certificate** to the effect that they are money bills are of 2 kinds:
  1. A bill which contains any of the matters specified in Article 110 but **does not consist solely of those matters**, for example, a bill which contains a taxation clause, but does not deal solely with taxation.
  2. Any ordinary bill which contains **provisions involving expenditure** from the Consolidated Fund
- All financial bills are **introduced** only in the Lok Sabha (and not in Rajya Sabha) after the **recommendations of the President**. But **Rajya Sabha** can **reject or amend** such a Bill like non-financial Bills subject to the limitation that an amendment other than for reduction or abolition of a tax cannot be moved in either House without prior recommendation of the President.
- A Financial Bill is passed according to **procedure** provided for passing an Ordinary Bill
- Any ordinary Bill which contains provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund is a **Financial Bill** of the **second class** [**Art 117(3)**].
- A **Financial Bill of the first class** contains any of the matters specified in **Art 110** but does not exclusively deal with such matters; it has two features in common with a Money Bill, viz. that it cannot be introduced in the Council of States and also cannot be introduced except on the recommendation of the President.
- A Bill which **merely involves expenditure** and **does not include** any of the matters specified in **Article 110** is an ordinary Bill and may be initiated in either House. Rajya Sabha has full powers to amend or reject it. There is one special provision that it must not be passed unless the **President** has recommended its **consideration** (not for introduction but only for consideration).

## **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT :: BUDGET (ARTICLE 112)**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS**

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article <b>112</b>: President shall lay before each house of Parliament, an <b>annual financial statement</b>; estimates shall show separately the expenditure charged on and expenditure made from Consolidated Fund; it shall distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure</li> <li>• Article <b>113: No demand for a grant</b> shall be made except on <b>recommendation of President</b>; expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund shall not be submitted to the vote of Parliament.</li> <li>• Article <b>114</b>: No money shall be withdrawn from Consolidated Fund of India <b>except under appropriation</b> made by law-</li> <li>• Article <b>117</b>: No Money Bill imposing tax shall be introduced in the Parliament except on the <u>recommendation of the President</u> and Money Bill cannot be <u>introduced</u> in Rajya Sabha</li> <li>• Article <b>265</b>: No tax can be levied except by authority of law</li> <li>• Rajya Sabha has <b>no power to vote</b> on demand for grants</li> <li>• Rajya Sabha should send Money Bill within <b>14 days</b> to Lok Sabha</li> <li>• Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but <b>cannot increase it</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Term 'budget'</b> has nowhere been used in the Constitution</p>  |

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS:** On recommendation of the President, the estimates of expenditure (other than those charged on the Consolidated Fund of India) are presented to the Lok Sabha in the form of demands for grants. Under **Article 113**, the **Lok Sabha has the power** to assent to or to reject, any demand, or to assent to any demand/ subject to a reduction of the amount specified. These demands are not presented to the Rajya Sabha, though a general debate on the budget takes place there too.

**APPROPRIATION BILL:** According to **Article 114**, when the demand for grants has been voted for, the Appropriation Bill authorizes the withdrawal of the funds from the Consolidated Fund of India as regards **both the votable and the charged items. No amendments can be proposed** to this bill because that would amount to altering the once decided amount of a grant.

## **STAGES IN ENACTMENT OF BUDGET**

### **Presentation of Budget**

Presented by Finance Minister (with prior recommendation of President) in 2 parts-

**Part A-** a general economic survey of country; **Part B-** taxation proposals.

Presented in 2 phases- **Railway Budget** (by Railway Minister in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February)  
&

**General Budget** (by Finance Minister on last working day of February at 5 pm)

There is **no discussion** of Budget on the day on which it is presented.

At the end of the budget speech, budget is laid before **Rajya Sabha**

↓↓

### **General Discussion**

Starts after few days of its presentation; spread over 3-4 days in both Houses. By Convention, at this stage, members deal with only the general aspect of fiscal & economic policy and not the details of taxation & expenditure. No cut motions or voting at this stage. FM has general right of reply at the end

↓↓

### **Budget in Department Related Standing Committees**

These committees (17 in 1993; increased to 24 in 2004) work during recess of Parliament

(April 1-18) and discuss individual demands of each ministry, and submit reports to Parliament within given time-limit; but cannot make suggestions amounting to cut motions

↓↓

### **Voting on demands for grants**

Demands for grants are presented Ministry-wise; discussed in detail & put in form of a motion.

Members can disapprove a policy, suggest measures for economy, and focus attention to specific grievances by moving subsidiary motions called '**Cut Motions**'. While the General Budget has totally **109 demands** (103 for civil expenditure and 6 for defence expenditure), the Railway Budget has **32 demands**. Each demand is voted separately by the Lok Sabha.

Business Advisory Committee fixes a time for voting a particular demand. As the time limit for a demand is over, '**Closure**' is applied & demand is put to vote. On last day, demands not disposed of so far, are put to vote whether discussed or not. This process is known as **Guillotine**. With this, the discussion on demands for grants is concluded.

↓  
**Passing of Appropriation Bill**

Gives legal authority to government to appropriate expenditure from & out of Consolidated Fund. Includes **grants voted** by Lok Sabha & expenditure **charged on** Consolidated Fund. It is passed in the same manner as any other Bill except that the debate is restricted to those matters only which were not covered during the debate on demands & that **no amendment** can be made to it. Once passed by Lok Sabha, it transmits to Rajya Sabha which has no power to amend or reject it, but has to give its concurrence. The Bill is then sent to President for assent.

↓  
**Passing of Finance Bill**

It includes all **taxation proposals** of Government. All taxes are not to be voted every year. Some of them are permanent & their rates can be varied from time to time by Government. While general criticism of the policy is permitted, discussion on the details of particular estimates is not. **Amendments** can be moved to it. This Bill has to be passed by Parliament & assented to by President within 75 days after it is introduced

### **OTHER GRANTS**

Vote on Account	Before the Appropriation Act is passed, no money is to be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund. But the Government needs money to spend before it is passed. Accordingly under <b>Article 116 (a)</b> , Lok Sabha can grant a limited sum to spend till the Appropriation Act is passed. Normally, it is taken for 2 months for a sum equivalent to 1/6 <sup>th</sup> of the estimated expenditure for the entire year.
Supplementary Grant	It is granted when the amount authorized by the Parliament through the Appropriation Act for a <b>particular service</b> for the current financial year is found to be <b>insufficient</b> of that year.
Additional Grant	It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon <b>some new service</b> not contemplated in the budget for that year.

Excess Grant	It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year <b>in excess of the amount granted for that service</b> in the budget for that year. It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year.
Vote of credit	It is granted under <b>Article 116</b> for meeting an <b>unexpected demand</b> for the service/ national emergency, the demands <b>cannot be stated</b> with the details in the budget. It's like a <b>blank Cheque</b> given to the executive by the Lok Sabha.
Exceptional Grant	It is granted for a <b>special purpose</b> and <b>forms no part</b> of the current service of any financial year.
Token Grant	It is granted when funds to meet the proposed expenditure on the <b>new service can be made available by re-appropriation</b> . A demand for the grant of token sum of Re 1 is submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha and if assented, funds are made available.
<b>Article 115</b> of the Constitution lays down that the statements showing the estimates of expenditure for the <b>supplementary, additional or excess grants</b> have to be presented to the Lok Sabha.	

VARIOUS CUT MOTIONS AS MOVED IN LOK SABHA	
Disapproval of policy cut	It states that amount of demand be <b>reduced to Re 1</b> .
Economy Cut	Demand be reduced <b>by a specified amount/ lump-sum</b>
Token Cut	Demand be <b>reduced by a Rs 100</b> . It aims to ventilate specific grievance
✓ Cut Motions have only <b>symbolic value</b> , for they have no chance of being carried unless the <b>government loses the support</b> of the majority in the House. Cut Motions are generally moved by members from the opposition, and if carried, amount to a vote of <b>censure against Government</b> .	

RELATED INFORMATION ON BUDGET
India follows a <b>twin-budgetary system</b> wherein Railway budget is presented separately from the general budget. The <b>railways budget</b> was separated from the general budget in <b>1921</b> on the recommendations of the <b>Acworth committee</b> . Finance Ministry, the Administrative Ministries and their subordinate offices, Planning Commission and CAG are all involved in the preparation of Budget in India.
The estimates of budget consists of <b>2 types of expenditure</b> - the expenditure ' <b>charged</b> ' upon the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure ' <b>made</b> ' <b>from</b> the Consolidated Fund of India. The charged expenditure is <b>not-votable</b> by the Parliament, that is, it <b>can only be discussed</b> by the Parliament, while the other type has to be voted by the Parliament. The list of the <b>CHARGED EXPENDITURE</b> is as follows:
1. Emoluments & allowances of the <b>President</b> and expenditure relating to his office. 2. Salaries & allowances of <b>Chairman</b> & Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and <b>Speaker</b>

- & Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.
3. Salaries, allowances & pensions of the judges of **Supreme Court**, **CAG**, Chairman & members of **UPSC**, and of persons serving in these offices.
  4. The pensions of the judges of **High Court**
  5. **Debt charges** for which the GoI is liable including interest, sinking fund charges and redemption charges and other expenditure relating to raising of loans and the service and redemption of debt.
  6. Any sum required to **satisfy and judgment**, decree or award.
  7. Any other expenditure **declared by the Parliament** to be so charged.

There are **3 kinds of funds** provided under the Constitution for the custody of the funds:

- **Consolidated Fund of India** (Article 266): fund to which **all receipts** are credited and **all payments** are debited: (i) all revenues received by GoI; (ii) all loans raised by the issue of treasury bills, loans or ways & means of advances; and (iii) all moneys received in repayment of loans- from receipt side. No moneys out of it can be appropriated except in accordance with a Parliamentary law.
- **Public Account of India** (Article 266): All other public money (other than Consolidated Fund) received by GoI shall be credited to it: provident fund deposits, judicial deposits, savings bank deposits, departmental deposits, remittances etc. Operated by **executive action**, that is, the payments from this account can be made without the parliamentary appropriation. Such payments are mostly in the nature of banking transactions.
- **Contingency Fund of India** (Article 267): The Constitution authorized Parliament to establish a 'Contingency Fund of India', into which shall be paid from time to time such sums as may be determined by law. Accordingly, Parliament enacted **Contingency Fund of India Act in 1950**. This fund is placed at the disposal of the President, and he can make advances out of it to meet **unforeseen expenditure** pending its authorization by the Parliament.

#### **TYPES OF BUDGET**

- Performance Budgeting: First Hoover Commission, USA. Introduced in India in 1968 on recommendations of **ARC**. Emphasis on '**purpose**' of expenditure
- Zero-Based Budgeting: Given by Phyrr, USA. Every scheme critically reviewed & **re-justified totally from zero** (or scratch)
- Traditional/ line-item/ conventional: Developed in 18<sup>th</sup> century. Traditional system prevailed in India. Emphasis on **items of expenditure** & not its purpose. Sole objective is **control** over expenditure.
- Management by objectives: Emphasis on budgetary decentralization
- Target-base budgeting: Emphasizes Centralization in Budgeting
- Planning-programming-budget: Economic planning orientation

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

- Provision of amendment (Article 368) incorporated in constitution of India to make it possible to change according to the change in social conditions of the country.
- **3 categories** of articles have been made for the purpose of amendments
  1. **Amendment by simple majority**- Article 5 (Citizenship), Art 169 (Abolition or creation of state Legislative Councils) and Article 239 A (Creation of Local Legislature of Council of Ministers)
  2. **Amendments by special majority:** All constitutional amendments (except mentioned above) must be affected by a majority of total membership of each House of Parliament as well as majority of not less than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of members of that house present and voting
  3. **By special majority and ratification by half of the states:** These amendments are related to fundamental matters where states have important powers and interests involved: Following provisions require such ratifications:
    - A) Election of the President
    - B) Extent of executive Powers of the Union and states
    - C) Articles related to Union and State judiciary
    - D) Distribution of legislative powers between the centre and the states
    - E) Lists of VII Schedule
    - F) Representation of states in Parliament (IV Schedule.)
    - G) Art 368 itself.

## **PARLIAMENT CAN LEGISLATE IN RESPECT OF EXTRATERRITORIAL ASPECTS**

The Supreme Court has held that **Parliament has ample powers to enact legislation with respect to extra-territorial aspects** in the interests of the well-being or security of inhabitants of India but it did not have powers to legislate for any territory other than the territory of India or any part of it.

Giving this ruling, a **five-judge Constitution Bench** comprising Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia, Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan, Justice S.S. Nijjar and Justice Swatanter Kumar, however, held that "any laws enacted by Parliament with respect to extra-territorial aspects or causes that **have no impact on or nexus with India would be ultra vires.**"

The existence of economic, business, social and political organisations and forms, of more or less determinate structure, and both recognised and unrecognised, that operate across borders, implies that their activities, even though conducted in one territory, may have an impact on or in another territory.

Global criminal and terror networks are also examples of how events and activities in a territory outside one's own borders could affect the interests, welfare, well-being and security within.

In this case, a **private company in Andhra Pradesh** had challenged in the **Andhra Pradesh High Court** an order of the **Income Tax department** that it was liable to withhold a certain portion of monies paid to a foreign company.

The High Court while **upholding the power of the department** also upheld the relevant **provisions in the IT Act**. The present appeal is directed against this judgment.

While answering the issues, the Bench directed that the matter be placed before an appropriate Bench for disposal of the appeal in the light of this judgment.

## BREACH OF PRIVILEGE MOTION

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on March 22, 2011 gave notice for a breach of privilege motion **against Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** in connection with the **2008 bribe-for-votes scam**. The opposition party said the prime minister **misled the house** by his remarks that the panel which probed the bribe-for-votes scam in 2008 had found insufficient evidence to draw any conclusions.

### What does this mean for the PM?

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh faces no real threat this time in Parliament. The privilege notices moved by the Opposition under **rule 193 of Lok Sabha** and **rule 176 of the Rajya Sabha** entail a **short discussion without voting**.

### What is Parliamentary privilege?

Parliamentary privilege or **absolute privilege** is the legal immunity enjoyed by members of certain legislatures, in which legislators **are granted protection** against civil or criminal liability for actions done or statements made related to one's duties as a legislature.

A Parliamentary privilege **allows members to discharge** their functions without external interferences. When any of these rights are attacked by any individual or authority, the offence is called a **breach of privilege**. A breach of privilege is an act in violation of the privilege of either House of Parliament, such as by false swearing before a committee.

A privileged motion is **granted precedence over ordinary business** because it concerns matters of great importance or urgency. Such motions are not debatable, although in case of questions of privilege, the chair may feel the need to elicit relevant facts from members.

### How is a privilege motion moved in Lok Sabha?

Under **rule 222 of the Lok Sabha**, a member may, with the consent of the Speaker, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a Committee. Under **rule 223 of the Lok Sabha**, a member wishing to raise a question of privilege shall give notice in writing to the Secretary-General by 10:00 am on the day the question is proposed to be raised. If the question raised is based on a document, the notice shall be accompanied by the document.

### Admissibility of questions of privilege

Under **rule 224**, the right to raise a question of privilege shall be governed by the following conditions:

- Not more than one question shall be raised at the same sitting;
- The question shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence; and
- The matter requires the intervention of the House.
- Mode of raising questions of privilege

Under **rule 225**, the Speaker, if he gives consent under **rule 222** and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall call the member concerned, who shall rise in his place and, while asking for leave to raise the question of privilege, make a short statement relevant to:

- Provided that where the Speaker has refused his consent under rule 222 or is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is not in order, he may, if he thinks it necessary, read the notice of question of privilege and state that he refuses consent or holds that the notice of question of privilege is not in order;
- Provided further that the Speaker may, if he is satisfied about the urgency of the matter, allow a question of privilege to be raised at any time during the course of a sitting after the disposal of questions.

The House may consider the question and come to a decision or refer it to a Committee of Privileges on a motion made either by the member who has raised the question of privilege or by any other member.

### **How is a privilege motion moved in Rajya Sabha?**

Under **rule 188**, a member wishing to raise a question of privilege shall give notice in writing to the Secretary-General, before the commencement of the sitting on the day the question is proposed to be raised. If the question proposed to be raised is based on a document, the notice shall be accompanied by the document.

Under **rule 189**, the right to raise a question of privilege shall be governed by the following conditions: The question shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence; and the matter requires the intervention of the Council.

### **Mode of raising a question of privilege**

The Chairman, if he gives consent **under rule 187** and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall, after the questions and before the list of business is entered upon, call the member concerned, who shall rise in his place and while asking for leave to raise the question of privilege make a short statement.

If he is satisfied about the urgency of the matter, allow a question of privilege to be raised at any time during the course of a sitting after the disposal of questions.

### **Reference to Committee of Privileges**

The Council may consider the question and come to a decision or refer it to the Committee of Privileges on a motion made either by the member who has raised the question of privilege or by any other member. The Chairman may issue such directions as he may consider necessary for regulating the procedure in connection with all matters connected with the consideration of the question of privilege either in the Committee or in the Council.

### **Short duration discussions**

**Under rule 176,** any member desirous of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance may give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised:

- Provided that the notice shall be accompanied by an explanatory note stating reasons for raising discussion on the matter in question and provided further that the notice shall be supported by the signatures of at least two other members.

### **Chairman to decide admissibility**

If the Chairman is satisfied, after calling for such information from the member who has given notice and from the Minister as he may consider necessary, that the matter is urgent and is of sufficient public importance to be raised in the Council at an early date, he may admit the notice and in consultation with the Leader of the Council fix the date on which such matter may be taken up for discussion and allow such time for discussion, not exceeding two and a half hours, as he may consider appropriate in the circumstances:

- Provided that if an early opportunity is otherwise available for the discussion of the matter, the Chairman may refuse to admit the notice.

### **No formal motion**

There shall be no formal motion before the Council nor voting. The member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister shall reply shortly. Any member who has previously intimated to the Chairman may be permitted to take part in the discussion.

### **Short duration discussions under Rule 193**

- Notices of Motions under **Rule 184** and Short Duration Discussions under **Rule 193** regarding statements to be made in the House by Ministers or statements, reports or papers to be laid on the Table shall be accepted from 10:00 am on the day the list of business wherein the item has been included, is circulated to members.
- Any member desirous of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance may give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised:
- Provided that the notice shall be accompanied by an explanatory note stating reasons for raising discussion on the matter in question: Provided further that the notice shall be supported by the signatures of at least two other members.
- The notices of Short Duration Discussions not conforming to the above provisions in the Rules of Procedure are liable to be held out of order.

### **PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST MAMATA**

CPI(M) MP P. Rajeeve moved a privilege motion against Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee, charging that she **misled Parliament** on targets of the Ministry while presenting the Railway budget.

The Rajya Sabha member from Kerala said that he had submitted the notice to the House stating that **Ms. Banerjee made a false statement** on the achievements of target while presenting the budget and repeated them while responding to his queries during the debate in the House.

Pointing specific instances, he said Ms. Banerjee claimed that last year 700 km of new lines were laid, equal distance doubled, electrification of 1,000 km completed and gauge conversion of 800 km achieved, but **these figures do not match with the Finance Ministry's mid-year analysis.**

### **ANUPAM KHER FACES PRIVILEGE MOTION**

Actor Anupam Kher is facing a privilege motion in the Maharashtra Assembly for allegedly making **derogatory remarks against the Constitution** even as the actor denied making any such comments.

NCP MLA Jitendra Avhad had raised the issue in the Assembly, pointing out that Kher had said the **Constitution should be thrown away**. The actor reportedly made the controversial remarks while **supporting Anna Hazare's agitation**.

Avhad told the Assembly that Kher is believed to have said he was firm in his opinion, irrespective of what the Assembly thought. This enraged MLAs across party lines, who demanded immediate action against the actor's 'arrogance'.

### **MAKE PUBLIC MPS' INTEREST IN COMPANIES: CIC**

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has held that pecuniary interests of members of parliament in various companies **should be made public** as it would help people keep "**a better watch**" on them when they are dealing with legislative matters relating to such firms. Chief information commissioner Satyananda Mishra, while deciding on a petition, said disclosure of such information **is in "larger public interest"**.

The case relates to an RTI application filed by Anil Bairwal of Association of Democratic Reforms seeking to know from the **Rajya Sabha secretariat** the details of "remunerative directorship, regular remunerative activity, shareholding of controlling, nature, paid consultancy and profession engagement" of the members of the House. These details are submitted by the MPs under '**Register of Members' Interest**' under **Rule 293** of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States. Bairwal also sought to know the list of members who have not submitted the form and reasons for not doing so.

The **Rajya Sabha refused to provide details** citing a decision of its **Ethics Committee** which opined that the information was held in **fiduciary capacity** and should not be disclosed to public under **section 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act**. The secretariat said since the disclosure of information has **no relationship** with to any public activity or interest.

It is the standard practice that **people in positions** where they can make decisions or influence policies affecting the financial and other interests of companies

should recuse themselves from such a process, if they **themselves have an interest** in those specific companies or the class of enterprises, to **avoid conflict of interest**. This should **equally applicable to the legislators**.

If the legislators have any stated interest in some companies or business houses, as directors or substantial shareholders, their **participation in any legislative or decision-making activity affecting the interests** of such companies and business houses would be keenly **watched by the people**. Just like declaration of private assets by those contesting elections, the disclosure of pecuniary interests of MPs should not be construed as invasion of individual privacy and directed the information to be made public.

#### **PM ASKS MINISTERS TO SUBMIT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh has directed union ministers to declare their **assets and liabilities and indicate business interests**. The directions by the PM were circulated to all the ministers by the cabinet secretary KM Chandrasekhar on **June 2, 2011**.

# EMERGENCY POWERS

## QUESTIONS ASKED

- Many countries which achieved independence after the war have come under dictatorship or military rule. What are the forces that have enabled India to maintain a democratic system? Consider in this connection, the emergency provisions in the constitution of India in making your presentation.
- Explain the grounds on which President can proclaim a state of emergency. Give examples from the Indian experience.

Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary solutions. Founding fathers of the Indian Constitution were aware of the fact that extraordinary crisis may cripple the nation's life at times and to deal with such situations, they armed the President of India with some special powers, of course with checks & balances.

More than an institutional arrangement, **democracy is a state of mind**, a culture favoring tolerance, **freedom of expression** and dialogue and ultimately - a **"way of life"**.

Inheritance of **democratic ethos** from Indian National Movement nurtured by stalwart National leadership, Constitutional **Commitment to secularism**, and **protection of the weaker sections**, minorities and the down trodden along with consistent **economic development** led to the stabilization of democracy in India. These prerequisites were **grossly lacking** in many of **newly independent countries** which put them under dictatorship or military rule.

Further, to avoid the inherent **weaknesses of a federal government** because of division of powers between the union and the states, the constitution of India provided for **emergency provisions**. These provisions enable the federal government to acquire **strength of a unitary system** whenever exigencies of situation so demand.

Thus emergency provisions are one of the **coercive powers** at the hands of the Union to maintain the democratic form of government and to prevent **factional strife** from paralyzing the governmental machinery in the states. These include:

- Proclamation of **National Emergency** under a threat of war, external aggression or armed rebellion (**Article 352**).
- Proclamation of '**President's Rule**' on the failure or breakdown of constitutional machinery of state (**Article 356**).
- **Financial Emergency** when the financial stability or credit of India is threatened (**Article 360**).

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY

- The President can proclaim emergency in the entire country or in any part of it on the grounds of **war, external aggression or armed rebellion**.

- Term '**armed rebellion**' was inserted by the **44<sup>th</sup>** Constitutional Amendment Act (1978), replacing the original term '**internal disturbance**'.
- President can proclaim this emergency only after receiving a **written recommendation** from the Cabinet. Article 352 (3) defines the term 'Cabinet'.
- The proclamation of emergency must be **approved** by the Parliament (both houses) within **1 month**. If approved, the emergency shall **continue** for **6 months**.
- It can be **extended** for an **indefinite period** with an approval of the Parliament for every 6 months.
- A national emergency has been proclaimed **3 times** so far in **1962, 1971** and **1975**. In 1962 (Indo-China War) and 1971 (Indo-Pakistan War), it was due to external aggression, and in 1975 due to internal disturbances. The first was the **longest**.
- During National Emergency President can**
  - Give **directions to any state** with regard to the manner in which its **executive power** is to be exercised.
  - Modify the pattern of the **distribution of financial resources** between the Union and the States (Art 354).
  - Suspend** the **Fundamental Rights** of citizens **except** the right to life & personal liberty (**Article 21**) and right to protection in respect of conviction for offences (**Article 20**). Moreover, the right to 6 freedoms (**Article 19**) can **only** be suspended in case of **external emergency** (i.e. on the grounds of war or external aggression) and not in case of internal emergency (i.e. on the grounds of an armed rebellion).
- During National Emergency Parliament can**
  - Make Laws** on items mentioned in the **State List** during the period of national emergency. Such laws become ineffective **6 months** after the emergency.
  - Extend the **normal tenure** of **Lok Sabha** as well as State Assembly by **1 year at a time**. Such extensions cannot continue beyond **6 months** after emergency.
- If a notice in writing signed by not less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of total membership of Lok Sabha describing their intention to disapprove the continuation of emergency is served to Speaker of House or to President if House is not in session, **Special Sitting** shall be held within 14 days from date of such notice.
- Satisfaction of President** can be challenged on grounds of malafide intention.
- In **Minerva Mills Vs UOI** case it was held that there is no bar to judicial review of the validity of proclamation of emergency issued by president under Article 352(1). But court's powers are confined to check whether limitations conferred by constitution are complied with or not.

## **STATE EMERGENCY/ PRESIDENT'S RULE**

- Also known as a **constitutional emergency**, it can be proclaimed by the President on the following grounds:
  - Failure of constitutional machinery in the states (**Article 356**) or
  - Failure to comply with or to give effect to directions given by the Union (**Art 365**)

- Imposed when the President is satisfied (on the basis of either a report of the State Governor or otherwise), that the governance of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- The above proclamation in a State should be **approved** by the Parliament (both houses) within **two months**. If approved, it remains in force for six months. It can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of Parliament every six months. However, **beyond one year**, it can be extended by six month at a time only when the following **two conditions** are fulfilled,
  - 1 Proclamation of **national emergency** should be in operation in the entire country, or in the whole or any part of the concerned state; and
  - 2 The **Election Commission** must certify that the general elections to the concerned State cannot be held on account of difficulties.
- The **President acquires** the following **extraordinary powers**:-  
 1 Assign to himself all or any of the **functions of the state** government and powers of the governor.  
 2 Declare that the **powers of the state legislature** shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.  
 3 Authorize (when Lok Sabha is not in session) expenditure from the **Consolidated Fund of the state** pending the sanction of such expenditure by the Parliament.  
 4 **Promulgate ordinances** for the administration of the state when the Parliament is not in session.
- President **dissolves the state council of ministers** headed by the Chief Minister and the state legislature. The Parliament passes the state budget and legislation bills. The State Governor, on behalf of the President, carries on the state administration of the State with the help of advisors appointed by the President.
- **Parliament** passes the State **budget** and other **bills**. **President** can **delegate** this power to any suitable authority, if Parliament is unable to handle additional workload.
- However, the President cannot assume to himself power vested in High Court/ suspend operation of any provision relating to High Court.
- In **S.R. Bommai Vs UOI case**, Supreme Court said that the satisfaction of President can be scrutinized by the courts.
- **First time** proclaimed in Punjab in 1951 followed by PEPSU in 1953 and A.P. in 1954.

## **FINANCIAL EMERGENCY**

- The President can proclaim financial emergency if he is satisfied that the **financial stability or credit** of India or any part thereof, is threatened. Such a proclamation must be **approved** by the Parliament within **two months**.
- **President** acquires the following **extraordinary powers**:-  
 ○ He can give directions to the States to observe the **canons of financial propriety**.  
 ○ He can require that **all money bills** and other financial bills passed by the state legislature be reserved for his consideration.  
 ○ He can **issue directions for the reduction of salaries** and allowances of all or any class of person serving in connection with the affairs of the Union and the States, including the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

- This type of emergency has **not been declared so far**.

The most **important Amendments** in regard to emergency provisions are 38<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup>. **38<sup>th</sup>** Amendment (1975) made it clear that the President could issue **different proclamations** of emergency on different grounds, whether or not there was a proclamation already in existence and in operation. It also made the **satisfaction** of President in the matter of issuing a proclamation of emergency final and conclusive and **not challengeable** on any ground.

By the **42<sup>nd</sup>** Amendment, the period of 6 months in relation to Article 356 was raised to 1 year. **44<sup>th</sup>** Amendment (1977) substituted the **word 'internal disturbance'** by 'armed rebellion'. It also added that the "**Personal satisfaction**" of President alone would not be enough. He can issue a proclamation only if the unanimous decision of the **cabinet** in this regard has been communicated to him **in writing**. Presidential order cannot suspend fundamental rights conferred by **Articles 20 & 21**.

**59<sup>th</sup>** Amendment (1988) was introduced to deal with uncontrolled terrorism in **Punjab**. It has **limited application** only to the State of Punjab. It says that if grave emergency exists to integrity of the nation due to 'internal disturbances', he can issue proclamation under Article 356. Mere satisfaction of President is sufficient and all fundamental rights including Article 21 can be suspended and Press can be controlled.

### **SARKARIA COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATE EMERGENCY**

- 1 **All alternatives** available to the Union for discharging its paramount responsibility under Article **355** should be exhausted to contain the situation. A **warning** should be issued to the errant State. **Article 356** should be used very sparingly.
- 2 **Report of Governor** should be a '**Speaking document**' containing all material facts & grounds in a precise & clear manner on the basis of which President may satisfy himself as to the existence or otherwise of the situation contemplated in Article 356.
- 3 Every **proclamation** should be placed before each House of **Parliament**. State Assembly should not be dissolved either by the Governor or President before the proclamation has been laid before Parliament.
- 4 In a situation of **political breakdown**, Governor should explore all possibilities of having a government enjoying majority support in the Assembly.
- 5 Remedy of **Judicial review** on ground of malafide should be made more meaningful

**S.R. BOMMAI Vs UoI CASE**, Supreme Court held that

- 1 **Satisfaction** of President can be scrutinized by the courts; subject to judicial review
- 2 His powers are **conditional & not absolute** as he must specify under which clause of Article 356 (1), he was exercising power.
- 3 It was open for the court to **call for all material and basis** on which Union CoM formed its advice for proclamation

- 4 It was not open to President to **dissolve State Assembly** till it was duly ratified by both Houses of Parliament within the stipulated period mentioned in Constitution.

## **CONCLUSION**

During the mighty Mughal Empire, the far flung areas were the first to get out of control of the Empire and paved way for the British. Though the Democratic credentials have well been intact in Indian Constitution and well seeped in the minds of Indian people, the "**Separatist Tendencies**" (Sarkaria Commission Report, 1987) may not be nullified. The **demand for Khalistan** in Punjab, and the on going struggle in **Kashmir** and **North-East** necessitate the Emergency powers of the union to be kept well intact.

However, these **extraordinary powers** carry with themselves a high degree of **responsibility** for the center, ought to be used only under **extraordinary circumstances**. Ultimately, **the solution to the problems of democracy is not the curtailment of democracy, but More Democracy**.

## **CAN CORRUPTION BE A GROUND FOR IMPOSING PRESIDENT RULE IN A STATE**

**Karnataka governor** HR Bhardwaj on 15 May sent a **recommendation to impose President's Rule** in the state. After the Supreme Court's decision in the **SR Bommai case (1993)**, there was good reason to believe that the horrible days of using President's Rule to destroy federalism and state democracy and using stooge Governors was over. Bhardwaj exemplifies the contrary.

The **Bhagwan Sahay Committee** (1972), **Sarkaria Commission** (1983) and **Constitution Commission** (2004) show the corruption of the President's Rule power under Article 356 of the Constitution. Sarkaria reported **nine instances** in 1965-69, 19 in 1970-74, 21 in 1975-79 and 18 in 1980-87. **By a stroke of the pen, state democracy disappears**. What a travesty.

The test for imposing President's Rule under Article 356 is that the constitutional machinery in the state **should break down** in fact, not in the Governor's subjective imagination. Former Karnataka CM Bommai cautioned that the **legislature** and **not Raj Bhawan** represents India's democracy.

This is not to suggest that the BJP-led BS Yeddyurappa government is not corrupt. **President's Rule** was imposed on that ground in **Tamil Nadu in 1976** and three years later in **Tripura**. But these are **ignoble precedents**. If this rule is applied to Central governments, there would be a constitutional breakdown **every month!** Democracy and the rule of law must find answers without recourse to Article 356.

The truth is that **everyone in Karnataka has acted immorally**. Allegedly, the **defecting legislators** were showered with money. Unfortunately, this is true of so many legislatures in India. Coalition politics exacerbates this vulnerability. President's Rule is an emergency power. Once declared, parliamentary democracy in the state disappears.

We are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. **A corrupt government** has tried to keep **itself alive** through **corruption**. The **Speaker** and the Karnataka **High Court** responded to this corruption by **disqualifying defectors**. The **Supreme Court reversed** the orders of the high court and Speaker on grounds that encourage defection. For the **Governor to act as a political predator is simply unforgivable**.

**Corruption, nepotism** and **abuse of power** are rampant in Karnataka under Yeddyurappa's administration. But **these do not amount to the sort of constitutional breakdown** that would justify President's rule. **India is a federal country**, which has served it in good stead. It is best kept this way. **Justice R S Sarkaria's 1987** report noted the **vague wording of Article 356** - which allows the president to dismiss a state government - and recommended it be used as a **last measure**, when all available alternatives had failed to rectify or prevent the breakdown of the state's constitutional machinery.

The Supreme Court judgment in the **Bommai case** stated that a **government's strength** must be tested **on the floor of the House** before a governor can recommend dismissal.

# UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## STATUS

- UPSC is a **central recruiting agency**. Independent **constitutional** body. Apart from UPSC, Constitution provides for State Public Service Commission & Joint State Public Commission
- **SPSC** is **created**, like UPSC **directly by the Constitution**,
- **JSPSC** can be **created by an act of Parliament** on the request of the legislatures of the States concerned.
- The **UPSC** can **also serve the needs** of a state on the **request of the state Governor** and with the approval of the President.

Article 315 – Public Service Commissions for Union and the states.
Article 316 – Appointment and term of the office of members
Article 317 – Removal and suspension of a member of Public Service Commission
Article 319 – Prohibition as to the holding of office by members on ceasing to be such members
Article 320 – Functions.
Article 321 – powers to extend functions of the Public Service Commissions.
Article 323 – Reports of such commissions

## COMPOSITION

- **Constitution** does **not** specify the **strength** of the Commission but has **left** the matter **to** the discretion of the **President**. Usually, the Commission consists of **9 to 11 members** including the Chairman. However, the **Constitution provides** that one **half** of such persons who have held office for **at least ten years** either under the Government of India or under the government of a state. President to determine the conditions of service.
- Chairman and members have tenure of **six years** or until age of **65 years**, in the case of **SPSC** or **JSPSC** age limit is **62 years**.

## REMOVAL

- Removed on the grounds of **Insolvent bankrupt, Paid employment, Infirmitiy of mind**.
- President can also remove him on the grounds for his **misbehaviour**. However, in this case, President has to refer the matter to the **Supreme Court** for an **enquiry**. If the Supreme Court, upholds the cause. President can remove him. The **advise** tendered by the Supreme Court in this regard is **binding** on the President. During the course of enquiry by the Supreme Court, the President can suspend the Chairman or the member of UPSC.

## **INDEPENDENCE**

- Security of tenure.
- Conditions of service of though determined by the President, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
- Entire expenses are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Chairman is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or any state.
- Members eligible for appointment as the Chairman of UPSC or a SPSC.
- Chairman or members are **not eligible for reappointment** for second term.

## **FUNCTIONS**

- Assists the states (if requested by two or more states so to do) in framing and operating schemes of **joint recruitment**.
- Serves all or any of the needs of a state on the **request of the State Governor** and with the approval of the President of India.
- It advises the President of India –
  - All matters relating to methods of **recruitment** civil services and for civil posts.
  - Suitability of candidates for appointments for **promotions**
  - On all **disciplinary matters** person serving under the Government of India.
- The UPSC presents, annually, **to the President** a report on its performance. The President places this report before both the houses of Parliament. .
- The President can exclude posts, services and matters from the purview of the UPSC.

## **ROLE**

- UPSC is only a Central recurring agency while the **Department of Personnel and Training** is the **Central personnel agency** in India.
- Role of UPSC is not only limited, but also **recommendations** made by it are **only** of **advisory** nature and hence, not binding on the government.

## **RECENT REFORMS BY UPSC**

As part of its **e-governance initiative**, the union public service commission (UPSC) has introduced a system of **online submission of applications** for all its exams. In 2009, the UPSC had introduced an online system on an experimental basis. As a result of the massive response, it has become a regular feature. It brought **major relief for applicants**.

Lakhs of students appear for more than a dozen exams being conducted by the UPSC. The online system has its own advantages as it is the most convenient system of submitting application forms. The system is completely **hassle-free** and UPSC has designed a system to provide **prompt confirmation of acceptance**. A candidate can get a printout of his application form. Further, there is absolutely **no scope** for **postal delay**.

**The UPSC was pressed to disclose the cut off marks of IAS preliminary exam of 2006.** Thanks to the coming into force of Right to Information act 2005. Along with that UPSC is also introducing reforms in examination system such as **introduction of CSAT** in Civil Services Exam etc.

## **CRITICISM OF UPSC BY PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

Department-related **Parliamentary Standing Committee** on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice **strongly comments** that under the garb of being a Constitutional body, **UPSC cannot absolve itself from appearing before the Committee**. It observes that representatives of constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission of India and even the Apex Court of the nation appear before the Committee to place their views on Demands for Grants of their organizations. It finds no cogent reason as to why UPSC may be accorded any exception. The Committee is of the considered opinion that UPSC, under the pretext of Constitutional status is trying to **hide its inefficient working**.

**According to Committee**, UPSC being a Constitutional body should uphold high standards of transparency and accountability. But strangely UPSC is projecting it as above the law of the land. It does not want to give information under the RTI Act. Committee does not want to tell how it is spending the public money given to it and it is accountable to none, although it is a creature of the Constitution.

This **attitude of UPSC is certainly antithetic** to the principles of Parliamentary democracy like ours. Although the action of UPSC is reprehensible and falls within the purview of the **breach of privilege of Parliament**, since this Committee itself acts as Parliament, committee takes a **lenient view** and before resorting to the inherent powers of breach of privilege, committee recommends that the Government should deliberate upon the situation at the highest level and take necessary action to ensure that **such a grave lapse** and subversion of democratic norms set forth by the Constitution does not occur in future.

## **CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS**

**"India has some of the hardest-working bureaucrats in the world, but its administration has an abysmal record of serving the public".**

Civil Service is essential for the functioning of government. The civil service has long been regarded as the '**steel frame**' of administration in India right from colonial days. The colonial legacy of civil service is still continuing in this fast **changing era of globalization**. It is in this context that civil service reform forms a quintessential part for good governance.

**The importance of the Civil Service to governance stems from the following:**

- Service presence throughout the country and its strong binding character
- Administrative and managerial capacity of the services
- Effective policy-making and regulation
- Effective coordination between institutions of governance
- Leadership at different levels of administration.
- Service delivery at the cutting edge level
- Provide 'continuity and change' to the administration.

What is appalling and needs a serious consideration is the element of '**change**'. It can be said that the civil service as a whole has maintained its **status quo** instead of sweeping changes in social and economic scenario. Some may argue that it is the resilience of the civil service, but it is an obvious fact out in the street that the Indian

civil service was **not able to deliver service** based upon the expectations of the people or the founding fathers of the Constitution.

Civil Service Reform is a deliberate change effort by government **to improve its capacity to effectively and efficiently** execute policies. In recent times, there has been accelerated change globally brought about by technological advances, **greater decentralization** and social activism. The ramifications of these changes are being felt by government in the form of increasing expectations for better governance through effective service delivery, transparency, accountability and rule of law.

The civil service, as the primary arm of government, **must keep pace with the changing times** in order to meet the aspirations of the people. The purpose of 'reform' is to **reorient the Civil Services** into a dynamic, efficient and accountable apparatus for public service delivery built on the ethos and values of integrity, impartiality and neutrality. The reform is **to raise the quality of public services** delivered to the citizens and enhance the capacity to carry out core government functions, thereby, leading to sustainable development.

Prior to the developing the contents of Civil Service Reform, there is a need for an open, objective stock taking of the current situation. India's massive bureaucracy is maintained at huge cost by the country's taxpayer whose average income is among the lowest in the world. But the public perception about the members of the civil services, who function at cutting edge and higher coordinating and policy making levels, is that they are 'burdensome low-performers' heading a highly bloated bureaucracy, which is, often, perceived to be corrupt and inefficient in governing the country.

#### **The ailments afflicting Indian civil services are:**

- Lack of professionalism and poor capacity building
- Inefficient incentive systems that do not appreciate upright and outstanding civil servants but reward the corrupt and the incompetent
- Outmoded rules and procedures that restrict the civil servant from performing effectively
- Systemic inconsistencies in promotion and empanelment
- Lack of adequate transparency and accountability procedures - there is also no safety for whistle blowers
- Arbitrary and whimsical transfers – insecurity in tenures impedes institutionalization
- Political interference and administrative acquiescence
- A gradual erosion in values and ethics
- Patrimonialism

It is well recognized that Civil Service Reform is not only necessary but also inevitable. It has as much value in governance as in socio-economic development.

#### **Civil Service Reforms and Good Governance**

A well-functioning civil service helps to foster good policymaking, effective service delivery, accountability and responsibility in utilizing public resources which are the characteristics of good governance. "**Good Governance**" is being used as an all-inclusive framework not only for administrative and civil service reform, but as a link

between Civil Service Reform and an all-embracing framework for making policy decisions effective within viable systems of accountability and citizen participation.

Administrative reform focuses on **rationalizing structures** of government. Governance reform tends to refer to the **improvement of legal and policy frameworks** to create **proper decision-making environment; participatory systems** for elements of **civil society to become actively involved** in policy and programme formulation and their implementation; and an **effective and transparent system** and process for control and accountability in government activities. Civil Services reform cannot be seen in isolation and it has to be undertaken along with administrative reforms for effective results.

### **Civil Service Reforms and Socio-Economic Development**

Civil Service Reform aims at **strengthening administrative capacity** to perform core government functions. These reforms raise the **quality of services** to the citizens that are essential to the promotion of sustainable economic and social development. CSR can contribute to **macroeconomic stabilization** by restoring **budgetary stability, strengthening revenue collection, managing aid effectively, and improving development performance** through proper implementation of investment frameworks and the **management of public expenditure** plans and **programmes**. The reform can contribute to the design and implementation of an equitable programme of social development. Enhancing the capacity of civil servants and **improving their morale** are critical to all these functions.

### **COMPONENTS OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORM**

Reforms must take into account the role of the Civil Service in the governance needs of the day and the expectations generated from it. The main components of Civil Service Reform should pertain to the following:

- 1. Size and Structure of Government:** Since independence, the government has increased the number of their ministries, departments and officials; in some cases even doubling them. In part, this growth has-been stimulated by political considerations; it accommodated more and more intra-party groups by offering more ministerial positions. It also created posts for senior civil servants, along with other jobs at other levels that enlarged the patronage capabilities of a number of political and bureaucratic leaders. Although these kinds of expansion have **serious impacts on the performance** of civil servants, they are difficult to compare systematically in either fiscal terms or in terms of quality of service.
- 2. Rightsizing civil services:** The number of ministries should be kept low. Even if political considerations warrant the appointment of new ministers, these should be kept as ministers with a major portfolio within an existing ministry. The critical point is to retain the viability and integrity of a ministry by keeping all the closely related activities in the context of a government's priorities within one administrative structure. The administrative reforms must look into the role clarification, core governance issues so that optimum number of functionaries are available for effective service delivery without any spillage or leakage.

- 3. Recruitment:** Civil service recruitment and promotion hinge on several factors such as patronage versus merit; the relative importance of ethnic, religious, regional and gender preferences. There is very **little stress on testing managerial skills** in the examination. The changes in our economy also create a need for specialists at various jobs. With rapidly advancing technology and high degrees of specialization in every field, the country can no longer afford to put generalists in positions requiring specialised skills. The entry and exit of civil servants from public service to private sector and vice versa, will make the civil services jobs more attractive, thus making it a new economy job.
- 4. Capacity Building & Human Resources Development:** The gaps where the training facilities are not in tune with the new trends have to be identified from time to time, so that training can be provided right at the induction level. The urgency for reforms in civil services is dictated as much by the imperatives of global developments as by the forces of new technology and communication which are shrinking distance and commerce, rendering conventional approaches and practices of administration obsolete and dysfunctional. Towards this end, a number of measures have to be taken for simplification of rules and procedures, delegation of enhanced powers, better enforcement and accountability and speedy redress of public grievances.
- 5. Reforming the Annual Confidential Report Process:** The non-transparent, subjective and unilateral character of ACRs in all states has reduced its utility for public agencies and alienated employees. In the near term, efforts can be made to revise and **update the ACR format** and incorporate **more department-specific feedback**. Improvements can also be made without much difficulty to improve the **consultative nature of the ACR process** and the feedback managers provide to staff.
- 6. Civil Services Performance Systems:** The present promotion system in civil services is based on time-scale and is coupled by its security of tenure. These elements in our civil services are making our dynamic civil servants **complacent** and many of the promotions are based upon patronage system. These **promotions should be merit based** and the respective authorities have to benchmark the best practices and evaluate the performance of the civil servants both qualitatively and quantitatively with a variety of parameters.
- 7. Professionalism & Modernity:** Unfortunately, political interference and administrative acquiescence has severely dented the professional fibre of the service. Civil Servants have to bring a **new orientation to rules** by which the everyday conduct of public affairs has **to be regulated**. Civil servants have much to **contribute to the shaping** and not just implementation of the policy.
- 8. Professional Skills:** Concreted effort needs to be directed towards encouraging civil servants to cultivate professional skills through direct work experience or through research. Training and study course participated in must be reflected in the ACR as well as peer reviewed published research.
- 9. Civil Service Accountability:** The civil servants are dictated by the rules and procedures. To hold a civil servant accountable, it is necessary to find out the

**information about the civil servants' decisions and actions.** For greater accountability, the following are some of the measures suggested:

- Streamlining and fast-tracking departmental enquiries
- Linking performance with incentives
- Overhaul of employee grievance procedures
- Action on audit findings
- Implementation of Citizens Charters' for monitoring service delivery
- Right to Information Act and its enforcement
- Code of conduct for civil servants

**10. Change in Mindset:** A paradigm shift in the nature of civil service/servants is required to cope up with the emerging demands and the **changes in society and economy.**

### **Challenges to Civil Service Reform**

Lastly, it is important to recognize that the reform mandate will throw up greater challenges. The following would be required to counter the challenges.

- Political support and will
- Management capacity to implement reforms
- Nurturing support from civil servants themselves
- 'Safety nets' must be in place for people adversely affected
- Reforms must reflect the political and institutional environment of a country.
- Developing communication between all the stakeholders.

# **Sample Notes of Geography**

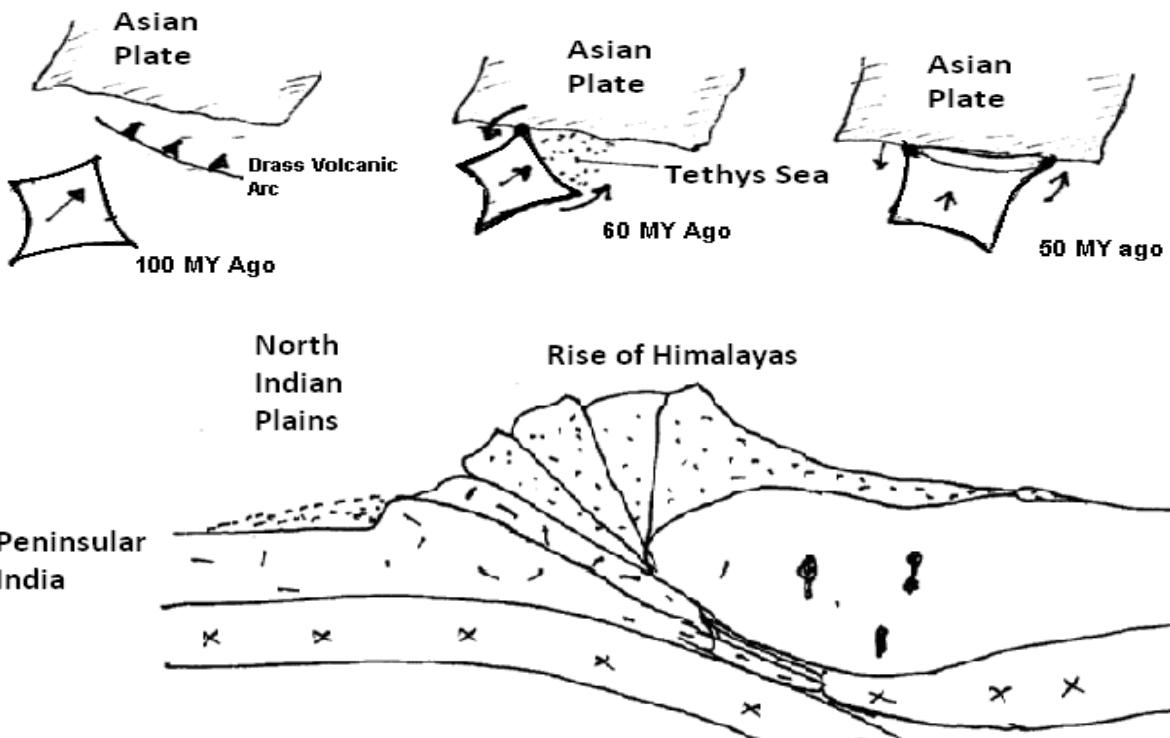
# HIMALAYAS

- The outer, rigid lithosphere of earth consists of several individual segments called **Plates**.
- These Plates vary in **thickness**: 80-100 km in Oceans to >100 km (may be 400 km) in Continents
- There are total **12 plates** in no.: 6 of enormous size called "Great Plates" and 6 of comparatively smaller size
- **Great Plates include**:- Pacific plate, American plate, Eurasian plate, African plate, Austral Indian and Antarctic Plate

Himalayas are a result of **convergence of these plates** (wherein one plate moves under the other causing it to uplift). This process started around 100 million years (my) ago when **Indian peninsula** separated from Africa & moved northward to collide with **Eurasian plate** (Europe + Asia). Initially there was an **ocean-ocean collision** resulting in a volcanic chain called Drass Island Arc.

At around 60 my ago, **peninsular northern tip** crushed into Asia eventually causing Himalayan rise. Further, the anticlockwise rotation of peninsula closed the **Tethys Sea**, existing between the two, and the rise of its **sediments**; and thus forming sedimentary rocks in Himalayas.

The **spreading centre** propelling India northward is still active. This is the reason for the on-going growth of Himalayas @ few cm/year. Evidence is the severe earthquakes as north as China and Mongolia.



## STRUCTURE

- **Western** side has **stepped rise** as compared to their **abrupt** rise on Eastern side.
- **Parallel Ranges:** An important feature of Himalayas is the existence of parallel ranges. **Inner, Middle & Outer** Himalayas all are parallel. The **Inner or Greater Himalayas** also called Himadris form world's highest Mountain Ranges with average height of 6000m and 50km width. The **Middle Himalayas** are with elevations of 3600-4200m & width of 60 - 80km.
- **Fault Zones:** The compressional forces strained the rocks & crack zones developed.

## RELIEF

- **Broader in Western Parts:** Himalayas are broader in western parts while their width narrows down in the eastern part. In the E. Part, distinction between parallel ranges is generally lost.
- **Antecedent Rivers:** in the geological past, when Himalayas were rising, the rivers kept on eroding them at the places of their flow, thereby creating deep gorges as in Indus, Satluj & others. Such a pattern makes the rivers antecedent.
- **Kashmir Himalayas** have a rugged mountainous topography with several parallel snow covered ranges. Here lies the Kashmir valley. A special feature here is **tilted beds of lake deposits** on Pir Panjal Range called **Karewas**.
- **Kumaon Himalayas:** here lie narrow longitudinal valleys called **Dunes** e.g. Dehradun, Patlidun.
- **Purvanchal Hills:** The **ruggedness** is more than other parts among these hills with the extreme of it in Arunachal Pradesh.

Related Concept: **Geosynclines**

Geosynclines are **long, narrow and shallow** depressions of water characterized by gradual sedimentation and subsidence. Present day **fold mountains** are considered to be the sites of geosynclines in the early geological history of earth.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF HIMALAYAS

### Economic Significance

- 1 **Hydroelectricity:** Himalayan Region holds **potential of 1,48,700 MW**, of which 22% (another 9% are under construction) has been utilized. National Electricity Policy reiterates that maximum emphasis would be laid on the development of the feasible hydro power potential in the country and majority of these projects are located in Himalayan region- Bhakra, Nathpa-Jhakri, Uri, Chamera, Teesta etc.
- 2 **Minerals:** **North-Eastern Region** is a potential source for many valuable minerals few like petroleum, coal, limestone and base-metal deposits of copper and zinc. Assam, Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh have deposits of granite in general.
- 3 **Vegetation:** The tremendous biodiversity of the Himalayan region varies according to increasing altitudes. Moist Tropical Deciduous forests are found along the foothills of Shivaliks; lofty trees of Chir Pine, Sal is important tree in lower altitudes, Deodar, Silver Fir and spruce are found between heights of 2000-3000 m. Main fruits like apple, pear, peach plum, almond, apricot, sweet cherry, walnut are available. The

Himalayas is credited all over the world as a trove of **medicinal herbs** offering refuge to these plants in its varied mountain ecosystems.

- 4 **Perennial Source of river/ irrigation:** Rivers originating from Himalayas are perennial as they are fed by melting snow and glaciers. Major Himalayan rivers are Brahmaputra (Biggest by volume), Ganges, Alakananda, Yamuna, Indus, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej & others.
- 5 **Tourism & recreation/ hill stations:** Srinagar, Pahalgam, Kullu valley, Simla, Joshimath, Badrinath, Darjeeling etc. are major tourist attractions in Himalayas.

### **Role of Himalayas in Regulating Climate of India**

Himalayas play a significant role in regulating the climate of Indian sub-continent. Himalayas regulate the mechanism of monsoons, thus influencing the climate of the country. Their role can be seen in the following parameters:

- 1 **Jet Streams:** in the summer, the Himalayas direct the **South-Westerly jet stream** coming from the Mediterranean Sea towards the north of it; thus giving place for **Tropical Easterly Jet (TEJ)** Stream coming from South-East Asia to enter India. TEJ plays a significant role in the mechanism of Indian monsoons.
- 2 **Tibetan Plateau:** at a height of  $> 4000$  m, the plateau acts as a heat source and creates anti-cyclonic conditions. Such a condition is vital for the monsoons to enter the Indian part of subcontinent.
- 3 **Summer rainfall:** the south-west monsoons after entering India move along the **Himalayan foothills** causing rainfall all along these. The rainfall decreases from east to west. These rainfalls have paramount influence on summer climate of India.
- 4 **Winter rainfall:** these rainfalls are caused by winds that pick **moisture from the Mediterranean Sea** and enter India from west in the winters. It causes snowfall in the hilly areas like J&K and Himachal Pradesh; and rainfall in Punjab, Haryana and western UP. These rains are useful for the wheat cultivation in these states.
- 5 Himalayas **block cold winds of Siberia**, thus making it a climatic subcontinent. Without Himalayas, the climatic conditions in India could have been cool temperate with near zero temperature in the winter.
- 6 **Altitude wise climate determinate latitude:** Within the Himalayas climate varies depending on elevation and location. Climate ranges from **subtropical in the southern foothills**, with average summer temperatures of about  $30^{\circ}$  C and average winter temperatures of about  $18^{\circ}$  C;

There are **warm temperate conditions in the Middle Himalayan** valleys, with average summer temperatures of about  $25^{\circ}$  C and cooler winters; **cool temperate conditions prevail in the higher parts** of the Middle Himalayas, where average summer temperatures are  $15$  to  $18^{\circ}$  C and winters are below freezing.

The climate is **cold alpine at higher elevations**, where summers are cool and winters are severe. At elevations above 4880 m, the climate is very cold with below freezing temperatures and the area is permanently covered with snow and ice. The **eastern part of the Himalayas** receives heavy rainfall; the western part is drier.

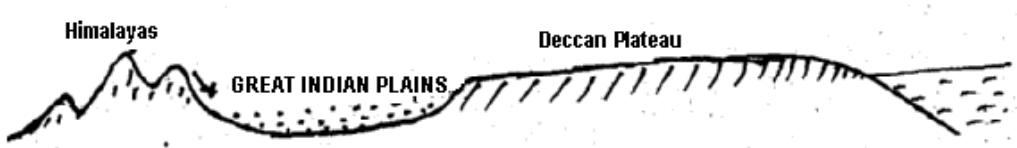
### **Strategic importance of Himalayas**

- 1 It acts as a **buffer** between India and subcontinent other Asian Countries especially China.
- 2 The **Passes** in the rugged terrain acted as a gateway to **foreign intruders** during the past time. Presently these play an important role in facilitating the movement of people through roads and the promotion of **trade**. Some of these routes include: Zoji La, Banihal, Nathula and Jelepla Passes.
- 3 Many strategically important roads pass through these mountains and act as a lifeline to Indian security. Important ones include J&K 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D.
- 4 Himalayas are the house of many of the world's highest **battlefields**. Since 1984, India and Pakistan have been locked in a bitter battle over the control of **Siachen**. **Karakoram highway** linking the two countries, soon gave Siachen strategic importance.
- 5 **Demarcating boundaries between countries:** Himalayas and lower Himalayas form a boundary with countries like Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

# NORTH INDIAN PLAINS

## RELIEF

- The North Indian Plains run for 3200 Km from **Indus to Brahmaputra**. Their **width** varies from 150 km to 300 km. These are widest near Allahabad (400 km) and narrowest in Assam (80-90 km)
- These **slope** South East and East with an **Elevation** of 200-300 m in Punjab to sea level in West Bengal.

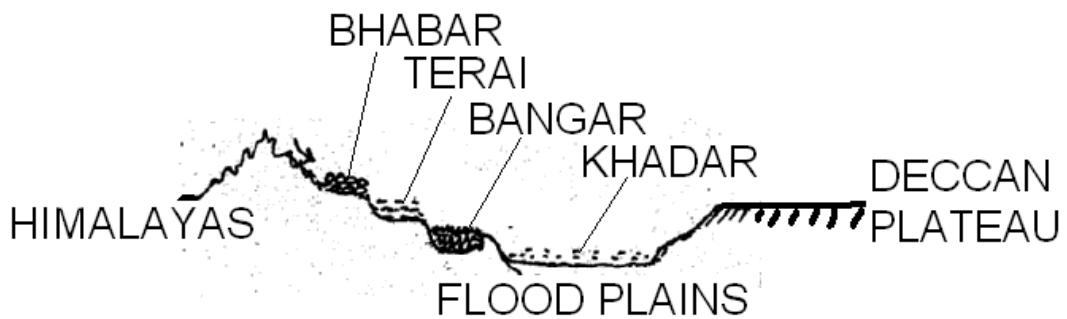


## Longitudinal Divisions

1. **Punjab Plains:** These are primarily the **coalescence of doabs**. Doab is the region lying between two rivers. Punjab Plains consists of **5 such doabs**. These plains make one of the most fertile soils in the world. With assured irrigation, these have become the '**breadbasket of India**'.
2. **Haryana Plains:** Act as a **water divide** of Indian Plains. These separate the Indus system from the Ganga system. Being fertile, these are agriculturally prosperous plains with high milk production and livestock population.
3. **Ganga Plains:** These plains consist of a network of rivers both from north & south - resembling the arteries of the human body- Ghagra, Gandak, Kosi and Kali and Son, Betwa, Chambal and Ken. These plains are dominated by the **confluence of cones** of the tributaries of Ganga both from north and south.
4. **West Bengal Delta:** **Largest** and **fastest** growing delta of the world and is also the most fertile delta. Important crops include **Jute Cultivation** and **Rice cultivation**- 3 crops of rice per year. The marshes here are important for **sundry trees** (Sunderbans).
5. **Brahmaputra Plains:** Upper Brahmaputra plains prone to **Earthquakes**

## Latitudinal Divisions

1. **Bhabar:** A **Narrow** (6-8 km width), **Continuous** belt along the foothills of **Shivaliks**, from **Indus to Tista**. Consists of degraded materials- **pebbles**. It's a **porous** zone. **Rivers are lost here** after emerging from Himalayas
2. **Terai:** Region (in **Uttar Pradesh**) where rivers **re-emerge** after being lost in Bhabar region. Consists of **wetlands** and **marshes**. **Rice** cultivation practiced here
3. **Bhangar:** **Alluvial Terraces** along river floodplains; consist of calcareous Kankars
4. **Khadar:** **New alluvium** in floodplains of rivers. **Highly fertile** soils consisting of **ox-bow lakes** and **meanders**



## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF NORTHERN PLAINS

- 1 **Agriculture:** as these plains are formed of fertile alluvial soils, these majorly contribute to the **food requirements of the country**. That is why, these plains are sometimes called **granary of India**. Punjab, Haryana and UP are major states in wheat production while the deltaic regions of west Bengal are known for rice cultivation. Agriculture has been supported by a **vast network of irrigation**, both rivers and canals. This region played a major role in **Green Revolution of India**.
- 2 **Industries:** Various types of industry has developed in the plains due to the availability of **cheap labour**, an efficient network of **transportation lines**, and other conducive factors. **Kanpur** was one of the first textile factory cities in India and maintains its importance within the region as a processing centre for agricultural products and chemicals.
- 3 **Transportation:** the northern plains boast to have a dense and efficient network of roadways and railways. Besides the airways and waterways too give them a distinct place in their contribution to national economy.

# PENINSULA

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## RELIEF

1. **ARAVALLI REGION/ HILLS:** **Fold mountain-** Highly dissected, denuded, a Relict mountain. SENILE STAGE. **Broader in south** as compared to north. Elevation goes on decreasing from south to north, quite pronounced in Udaipur. **Gurusikar** (in south): highest peak near **Mt. Abu**. **Nakki Lake** at Mt. Abu – famous for tourism
2. Vindhyan Range continues as **Bhander** and **Kaimur** Hills in east. Forms watershed between Ganga System & Southern Rivers. **Malwa plateau** rolls down to north & finally merges with Gangetic Plains. Highly dissected by river valleys of Tributaries of Chambal Sind, Betwa & Ken, therefore forming **Badlands**
3. Satpuras are **Fold Mountains**. Known by different names at different sections. From west to east, it names as **Rajpipla**, **Gawilgarh** and **Mahadeo** Hills
4. Maikala Range/ **Amarkantak** Plateau: Wet Forested Region. Here lies the **source of many rivers** like Narmada, Son, Mahanadi, Wainganga.
5. **Deccan lava plateau including Karnataka:** It is triangular in shape and is widest in the north. **Important Ranges** in the northern part are Satmala, Ajana, Balaghat & Harishchandra. Western Ghats lies on the western side of plateau. Towards its south lies the **Karnataka Plateau**. It lies in the **rain shadow** of Western Ghats, therefore, severely prone to droughts
6. **Chotanagpur Plateau** consists of plateaus standing at different levels. It is highly dissected due to heavy rains, deforestation & mining activities.

## WESTERN & EASTERN GHATS AND SOUTHERN HILL COMPLEX

### Western Ghats

- Form a **continuous barrier** from north to south, almost parallel to the Arabian Sea. General altitude is **900-1100 m**. These are **higher** in their **southern part**
- Known as **Sayadri** in **Maharashtra** and **Karnataka**, **Nilgiris** in **T.N.**, **Anaimalai** and **Palni-Cardamom** Hills in **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu**. Collectively Nilgiris, Anamalai Hills & Palni-Cardamom Hills form **Southern Hills Complex**.
- **Nilgiris** is the **meeting point** of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Southern Hill Complex. **Doda Beta** (2637m) is the highest peak of Nilgiris. **Udagamandalam** (Ooty) is a hill station located in Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu). Temperate forests called **Sholas** are found here.
- **Anai Mudi** (2,695m) is the highest peak of **Western Ghats**. It is located in **Anamalai Hills** and falls in **Kerala**.
- Famous hill station of **Kodaikanal** (T.N) lies in **Palni Hills**. The source of Periyar River lies in **Cardamom** Hills. **Periyar Lake** is also situated here.

### Eastern Ghats

- Form a **discontinuous line** of hills parallel to E.Coast
- Known by different names at different places –
  - **Northern Circars** north of Godavari
  - **Palkonda & Nallamala** between Godavari & Palar

- **Shevaroy & Javadi** as T.N hills
- As opposed to Western Ghats, E.Ghats are **higher** in **northern** part. **Mahendra Giri** (1501) is the highest peak of E.Ghats, lying in **Orissa**.

WESTERN GHATS	EASTERN GHATS
Higher average elevation than E. Ghats. Higher in Southern part	Higher in northern part
Source of many rivers. Act as a <b>water divide</b>	Not a source of any river
High rainfall (>200cm); higher in south	Less rainfall (<200cm); higher in north
Greater <b>HEP</b> potential. Many waterfalls	Lesser potential

### ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PENINSULAR REGION

- 1 **Minerals and industry:** Most of the minerals in India occur in the peninsular plateau region. The **North-Eastern Plateau Region** covering Chotanagpur (Jharkhand), Orissa Plateau, West Bengal and parts of Chhattisgarh concentrates **major iron and steel industry**. It has variety of minerals viz. **iron ore, coal, manganese, bauxite, mica**.  
The **South-Western Plateau Region** extending over Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala is rich in **ferrous metals** such as iron ore and manganese. Bauxite and limestone are also found. Kerala has deposits of monazite and thorium.
- 2 **Agriculture:** the **black cotton soil** is highly useful for **cotton** cultivation. This region also contributes significantly in the pulses, jowar, and oilseeds etc. production of India. On the **Karnataka Plateau**, sorghum, millet, pulses, cotton, and oilseeds are the main crops. Coconuts, areca, coffee, pepper, rubber, cashew nuts, tapioca, and cardamom are widely grown on plantations in the Nilgiris and on the western slopes of the Western Ghats.
- 3 **Transportation and Communication:** Density of transportation compared to northern plains is less but is still crisscrossed over the entire length and breadth by both rail and road transport.
- 4 **Forests Resources:** The forest type is mainly tropical moist deciduous forest, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand and MP have major coverage of forests.
- 5 **Power:** peninsular India has high potential of hydroelectricity. Major Hydroelectric projects are Damodar Valley, Hirakud, Rihand, Narmada Valley. A more important source is **Thermal Plants** like Rayalseema-, Kahalgaon, Korba , Chattisgarh, Bellary VindhyaChal etc.

# COASTAL PLAINS

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WESTERN COASTAL PLAINS	EASTERN COASTAL PLAINS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formed by <b>submergence</b> of western side of Western Ghats. <b>Retrograded</b> coastline</li> <li>2. Less in width due to subsidence. <b>Continental Shelf</b> is <b>wide</b> because of the same reason</li> <li>3. Rivers are smaller, swift and more erosive. Form <b>estuaries</b>.</li> <li>4. Rainfall: 200-400 cm (SW Monsoon)</li> <li>5. Less prone to cyclones</li> <li>6. Not prone to floods except Narmada estuary because of swiftness and small lengths of rivers</li> <li>7. More contribution to <b>marine food</b></li> <li>8. Prospects of <b>Wave Energy</b></li> <li>9. More no. of <b>Natural Harbours</b></li> <li>10. Ports important for <b>import</b> purposes</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formed by <b>alluvium</b> brought by rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna &amp; Cauvery. <b>Prograded</b> coastline</li> <li>2. Wider coast &amp; narrower shelf due to emergence</li> <li>3. Rivers are longer, gradual and less erosive. Form <b>deltas</b>.</li> <li>4. Rainfall: 100-200 cm (SW &amp; NE Monsoon)</li> <li>5. More prone</li> <li>6. Prone to <b>floods</b> because of gradual lengths, deltaic formations &amp; long lengths of rivers</li> <li>7. Less contribution</li> <li>8. Prospects of <b>OTEC</b></li> <li>9. Lesser no.</li> <li>10. Ports important for <b>export</b> purposes</li> </ol>

## ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF COASTAL AREAS

India has a long coastline spanning **7600 km** forming one of the biggest peninsulas in the world. It is serviced by **12 major ports** and 185 notified minor and intermediate ports. About **20% of the population** of India lives in coastal areas, a larger percentage of this being in coastal cities, such as Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta. Their economic importance lies in:

- 1 **Ports:** the coastal areas support the ports which are of paramount importance for the **import/ export**, movement of petroleum and other bulk products. The **capacity of the Indian ports** increased from 20 MT of cargo handling in 1951 to more than **350 MT now**. The traffic handled by major ports pertain to liquid cargo (40 per cent) followed by dry cargo (36 per cent) and the remaining general cargo.
- 2 **FISHERIES:** The geographical base of Indian marine fisheries has 7516 km coastline. There are 189 traditional fish landing centers, and 6 major fishing harbors which serve as bases for about 280000 fishing crafts. **Export of marine products** will be raised to \$ 4 billion by 2010.
- 3 **Exclusive Economic Zone:** India has a 2.02 million sq. km of Exclusive Economic Zone including 0.5 million sq. km of continental shelf where it has exclusive rights for exploitation of mineral and other resources.
- 4 **Agriculture and Plantation:** Rice is the prevalent crop in the coastal belt of the eastern and southern states. The main crops are paddy, coconut, pepper, cashew, cassava and plantation crops like **rubber and cash crops** are tea and coffee, spices,

nutmeg, vanilla and cashew nut. The **deltas of east coast** from the 'granary' of the southern states. The **western coastal strips** which have a large number of lagoons and back waters on other hand are noted for spices, areca nuts, coconuts palms etc.

- 5 **Vegetation:** The wet Tropical Evergreen vegetation is found in high annual rainfall, South western Ghats of Kerala and Karnataka have this type of vegetation. **Tidal Vegetation** is also found in deltaic regions of Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna. Mangrove is representative vegetation.
- 6 **Waterways and Transport:** National Waterways-3: Kottapuram-Kollam stretch (168 km) of West Coast Canal along Champakara canal (923 km), NW-4: Kakinada to Marakkanam (Along Godawari and Krishna river)- 1,100 km and Udyogmandal canal (14 km) are the major waterways supporting movement of goods.
- 7 **Electricity Generation:** OTEC energy using ocean water temperature differences holds high potential in meeting the energy requirements of the country to some extent.

# ISLAND GROUPS

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## LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS

- Extend from **8°N - 12°N**. Consists of 30 small islands, only 10 of which are populated.
- Population consists of **Mopilas (Muslims)** from **Kerala**
- **Coral** origin (made up by the organic activity of micro-organisms called coral **polyps**)
- Among Lakshadweep islands, some are **horse-shoe shaped** called **Atolls**.
- Lakshadweep Group consists of two sub-groups, namely
  - **Amandivi** Islands - North of 11° N Channel
  - **Cannanore** Islands - South of 11° N Channel
- **Minicoy** Islands lie to the extreme south

## ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

- Extend from **6° 39'N - 13° 34'N**
- Consist of two groups – Andaman Group (Great & Little Andaman) – 204 islands, and Nicobar Group (Car, Little and Great) – 19 islands
- Continent in origin. They are submerged parts of mountain range called **Arakan Yoma** (Myanmar).
- Some of them are of **volcanic** origin and only active volcano of India is located on these islands (**Barren** Island). **Narcondam** is the extinct volcanic island.
- **Andaman (Little)** separated from **Nicobar** by **10o channel**
- **Little Andaman** separated from **Great Andaman** by **Duncan passage**
- Great Nicobar is the Largest Island in the group
- **Saddle Peak** in North Andaman – **highest** peak
- **Car Nicobar encircled by a Fringing Reef**
- These islands are prone to **earthquakes** and **tsunamis**
- Main **Tribes** here are Great Andamanese, Onges, Sentelese, Jarawas and Shompens
- High potential for **wave power & OTEC**

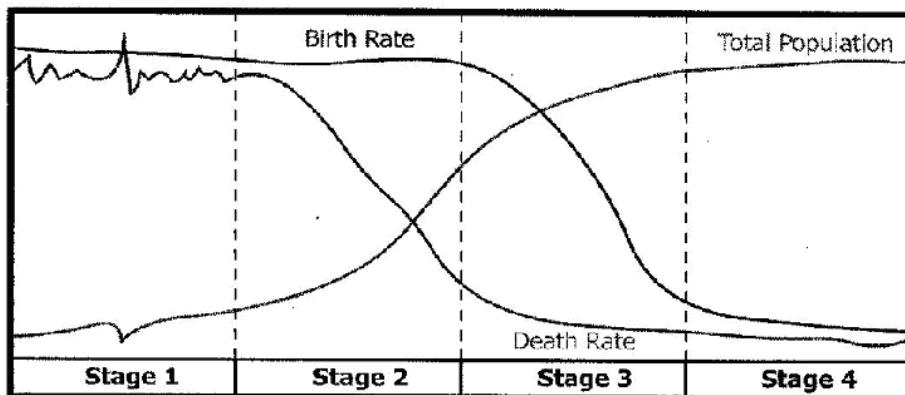
## STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAND TERRITORIES

1. The economy of most of islanders is forest based. Besides that, the island territories have highly fragile environments. Need is to bring more areas under **national parks and biosphere reserves** on these territories. Mangrove, swamps, and wetlands ecosystems should be conserved and judiciously utilized.
2. In the hot and humid climate of the insides, **soil erosion** is quite high. Afforestation can help to overcome this problem.
3. Islanders have a traditional society & marginal economy. **Forest-based cottage industries and handicrafts** can provide employment at the village level.

4. The Islands like Andaman and Nicobar lie in the **high seismic zone**. The buildings and structures constructed for the tourists should be seismic-proof.
5. **Primitive cultures** - The population of the Jarawa, Jangil, Onge, and Sentinelese tribes is declining fast. These tribes and their cultures need to be preserved
6. **Tourism**: need is to explore through eco-tourism which can work as a major economic alternative to islanders.
7. **Multi-Hazard Situation on Islands:** Approach toward multi hazard safety measures on islands include following measures:
  - ❖ Adopting **integrated multi-hazard approach** with emphasis on cyclone and disaster risk mitigation
  - ❖ Implementation of **early warning system** for cyclones and disasters
  - ❖ Streamlining the **relief distribution system** in disaster affected areas
  - ❖ Design, practice and implementation of **evacuation plans** with emphasis on self reliance for sustenance with the locals
  - ❖ Component on **planning for reconstruction and rehabilitation** should be added in disaster management plans at all levels
  - ❖ Emphasis on mental health and to **socio-psychological issues** should be accorded in every plan
  - ❖ **Capacity building programmes** to be taken up on priority basis
8. **Global Warming:** A conservative temperature increase of 1-2° C would cause regions between 20-30° N to experience sustained warming that falls within the lethal limits of most reef-building coral species. Measures to prevent global warming need to be taken seriously at international level.

# DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY

**Frank W. Notestein** developed this theory in 1945 and suggested that there was a relationship between population change and industrial development.



**FIRST STAGE** is characterized by backward economies where agriculture is the main occupation, standard of living is low, medical facilities are limited and thus high death rates. Further, more children are the norm of the society because of 2 reasons: one, burden of child care rests entirely on women and the cost of educating them is almost nil. This stage is characterized by **low population growth**.

In **SECOND STAGE**, there is fall in death rates due to agricultural improvements alongwith an expansion in medical & health facilities. But society remains primarily agrarian. The mindset of the people is old, and there is drastic expansion in population. Thus, this stage is popularly known as "**population explosion stage**".

In **THIRD STAGE**, education starts taking roots and scientific enquiry replaces faith in social life. This helps people recognizing merits of a small family. Economically too, Children being dependent on parents until they complete education, become a burden if in large nos. Both these social & economical factors defer a large number of people from having many children and birth rate declines.

In **FOURTH STAGE**, death rate declines due to advanced medical services, good living conditions, increased health education, and birth rate is also low due to contraception widely available, women gain higher status and control. This results in **low population growth rate**.

## INDIAN EXAMPLE

### First Phase (1901 – 1921)

- I phase of Demographic Transition: Stagnant population. High BR & DR.
- In 1921, population declined because of war, influenza, epidemic, famines.
- 1921: India entered II Phase: **Year of Great Demographic Divide**.

### **Second Phase (1921-51)**

- Early II Phase
- DR decreased because of govt. intervention; therefore GR increases.

**Third Phase (1951–81): Explosive Growth Rate:** With the independence of India and coming up of **welfare state** (unlike British police state), many policy measures were taken accounting to the growth of health infrastructure. This led to a sharp decline in DR. it is worth noticeable that independent India did not have even a single famine. However the spread of education was slow and consequently social change too was slow. This phase thus, was characterized by explosive growth rate.

### **Fourth Phase (1981 – 2001)**

- High GR, but definite signs of decline. Decadal GR has declined from 23.86% in 1991 to 21.34% in 2001.
- Finally BR started decline
- DR touched bottom.
- But a rapid decrease in BR is yet to take place.

# POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, PROBLEMS & POLICIES

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Population problems of a place are the manifestation of various interrelated & interdependent factors like over-exploitation of natural resources, lack of social infrastructure & failure of government policies besides the conservative social beliefs & traditions. Population problems and economic development are intricately linked to each other.

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

- **REGION No. 1: UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Malwa, and Chottanagpur- Bastar, Assam.** Characterized by High Decadal GR around 25% or more. Growth Rate has shown a declining trend with exception of Bihar, which increased Growth Rate and UP where it is stagnant since last 3 decades. Stability of this region holds the key to India's performance in IV stage of Demographic Transition.
- **REGION No. 2: Andhra, Orissa, W. Bengal & Western UP; Moderate Growth Rate** (Decadal) around 15%. All these states registered a sharp decline in GR, one of the highest in India, in the last one decade. However there is an upward movement in density with sharp changes in W. Bengal.
- **REGION No. 3: J&K, North East excluding Assam, Sikkim; Growth Rate is very high**, around 30% with Nagaland as high as 64%. However low population totals, which means that this growth rate is not that alarming. But considering ecological sensitivity of these areas, steps need to be taken.
- **REGION No. 4: Punjab/ Haryana/ Gujarat/ Maharashtra/ Kerala.** These regions are least problematic. Growth Rate is low for Kerala & TN and high for Haryana. Rest is moderate at around 20%.

## CONSEQUENCES OF OVERPOPULATION

Overpopulation hampers the "shared prosperity" of people and therefore the "peace" & "progress" of a country.

1. **Employment Opportunities** get restricted. Over-population has been the major cause for under-employment and hidden unemployment in India.
2. **Poverty:** High population results in low per capita incomes. Consistent poverty leads to **culture of poverty** which ultimately leads to deprivation of ideas.
3. **Social Obligations of Govt.** increases e.g. in the field of education, healthcare; Limited resources are sucked in following basic needs rather to have a take off.
4. More no. of **epidemics, diseases and starvation deaths.** The precious resources channeled to these areas. Therefore the gains of development are nullified.
5. **Social Unrest:** High population curbs the employment opportunities of people, causing widespread poverty and unemployment. This is exploited by vested interests resulting into communal & caste violence.

6. **Environmental Degradation:** Population is an important resource for development, yet it is a major source of environmental degradation when exceed threshold limits of support systems.

## POLICY & PROGRAMMES OF GOVERNMENT

- **1950:** “**Clinical Approach**” was adopted under which clinical facilities like contraceptives, health care were provided.
- **1960s:** Growth rate jumped from 13% to 21%. Earlier approach was changed to “**Cafeteria Approach**”, emphasizing people to choose contraceptives.
- **1970s:** However GR = 24.8%, Approach was made **Target oriented**. Target fixed to ↓ BR to 25 within 10 years.
- **1980s:** People’s role and **role of education** as most important instruments of fertility control was identified.
- **1990s:** “**Target free Approach**” was adopted and “Reproductive & child health programme” was launched in 1997. It adopted area-specific, integrated & decentralized- participative approach. IX FYP declared family planning as “**Peoples’ operation with Government’s cooperation**”. Small family norm was projected as social responsibility.
- **National Population Policy 2000:** Outlined immediate, medium term & long term objectives. **Immediate** objective is to meet the unmet needs of contraceptives & health care. **Long term** goal is to achieve stable population by 2045. **Mid-term** is to down fertility rate to replacement level by 2010 through:
  - Promote **delayed marriages** for girls after 20 years of age.
  - **Deliveries** 80% institutional & 100% by trained persons.
  - Reduce **IMR** to below 30 & MMR to below 1 percent 1000 live births.
  - Achieve universal **immunization** of children.
  - Make **school education** upto 14 years age free & compulsory.
  - Promote **small family norm** and make Family Welfare a people centered programme by converging it with related social sector programs.
  - Contain spread of **AIDS** & communicable diseases.
- **National Population Commission:** Set up with PM as its head. Inter-Ministerial body with representation from NGOs. Functions: Review, Monitor & direct implementation of NPP. Promote synergy between health, education environment & development programmes to hasten population stabilization. Develop a vigorous people’s programme to support national effort.
- **Empowered Action Group:** it was constituted to facilitate preparation of area-special programmes for states like Bihar/Jharkhand, MP/Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh which lagged behind in containing population growth.
- **Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh:** With seed money 100 Cr. to aid projects for population stabilization.

# TRIBALS, PROBLEMS AND POLICIES

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Tribals are the people with certain primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, and social & economic backwardness. Tribals represent the primitive societies of humanity living in harmony with nature.

Tribals inhibit the forested and relatively inaccessible areas of the country. They cluster & concentrate in small hamlets which are exclusively tribal. **Major Tribal Regions** include entire N.E: Bodos, Nagas, Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Abors, Mikirs etc.; Andaman & Nicobar: Great Andemanese, Onges, Sentilese, Shompene, Jarwas; Todas in Nilgiris, and Gujjar, Bhakarwals, Bhutias of Uttaranchal & H.P **Largest Tribes** include Gonds, Bhils and Santhals

## PROBLEMS OF TRIBALS

1. **Development works:** various large scale developmental projects like dam construction, laying of railway lines etc. have led to mass migration of tribals, uprooting them from the place of their livelihood and placing them to a totally unknown environment.
2. **Shrinking habitat:** Increasing population led to the encroachment on tribal areas.
3. **Economic poverty:** Though a large chunk of people in mainstream is also poor, but they have other avenues available. In tribal areas, avenues are limited & any interference has serious consequences.
4. **Ecological Degradation:** Construction Of dams, deforestation, and loss of common property led to the destruction of social system.
5. **Exploitation:** by moneylenders, by mining activities.
6. **Health:** High IMR/MMR. Communicable disease like Malaria due to unhygienic conditions and unsafe drinking water. **Per capita expenditure on health** for Tribals areas = 70 paisa.

## GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

- **Constitutional:** Right to Equality (Fundamental Right), Art 46 and Art 342; 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Schedules.
- **Plan Period:** II plan: multipurpose Tribal Development Blocks; IV plan: Tribal Development Agency to bring tribals in part with general public; V plan: Tribal Sub Plan (TSP): Umbrella scheme under which all Centre & State Tribal Development schemes were integrated to benefit STs directly. In 1987-TRIFED created to provide marketing facilities to Tribals.
- **PSUs:** were established in tribal areas to provide employment opportunities & economic development to these areas.
- **National Forest Policy 1988:** Integrated forest conservation with tribal development.
- **PESA:** this Act extended the scope of grass-root democracy under 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act to Scheduled areas.

- **Tribal Health Project:** Recently funded by World Bank & IFAD covering 8 lakh people. A community health worker in each village to be trained & appointed.
- **National Commission for STs:** Recently, in 2005, bifurcated from National Commission for SCs to provide special focus to rights & development of STs.
- **Samata Judgment:** Supreme Court nullified mining activities in scheduled areas and identified Gram Sabha's right to safeguard community resources.

Tribals hold high **PROSPECTS**, they possessing **Rare Skills:** Handicrafts, handlooms, rare knowledge of medicines from trees, **Eco-Tourism:** Presentation & conservation of land, & promote tourism and represent a rich **Ethnic Diversity** of India.

**Task force on Tigers** recommends a time bound programme to identify the villages to be shifted outside crucial tigers habitats. It also suggests that, unlike in the past, this relocation be done speedily & sensitively with careful consideration of the people's needs. What we require is a **pro-people, pro-poor and pro-nature approach towards tribals** so that they become active partners in the development process.

# **Sample Notes of Science & Technology**

# WIRELESS-NGN: THE FUTURE OF COMMUNICATION

*Wireless-NGN integration will be both technically and economically feasible almost immediately. NGNs are converged voice/data multi-service networks operating in a multi-vendor environment*

Wireless represents the **fastest-growing segment** of the telecom industry; it is poised to undergo significant technological change as **3G LTE** and **4G wireless** are emerging at a faster rate.

At the same time, NGNs (Next Generation Networks) represent a fundamental paradigm shift in the wireline and wireless core networks from circuit switching to packet switching.

The two will become highly synergistic over time and wireless-NGN integration will be both technically and economically feasible almost immediately.

## SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

Next Generation Networks (NGN) are **converged voice/data multi-service networks** that operate in a multi-vendor environment. **NGN is an architecture that provides seamless integration of both new and traditional telecommunications services** across high-speed packet networks, interworking among clients of heterogeneous capabilities.

This architecture is usually structured around **four major layers of technology**: the core connectivity layer includes routing and switching, network and access gateways; the access and customer-premises equipment (CPE) layer includes the various technologies used to reach customers; the application server layer contains enhanced services and value-added applications; the management layer provides network services and business management functions.

Each of these layers is supported by a number of standards that are key to the successful implementation of an NGN.

The architecture and implementation of the **Next Generation Network (NGN)** must be based on open, standard-based interfaces and protocols. This is essential to achieve multi-vendor interworking and to accelerate the rate of innovation.

NGN is based on a **distributed architecture** that helps greatly to reduce the implementation costs while giving flexibility in the actual deployment.

## CUSTOMIZABLE SERVICES

The NGN is able to **support highly customizable services** that are **easily and rapidly created** as well as deployed economically throughout the network. While it is important to enable new services, it is also critical to preserve the existing services provided by the legacy network.

**Next Generation Networks (NGN) technology**, is a new initiative **created collectively** by ITU (International Telecommunication Union), ETSI (European Telecom Standards Institute), and 3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project) that aims at delivering all these new communication features on a “network agnostic” or otherwise called “heterogeneous networks” communication environment, is one where the only

discriminating factors for service provisioning will be the user himself, his selected service types and the desired quality of service (QoS).

## A SINGLE SOLUTION

In this respect, the NGN technology provides a **single solution** for **various network types integration**, and of all communication technologies it embraces (fixed, mobile, wireless), and addresses the problems in providing service "ubiquity" and "seamlessness" connectivity, besides dealing with issues such as, zero service disruption for moving, roaming, handover users and QoS guarantee among different technology networks with diverse QoS.

Next generation networks have finally been identified as network with the following common characteristics: **convergence of various data communication types over the IP**, i.e. data, multimedia, voice, video; fixed, wireless and mobile network convergence; access to a common set of services that can be provided over multiple access network types (ADSL, UTRAN, WiFi, WiMAX, etc) with features like user handover and roaming capabilities; IP-based core transport networks; possibility for using any terminal type (PC, PDA, mobile telephone, set-top boxes, etc); seamless terminal, user and personal mobility; user-driven service creation environments; common set of services, admission policies, authentication type, always possible network accessibility regardless of the user connection type to the network.

Migration of mobile networks to NGN is driven by the **enhanced capability of 3G UMTS** (Universal Mobile Telephone Service) access networks and standardization process is more elaborate as for fixed networks case.

## MIGRATION SPEED

Speed of this migration will depend on widespread acceptance and appropriation of new services by end-users; but also on the maturity of the newly introduced technologies.

# GREEN PLASTIC

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Green Plastics, sometimes also called **Bio-plastics**, are plastics that are biodegradable and are usually made mostly or entirely from renewable resources. Frequently there is also a focus on environmentally friendly processing. Green plastics have the focus on making convenient living consistent with environmental stability. Like all plastics, bioplastics are composed of a polymer, combined with plasticizers and additives, and processed using extrusion or thermosetting. What makes green plastics "green" is one or more of the **following properties**:

1. they are biodegradable
2. they are made from renewable ingredients
3. they have environmentally friendly processing

Because different compounds can satisfy some or all of these criteria to different degrees, there are different "**degrees of green**" in green plastics.

Recently, the scientists have successfully **bio-engineered polymers**, completely bypassing fossil fuel based chemicals. Scientists focused on **polylactic acid (PLA)**, a bio-based polymer, the key to producing plastics through renewable resources.

## SIGNIFICANCE

One reason to make a shift toward the use of green plastics is the **availability of raw materials**. Green plastics can be made using polymers that come from agricultural and marine feedstocks. These are abundant natural resources that are constantly being **replenished**. This, in turn could revitalize **rural economy**, both agricultural and marine, by providing additional demand for currently underutilized land or low-valued biomass commodities.

Another favorable property of green plastics is their biodegradability, making them a natural material for use in such applications as compostable collection bags, such as for food or yard waste. The **recent development of PLA** is important as:

1. As of now, commercially available biopolymers were typically more expensive than synthetic polymers. Only starch competes with synthetic polymers in terms of cost. This breakthrough of PLA opens the way for the **commercial production** of green plastics. Polymers are molecules found in the form of plastics and rubbers.
2. PLA is considered a **good alternative** to petroleum based plastics as it is both biodegradable and has a **low toxicity** to humans. Until now PLA has been produced in a two-step fermentation and polymerisation, which is both complex and expensive.
3. Now, through the use of a metabolically engineered **strain of E. coli**, the team has produced polylactic acid and its co-polymers through direct fermentation. This makes the renewable production of PLA and lactate-containing copolymers **cheaper and more commercially viable**.
4. The combination of metabolic engineering and enzyme engineering has developed an efficient bio-based **one-step production process** for PLA and its copolymers. This means that a developed E. coli strain is now capable of efficiently producing unnatural polymers, through a one-step fermentation process.

However, bio-plastics have to possess **adequate physical properties**. Their properties have to be managed and controlled with technological means through the **development of adequate formulations** and plastics processing.

What is needed is a paradigm shift. We have grown accustomed to having a wide variety of useful plastic materials that are attractive, long lasting, and inexpensive. On the other hand, we are coming to realize, in retrospect, that we may have had too much of a good thing, and have given too little thought about the effect their continually increasing use has on the future.

## ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT

Scientists have also developed the method of **preventing potentially harmful plasticizers**- the source of long-standing human health concerns- from migrating from one of the most widely used groups of plastics. The advance could lead to a **new generation of polyvinyl chloride** (PVC) plastics that are safer than those now used in packaging, medical tubing, toys, and other products.

Scientists note that manufacturers **add large amounts of plasticizers** to PVC to make it **flexible and durable**. Plasticizers may account for more than one-third of the weight of some PVC products. **Phthalates** are the mainstay plasticizers. Unfortunately, they **migrate to the surface** of the plastic over time and escape into the environment. As a result, PVC plastics become less flexible and durable. In addition, people who come into contact with the plastics face possible health risks.

The scientists describe development of a way to make phthalate permanently bond, or **chemically attach to the internal structure of PVC** so that it will not migrate. Laboratory tests showed that the method completely suppressed the migration of plasticizer to the surface of the plastic. This approach may open new ways to the preparation of flexible PVC with permanent plasticizer effect and zero migration.

# BIOMETRICS

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Biometrics comprises methods for **uniquely recognizing humans** based upon one or more **intrinsic physical or behavioral traits**. In computer science, in particular, biometrics is used as a form of identity **access management & access control**. It is also used to identify individuals in groups that are under surveillance. Biometric characteristics can be divided in two main classes:

- **Physiological** are related to the shape of the body. Examples include, but are not limited to fingerprint, face recognition, DNA, Palm print, hand geometry, iris recognition, which has largely replaced retina, and odor/scent.
- **Behavioral** are related to the behavior of a person. Examples include, but are not limited to typing rhythm, gait, and voice. Some researchers have coined the term behaviometrics for this class of biometrics. Voice is also a physiological trait because every person has a different vocal tract, but voice recognition is mainly based on the study of the way a person speaks, commonly classified as behavioral.

It is possible to understand if a human characteristic can be used for biometrics in terms of the **following parameters**:

- **Universality**: each person should have the characteristic.
- **Uniqueness**: is how well the biometric separates individuals from another.
- **Permanence**: how well a biometric resists aging & other variance over time
- **Collectability**: ease of acquisition for measurement
- **Performance**: accuracy, speed, and robustness of technology used
- **Acceptability**: degree of approval of a technology
- **Circumvention**: ease of use of a substitute

**A biometric system can operate in the following two modes:**

1. **Verification: one-to-one comparison** of a captured biometric with a stored template to verify that the individual is who he claims to be. It can be done in conjunction with a smart card, username or ID number.
2. **Identification: one-to-many comparison** of the captured biometric against a biometric database in attempt to identify an unknown individual. The identification only succeeds in identifying the individual if the comparison of the biometric sample to a template in the database falls within a previously set threshold.

## BIOMETRICS APPLICATIONS

In today's technology advancement era, where computers are a necessary nutrient to comply with and serve all the activities, the need for **secured, reliable, simple and flexible system** has inadvertently become a challenging concern for the organizations.

The technology advancement has been a boon for speedy achievements of activity goals but at the same time the **security breaches and transaction frauds** are on rise. Thus, the Biometric Technology has taken its pace to prevent any security

breaches and fraudulent. This technique measures unique physiological and behavioral features of individuals to identify and verify them as the right person for the crucial information. The physiological features include face, fingerprints, hand geometry, iris, retinal, DNA and behavioral features include signature, study of keystroke, voice etc.

Biometric techniques are providing a **highly-secured identification** and **personal verification solutions** thereby providing a robust solution to many challenging problems in security. The collection of Biometric characteristics is done using a device called a **sensor** used to acquire the data needed for verification or identification and to **convert the data to a digital code**. The quality of the device chosen to capture data has a significant impact on the recognition results.

Among various devices, **digital cameras** can be used for face recognition, ear recognition etc or a telephone for voice recognition etc. A biometric system operates in **verification mode or identification mode**. In verification mode the system validation of a person identity is performed by comparing the captured biometric data with the biometric template stored in the database and is mainly used for positive recognition. In the identification mode the system captures the biometric data of an individual and searches the biometric template of all users in the database till a match is not found.

## **BIOMETRICS IN INDIA**

India is undertaking an ambitious **mega project**- the **Multipurpose National Identity Card**- to provide a unique identification number to each of its 1.25 billion people. The Identification number will be stored in **central databases**, containing the biometric information of the individual. If implemented, this would be the biggest implementation of the Biometrics in the world. India's Home Minister, P Chidambaram, described the process as "the biggest exercise... since humankind came into existence". The government will then use the information to issue identity cards. Officials in India will spend one year classifying India's population according to **demographics indicators**. The physical count will begin in February 2011.

# E-WASTE

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**Electronic waste**, e-waste, e-scrap, or Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) describes loosely discarded, surplus, obsolete, or broken electrical or electronic devices. Some electronic scrap components, such as CRTs, contain contaminants such as lead, cadmium, beryllium, **mercury**, and brominated flame retardants

This is produced because the resurgent growth of the economy is dependent on electronic hardware for household, industrial and office automation. However, the electronic hardware is generating electronic waste that has immense potential to cause **enormous harm to human health and environment**. Therefore a commitment to **eco-responsibility** is the sine qua non for the society, economy and the environment.

The main reason why E-Waste had become a **global concern** is because of the presence of **toxic and hazardous substance**. In the absence of an effective method for collection and managing the hazardous constituents, some e-waste end up at the scrap market which recycles them, using **high polluting technologies**. Some other E-waste is being disposed off in landfills resulting in high environmental risk and health hazards to humans and animals.

Effects on the **environment** include: Pollution of ground water, air pollution and acidification of soil. Effects on **human health** include: Chronic damage to the brain, DNA damage, lung cancer, immune system damage, respiratory problems etc.

Therefore, it's imperative for an early formulation of a **National E-Waste Policy** that may clearly spell out the methods to safeguard and dispose-off the E-waste. Such a policy should appropriately reflect the **concerns of various stakeholders** including the end users as well as the views of the practitioners in the field, both in the organized and the unorganized sector.

In India, **Information Technology** (IT) and **telecom** are two of the fastest growing industries and hence contribute to a majority of e-waste. Rapid growth of the country coupled with urbanization and growing demand of electrical appliances has contributed to the digital revolution as well as continues to provide all forms of comfort, security, easy access to information and exchange. However, this rapid development in hyper-technology has made e-waste one of the fastest waste streams.

## E-WASTE ACTORS

- **Importer:** About 50% of the products imported to India are from secondary markets and are re-assembled using old components. The remaining percentage is covered by international manufacturers and national brands which import electronic scrap from other countries.
- **Manufacturers:** Multinational manufacturers are major contributors of e-waste. E-waste includes motherboards, CRT's (cathode ray tube), IC chips and other peripheral devices.
- **Consumer:** The main sources of the e-waste generation are business sectors such as the corporate sector, private or public sectors which accounts for a total of 78% of all the PCs installed in India.

- **Scrap dealers:** Rag pickers and scrap dealers have found a new way to begin their business by adopting this new waste stream. They carry out the primary work of re-assembling obsolete computers, reuse the working components, assemble new computers and sell them in the secondary market.
- **Recyclers:** doing unorganized recycling of e-waste. They use bare hands, hammers and screwdrivers for recycling.

## CURRENT SCENARIO OF E-WASTE IN INDIA

Mumbai	11,000 tons
Delhi	9,750 tons
Bangalore	4,650 tons
Chennai	4,100 tons
Hyderabad	2,800 tons

## E-WASTE MANAGEMENT/ SUGGESTIONS

Management of e-waste should begin at the time of generation. Minimization of waste and adapting replaceable techniques to manage e-waste can be helpful. The **managing of e-waste includes:**

1. Recovery and reuse
2. Volume Reduction
3. Production-process modification

## RECYCLING E-WASTE

**Current procedures used in India for recycling e-waste are:**

- **Dismantling:** Electronic waste, especially printed wiring boards, cathode ray tubes, condensers, plastics are dismantled.
- **Hammering:** Rag pickers use hammers to break old computers and burn them.
- **Refining and conditioning:** Other e-waste fractions are processed to directly reusable components and to secondary raw materials in different refining and conditioning processes.
- **Shredding:** Conventional method employed is mechanical shredding and density separation using water but the recycling efficiency is quite low.
- **Treatment options** for re-waste:
  1. **Land filling:** Solid waste should be deposited in a municipal landfill.
  2. **Incineration:** Systematic water and gas collecting systems must be installed.

Recommended steps to eradicate e-waste are: waste minimization, restructuring recycling, protective protocol for workers and building awareness among citizens. Recycling is the environmentally preferable option by extending the life of old equipments that defers the pollution and resource consumption. Deposit /refund schemes should be made to encourage consumers to return electronic devices for collection and recycling.

## LATEST STUDY

India, one of the two largest markets for **mobile phones** in the world along with China, faces a mounting problem — how to get rid of the discarded mobiles. For, by the year 2020, the size of the discarded mobile mound will grow by 18 times from the 2007 level, says a **United Nations Environment Programme** study. The study, 'Recycling from e-waste to resources,' was released at a combined meeting of the bodies of UN Conventions on hazardous chemical wastes, organized by the UNEP, at Bali on February 2010.

- Study warns developing countries, especially fast growing economies like India, China, Brazil and South Africa, that if efforts are not made to recycle the abandoned electronic equipment, they will be in for **big environmental trouble**.
- If no proper e-waste recycling mechanism is put in place, these abandoned phones are going to create **environmental damage and health problems**.
- Apart from mobile phones, old computers, TVs and refrigerators added to the e-waste mountain in these countries. For instance, **computer e-waste** in India will have risen by 5 times in 2020 from the 2007 level. Discarded refrigerators will double or even triple.
- The report estimates that **India's current e-waste generation** is: 2.75 lakh tonnes from TVs, over one lakh tonnes from refrigerators, 56,300 tonnes from personal computers, 1,700 tonnes from mobiles and 4,700 from printers.
- However, China's problem from e-waste is much more than that of India. It now generates 5 lakh tonnes of refrigerator waste and 3 lakh tonnes of PC waste.

Apart from the e-waste generated by domestic consumption, India, China and other developing countries also have to confront the **legal and illegal dumping of e-waste by western countries**, mainly the United States which is, as of now, not bound by international agreements on hazardous wastes as it has refused to sign such treaties. **Global environmental NGOs** have in the past caught several shipments of e-waste on way to the illegal dumping yards in developing countries.

The UNEP report also notes that global e-waste generation is growing by **40 million tonnes a year**. In 2007, more than one billion mobiles were sold in the world and the sales are set to jump in the coming years, particularly in developing countries which are home to large populations.