

PSIR Pulse

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Table of Contents

GEOPOLITICS AT GLANCE	3
• India Africa Relations	3
• India's Neighbourhood First Policy: Building Peace, Prosperity, and Regional Leadership	6
• India–Bhutan Relations: A Model of Trust and Cooperation	10
• G20 Summit 2025 Johannesburg	13
• India's AI Governance Guidelines	18
INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (IGP)	22
• Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025	22
• Competitive and Cooperative Federalism in India	26
• Tribunals in India: Constitutional Position, Challenges, and Reforms	30
• Women's Representation in India's Judiciary: Breaking the Glass Ceiling of Justice	35
• Labour Codes 2025	38
• Governor Assent Judgment	46
MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS	50
SCHOLAR DIGEST: KNOW YOUR SCHOLARS	53
• Immanuel Wallerstein	53
• Thomas Hobbes	54
• Joseph Stiglitz	55
ENRICH YOUR ANSWER	56
PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS	60

GEOPOLITICS AT GLANCE

INDIA AFRICA RELATIONS



INTRODUCTION

India's engagement with Africa has deepened significantly over the past decade. The 2015 India Africa Forum Summit, which brought together all 54 African nations, marked a historic milestone and symbolised India's renewed commitment to the African continent. India has since expanded its diplomatic footprint, opened new missions, pushed annual trade beyond one hundred billion dollars, increased investments, and advocated strongly for Africa's global representation, including its entry into the G-20. As the relationship matures, it becomes essential to evaluate not just the commitments made but also the institutional, developmental, and geopolitical foundations that India has built for a long term partnership with Africa.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF INDIA AFRICA RELATIONS

- ❑ **Cultural and trade links:** Civilisational connections between India and Africa date back thousands of years, with documented exchanges between the Indus Valley civilisation and ancient African societies. During the colonial period, the migration of Indian indentured labourers, commonly known as girmitiyas, further strengthened socio cultural ties that continue to influence relations today.
- ❑ **Political ties and anti colonial solidarity:** India and Africa share a common history of struggle against colonial domination. Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha in South Africa laid the ideological foundation for India's anti colonial diplomacy. After independence, India championed African freedom movements at the United Nations

and collaborated with African leaders at the Bandung Conference in 1955, contributing to the rise of the Non Aligned Movement as a collective voice of the Global South.

- ❑ **Technical and economic cooperation:** The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, begun in 1964, offered training, capacity building, and technology support to African nations. This programme laid the groundwork for India's long term developmental partnership with Africa.

KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION

- ❑ **Political cooperation**
 - India and Africa cooperate closely through regional and global platforms. Engagements through the Asia Africa Growth Corridor, the Build Back Better World initiative, the Blue Dot Network, and collaborations with the African Development Bank strengthen South South cooperation.
 - India strongly supports the Ezulwini Consensus that demands permanent representation for Africa at the United Nations Security Council. Both sides coordinate positions within BRICS, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the New Development Bank. India also engages with bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States and the African Continental Free Trade Area, reinforcing political and economic integration.
- ❑ **Economic cooperation:** Bilateral trade has crossed 100 billion dollars in 2024 to 2025 making India the third largest trading partner for Africa. India's cumulative investment in Africa is around 75 billion dollars, spanning energy, mining, pharmaceuticals, agro processing, and telecommunications. Programmes such as the EXIM Bank Focus Africa initiative, the India Africa Partnership projects, and preferential trade arrangements with the Southern African Customs Union highlight India's sustained economic presence. Nearly one fourth of India's outward foreign direct investment flows into Africa. Concessional Lines of Credit worth over twelve billion dollars support significant infrastructure projects such as irrigation networks in Senegal.
- ❑ **Security partnership:** India collaborates with African nations on maritime security, anti piracy operations, peacekeeping, and humanitarian and disaster relief. Mechanisms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association and joint exercises like MILAN, Cutlass Express, and the Africa India Key Maritime Engagement strengthen maritime stability and safeguard vital sea lanes.
- ❑ **Climate change and technology cooperation:** India and Africa jointly work on climate resilience through the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India supports digital transformation in Africa through the Pan African e Network and India Stack applications such as UPI and RuPay, promoting financial inclusion and digital governance.
- ❑ **People to people partnership:** India remains deeply engaged through scholarships, training, and skill building under ITEC and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Hundreds of African students and professionals participate annually in tele education and telemedicine programmes such as e VidyaBharti and e ArogyaBharti. Indian doctors, engineers, and technology specialists contribute to capacity building across the continent.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF AFRICA FOR INDIA

Africa holds enormous strategic value for India. It is central to India's resource security since the continent provides minerals vital for the green transition, including cobalt and manganese, which Africa supplies in large global proportions. Africa also represents an expanding market with a rapidly urbanising youth population that supports India's exports in IT services, digital banking, and mobile payment systems.

Politically, Africa is India's partner in advocating reforms at the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Defence ties through the Indian Ocean Rim Association and maritime exercises strengthen joint responses to

piracy, illegal fishing, and geo strategic instability. India's educational, medical, and digital tools contribute significantly to Africa's knowledge and technology ecosystem.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA AFRICA RELATIONS

Despite progress, several challenges persist. Africa has become a contested geopolitical space where major powers including China, the United States, the European Union, Russia, Türkiye, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates compete for influence.

China's economic presence is especially dominant. Between 2007 and 2023, China hosted 251 African leaders, reflecting massive diplomatic outreach that often overshadows India. India's development model is valued for transparency but lacks the financial scale of Chinese projects.

India's focus on the Indo Pacific sometimes dilutes attention from Africa. Negative social incidents, including racial attacks on African nationals in India, impact India's image. Operational constraints such as delays in project execution, funding bottlenecks, and logistical barriers reduce the effectiveness of India funded initiatives. Conflicts, terrorism, and political instability in regions such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa also pose risks to Indian investments and personnel.

WAY FORWARD

India should revive regular India Africa Forum Summits and strengthen institutional engagement by creating a dedicated Secretary for African Affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Defence cooperation should be expanded by increasing defence attachés, building maritime awareness systems, and extending Lines of Credit for defence exports.

An Africa Growth Fund should be created to promote trade, project exports, and joint ventures in shipping and logistics. People to people contact should be enhanced through cultural exchanges, academic collaborations, and scholarships named after African leaders.

India should establish a National Centre for African Studies to promote research and policy expertise. A joint MEA and National Security Council Secretariat mechanism should drive the implementation of Roadmap twenty thirty and operationalise the Kampala Principles that guide India Africa relations.

CONCLUSION

India Africa relations have evolved into a multifaceted partnership rooted in solidarity, development, and strategic cooperation. From historic civilisational ties to modern collaborations in trade, digital technology, security, and climate action, the relationship reflects common aspirations and mutual respect.

Strengthening institutional mechanisms, scaling economic engagement, and addressing operational challenges will help India and Africa build a resilient and forward looking partnership for the decades ahead.

Quote for Enrichment

"India and Africa are united by history, connected by development, and destined to rise together."

This line strengthens introductions or conclusions in GS2 and IR answers.

WHERE TO USE

GS Paper 2

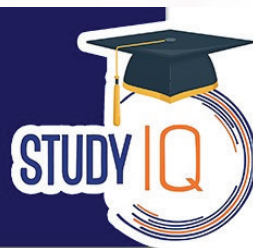
PSIR Paper 2 Section B

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

- ❑ **Realist scholars:** Realists argue that India's Africa outreach is driven by strategic balancing against China and the need to secure mineral resources and maritime routes that anchor India's national interest.
- ❑ **Liberal scholars:** Liberals view India Africa relations as a model of South South cooperation emphasising interdependence, institutional engagement, and capacity building through bodies such as the International Solar Alliance and the African Union.
- ❑ **Marxist scholars:** Marxists critique global competition in Africa as a neo imperial race driven by resource extraction, where rising powers including India pursue capital expansion within the broader structure of global capitalism.
- ❑ **Feminist scholars:** Feminist scholars highlight the importance of people centred development in India Africa ties and call for greater focus on health, education, digital inclusion, and gender responsive capacity building.
- ❑ **Postmodern scholars:** Postmodern thinkers emphasise the significance of identity, narrative, and discourse in shaping India Africa relations and argue that India's civilisational diplomacy and cultural affinity with Africa play a crucial role in soft power building.

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY: BUILDING PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

India's Neighbourhood First Policy



INTRODUCTION

India's **Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP)** forms the bedrock of its regional diplomacy and is a central pillar of its foreign policy. Formally conceptualized in 2008 and vigorously pursued since 2014, the NFP seeks to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region by deepening diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with neighbouring countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The policy is guided by the "5S" principles articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi: **Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Shanti (Peace), Samridhhi (Prosperity), and Sanskriti (Culture)**.

SALIENT FEATURES OF INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

1. **Prioritising Immediate Neighbours:** The NFP underscores the idea that India's progress is inseparable from regional stability. A peaceful South Asia is essential for realizing India's own development goals.
2. **Dialogue-Centred Engagement:** The policy emphasizes diplomacy and dialogue as instruments of trust-building. The invitation of all SAARC heads of government to Prime Minister Modi's 2014 swearing-in ceremony symbolised this outreach.
3. **Resolving Bilateral Issues Peacefully:** India aims to address disputes through mutual consent. The operationalization of the **India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)** marked a landmark success in this spirit.
4. **Connectivity and Regional Integration:** India envisions South Asia as an interconnected region with India as its logistical and economic hub.
 - **Physical Connectivity:** Projects such as the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project** (linking India and Myanmar) and new railway lines to Bangladesh and Nepal aim to improve trade routes.
 - **Digital Connectivity:** Expansion of internet, e-learning, and telecom infrastructure strengthens India's role as a digital hub.
 - **Energy Connectivity:** Regional power grids enable electricity trade, benefiting Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
5. **Economic and Technical Cooperation:** Through SAARC, BIMSTEC, and **BBIN (Bangladesh–Bhutan–India–Nepal)**, India promotes free movement of goods, energy cooperation, and development of joint water management and transport infrastructure. The **SAARC Satellite** exemplifies India's commitment to sharing technology for development.
6. **Disaster and Humanitarian Leadership:** India positions itself as the **first responder** in regional crises – from the **2015 Nepal earthquake** to the **2022 Sri Lankan economic crisis** – reinforcing goodwill and regional trust.
7. **Defence and Security Cooperation:** Joint military exercises like **Surya Kiran (with Nepal)** and **Sampriti (with Bangladesh)** strengthen defence ties. The policy promotes joint responses to terrorism, piracy, and natural disasters, bolstering India's status as a **net security provider** in the Indian Ocean Region.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

1. **Security and Strategic Relevance:** Stable borders and cooperative neighbours enhance India's internal and external security. Engagement with neighbours also helps counterbalance **China's expanding footprint** in the region, especially under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. **Economic Integration and Development:** Regional trade, energy partnerships, and infrastructure development foster shared prosperity. Projects like **BBIN MVA** and **trilateral highways** link India's Northeast to ASEAN, accelerating growth and integration.

3. **Strengthening Soft Power:** Cultural exchanges, educational scholarships, and medical assistance enhance India's image as a benevolent regional leader. India's focus on humanitarian diplomacy and inclusive development fosters long-term goodwill.
4. **Managing Migration and Refugees:** Stable neighbours reduce irregular migration and refugee crises, helping India manage resources effectively.
5. **Establishing India as a Net Security Provider:** By extending maritime security and disaster relief support to countries like **Maldives and Sri Lanka**, India demonstrates leadership in regional stability and crisis management.
6. **Enhancing Global Standing:** The NFP reinforces India's image as a responsible regional power and strengthens its position in global forums like **SAARC, BIMSTEC, and IORA**, aligning with its aspiration for global leadership.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE NFP

1. **The Pakistan Factor:** Persistent hostility, terrorism, and border tensions divert diplomatic attention and resources from constructive regional cooperation.
2. **The China Challenge:** China's strategic and financial presence through the BRI and debt-financing in Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Nepal complicates India's influence.
3. **Political Instability in Neighbouring States:** Frequent government changes in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka disrupt project continuity and policy consistency.
4. **Perception of Dominance:** India's size and influence often evoke a "Big Brother" perception, causing smaller neighbours to hedge with China to assert autonomy.
5. **Security and Border Issues:** Unresolved disputes (Kalapani with Nepal, Sir Creek with Pakistan) and cross-border concerns like illegal migration and terrorism hinder cooperation.
6. **Water and Resource Conflicts:** Disagreements over trans-boundary rivers (like Teesta and Mahakali) affect trust and long-term partnerships.
7. **Bureaucratic Delays and Implementation Gaps:** Slow project execution, administrative red tape, and funding delays have occasionally dented India's credibility.

MAJOR INITIATIVES UNDER THE NFP

- ❑ **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA):** Enables seamless regional transport and cargo movement.
- ❑ **Coastal Shipping Agreements:** Enhances logistics between India and Bangladesh using ports like Chittagong and Mongla.
- ❑ **Agartala–Akhaurya Rail Link:** Connects India's Northeast with Bangladesh's rail system.
- ❑ **Cross-Border Pipelines:** Projects like the **Motihari–Amlekhgunj pipeline** improve fuel connectivity to Nepal.
- ❑ **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region):** The maritime complement of NFP, ensuring peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean.
- ❑ **Lines of Credit:** India provides concessional financing for housing, railway, and infrastructure projects across South Asia.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Dedicated Implementation Cell:** Establish a "Neighbourhood Projects Cell" in the MEA to fast-track approvals and improve inter-ministerial coordination for project delivery.

2. **Digital and Financial Integration:** Offer India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** like UPI, Aadhaar, and digital health platforms to neighbouring countries to foster dependency through technology-led cooperation.
3. **Deepen Soft Power Diplomacy:** Expand scholarships, cultural exchange programmes, and joint heritage projects to nurture lasting goodwill.
4. **Innovative Financing and Debt Support:** Encourage **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** for regional infrastructure and assist neighbours in debt management and sustainable financing to counterbalance Chinese loans.
5. **Strengthen Institutional and People-to-People Linkages:** Enhance parliamentary exchanges, media cooperation, and youth interactions to build trust and mutual understanding.

CONCLUSION

India's **Neighbourhood First Policy** lies at the heart of its regional and global strategy. A stable, prosperous, and interconnected South Asia is vital for India's own security and growth. However, sustaining goodwill requires consistent delivery, strategic sensitivity, and inclusive partnerships. By blending hard infrastructure with soft diplomacy and aligning regional priorities with national interests, India can ensure that its neighbourhood truly becomes its first circle of strength and stability.

Quote to Use:

"India cannot rise alone, its destiny is intertwined with that of its neighbours." – Dr. S. Jaishankar

WHERE TO USE:

- ☐ **GS Paper 2:** India and its Neighbours; Regional Cooperation and Security.
- ☐ **PSIR Paper 2:** India's Foreign Policy; India in South Asia.
- ☐ **Essay Paper:** Topics on regional diplomacy, India's rise, or neighbourhood policy.
- ☐ **Interview:** As an example of India's balanced regional approach integrating diplomacy, development, and security.

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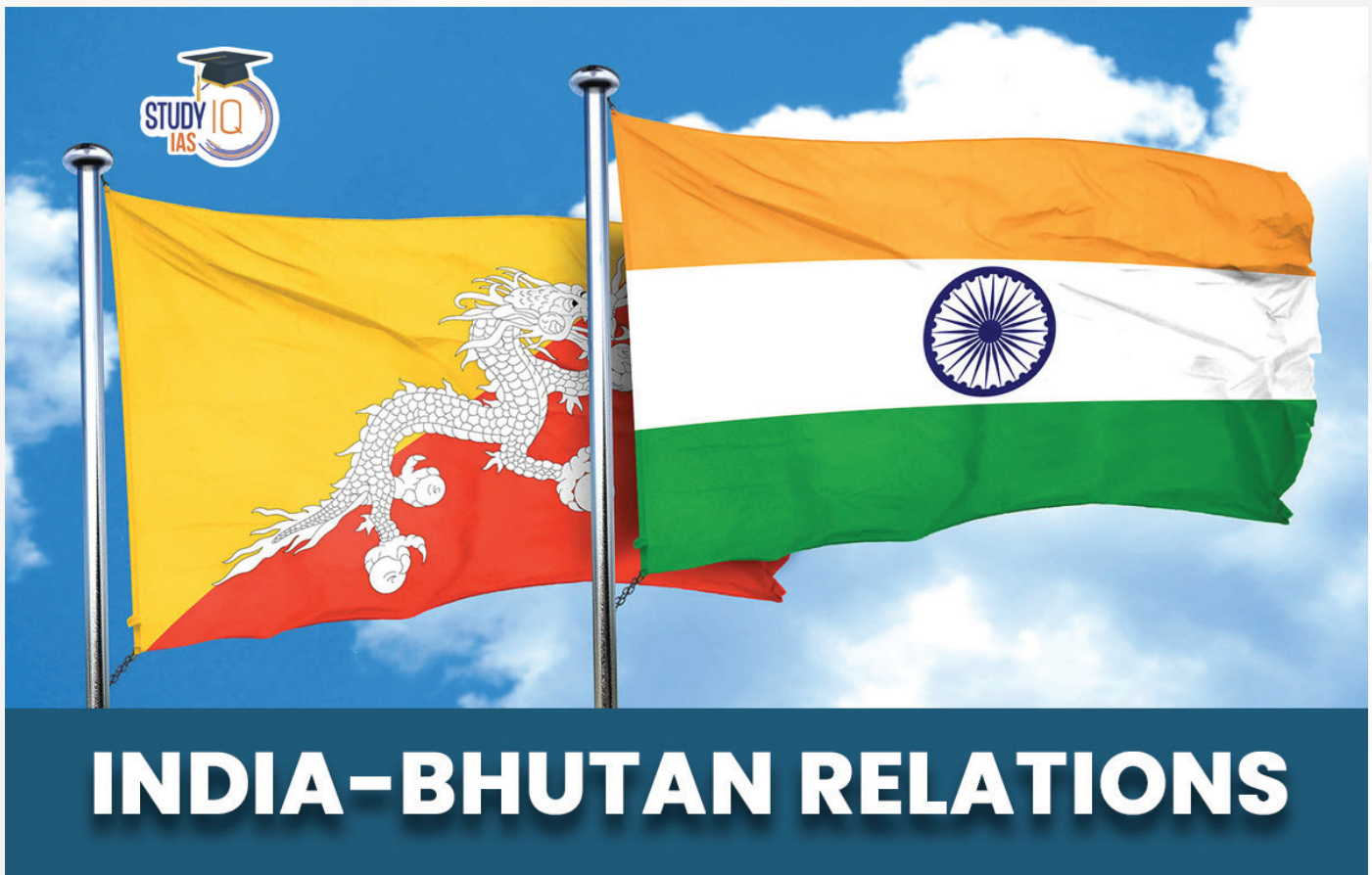
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INTRODUCTION

India–Bhutan relations stand as the cornerstone of India’s **Neighbourhood First Policy**, built upon a deep foundation of trust, shared strategic interests, and developmental partnership. This unique relationship, often described as a “model of good neighbourly ties” has withstood changing geopolitical pressures and continues to symbolise South Asia’s most stable bilateral bond. Rooted in mutual respect and cultural affinity, the relationship has evolved from protectorate arrangements to one of sovereign equality and mutual cooperation.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

The bilateral framework is anchored in two historic treaties:

- ❑ **Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1949):** The first formal basis of the relationship, establishing close political, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations.
- ❑ **Revised Treaty of Peace and Friendship (2007):** This revision reflected Bhutan’s transition to a constitutional monarchy and enhanced sovereignty, granting Thimphu full authority over foreign policy while retaining India’s role as a key development and security partner.

These treaties laid the foundation for a partnership that remains vital for India’s strategic and developmental interests.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS

❑ For India

- Bhutan’s geographical location is of immense strategic value, acting as a buffer between India and China. The **Doklam Plateau and Chumbi Valley** lie adjacent to India’s Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the “**Chicken’s Neck**”, a narrow strip connecting mainland India to its northeastern states. Stability in Bhutan directly contributes to India’s national security.
- Bhutan also serves as a diplomatic ally in regional groupings such as **SAARC, BIMSTEC, and BBIN**, reinforcing India’s leadership and balancing Chinese influence in the Himalayas. Moreover, cooperation in border security helps India curb insurgent movements in the northeast, making Bhutan an indispensable security partner.

❑ For Bhutan

- India remains Bhutan’s most significant economic and developmental partner. Over **75% of Bhutan’s imports** and **60% of exports** are with India, facilitated by duty-free access and currency stability between the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN).
- Hydropower cooperation forms the backbone of Bhutan’s economy. Projects such as **Tala, Chukha, Kurichhu, and Mangdechhu** generate sustainable revenue, accounting for over **25% of Bhutan’s GDP**, while providing clean energy to India. Indian development aid funds Bhutan’s **Five-Year Plans**, supporting education, health, roads, and community projects. Additionally, about **50,000 Indians** work in Bhutan’s infrastructure, power, and education sectors, reinforcing people-to-people ties.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS

1. **Bhutan–China Border Negotiations:** Ongoing border talks between Bhutan and China, particularly regarding the **Doklam Plateau**, are a major concern for India. Any compromise in these negotiations could affect India’s security calculus around the Siliguri Corridor.
2. **Hydropower Dependency and Economic Concerns:** While hydropower remains the economic lifeline, there are domestic criticisms in Bhutan regarding project costs, delays, and dependency on India. Diversifying into non-hydro sectors like IT, tourism, and sustainable industries has become a priority for Bhutan’s long-term resilience.
3. **Trade Imbalance and Diversification:** Bhutan’s trade deficit with India persists despite preferential trade arrangements. Bureaucratic and non-tariff barriers occasionally hinder Bhutanese exports, while the country seeks to expand trade with other partners for diversification.
4. **Connectivity Gaps:** Limited road and rail connectivity constrain economic integration. Bhutan’s environmental concerns have also delayed its participation in the **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement**, slowing regional connectivity efforts.
5. **Perception of Dominance (“Big Brother Syndrome”):** Despite mutual trust, occasional Bhutanese public opinion views India as an overbearing partner. Managing this perception requires greater transparency and sensitivity in policy coordination.
6. **Environmental and Social Concerns:** Bhutan’s **Gross National Happiness** model prioritises environmental protection, which can clash with India’s infrastructure-driven approach. Projects must align with Bhutan’s ecological standards to sustain harmony.
7. **Border Management Issues:** Although largely peaceful, the **699 km Indo-Bhutan border** faces sporadic challenges, including smuggling and insurgent movements, requiring ongoing vigilance and cooperation.

KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. **Hydropower Collaboration:** Hydropower is the central pillar of economic cooperation. India finances, builds, and buys surplus power from Bhutan at preferential rates. This partnership benefits both nations, Bhutan earns revenue and India gains renewable energy.
2. **Trade and Economic Ties:** India remains Bhutan's largest trade partner and investor. Free trade access, currency stability, and concessional financing underpin economic engagement. Development grants from India have funded hospitals, schools, highways, and digital infrastructure.
3. **Strategic and Defence Cooperation:** India trains and equips the **Royal Bhutan Army (RBA)** and collaborates on intelligence sharing and border management. The **Doklam standoff (2017)** demonstrated India's commitment to Bhutan's sovereignty and regional security.
4. **Connectivity and Infrastructure Development:** India's **Project DANTAK** continues to build vital roads, bridges, and tunnels in Bhutan. Proposed **rail links (Gelephu–Kokrajhar, Samtse–Banarhat)** aim to enhance regional connectivity and economic integration.
5. **Environmental and Climate Partnership:** Joint conservation initiatives like the **Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA)** highlight cooperation in biodiversity preservation, disaster management, and climate adaptation.
6. **Health and Human Development:** India supports Bhutan's health infrastructure through institutions such as **Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital**, vaccination drives, and pandemic assistance, reflecting deep humanitarian ties.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Diversify and Balance the Economic Partnership:** India should help Bhutan reduce hydropower dependency by promoting investment in digital services, tourism, agriculture, and education. Access to India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (like UPI)** can modernize Bhutan's financial ecosystem.
2. **Upgrade Connectivity:** Accelerate rail and road link projects and improve logistics networks to enhance trade and tourism. Cross-border digital integration can bridge infrastructure gaps while respecting Bhutan's environmental values.
3. **Strengthen Security Coordination:** Continue close consultations on Bhutan–China border negotiations and enhance joint surveillance in sensitive zones like Doklam. Expand cooperation on counter-terrorism, cyber defence, and intelligence-sharing.
4. **Deepen Sustainable and Climate Cooperation:** Jointly pursue green energy transitions like solar, hydro, and hydrogen, aligned with Bhutan's **carbon-negative** goals. Integrate eco-tourism and green technology in development planning.
5. **Promote Mutual Sensitivity and People-Centric Diplomacy:** Regular dialogue and cultural exchanges will sustain trust and reduce misperceptions. India must engage with Bhutan's evolving democratic institutions with empathy and transparency.

CONCLUSION

India–Bhutan relations remain a beacon of stability in South Asia anchored in mutual respect, trust, and shared prosperity. To preserve this partnership amid changing geopolitical realities, both nations must pursue balanced growth, sustainable development, and cooperative security. Strategic sensitivity, equitable benefits, and

sustained people-to-people engagement will ensure that this “friendship in the Himalayas” continues to thrive as a model of India’s Neighbourhood First Policy.

Quote to Use:

“Friendship rooted in trust needs no treaty. It grows from shared destiny.”

WHERE TO USE:

- ☐ **GS Paper 2:** India’s Neighbourhood Policy, Bilateral Relations, India’s Strategic Interests in the Himalayas.
- ☐ **PSIR Paper 2 (IR Section):** India and its Neighbours; India’s role in South Asia.
- ☐ **Essay Paper:** Topics on regional cooperation, diplomacy, or small-state partnerships.
- ☐ **Interview:** As an example of successful diplomacy balancing security, development, and sustainability.

G20 SUMMIT 2025 JOHANNESBURG



G20 Summit 2025

INTRODUCTION

The 2025 G20 Leaders Summit held on 22 and 23 November in Johannesburg marked a historic moment as the first ever G20 meeting hosted on African soil. Guided by the Ubuntu philosophy which means I am because we are, the summit emphasised collective responsibility, developmental equity, climate justice, debt sustainability, and Global South solidarity. Despite geopolitical tensions and the absence of the United States, leaders adopted a comprehensive 122 point declaration focused on global economic reforms, climate financing, human development, sustainable energy transitions, food security, and technology governance.

WHAT IS THE G20

- ❑ The G20 is an informal intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries along with the European Union and African Union.
- ❑ It represents nearly 85 percent of global GDP, more than 75 percent of world trade, and almost two thirds of the global population.
- ❑ Established in 1999 after the Asian Financial Crisis, it provides a platform for advanced and emerging economies to coordinate macroeconomic policies and global governance.
- ❑ The presidency rotates annually and is supported by a Troika system which in 2025 consisted of Brazil, South Africa and the United States.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE G20 SUMMIT 2025 JOHANNESBURG

UBUNTU PHILOSOPHY AND MULTILATERALISM

- ❑ The summit adopted the Ubuntu theme, emphasising interdependence, collective problem solving, and human centred development.
- ❑ Leaders reiterated that global challenges such as inequality, conflict, climate change, food insecurity and financial instability cannot be resolved through unilateral action.

FIRST G20 SUMMIT IN AFRICA

- ❑ Johannesburg hosted the first ever G20 Leaders Summit on the African continent.
- ❑ This marked a major elevation of Africa's geopolitical importance and global developmental priorities.

ADOPTION OF A 122 POINT LEADERS DECLARATION

- ❑ The declaration was adopted on the first day itself, indicating consensus despite deep geopolitical divides.
- ❑ The document focuses on development finance, climate action, debt sustainability, gender equity, inclusive digital growth and energy transitions.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION 2025

GREATER AFRICAN REPRESENTATION IN GLOBAL FINANCE

- ❑ The G20 endorsed the creation of a new twenty fifth IMF Executive Board seat dedicated to Sub Saharan Africa.
- ❑ Leaders supported channeling more than one hundred billion dollars in Special Drawing Rights to African nations.

DEBT SUSTAINABILITY AND REFORM OF THE COMMON FRAMEWORK

- ❑ The Common Framework for Debt Treatment was strengthened for greater transparency, predictability and timely restructuring for vulnerable economies.

CLIMATE ACTION AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

- ❑ Leaders recognised that developing nations need between five point eight trillion and five point nine trillion dollars before 2030 to achieve climate goals.
- ❑ A call was made to significantly scale up climate finance including grant based and concessional funding.

- ❑ The summit launched Mission three hundred to electrify three hundred million Africans by 2030.
- ❑ Leaders supported tripling renewable energy capacity globally.

CRITICAL MINERALS FRAMEWORK

- ❑ A new framework was adopted for sustainable mining, local value addition, and resilient supply chains.
- ❑ This will help mineral rich developing countries like those in Africa and Latin America to capture more value.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

- ❑ Leaders reaffirmed the Right to Food and supported agricultural resilience and African farmer empowerment.
- ❑ Integration of agricultural markets through the African Continental Free Trade Area was encouraged.

AI AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

- ❑ The AI for Africa Initiative was launched to promote inclusive and ethical digital technologies and human centric AI governance.

YOUTH AND GENDER COMMITMENTS

- ❑ Targets set to reduce NEET youth by five percent and achieve twenty five percent gender parity in workforce participation by 2030.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

- ❑ Leaders acknowledged the need to make the UNSC more representative and reflective of twenty first century realities with greater voice for developing regions.

INDIA'S PRIORITIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS AT G20 2025

INDIA'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ❑ India emphasised the need for rethinking global developmental models that create deprivation and unsustainable resource extraction.
- ❑ Called for a more equitable world order and stronger voice for the Global South in institutions like the IMF and UNSC.
- ❑ Highlighted holistic human development by integrating material progress with social and ecological well being.

MAJOR INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY INDIA

G20 INITIATIVE ON COUNTERING THE DRUG TERROR NEXUS

- ❑ A global mechanism to curb narcotics trafficking linked to terror financing, including synthetic drugs.

G20 AFRICA SKILLS MULTIPLIER INITIATIVE

- ❑ Aimed to train one million certified trainers in Africa over the next decade.

GLOBAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY

- ❑ To preserve indigenous knowledge systems for sustainable lifestyles and health.

GLOBAL HEALTHCARE RESPONSE TEAM

- ❑ A rapid response network for humanitarian and medical crises.

OPEN SATELLITE DATA PARTNERSHIP

- ☐ To improve agriculture, fisheries, disaster management and climate adaptation through accessible satellite data.

CRITICAL MINERALS CIRCULARITY INITIATIVE

- ☐ Focus on recycling, urban mining, second life batteries and value addition.

ACITI PARTNERSHIP

- ☐ India launched a new partnership with Australia and Canada to enhance cooperation on AI, clean energy and resilient supply chains.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- ☐ Limited attention to conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza indicates a lack of consensus on global security issues.
- ☐ Climate finance commitments require huge accountability and institutional capacity, especially for developing nations.
- ☐ Debt distress among low income countries remains high due to slow restructuring and opaque debt structures.
- ☐ Absence of key leaders including the US President has raised concerns about global cohesion.
- ☐ India's proposals require financial commitments and clear implementation mechanisms.
- ☐ Critical minerals governance must protect communities and ensure developmental benefits.
- ☐ Digital technologies and AI pose risks related to privacy, algorithmic bias, misuse and widening digital divides.

WAY FORWARD

- ☐ Reform global governance by widening representation in IMF and UNSC and strengthening voice of the Global South.
- ☐ Translate climate finance commitments into actual disbursements including operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund.
- ☐ Reform the G20 Common Framework for easier debt restructuring and promote debt for climate swaps.
- ☐ Ensure just energy transitions through renewable energy investment and Mission three hundred.
- ☐ Develop global AI norms that are inclusive, transparent and respectful of digital sovereignty.
- ☐ Promote resilient agriculture, food security, youth skilling and gender centred economic growth.

Quote to Use

Nelson Mandela: *The true test of global leadership lies not in the wealth of nations but in the wellbeing of humanity.*

WHERE TO USE

- ☐ GS Paper 2: International Relations.
- ☐ GS Paper 3: Economy and Climate Change.
- ☐ Essay on Global Governance, South South Cooperation, Development Equity, Multilateralism.
- ☐ PSIR Optional topics including Global South, Multilateralism, G20, Indian Foreign Policy.
- ☐ Interview answers on India Africa relations, global governance, climate justice.

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ Realists argue G20 outcomes reflect power asymmetry where major powers still dominate decision making despite rhetoric of inclusivity.
- ❑ They highlight that absence of the United States illustrates fragmentation of global leadership and weakening institutional commitment.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

- ❑ Liberals see the Ubuntu focused summit as strengthening multilateral cooperation and rule based governance.
- ❑ They argue expanded African representation in IMF and global climate coordination signals deepening institutional reforms.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ Marxist thinkers argue that debt relief frameworks still preserve global capitalist structures that transfer resources from the South to the North.
- ❑ Critical minerals frameworks risk continuing extractive relationships unless value addition and labour protections are ensured.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ Feminist scholars welcome commitments to gender workforce parity but argue that without child care, safety norms, and wage equality, gender targets alone will not translate into transformation.
- ❑ They critique that women's digital access remains limited and must be prioritised within the AI for Africa Initiative.

POSTMODERN SCHOLARS

- ❑ Postmodernists argue that the Ubuntu narrative challenges Western centric models of development by placing community and relational identity at the centre.
- ❑ They caution against grand narratives in declarations and call for localised and culturally grounded approaches.

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BY - SHASHANK TYAGI

Sale Ending On 30th November 2025

ACHIEVERS SALE

STUDY IQ

MeitY Unveils INDIA AI GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES UNDER INDIA AI MISSION TO ENSURE SAFE, INCLUSIVE & RESPONSIBLE AI ADOPTION



INTRODUCTION

India unveiled its AI Governance Guidelines as the country adopts a measured approach to regulating artificial intelligence by emphasizing trust, equity and innovation. The guidelines, released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology after a consultation process that drew more than 2500 submissions from government bodies, academia, think tanks and the private sector, reflect the vision of AI for All articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Calls for AI regulation have intensified after multiple cases of misuse including proliferation of deepfakes. With the rapid development of AI and its wide societal impact, there is a growing consensus that effective regulation is necessary to ensure responsible and ethical use of this technology.

NEED FOR REGULATION OF AI

1. **Bias and discrimination:** AI inherits biases from training datasets, leading to discriminatory outcomes. For example, facial recognition algorithms show higher error rates for women and people with darker skin tones.
2. **Lack of transparency:** Many algorithms function as black boxes. For example, a medical AI tool may recommend treatment without being able to justify its reasoning.

3. **Privacy and data protection issues:** AI relies on massive datasets. Cases of privacy breaches and lawsuits against Big Tech reveal the risks.
4. **Security vulnerabilities:** AI is susceptible to cyber attacks. For example, adversarial attacks can mislead autonomous vehicles or healthcare systems.
5. **Ethical concerns:** AI raises issues of job displacement, widening inequality and concentration of power. Automated hiring tools have shown patterns of gender and racial bias.
6. **Artificial General Intelligence risks:** AGI can self-learn beyond human control, creating concerns about unpredictability and security.
7. **Autonomous weapons:** AI weapons could take life and death decisions without human supervision, causing major ethical dilemmas.
8. **Mass state surveillance:** AI enabled facial recognition and mass data analysis can enable round the clock monitoring of citizens, reducing political dissent.
9. **Deepfake challenges:** AI generated deepfakes raise risks for women's safety, create the liar's dividend, and can inflame violence through fabricated videos of armed forces abusing civilians.

CHALLENGES IN REGULATING AI

1. **Rapid technological evolution:** Regulatory frameworks struggle to keep pace with swiftly advancing AI capabilities.
2. **Complexity of AI systems:** High technical sophistication makes designing effective regulations difficult.
3. **Cost of compliance:** Regulatory compliance burdens smaller companies and start-ups, limiting innovation and competition.
4. **Liability and accountability gaps:** Difficulty in fixing responsibility when AI makes harmful or erroneous decisions.
5. **International divergence:** Lack of global consensus and differing national interests complicate cooperation.

STATUS OF AI REGULATION

INDIA

- ☐ **AI Governance Guidelines:** India's first detailed regulatory blueprint. It adopts a light touch, flexible architecture using existing laws like the IT Act 2000 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023.
- ☐ **Digital India Framework:** A comprehensive framework under preparation to safeguard digital citizens and ensure trusted AI deployment.
- ☐ **National AI Programme:** Promotes responsible and efficient AI use across sectors.
- ☐ **National Data Governance Framework Policy:** Governs data collection, storage and usage for AI purposes.
- ☐ **Draft Digital India Act:** A proposed law to replace the IT Act with a dedicated chapter on emerging technologies including AI, deepfakes and algorithmic safety.

REST OF THE WORLD

1. **European Union:** Proposing a comprehensive AI Act based on risk categories.
2. **United States:** Released a non binding Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights that outlines principles for safe deployment.
3. **Japan:** Uses the Society 5.0 approach that employs innovation to solve social issues.

4. **China:** Created a Next Generation AI Development Plan and issued guidelines for algorithms, recommendation systems and generative AI.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Universal adoption of the Bletchley Declaration:** Countries must adopt the global safety norms outlined in the Declaration.
2. **Build a comprehensive and flexible regulatory framework:** Governments should create clear rules on privacy, transparency, accountability and algorithmic bias.
3. **Increase international cooperation:** Global coordination is essential. Platforms like the G7 Hiroshima AI Process can help develop shared principles.
4. **Encourage industry self regulation:** AI companies must uphold ethical guidelines and internal audits.
5. **Invest in AI research and education:** Public and private investment in R and D and capacity building will ensure a skilled workforce able to manage AI responsibly.

Quote

"Artificial intelligence is neither good nor evil. It is a tool. The responsibility lies with the one who uses it."
Eliezer Yudkowsky

WHERE TO USE

GS Paper 3: under science and technology, cybersecurity and digital governance.

Essay paper themes on AI ethics, innovation and regulation.

PSIR topics related to state capacity, governance and technology policy.

Interview answers on AI deepfakes, Digital India Act, MeitY initiatives or global technology governance.

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

Realists emphasise AI as a strategic asset. Regulation is necessary to safeguard national security, prevent cyber warfare and counter information manipulation. AI governance is viewed as part of state power.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

Liberals highlight the need for transparent institutions, rule based governance and participatory consultation. They argue that regulation enhances trust, innovation and global cooperation.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

Marxists warn that AI may deepen capitalist exploitation, intensify surveillance capitalism and widen economic inequalities. Regulation must prevent concentration of data power in large corporations.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

Feminist thinkers highlight algorithmic discrimination, gendered datasets and risks of AI generated harms like deepfakes against women. Governance must prioritise inclusivity, fairness and protection of vulnerable groups.

Postmodernists caution that AI mediated realities destabilise truth and certainty. Deepfakes, synthetic media and algorithmic narratives challenge democratic discourse. Regulation must address meaning, identity and truth production.



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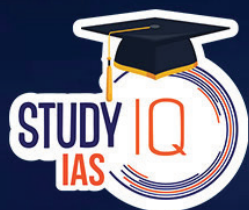


BY - SHASHANK TYAGI

Sale Ending On 30th November 2025

INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (IGP)

DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION RULES, 2025



DRAFT DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION RULES 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Union Government has notified the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025 to operationalise the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023. The Rules provide granular procedures for consent, data security, rights of individuals, obligations of data fiduciaries, breach reporting, storage, erasure, and government powers. Together, the Act and Rules create India's modern data protection architecture intended to balance innovation with privacy, ensuring a light but tight regulatory framework.

FEATURES OF THE DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT 2023

1. **Fairness:** Organizations must use personal data in a fair and transparent manner.
2. **Consent based processing:** Personal data can be processed only for lawful purposes after obtaining explicit consent.
3. **Data protection and user rights:** Individuals can seek information about how their data is processed and request correction or erasure.

FRAMEWORK OF THE DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION RULES 2025

1. **Data Principal**
 - The individual whose personal data is processed.
 - For children, parents or guardians act as data principals.

- For persons with disabilities, lawful guardians act as data principals.
- 2. Data Fiduciary**
 - The entity that determines the purpose and means of data processing.
 - Responsible for accuracy, security and timely erasure of data.
 - 3. Data Protection Board**
 - Functions as a digital office.
 - Handles compliance, breaches and adjudication with decisions taken by majority vote.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE RULES 2025

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

1. Fiduciaries must issue clear notices explaining the data collected, purpose, associated services, consent withdrawal process and grievance mechanisms.

CONSENT MANAGEMENT

1. Processing requires clear, informed and prior consent.
2. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.
3. Consent Managers will act as authorised platforms for granting and managing consent.

OBLIGATIONS OF DATA FIDUCIARIES

Significant Data Fiduciaries must:

- ☐ Conduct annual Data Protection Impact Assessments
- ☐ Conduct periodic audits
- ☐ Ensure that algorithms do not harm data principals
- ☐ Comply with restrictions on overseas data transfers

General fiduciaries must:

- ☐ Maintain transparency
- ☐ Publish terms of service
- ☐ Publish grievance redressal mechanisms

RIGHTS OF DATA PRINCIPALS

1. Right to access personal data through published mechanisms
2. Right to request erasure
3. Right to grievance redressal
4. Right to nominate another person in case of death or incapacity
5. Right to clear information on processing and sharing practices

PROCESSING OUTSIDE INDIA

1. Transfer permitted only under government approved conditions
2. Restrictions apply to data critical for national interest

PROCESSING BY THE STATE

1. State may process data for subsidies, benefits or services only when linked to law or public expenditure

REASONABLE SECURITY SAFEGUARDS

1. Encryption
2. Obfuscation
3. Access control
4. Monitoring and audit logs
5. Retention of logs for at least one year
6. Contractual safeguards when using data processors

PERSONAL DATA BREACH NOTIFICATION

1. Fiduciaries must alert affected individuals regarding nature, extent and consequences of breach
2. Must inform the Board within seventy two hours unless permitted otherwise

ERASURE OF PERSONAL DATA

1. Data must be erased when its purpose expires
2. Data principals must be notified forty eight hours beforehand to retain the data if desired

CHILDREN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1. Verifiable parental or guardian consent is mandatory
2. Verification may use identity checks or digital locker tokens

GOVERNMENT POWERS

1. Government may seek information for reasons listed in the Seventh Schedule
2. Fiduciaries need prior written government approval before disclosing sensitive data related to sovereignty, security or public order

ADVANTAGES OF THE RULES 2025

1. **Legal certainty** for firms and individuals
2. **Improved trust and confidence** in digital systems
3. **Global competitiveness** aligned with international norms
4. **Harmonised approach** across sectors
5. **Technological innovation** through privacy enhancing technologies
6. **Business benefits** through improved cyber hygiene
7. **User empowerment** and greater control over data
8. **Trustworthy data ecosystems** enabling responsible innovation
9. **Technological advancement** in privacy preserving tools
10. **Improved international relations** through interoperable rules
11. **Global interoperability** for cross border data flows
12. **Harmonised global standards** reducing compliance burdens

13. A thriving digital economy based on trust and accountability

CHALLENGES WITH THE FRAMEWORK

1. **New Technologies:** AI, IoT and decentralised systems pose transparency and bias challenges.
2. **Technological Limitations:** Ransomware, hacking and difficulty ensuring privacy in decentralised systems.
3. **Social Impact:** Digital divide, risk of social surveillance and potential human rights conflicts.
4. **Operational Difficulties:** Low awareness, inadequate training and weak breach response mechanisms.
5. **Transparency and Accountability Gaps:** Difficulty understanding processing practices and weak accountability.
6. **International Cooperation Problems:** Complexities in cross border compliance and coordination.
7. **Global Trends:** Keeping up with evolving international practices.
8. **Human Rights Considerations:** Need to balance privacy with freedom of expression and equality.
9. **Trust Deficit:** Public scepticism regarding protection and state access to data.

WAY FORWARD

1. Continuous awareness and digital literacy programs
2. Mandatory Data Protection Impact Assessments for high risk processing
3. Stronger enforcement powers for the Board
4. Regular independent audits and certification frameworks
5. User centric design improving accessibility of rights
6. Flexible and adaptive regulatory mechanisms
7. Adoption of privacy enhancing technologies
8. Continuous evaluation and updating of the DPDP framework

Quote

Justice Louis Brandeis: *The right to be let alone is the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men.*

WHERE TO USE

1. **GS2-** Governance, privacy, state capacity, digital legislation
2. **GS Three-** Cyber security, data governance, digital economy, innovation
3. **Essay Paper on topics like** Data as the new oil, Ethics of technology, Citizen state relationship in the digital era
4. **Ethics Paper-** Individual autonomy, Responsible technology, Fiduciary responsibility
5. **PSIR-** State capacity in digital governance, Rights based constitutionalism, Regulatory state evolution
6. **Interview- Topics like** Data privacy, AI governance, government digital policy

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

Realists argue that data regulation strengthens state capacity and sovereignty in a world where data is strategic power. They view strict oversight of foreign data flows as an instrument of national security.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

Liberals emphasize transparency, consent, and individual rights. They argue that privacy protection enhances trust and contributes to a stable digital market economy.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

Marxists see data control as a struggle between capital and labour where corporations accumulate digital capital by extracting personal data. They warn that rules may still privilege big tech over citizens.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

Feminists focus on safeguarding vulnerable groups such as women and children from online harm. They stress inclusive consent processes and protection from digital surveillance.

POSTMODERN SCHOLARS

Postmodern thinkers highlight fluid identities and fragmented digital selves. They argue that traditional legal categories cannot fully capture privacy harms in algorithmic environments and call for dynamic frameworks.

COMPETITIVE AND COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM IN INDIA



INTRODUCTION

Indian federalism today is shaped by two parallel forces: cooperative federalism that promotes coordination between the Centre and the States, and competitive federalism that encourages States to innovate and compete for investment, growth, and governance outcomes.

While competitive federalism has strengthened administrative reforms and economic dynamism, the increasing reliance on populist freebies has raised concerns regarding fiscal sustainability and long term development. Understanding the balance between cooperation and competition is crucial for healthy intergovernmental relations.

CONCEPT OF COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ Cooperative federalism refers to structured collaboration between the Union and the States in policymaking, revenue sharing, and program implementation. The Centre and the States work as partners rather than rivals.
- ❑ Mechanisms such as the GST Council, the Inter State Council, Zonal Councils, and centrally sponsored schemes reflect this cooperation. These platforms ensure negotiation, coordination, and joint decision making.

Examples of cooperative federalism

- ❑ GST Council decisions on indirect taxes based on consensus.
- ❑ Joint implementation of Ayushman Bharat and PM KISAN.
- ❑ Zonal Councils resolving inter state issues on law and order, migration, and water management.

CONCEPT OF COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ Competitive federalism stimulates competition among States to improve governance, attract investment, and deliver efficient public services. This includes inter state competition and competition between Centre and States over policy outcomes.
- ❑ The rise of NITI Aayog reinforced competition by publishing performance rankings in health, education, logistics, innovation, and ease of doing business.

Examples of competitive federalism

- ❑ Gujarat and Maharashtra competing to attract manufacturing industries.
- ❑ State led welfare innovations like Telangana's Rythu Bandhu and Odisha's KALIA.
- ❑ States organising investor summits such as Vibrant Gujarat and Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS SUPPORTING BOTH MODELS

- ❑ The Seventh Schedule divides powers through Union, State and Concurrent Lists, enabling collaborative as well as competitive policymaking.
- ❑ Article 261 ensures nationwide recognition of public acts and judicial orders, promoting national coherence.
- ❑ Article 263 provides for the Inter State Council, a crucial institution for cooperative dispute resolution.
- ❑ Articles on All India Services ensure administrative continuity across levels of government.
- ❑ Article 279A creates the GST Council, which blends cooperative negotiation with competitive tax structure strategies.
- ❑ NITI Aayog promotes structured competition by ranking States on governance outcomes.

CURRENT TREND OF FREEBIES DRIVEN COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ Several States have shifted competition from governance improvement to unrestricted welfare promises. This creates a race to announce cash transfers, subsidies, and concessions for electoral incentives rather than developmental outcomes.

- ❑ States like Punjab and Delhi face rising debt burdens because of large scale free utilities.
- ❑ Recently, Karnataka and Rajasthan introduced significant monthly cash transfer schemes, raising concerns about long term fiscal stability.
- ❑ The variation in Business Reform Action Plan rankings reflects that some States invest in structural reforms, while others prioritise short term popularity.

SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPETITIVE AND COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ It improves economic efficiency by pushing States to strengthen investor friendly policymaking and infrastructure.
- ❑ It encourages experimentation, allowing States to innovate in welfare, education, health, and technology.
- ❑ It deepens fiscal discipline by linking investor confidence with sound financial management.
- ❑ It improves public services because States must match or outperform peers to attract businesses and talent.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ It reduces regional imbalance by enabling coordinated financing for backward States.
- ❑ It facilitates joint action in areas that require collective solutions such as disaster management, climate adaptation, health emergencies, and infrastructure corridors.
- ❑ It ensures uniformity in taxation and regulation through bodies like the GST Council.

KEY INITIATIVES STRENGTHENING BOTH MODELS

COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ Telangana's TS iPASS offers rapid single window clearances to investors.
- ❑ Tamil Nadu's Global Investors Meet and Gujarat's GIFT City highlight State driven economic diplomacy.
- ❑ The upcoming Investment Friendliness Index will rank States on competitiveness to attract investment.
- ❑ States are encouraged to build strong PPP pipelines for infrastructure development.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ National Manufacturing Mission aligns central and state policies to create manufacturing clusters.
- ❑ India Infrastructure Project Development Fund supports states with technical and financial readiness for large infrastructure projects.
- ❑ Economic Survey 2022 23 highlights the significance of cooperative frameworks for sustainable growth.

CHALLENGES IN COMPETITIVE AND COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

CHALLENGES IN COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

- ❑ India's quasi federal structure gives the Centre greater powers through the residuary list, limiting state level autonomy in some areas.
- ❑ The competition often degenerates into a race to the bottom where states offer unsustainable subsidies instead of long term reforms.
- ❑ Conflicts arise between the Finance Commission and the GST Council on revenue sharing responsibilities.

- ☐ Bureaucratic delays in states prevent the intended benefits of competitive reforms.

CHALLENGES IN COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

- ☐ The distribution of central revenue remains contested, with poorer states demanding higher transfers and richer states demanding equity based allocations.
- ☐ Implementation of centrally sponsored schemes suffers due to overlapping jurisdictions and insufficient state level capacity.
- ☐ States feel constrained by rigid guidelines that leave them little flexibility to adapt schemes to local contexts.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM

- ☐ The Finance Commission should link grants to performance so that states maintain fiscal prudence before expanding welfare commitments.
- ☐ The National Manufacturing Commission should drive genuine policy innovation to eliminate duplication of central and state schemes.
- ☐ Yardstick competition through transparent rankings should create healthy pressure for governance improvement, similar to Scandinavian models.
- ☐ Strong accountability mechanisms are needed to prevent politically motivated populism that destabilises state finances.
- ☐ Germany's federal structure shows that competition must be balanced with coordinated national frameworks to avoid imbalance.
- ☐ India must maintain both competition and cooperation so that innovation continues without undermining collective national goals.

Quote

"Federalism is not a mere administrative arrangement. It is a moral partnership between different levels of government." – Granville Austin

WHERE TO USE

- ☐ GS Paper 2: Polity and Governance
- ☐ GS Paper 3: Economy and Fiscal Policy
- ☐ Essay Paper: Themes on governance, federalism, or welfare economics
- ☐ PSIR Paper 2: Indian politics, centre state relations
- ☐ Interview: Questions on freebies, fiscal federalism, GST, NITI Aayog

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

- ☐ They argue that competition among states is driven by power balancing, resource control, and strategic bargaining. Competitive federalism becomes a tool for states to enhance autonomy and negotiate better fiscal space from the Centre.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

- ❑ They emphasise cooperation through institutions like GST Council and NITI Aayog. They believe cooperative federalism promotes collective welfare and efficient service delivery.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ They criticise competitive federalism for intensifying inequality among states and promoting corporate driven policy making. They see freebies as a response to structural poverty created by unequal capitalism.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ They highlight the impact of competitive welfare schemes on women's empowerment but critique populist transfers that bypass structural reforms in health, education, and employment for women.

POSTMODERN SCHOLARS

- ❑ They view federalism as a fluid and evolving arrangement shaped by identity, local narratives, and decentralised power. They argue that bottom up governance must complement both competitive and cooperative federalism.

TRIBUNALS IN INDIA: CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION, CHALLENGES, AND REFORMS



TRIBUNALS

INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court is currently examining petitions against the Tribunals Reforms Act 2021, reopening the long standing institutional conflict between the judiciary and the executive over the control, independence, and functioning of tribunals in India.

Tribunals were created to offer faster, expert adjudication in specialised fields but their evolution over decades has produced concerns related to autonomy, vacancies, efficiency, and constitutional position.

As tribunals increasingly handle critical areas such as insolvency, taxation, environment, and competition, their reform has become central to India's justice delivery framework.

WHAT ARE TRIBUNALS

- ❑ Tribunals are specialised quasi judicial bodies that adjudicate disputes in fields that require domain expertise such as tax, telecom, electricity, environment, and corporate law.
- ❑ They were established to reduce the burden on traditional courts and to provide faster, cost effective, and expert decisions.
- ❑ India's courts have more than four crore pending cases which makes specialised tribunals essential for improving efficiency and reducing judicial delays.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- ❑ Specialisation: Technical experts and judicial members decide cases requiring deep domain knowledge.
- ❑ Faster disposal: They follow simplified procedures while respecting natural justice, enabling quicker adjudication than conventional courts.
- ❑ Less formal: They are free from strict procedural rules of civil courts, improving accessibility.
- ❑ Mixed composition: Tribunals typically include judicial and administrative or technical members.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

- ❑ The original Constitution did not contain any provision on tribunals. Part XIV A was introduced through the Forty Second Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.

ARTICLE 323A

- ❑ Empowers Parliament to establish administrative tribunals to decide disputes related to recruitment and service conditions of government employees.

ARTICLE 323B

- ❑ Allows Parliament and State Legislatures to create tribunals dealing with taxation, labour disputes, foreign exchange regulation, elections, land reforms, tenancy rights, and other specified matters.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS ACT 1985

- ❑ Enacted to implement Article 323A.
- ❑ Enables the creation of the Central Administrative Tribunal and State Administrative Tribunals for service related matters.

LANDMARK JUDGEMENTS RELATED TO TRIBUNALS

- ❑ **S P Sampath Kumar vs Union of India 1987:** Recognised tribunals as substitutes for High Courts and upheld their constitutional validity.
- ❑ **L Chandra Kumar vs Union of India 1997:** Held that tribunals cannot replace High Courts. Their decisions are subject to judicial review under Articles 226 and 227.

- ❑ **Madras Bar Association vs Union of India 2014:** Held that administrative support for tribunals should come from the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ❑ **Rojer Mathew vs South Indian Bank 2019:** Stressed the need for judicial impact assessment before merger or abolition of tribunals.
- ❑ **Madras Bar Association vs Union of India 2020:** Recommended the creation of a National Tribunals Commission.
- ❑ **Madras Bar Association vs Union of India 2021:** Struck down provisions of the 2021 law that undermined judicial independence, including tenure and age norms.

EVOLUTION OF TRIBUNAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

PRE INDEPENDENCE

- ❑ Income Tax Appellate Tribunal was created to ensure faster tax dispute resolution.

POST INDEPENDENCE TO 1980

- ❑ Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act 1950 established a dedicated tribunal.
- ❑ Administrative Reforms Commission 1969 and Law Commission reports suggested civil services and specialised tribunals.
- ❑ Swaran Singh Committee 1976 recommended national and state administrative tribunals and Supreme Court oversight.

GOLDEN ERA OF TRIBUNALISATION 1980 TO 2000

- ❑ Creation of many sectoral tribunals such as CAT, SAT, Film Certification Tribunal, and Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.

2000 TO 2016

- ❑ Creation of DRT, COMPAT, NGT, NCLT and NCLAT.
- ❑ Tribunals became central to economic reforms and regulatory governance.

2017 TO PRESENT

- ❑ Finance Act 2017 merged several tribunals and gave the executive wider control over appointments.
- ❑ Tribunals Reforms Act 2021 abolished nine tribunals and transferred their functions to High Courts and existing tribunals.

WHY TRIBUNALS MATTER

- ❑ **Speedy Justice:** Consumer forums and NCLT showcase faster disposal than traditional courts.
- ❑ **Specialised Expertise:** Tribunals enable better adjudication in technical fields like power tariff disputes, corporate insolvency, and competition law.
- ❑ **Reducing Court Burden:** CAT, NCLT, DRT and others significantly reduce litigation before High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- ❑ **Economic Governance:** NCLT and DRT decisions directly influence investor confidence, credit markets, and business climate.

- ❑ **Environmental Protection:** NGT plays a vital role in environmental preservation including cases like Vizag Gas Leak, Yamuna pollution, and illegal mining.
- ❑ **Access to Justice:** Tribunals offer affordable and accessible justice to citizens including marginalised groups.
- ❑ **ADR Oriented:** Tribunals promote conciliatory mechanisms which reduce adversarial litigation.

MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY TRIBUNALS

- ❑ Rising case backlogs especially in DRT, NCLT, and APTEL due to vacancies and infrastructure gaps.
- ❑ Mergers like COMPAT into NCLAT have diluted subject specialisation.
- ❑ Chronic vacancies and inadequate administrative support delay adjudication.
- ❑ Judicial overreach and excessive appeals undermine the finality of tribunal decisions.
- ❑ Appointment process remains opaque and controlled by the executive which threatens independence.
- ❑ Procedural inconsistencies across tribunals hamper predictability.
- ❑ Lack of uniform digital systems prevents efficient tracking and management.
- ❑ Economic impacts are significant as unresolved disputes delay revenue and investments.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ Establish a National Tribunals Commission for appointments, administration, and oversight.
- ❑ Create a central Tribunal Division in the Ministry of Law and Justice to manage all tribunals.
- ❑ Introduce double shift benches to clear backlog without increasing infrastructure.
- ❑ Strengthen independence by appointing domain experts rather than retired bureaucrats.
- ❑ Implement comprehensive e Tribunal systems with AI driven case tracking.
- ❑ Reduce executive interference by implementing recommendations in Rojer Mathew 2019.
- ❑ Strengthen judicial autonomy with limited appeals and clear statutory powers.

CONCLUSION

Tribunals are an integral component of India's justice delivery architecture. They bring together judicial authority and specialised knowledge for effective resolution of complex disputes. Reforms that ensure independence, expertise, adequate staffing, and technological modernisation are essential to uphold the purpose for which tribunals were created and to maintain the balance between executive efficiency and judicial oversight.

Quote

"A tribunal must not only be independent but must also be seen as independent. Justice needs expertise, but it also needs autonomy." – Justice V R Krishna Iyer

WHERE TO USE

- ❑ GS Paper 2- Judiciary and Tribunals
- ❑ GS Paper 3- Economy and Regulatory Governance
- ❑ Essay Paper Topics on justice delivery and institutional reforms
- ❑ PSIR Paper 1 Part B- Indian judiciary
- ❑ Interview questions on tribunal reforms and judicial independence

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ Realists argue that tribunals represent an institutional effort by the executive to retain regulatory control while reducing judicial interference. They view the conflict as a power struggle between branches of the state.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

- ❑ Liberals support tribunals as essential to efficient governance and economic liberalisation. They emphasise transparency, due process, and judicial review as safeguards.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ Marxists argue that tribunalisation often serves corporate and state interests by insulating regulatory disputes from public scrutiny. They believe tribunals reinforce capitalist structures by prioritising economic efficiency over social justice.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

- ❑ Feminists highlight issues of accessibility and representation in tribunals. They argue that specialised bodies must be designed to accommodate gender sensitive procedures and equal participation of women professionals.

POSTMODERN SCHOLARS

- ❑ Postmodernists critique the standardisation of tribunals and argue that justice must be decentralised and context specific. They emphasise the need for tribunals to adapt to local narratives rather than imposing technocratic frameworks.

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STUDY IQ IAS

The advertisement features a blue and white color scheme with a background image of a trophy being held up by several hands. A portrait of Shashank Tyagi is visible in the bottom right corner. The text is bold and clear, emphasizing the course details and the limited-time offer.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN INDIA'S JUDICIARY: BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING OF JUSTICE



WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

INTRODUCTION

The Indian judiciary, despite being a pillar of democracy, reflects a deep gender imbalance particularly in its higher echelons. While women constitute around one-third of judges in the lower judiciary, their numbers dwindle drastically in High Courts and the Supreme Court. The “glass ceiling” persists, blocking women’s upward mobility into the most powerful judicial roles. Minority and marginalized women face even steeper barriers, revealing how intersectional discrimination continues to shape access to justice itself.

STATUS OF WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE JUDICIARY

Supreme Court:

- ☐ As of 2025, there is only **one woman judge (Justice B.V. Nagarathna)** among 34 judges, constituting **just 2.9% representation**.
- ☐ Since 1950, only **11 women** have ever served on the Supreme Court – **a mere 3.8% of 287 total appointments**.
- ☐ No woman has ever held the position of **Chief Justice of India**, underscoring the persistence of gender exclusion at the very top.

High Courts:

- ☐ Across India's High Courts, **women make up only 13.1%** of the total judges.

- ❑ Disparities are striking – **five High Courts have no women judges**, while **seven have less than 10%**.
- ❑ Sikkim and Telangana lead comparatively, with **33.3% women judges**, showing that progress is possible with institutional commitment.

District and Subordinate Judiciary:

- ❑ Representation improves at the lower levels – women form **about 35%** of judges in subordinate courts
- ❑ However, this proportion varies widely – from **19.5% in Gujarat** to **70% in Goa**.
- ❑ A total of **7,852 women judges** serve at these levels, but **17 of 36 States and UTs** still fall below the national average.

Legal Profession:

- ❑ Out of **1.7 million advocates** in India, only **15% are women**.
- ❑ Their presence in legal leadership remains negligible – **just 2% of State Bar Council representatives** are women.

REASONS FOR LOW REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

1. **Structural Barriers in Judicial Rules:** Article 233 requires **7 years of continuous practice** for district judge eligibility. Combined with a **minimum entry age of 35** for direct recruitment and **retirement norms** that restrict later appointments, these rules disadvantage women who often step back temporarily due to family responsibilities.
2. **The “Leaking Pipeline” Syndrome:** While women enter the judiciary in significant numbers, many exit mid-career. Family duties, long hours, lack of institutional support, and workplace bias cause an attrition that narrows the path from lower courts to higher benches.
3. **Opaque Collegium System:** Unlike lower judiciary exams, higher judicial appointments through the **Collegium** remain opaque. Informal recommendations, personal networks, and subjective evaluations favour men, perpetuating exclusion.
4. **Hostile and Sexist Work Environment:** Research on judicial appointments highlights the **existence of gender bias** acknowledged even by serving judges. Many female litigators report professional isolation, harassment, and lack of mentorship, creating invisible barriers to progression.
5. **Inadequate Infrastructure and Support:** Even basic facilities like **separate toilets and resting rooms** are missing in 22% of courts. Absence of childcare, flexible hours, and maternity support pushes many women toward corporate legal jobs instead of public service.
6. **Lack of Enabling Provisions:** While several states (Assam, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha) have **reservations for women in lower courts**, no such measure exists for higher judiciary. Absence of proactive inclusion policies keeps higher benches male-dominated.

IMPACT OF LOW WOMEN’S REPRESENTATION IN JUDICIARY

1. **Prejudice in Judgements:**
 - Lack of a gender lens often results in regressive rulings.
 - Example: The **Madhya Pradesh HC (2020)** granted bail to a molester on the condition that he let the victim tie a “rakhi.”
 - Similarly, the **Karnataka HC (2020)** questioned a rape survivor’s “after-assault behaviour.” Such cases highlight how absence of women’s perspectives perpetuates patriarchal norms.

2. **Narrowing of Legal Jurisprudence:** Women judges often advance progressive interpretations in areas like **sexual harassment, reproductive rights, and equality**. Limited female representation slows the evolution of gender-sensitive jurisprudence.
3. **Deficiencies in Legal Reasoning:** A homogeneous judiciary risks ignoring lived experiences of half the population. Judicial diversity enhances empathy, fairness, and relevance of legal reasoning – its absence weakens justice delivery.
4. **Impact on Access to Justice:** Women litigants, particularly in sensitive cases (sexual violence, family disputes), often feel more secure before a woman judge. Lack of women on the bench deters victims from coming forward.
5. **Erosion of Institutional Legitimacy:** A judiciary that does not reflect societal diversity appears disconnected from the people it serves. It undermines **trust, inclusivity, and the legitimacy** of the institution.
6. **Lack of Role Models:** Few visible female judges means fewer inspirations for young women in law. Representation matters – it shapes aspirations and normalizes women's leadership in judicial spaces.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Gender-Based Affirmative Action:** Adopt **30% reservation** for women in judicial appointments, especially in district and High Courts. Collegium recommendations must consciously prioritize qualified women.
2. **Gender-Inclusive Selection Committees:** Every selection and promotion committee including the **Collegium** should have **at least one woman member** to ensure gender diversity and counter implicit bias.
3. **Lateral Entry Opportunities:** Allow women with strong academic, research, or tribunal experience to enter mid-level or specialized judicial roles. This diversifies the talent pool beyond traditional litigation routes.
4. **Family and Work-Life Balance Support:** Introduce **childcare centres in court complexes**, flexible working hours, and **adequate paid maternity leave** without penalizing seniority or promotion prospects.
5. **Infrastructure Improvements:** Provide **basic amenities** like separate, hygienic washrooms, resting spaces, and safe court environments to retain women in the profession.
6. **Gender Sensitization and Bias Training:** Regular **gender and unconscious bias training** for judges, clerks, and court staff can create a more respectful, equitable environment.
7. **Mentorship and Networking:** Institutionalize **mentorship programs** connecting senior women judges with younger female lawyers to guide professional development and encourage retention.

CONCLUSION

Bridging the gender gap in India's judiciary is not merely a matter of representation – it is a democratic necessity. A judiciary that mirrors the diversity of society ensures richer jurisprudence, fairer outcomes, and stronger public trust. True judicial independence must also mean **freedom from patriarchal bias**. Empowering women judges will make India's justice system not just independent, but inclusive – a judiciary of the people, by the people, and truly **for all** the people.

Quote to Use:

"A judiciary that does not reflect the society it serves cannot claim to deliver complete justice." – **Justice Leila Seth**

WHERE TO USE:

- ☐ **GS Paper 2:** Role of Judiciary, Social Justice, Women Empowerment.
- ☐ **Essay Paper:** Topics on gender, institutions, or inclusivity.
- ☐ **PSIR Paper 2:** Indian Polity and Governance; Judicial Reforms.
- ☐ **Interview:** As a talking point on gender and institutional reform in governance.

LABOUR CODES 2025



INTRODUCTION

The Government of India has notified that all four Labour Codes, namely the Code on Wages 2019, Industrial Relations Code 2020, Code on Social Security 2020, and Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code 2020, will come into force from 21 November 2025. These Codes subsume and consolidate twenty nine existing labour laws.

The reform aims to modernise labour governance, expand social security, improve ease of doing business, and create a future ready workforce aligned with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

LABOUR AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN INDIA

1. Article 19 clause 1 subclause c provides the right to form associations or unions.
2. Article 23 prohibits forced labour.
3. Article 24 prohibits child labour in hazardous occupations for children below fourteen years.
4. Article 38 clause 1 directs the State to promote people's welfare.
5. Article 38 clause 2 seeks to reduce inequalities of income and wealth.

6. Article 43A provides for worker participation in management.

OVERVIEW OF LABOUR CODES

CODE ON WAGES 2019

Subsume: Payment of Wages Act 1936, Minimum Wages Act 1948, Payment of Bonus Act 1965, Equal Remuneration Act 1976.

Key Provisions:

1. Uniform definition of wages.
2. Right to minimum wage for all workers in all sectors.
3. Timely payment of wages.
4. Equal remuneration for men and women for same or similar work.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE 2020

Subsume: Trade Unions Act 1926, Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act 1946, Industrial Disputes Act 1947.

Key Provisions:

1. Simplified trade union registration and recognition.
2. Establishment of negotiation unions or councils.
3. Mandatory sixty day strike notice for public utility services.
4. Grievance redressal mechanisms.
5. Retrenchment or closure threshold raised from one hundred to three hundred workers.
6. Fixed term employment introduced.

CODE ON SOCIAL SECURITY 2020

Subsume: EPF Act 1952, ESI Act 1948, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, Payment of Gratuity Act 1972, Unorganised Workers Social Security Act 2008.

Key Provisions:

1. Coverage expanded to gig workers and platform workers.
2. Creation of social security fund for unorganised sector.
3. Maternity benefits and gratuity extended to more categories.
4. Universal registration through Aadhaar linked UAN.

OSHCW CODE 2020

Subsume: Factories Act 1948, Mines Act 1952, Contract Labour Act 1970, Inter State Migrant Workmen Act 1979.

Key Provisions:

1. Annual health check ups.
2. Safety and welfare standards.
3. Single licence for contractors.
4. Higher thresholds for applicability.
5. Welfare responsibilities shifted to principal employer.

BEFORE VS AFTER LABOUR CODES

1. Formalisation of Employment
 - Pre: No mandatory appointment letters.
 - Post: Written appointment letters compulsory for all workers.
2. Social Security
 - Pre: Limited and fragmented.
 - Post: PF, ESIC, insurance extended to all, including gig workers.
3. Minimum Wages
 - Pre: Only for scheduled industries.
 - Post: Applicable to all workers.
4. Preventive Healthcare
 - Pre: No mandate.
 - Post: Mandatory annual health check ups.
5. Timely Wages
 - Pre: Weak enforcement.
 - Post: Strict mandate for timely wage payment.
6. Women Workforce Participation
 - Pre: Restrictions on night shifts and certain occupations.
 - Post: Women allowed in all occupations with safety.
7. ESIC Coverage
 - Pre: Area based coverage.
 - Post: Pan India ESIC including one worker in hazardous units.
8. Compliance Burden
 - Pre: Many licences and returns.
 - Post: Single licence and unified return.

BENEFITS TO MAJOR CATEGORIES OF WORKERS

FIXED TERM EMPLOYEES

1. All benefits similar to permanent workers.
2. Gratuity eligibility after one year.
3. Direct hiring encouraged.

GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS

1. First ever legal recognition.
2. Aggregators must contribute one to two percent of turnover.
3. Aadhaar linked UAN ensures portability.

CONTRACT WORKERS

1. Fixed term contracts with social security.
2. Gratuity after one year.
3. Principal employer responsible for welfare.

WOMEN WORKERS

1. Equal pay for equal work.
2. Night shift allowed with consent.
3. Mandatory representation on committees.
4. Expanded family definition.

YOUTH WORKERS

1. Guaranteed minimum wage.
2. Formal employment through appointment letters.
3. Paid leave mandated.

MSME WORKERS

1. All MSME workers included under social security.
2. Mandatory welfare facilities.
3. Double overtime.

BEEDI AND CIGAR WORKERS

1. Minimum wages fixed.
2. Overtime voluntary and double rate.
3. Bonus after thirty days of work.

PLANTATION WORKERS

1. Coverage under OSHWC and Social Security Codes.
2. Safety training for chemical handling.
3. Full ESIC benefits.

AUDIO VISUAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA WORKERS

1. Appointment letters mandatory.
2. Overtime double pay.
3. Guaranteed social security.

MINE WORKERS

1. Commuting accidents treated as employment related.
2. Uniform safety standards.
3. Free annual check ups.

HAZARDOUS INDUSTRY WORKERS

1. Safety committees mandatory.

2. Women allowed with safeguards.
3. Annual check ups.

TEXTILE WORKERS

1. Migrant workers covered fully.
2. Overtime double rate.
3. PDS portability assured.

IT AND ITES WORKERS

1. Salary to be released by seventh of every month.
2. Equal pay and night shift options for women.
3. Dispute resolution strengthened.

DOCK WORKERS

1. Formal recognition and PF, pension, insurance.
2. Annual check ups.
3. Better sanitation.

EXPORT SECTOR WORKERS

1. FTEs get full social security.
2. Annual leave after one hundred eighty days.
3. Women allowed night work with safety.

CHALLENGES WITH THE NEW LABOUR CODES

1. **Uneven implementation across States**
 - Labour is in the Concurrent List, so both Union and States must frame their own rules.
 - By mid-2025, more than thirty States and Union Territories had notified draft rules, but several others such as West Bengal and Meghalaya had not progressed. This creates a fragmented labour environment where a worker in Karnataka may enjoy higher protections, while an identical worker in Assam may not have comparable safeguards. The absence of uniformity also confuses employers operating in multiple States and complicates compliance.
2. **Excessive delegation of powers to the executive**
 - Many substantive aspects such as wage definition components, retrenchment thresholds, and safety standards are left to delegated rules rather than being clearly defined in the Codes themselves.
 - This results in reduced parliamentary oversight and increases discretionary power in the hands of bureaucratic authorities. The Standing Committee on Labour in 2023 explicitly warned that such excessive delegation may lead to arbitrary notifications and inconsistent application across sectors.
3. **Inadequate protection for gig and informal workers**
 - Although the Codes extend formal recognition to more than thirty crore unorganised workers through the e-Shram portal, actual benefits remain unclear.
 - State efforts exist but are uneven. For example, Karnataka's 2025 legislation mandates aggregator contributions to a welfare fund. Maharashtra is mapping ten lakh gig workers for targeted benefits.

Telangana's 2023 study found gig workers working more than ten hour shifts earning around twenty thousand per month, often without insurance or accident safeguards.

- The Union Budget 2025–26 extended PM-JAY coverage to gig workers, yet a comprehensive national welfare architecture remains missing.

4. Weakening of collective bargaining rights

- The Industrial Relations Code's requirement of at least seventy five percent approval for calling a strike makes mobilisation nearly impossible for large enterprises.
- In 2024, major trade unions organised protests in Delhi, Lucknow and Kolkata, labelling this provision anti-worker and arguing that it violates the spirit of Article 19 clause 1 subclause c. Unions also fear that negotiation councils dominated by employers may dilute worker representation.

5. Reduced job security due to higher retrenchment thresholds

- Raising the threshold for prior government permission for layoffs, retrenchment or closure from one hundred to three hundred workers gives employers more flexibility but directly reduces worker protection.
- In Gurugram's auto-component belt, several medium-sized firms in 2024 reduced workforce strength without seeking approval, which would not have been possible under older laws. This shift tilts the balance toward ease of doing business over job security.

6. Precarious fixed-term contracts and risk of "permanent temporariness"

- While fixed-term employment expands formalisation, many employers use repetitive short-term contracts to deny long-term benefits.
- In 2024, the Supreme Court criticised exploitative contract renewals and held that repeated re-engagements without permanency constitute unfair labour practice.
- Telangana High Court in 2025 directed regularisation of long-serving contractual staff, calling the system exploitative and inconsistent with dignity of labour.

7. Broad exemptions diluting labour protections

- Governments can exempt industries in the "public interest," but the phrase remains undefined.
- This allows exemptions even for commercial reasons unrelated to public welfare, potentially enabling factories to bypass norms on wages, health and safety, and working hours.
- Without clear criteria, such exemptions may be misused for political or economic expediency.

8. Low awareness and weak compliance capacity, especially among MSMEs

- A 2024 CII survey showed only forty six percent of small enterprises were fully aware of the new Codes.
- MSMEs often struggle with digital filings, compliance fees and portal-based registrations.
- Informal sector workers also lack awareness about e-Shram registrations, social security coverage, or grievance mechanisms.
- This widens the protection gap between large formal firms and small enterprises that employ the majority of India's workforce.

WAY FORWARD

1. Uniform implementation across States

- The Union should create an inter-state coordination mechanism similar to a GST Council model for labour.

- This council could harmonise minimum wages, safety rules, social security norms and enforcement mechanisms.
 - Such institutional architecture will reduce regulatory confusion, ensure portability of benefits, and protect migrant workers.
- 2. Strengthening legislative clarity**
- Critical elements like definitions of wages, conditions for retrenchment, exemption limits, overtime rules and occupations hazardous for women should be explicitly written into the Codes.
 - Clear statutory language prevents arbitrary use of delegated powers and ensures uniformity across the country.
- 3. Comprehensive social security for gig and informal workers**
- A national Gig and Platform Workers Policy is needed that mandates aggregator contributions, ensures accident insurance, pension portability, and health coverage through PM-JAY.
 - Integration of e-Shram with DBT systems will ensure benefits reach workers directly, irrespective of state migration.
- 4. Reviving collective bargaining rights**
- Reducing the seventy five percent strike approval requirement to fifty one percent will make collective action feasible while maintaining industrial discipline.
 - Strengthening tripartite mechanisms involving the government, employers, and workers will help resolve disputes amicably and reduce strikes or lockouts.
- 5. Balancing employer flexibility with worker security**
- Employers should get flexibility for hiring in cyclical industries, but this must be balanced with mandatory unemployment insurance and reskilling programs for retrenched workers.
 - This aligns with global best practices in countries like Germany and South Korea, where labour market transitions are supported through state and employer contributions.
- 6. Regulating fixed term contracts**
- Introduce a cap on how many times an employer can renew a fixed term contract, such as allowing only two or three renewals.
 - Beyond that, workers must be given permanency or enhanced social security rights such as higher gratuity or mandatory pension.
- 7. Restricting the scope of exemptions**
- The phrase “public interest” must be defined narrowly.
 - Exemptions should be time bound, criteria based, transparent, and subject to limited judicial or legislative review.
 - This ensures that exemptions are not misused to circumvent labour rights.
- 8. Improving awareness and compliance**
- Launch multilingual campaigns for both workers and employers.
 - Establish State level Labour Help Desks, digital facilitation centres for MSMEs, and mobile grievance units for informal workers.
 - Simplified compliance forms, WhatsApp based filing systems, and district level labour literacy drives can significantly improve awareness.

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

Realists argue that labour flexibility is essential for competitiveness in the global economy. They highlight that the Codes support economic growth by improving ease of doing business, attracting investment and reducing compliance burdens.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

Liberals appreciate the expansion of social security, formalisation of employment, and uniform wages. However, they caution that strong institutions and transparent rule making are necessary to ensure worker rights are not diluted.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

Marxist thinkers critique the Codes as pro capitalist reforms that weaken unions, increase managerial power, and increase precarity through fixed term contracts and easier retrenchment. They emphasise that labour should not be treated merely as a factor of production.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

Feminist scholars appreciate expanded opportunities for women, including night shifts and equal pay provisions. They argue that workplace safety, grievance redressal and intersectional vulnerabilities require stronger implementation mechanisms.

POSTMODERN SCHOLARS

Postmodern perspectives focus on gig work, algorithmic management and fragmentation of labour identities. They emphasise the need for adaptive regulation addressing digital precarity, platform surveillance and invisibilised labour.

Quote

"Labour is the superior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration."

This quote strengthens answers on labour dignity, social security and the need for worker centric reforms.

WHERE TO USE

1. **GS Paper 2:** Social justice, labour rights, governance reforms.
2. **GS Paper 3:** Economic reforms, industrial growth, gig economy.
3. **Essay Paper:** Future of work, social security, labour welfare.
4. **PSIR:** State market relations, welfare state, globalisation and labour.
5. **Interview:** Gig workers, labour reforms, employment policy.



INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court's five judge Constitution Bench has delivered a crucial advisory opinion on a Presidential Reference concerning delays by Governors in granting assent to state Bills. The judgment addresses the widening friction between Governors and state legislatures and clarifies how Articles 200 and 201 must be interpreted to preserve cooperative federalism. The Court also ruled that it cannot impose timelines or create the idea of deemed assent. The ruling restores constitutional balance between elected governments and nominated constitutional heads while rejecting judicial overreach.

WHY THE PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE WAS SUBMITTED

1. President Droupadi Murmu invoked Article 143 to seek the Supreme Court's advisory opinion after several states accused Governors of withholding Bills for long periods.
2. The immediate trigger was the April 8 judgment of a two judge Bench from the Madras High Court which imposed strict timelines on Governors and the President.
3. The High Court also invoked Article 142 and declared ten Tamil Nadu Bills as having received deemed assent because the Governor had not acted.
4. This created constitutional confusion over whether courts could create such timelines or legal fictions.
5. The Presidential Reference included fourteen questions regarding the powers and limits of Governors and the President under Articles 200 and 201.

SUPREME COURT'S POSITION ON THE FOURTEEN QUESTIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR UNDER ARTICLE 200

The Governor has only three options:

1. Grant assent.
2. Withhold assent and return the Bill to the legislature with comments for reconsideration.
3. Reserve the Bill for the President.

The Governor cannot simply withhold assent without returning the Bill.

IS THE GOVERNOR BOUND BY AID AND ADVICE OF THE CABINET UNDER ARTICLE 200

The Court held that the Governor exercises discretion under Article 200.

He is not bound by ministerial advice while granting or withholding assent.

IS THE GOVERNOR'S DISCRETION JUSTICIABLE

The merits of the Governor's choice are not justiciable.

However, prolonged, unexplained, or indefinite inaction can be reviewed.

DOES ARTICLE 361 BAR JUDICIAL REVIEW

No. Article 361 protects the person, not the office.

Courts can examine constitutional inaction by the office of the Governor.

CAN COURTS IMPOSE TIMELINES ON GOVERNORS

No. The phrase used in Article 200 is as soon as possible.

Courts cannot create rigid deadlines.

IS THE PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION UNDER ARTICLE 201 JUSTICIABLE

No. The President's decision is not reviewable on merits.

CAN COURTS IMPOSE TIMELINES ON THE PRESIDENT UNDER ARTICLE 201

No. The Court cannot mandate deadlines.

MUST THE PRESIDENT CONSULT THE SUPREME COURT UNDER ARTICLE 143 WHEN BILLS ARE RESERVED

No. Consultation is optional and based on the President's subjective satisfaction.

ARE GOVERNOR OR PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS JUSTICIABLE BEFORE A BILL BECOMES LAW

No. Courts can only review enacted laws.

Bills are not subject to pre enactment judicial review.

CAN ARTICLE 142 CREATE DEEMED ASSENT

No. Courts cannot substitute the role of constitutional authorities.

Article 142 cannot override Articles 200 and 201.

CAN A BILL BECOME LAW WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S ASSENT

No. Assent is mandatory unless the Bill is reserved.

IS A PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION UNDER ARTICLE 145 THREE MANDATORY FOR BENCH SIZE

The Court declined to answer.

CAN ARTICLE 142 OVERRIDE PROCEDURAL OR SUBSTANTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

No. Article 142 cannot bypass constitutional requirements like assent.

DOES THE CONSTITUTION LIMIT SUPREME COURT JURISDICTION IN UNION STATE DISPUTES TO ARTICLE 131

The Court declined to answer since it was irrelevant to the issue of assent.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE JUDGMENT

1. Clarifies the Governor's constitutional position and removes ambiguity.
2. Restores separation of powers by rejecting judicial timelines and deemed assent.
3. Reinforces cooperative federalism and reduces friction between states and the Centre.
4. Ensures Governors cannot stall legislation indefinitely.
5. Establishes a balance between executive discretion and judicial oversight.

KEY CHALLENGES HIGHLIGHTED

1. Governors delaying Bills for long periods undermines the functioning of state legislatures.
2. The Court's refusal to set timelines creates uncertainties in extreme cases.
3. Political pressures may influence Governors' discretion.
4. Structural gaps in Centre state communication create legislative blockages.
5. Absence of accountability mechanisms may embolden deliberate delays.

WAY FORWARD

1. Promote timely processing of Bills and strengthen Governor government coordination.
2. Courts should intervene only against clear constitutional inaction.
3. Establish regular consultative mechanisms between Centre, states, and Governors.
4. Improve awareness of constitutional duties under Articles 200 and 201.
5. Strengthen federal norms so that Governors act as impartial constitutional umpires.
6. States can seek mandamus from courts when Governors delay unreasonably.

Quote

B R Ambedkar said that the Governor is meant to be a constitutional sentinel, not an adversarial centre of power. This judgment attempts to restore that balance.

WHERE TO USE

1. GS Paper 2 and PSIR- Cooperative Federalism questions
2. Articles 200 and 201 based questions
3. Judicial review questions
4. Interview answers on federalism

SCHOLARLY OPINIONS

REALIST SCHOLARS

Realists argue that the Governor often acts as an agent of the Union government and the judgment limits such structural leverage but does not eliminate it due to the wide discretionary scope retained.

LIBERAL SCHOLARS

Liberals view the ruling as strengthening constitutionalism by ensuring that institutions interact through dialogue rather than confrontation. The emphasis on cooperative federalism aligns with liberal principles.

MARXIST SCHOLARS

Marxists contend that the Governor is an instrument of centralised authority and elite dominance. They argue that unless the appointment mechanism changes, structural inequalities in Centre state power will persist.

FEMINIST SCHOLARS

Feminists highlight the need for transparent constitutional processes that protect marginalised voices in state legislatures, noting that executive delays in assent often block welfare legislation affecting women.

POSTMODERN SCHOLARS

Postmodernists emphasise that power is diffused and interpretive. They note that the judgment reconfigures constitutional narratives and reduces the possibility of creating alternative meanings like deemed assent without textual basis.

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MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. End of ideology. Discuss

Destutt de Tracy described ideology as the “science of ideas,” broadly defined as a set of accepted truths by a group or nation without further scrutiny.

The concept of ideology has a complex reputation in political theory due to varying interpretations. Some thinkers argued for the end of ideology, linking it to totalitarianism (Hannah Arendt) or dismissing it as meta-narratives (Jean-François Lyotard). The debate on the end of ideology gained traction in the 1960s with scholars like Daniel Bell, Raymond Aron, Seymour Martin Lipset, and Edward Shils. They suggested that ideology became irrelevant as countries adopted similar technocratic models. Daniel Bell’s “The End of Ideology” argued that post-industrial societies develop similarly regardless of ideological differences. Lipset in “Political Man” contended that in Western societies, left-right distinctions are diminishing. In 1992, after the USSR’s collapse, Francis Fukuyama proposed in “The End of History” that Marxism-Leninism lost significance, marking the triumph of Western liberal capitalism.

Critics like Richard Titmuss, C. Wright Mills, C.B. Macpherson, and Alasdair MacIntyre challenged the end of ideology thesis. Titmuss argued that champions of this thesis ignored issues like economic monopolies and social disorganization within capitalism. Wright Mills criticized it as endorsing the status quo, while MacIntyre saw it as a product of its time and place. Michael Freeden emphasized that ideologies provide frameworks essential for political action. Ideologies compete in shaping societal understanding and public policy. As long as power remains central to politics, ideologies will remain relevant. For instance, Pratap Bhanu Mehta noted the ascendance of “Putinism” aligning with global political tendencies amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Clifford Geertz likened ideologies to cultural maps, providing symbols to understand complex social dynamics, ensuring their enduring relevance in political analysis.

Q. Salig S. Harrison termed the first two decades following the Independence as the “most dangerous decades” referring to the linguistic or communal conflicts which took place in the country at that time. Explain the above statement with reference to the ethnic challenges of India.

The challenges to nation-building and nation-state building in India related to ethnic identity have had significant implications for the country’s social fabric and governance. Here is a more detailed elaboration on each of the forms mentioned:

1. **Autonomy movements:** Autonomy movements typically arise from a desire for greater self-governance and decision-making powers within a specific region or community. Various ethnic groups in India, such as the Kashmiris, Nagas, and Mizos, have demanded autonomy or regional self-rule. These movements often seek to address historical grievances, preserve cultural identity, protect economic interests, and secure political representation. Autonomy movements challenge the centralized authority of the state and call for decentralized governance structures that recognize the distinct needs and aspirations of specific regions or communities.
2. **Demands for secession:** Some ethnic groups have gone beyond autonomy movements and called for outright secession from India. These demands for separate nationhood are often rooted in historical, cultural, linguistic, or religious differences. The most notable example is the demand for an independent Khalistan by some sections of the Sikh community in Punjab during the 1980s. While secessionist demands have not gained

widespread support, they reflect the deep-seated frustrations and grievances of certain ethnic communities that feel marginalized within the Indian state.

3. **Insurgency:** Insurgency refers to armed rebellions or uprisings by ethnic groups seeking political, social, or economic change through forceful means. Insurgencies often arise when peaceful means of redress are perceived as inadequate or ignored. For instance, the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir has been a long-standing challenge for the Indian state, with various militant groups seeking independence or merger with Pakistan. Insurgency movements involve armed confrontations with state security forces and have resulted in significant human rights abuses and disruptions in affected regions.
4. **Conflicts and riots on the basis of identity markers:** India has experienced numerous conflicts and riots based on identity markers such as language, religion, caste, and tribal identity. These conflicts often arise from perceived or real social, economic, or political inequalities between different communities. Examples include the communal violence between Hindus and Muslims during the partition of India, caste-based conflicts in various regions, and clashes between tribal communities and non-tribal settlers in resource-rich areas. These conflicts can lead to loss of life, displacement of communities, and deepening social divisions.

It is important to note that these forms of challenges to nation-building do not occur in isolation but are often interconnected. Ethnic identity-based movements and conflicts can stem from historical grievances, socio-economic disparities, cultural differences, and political marginalization. Addressing these challenges requires inclusive governance, equitable development, respect for cultural diversity, and mechanisms for meaningful participation and dialogue among various ethnic groups.

Q. Fascism is by no means a systematic doctrine. It is a queer mixture of incongruous elements. In the light of the above statement throw light on the liberal and Marxist critique of fascism

Fascism is a complex ideology that incorporates various elements and has been subject to criticism from both liberals and Marxists.

From a liberal perspective, fascism is criticized for its totalitarian nature and rejection of democratic principles and human rights. Liberals argue that fascism undermines individual liberty by subordinating individuals to the absolute authority of the state and reducing them to mere instruments to serve the state's goals. Fascism also emphasizes irrationality, in contrast to liberalism's focus on individual freedom and rationality. Additionally, fascism rejects the idea of natural and social equality, instead promoting hero-worship, elitism, and racist doctrines. Moreover, fascism undermines the pluralistic nature of society by establishing a monopoly of power through a single political party, eliminating free and open competition for political power. Lastly, fascism demolishes constitutional government, which is seen as essential for human freedom, progress, and the functioning of liberal democracy.

From a Marxist perspective, fascism is seen as an attempt to preserve capitalism, particularly during its decadent phase. Marxists argue that fascism creates a nationalistic myth to suppress class conflict and prevent international movements towards communism. Figures like Leon Trotsky have argued that the mass support for fascism comes from desperate and rootless middle-class individuals. Critics suggest that the widespread fear and uncertainty during times of crisis provide fertile ground for the rise of authoritarianism in fascist countries.

Thus, both liberals and Marxists criticize fascism for its rejection of democratic principles, human rights, and individual liberties.

Q. Examine the challenges to sovereignty of the State in the contemporary world.

(15 Marks)

In the contemporary world, the sovereignty of the state faces several challenges that undermine its traditional understanding as the absolute authority within its territory. These challenges arise from various dimensions, including globalization, transnational organizations, supranational entities, and the rise of non-state actors.

1. **Globalization:** The rapid integration of economies, cultures, and technologies has reduced the capacity of states to independently control their domestic affairs. Economic decisions are increasingly influenced by global markets, multinational corporations, and international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank, which can dictate economic policies.
2. **Supranational Organizations:** Institutions like the European Union (EU) challenge state sovereignty by creating laws and regulations that member states must follow, often superseding national laws. The EU's ability to enforce decisions on trade, immigration, and human rights illustrates how state sovereignty is compromised.
3. **International Law and Human Rights:** The growing importance of international law, particularly in human rights, constrains state actions within their borders. States are increasingly held accountable by international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), for actions that may violate global norms, reducing their sovereign autonomy.
4. **Non-State Actors:** The rise of powerful non-state actors, including multinational corporations, terrorist organizations, and transnational advocacy networks, poses significant challenges to state sovereignty. These entities can exert influence across borders, challenge state authority, and even destabilize governments.
5. **Cybersecurity and Information Warfare:** In the digital age, states face new threats from cyberattacks and information warfare that can undermine their sovereignty. These attacks, often originating from non-state actors or foreign governments, can disrupt critical infrastructure, manipulate public opinion, and challenge state control.
6. **Environmental Issues:** Global environmental challenges like climate change require cooperation beyond national borders. International agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, compel states to adhere to collective environmental goals, limiting their sovereign discretion in environmental policy.

While the concept of sovereignty remains central to the state, its absolute nature is increasingly questioned in a globalized world. States must navigate these challenges by balancing their sovereign authority with the demands of international cooperation and global governance.

SCHOLAR DIGEST: KNOW YOUR SCHOLARS

IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN



INTRODUCTION

Immanuel Maurice Wallerstein (September 28, 1930 – August 31, 2019) was an American sociologist and economic historian, renowned for pioneering the world-systems approach within sociology.

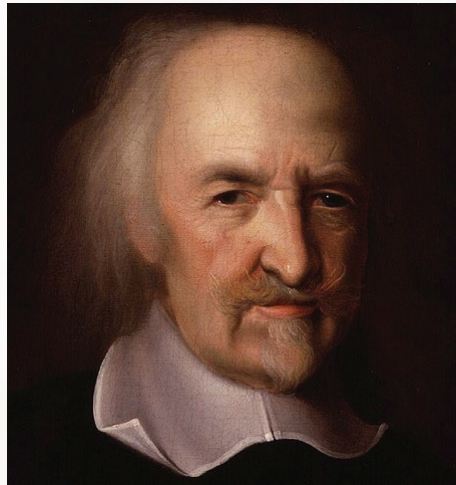
WORLD SYSTEM THEORY

World-systems theory, developed by American sociologist and historian Immanuel Wallerstein (1930–2019) in his 1974 work “The Modern World System,” presents a contrasting perspective to modernization theory. While modernization theory posits that economic development will eventually spread globally, Wallerstein’s theory argues that economically powerful regions primarily benefit themselves at the expense of peripheral areas. This concept can be traced back to a notion proposed by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870–1924), the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution (1917), who suggested that class struggles in capitalist Europe had, to some extent, shifted into the international economic arena, with Russia and China representing proletarian countries. Wallerstein’s focus was on the period when European capitalism first expanded into Africa and the Americas, but he also emphasized that world-systems theory could be applied to earlier systems where Europeans did not hold dominance.

In line with Wallerstein’s perspective, German-born American economist André Gunder Frank (1929–2005) argued for the existence of an ancient world system, indicating an early tension between core and periphery. He further extended the application of world-systems theory to the 20th century, asserting that “underdevelopment” wasn’t just a matter of falling behind but resulted from the exploitative economic power wielded by industrialized nations. This idea, often referred to as the “development of underdevelopment” or “dependency theory,” offered an alternative narrative for world history, one that lacked a positive outcome for the majority of humanity.

Similar to modernization theory, world-systems theory has faced criticism for its Eurocentric perspective. Additionally, many economists have questioned the empirical evidence supporting it. While the theory has been productive in raising important questions, its proposed answers have generated significant controversy.

THOMAS HOBBS



He was an English political philosopher who lived in the 17th century. He is best known for his work “Leviathan,” which laid the groundwork for modern political theory. Hobbes believed that humans are naturally selfish and violent, and that a strong, centralized government was necessary to keep society from descending into chaos.

STATE OF NATURE

Hobbes believed that the natural state of humans is one of war and chaos. In the absence of government, individuals are in a constant state of competition and conflict, where life is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” This state of nature is characterised by a “war of all against all,” where individuals are constantly at risk of being harmed or killed by others. According to Hobbes, this makes life in the state of nature “nasty, brutish, and short.”

SOCIAL CONTRACT

To escape the state of nature, Hobbes argued that individuals must enter into a social contract with each other. In this contract, individuals agree to give up some of their natural rights in exchange for protection from the government. The government, in turn, is responsible for maintaining law and order, and ensuring the safety and security of its citizens. Hobbes believed that the social contract was necessary to prevent society from descending into chaos and violence.

ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY

Hobbes believed that the best form of government was an absolute monarchy, where the ruler has unlimited power and authority. According to Hobbes, the sovereign should have complete control over all aspects of society, including religion and the economy. He believed that this was necessary to maintain order and prevent dissent. In Hobbes’ view, the ruler’s power was absolute and could not be challenged by the people.

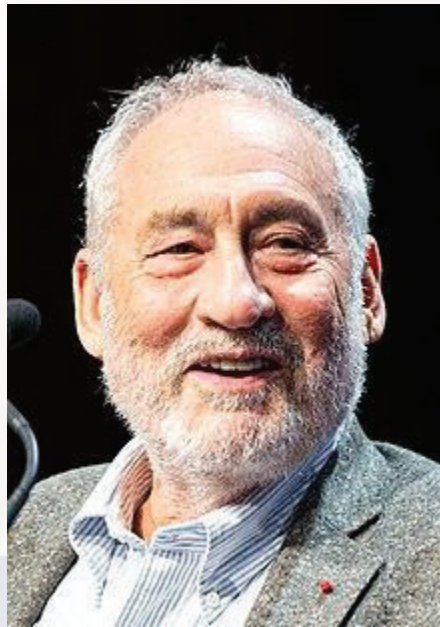
RELEVANCE TO MODERN POLITICS

Hobbes’ political philosophy has been influential in modern political theory, particularly in the areas of political sovereignty and social contract theory. His ideas about the need for a strong government to maintain order and prevent chaos have been echoed by many modern political thinkers. However, his view of absolute monarchy has been criticized as undemocratic and authoritarian.

CONCLUSION

Thomas Hobbes was a pioneering political philosopher whose work laid the foundation for modern political theory. His belief in the need for a strong, centralized government to prevent society from descending into chaos and violence remains relevant today. However, his view of absolute monarchy has been met with criticism and has been replaced by more democratic forms of government. Nonetheless, his contributions to the field of political philosophy have been significant and continue to be studied and debated by scholars today.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ



INTRODUCTION

Joseph Eugene Stiglitz, born on February 9, 1943, in Gary, Indiana, USA, is an American economist renowned for his pioneering work on the theory of markets characterized by unequal access to information. Alongside A. Michael Spence and George A. Akerlof, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2001 for his contributions to this field.

CONCEPT OF INFORMATION ASYMMETRY

Joseph Stiglitz is renowned for his significant contributions to the field of information economics, a sub-discipline of microeconomics that explores the impact of information and information systems on economic dynamics and decision-making. His groundbreaking work on information asymmetry played a pivotal role in securing him the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001.

Information asymmetry refers to an unequal distribution of information between participants in an economic exchange. In such situations, one party involved in the transaction may possess more comprehensive information compared to the other party. For instance, a buyer might be better informed than a seller, or a borrower could have greater insights into their ability to repay a loan compared to the lender.

One of Joseph Stiglitz's notable contributions is the development of the screening technique, a method designed to bridge the information gap necessary for optimizing economic transactions in markets. Stiglitz's screening technique has found widespread application, particularly in industries such as insurance and lending.

ENRICH YOUR ANSWER

Q. Analyze the concept of ideology from various viewpoints and distinguish between the ideas of the "End of Ideology" and the "End of History."

Approach to Answer

Intro: Define ideology
eg coherent set of ideas that provides the basis for organised political action which is intended to either preserve, modify or overthrow the existing political order.

Body

① Give different perspectives on ideology.

→ Marxist perspective

→ linked ideology to delusion & mystification
→ Gramsci linked it to hegemony.

→ Liberal perspective

* ideology as 'closed system of thoughts'

→ Conservative perspective

* ideology is equated with dogmatism of beliefs that are divorced from complex real world.

② Distinguish between 'End of Ideology' and 'End of History'

End of Ideology

Daniel Bell

* Economics has triumphed over politics and political ideology has come to an end

End of History

Francis Fukuyama

* With triumph of liberalism, the history of ideas has ended.

Q. Compare Ambedkar and Gandhi's views on social justice.

Q1) Compare Ambedkar and Gandhi's views on Social Justice.

Intro: Start answer by defining social justice.
Also give general introduction about Gandhi & Ambedkar

Body

A) Mention the differences between views of Gandhi & Ambedkar

- ① Ambedkar was critic of Manusmriti (Manuvad) while Gandhi believed in Varna system.
- ② Ambedkar held Vedas and Manusmriti responsible for social injustice while Gandhi didn't believe in it.
- ③ To achieve social justice
→ Ambedkar emphasised on Affirmative Actions
→ Gandhi emphasised on social reforms (raising the conscience of people)
- ④ Ambedkar preconditioned social justice to Nationalism while Gandhi believed that freedom struggle will result into social justice.

B) Mention similarities

- ① Both believed in social justice and eradication of poverty
- ② Both have vision of egalitarian society.
Ambedkar → a society free of contradictions
Gandhi → Ramrajya.

(Conclusion)

Can mention that both Gandhian and Ambedkar's ideas on social justice found place in Indian Constitution

Q: Discuss the features of Asymmetrical federalism

Approach

(Intro): Define federalism and Asymmetrical federalism.

(Body) Give features of Asymmetrical federalism

- Article 371 to 371 J in Part XXI of Constitution contain special provisions for eleven states.
- Special responsibility of Government for the development of certain areas of particular states.
- Presence of Union Territories in India.
- Unequal representation of states in Rajya Sabha (eg UP 31 seats, Goa-1 seat)
- Presence of 5th and 6th schedule to accommodate scheduled and tribal areas.

(Conclusion): Give justification of Asymmetrical federalism.

eg: to protect diversity without sacrificing unity or imposing uniformity.

Q. Explain the evolution of doctrine of basic structure and what are the criticisms levelled against the doctrine of basic structure.

Q Explain the evolution of doctrine of Basic Structure and what are the criticism levelled against the doctrine of basic structure?

Approach

(Intro): Define the doctrine of Basic Structure

(Body): Discuss the evolution of the doctrine

- Champokam Dorairajon Case 1951
- 1st Constitutional Amendment Act
- Shankari Prasad Case (1951)
- Sajjan Singh Case 1965
- Golokhnath Case 1967
- 24th Constitutional Amendment Act 1971
- Keswanand Bharti Case 1973
- 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- Minerva Mills Case 1980

(Criticism)

- No Unanimity in the bench on doctrine
- Judiciary oversteering letters of constitution and inventing its soul
- It brings judicial sovereignty from Constitutional morality.

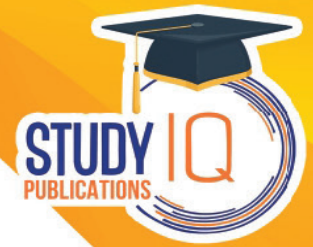
PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. In the federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935. Residuary Power were given to the
 - (a) Federal Legislature
 - (b) Governor General
 - (c) Provincial Legislature
 - (d) Provincial Governors
2. With reference to the “G20 Common Framework”, consider the following statements
 1. It is an initiative endorsed by the G20 together with the Paris Club.
 2. It is an initiative to support Low Income Countries with unsustainable debt.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. In which one of the following groups are all four countries members of G20?
 - (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
 - (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
 - (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
 - (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea
4. The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the
 - (a) Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
 - (b) Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership
 - (c) Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership

Answers

1. (b) Residuary powers were in the hands of the Governor General.
2. (c)
3. (a)
4. (d) If the Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament becomes competent to make laws on that matter. Such a resolution must be passed by the Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-third of its members present and voting.

UPSC IAS (Mains)



FEATURES OF THE COURSE -

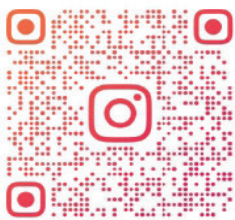
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