STUDY IQ PUBLICATIONS

PSIR Pulse

May 2026





By- Shashank Tyagi
Ex Consultant, Office of Minister Social Welfare, GNCTD
Faculty - PSIR Optional, StudyIQ IAS

Table of Content

1. **Geopolitics at Glance** **3**
   - India-Nordic Relations 3
   - India-UAE Relations 7
   - India-Vietnam Relations 11

2. **Indian Government and Politics (IGP)** **15**
   - Importance of Governor in Government Formation 15
   - Anti Defection Law 18
   - Tagore vs Gandhi 21

3. **Mains Practice Question** **23**

4. **Scholar Digest: Know Your Scholars** **24**
   - Lyotard 24

5. **Enrich Your Answer** **26**

6. **Prelims Practice Questions** **27**

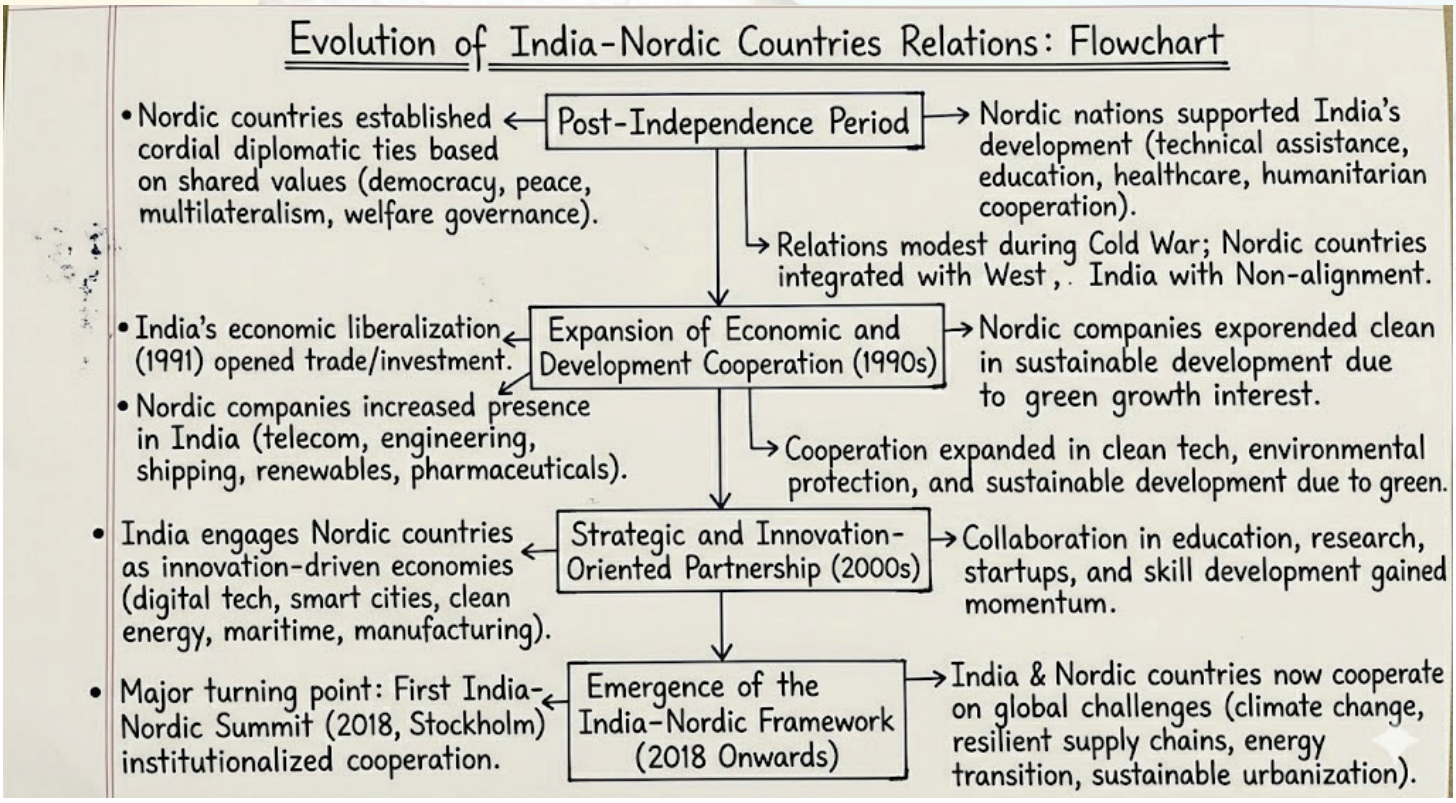
Geopolitics at Glance

India-Nordic Relations



Introduction

Recently, PM Narendra Modi attended the 3rd India-Nordic Summit at Oslo. The relationship between India and the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) has undergone a profound transformation. What once was a quiet, development-assistance-oriented connection has evolved into a future-focused, high-tech, and Green Strategic Partnership.



What are the various initiatives undertaken to strengthen the India–Nordic relationship?

1. **India-Nordic Summits:** The introduction of the plurilateral **India-Nordic Summit format** completely institutionalized the India-Nordic relationship, shifting the dialogue from bilateral pleasantries to a structured regional framework:
   - **1st India-Nordic Summit (Stockholm, 2018):** Focused on global security, economic growth, and innovation.
   - **2nd India-Nordic Summit (Copenhagen, 2022):** Emphasized post-pandemic economic recovery, climate action, and maritime cooperation.
   - **3rd India-Nordic Summit (Oslo, May 2026):** Marked a historic peak, formally upgrading ties to a comprehensive **Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership.**
2. **EFTA TEPA Agreement:** The signing and activation of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (which includes Norway and Iceland) has opened a pipeline for a targeted **$100 billion investment into India**, aiming to generate one million direct jobs.

India-EU FTA: Negotiations with EU-member Nordic states (Denmark, Sweden, Finland) are moving concurrently to further diversify supply chains and lower trade barriers.

3. **Green Strategic Partnership (Norway)**: India and Norway elevated their ties to this level, focusing on **carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS)** , offshore wind, and green shipping. This includes establishing **"Green Shipping Corridors"** to decarbonize maritime routes.
4. **Circular Economy**: India and Finland are jointly hosting the **World Circular Economic Forum** in Gujarat, highlighting shared initiatives in waste management and bioeconomy.
5. **Next-Gen Telecom:** Finland and Sweden are heavily integrated into India's 5G/6G rollout. Joint research initiatives have been launched specifically targeting **6G technologies**, AI, and quantum computing.
6. **Defense & Space:** Sweden's advanced manufacturing and defense capabilities have aligned with India's "Make in India" defense push. Nordic defense firms are increasingly looking at India's defense industrial corridors, leveraging provisions like 100% FDI.
7. **Maritime Cooperation:** India & Nordic countries are collaborating on green shipping corridors, sustainable fisheries management, and smart port logistics.
8. **Arctic Research:** India has expanded its scientific footprint in the Arctic region (India's '**Himadri**' research station in Svalbard, Norway). Through institutionalized polar research collaborations, Indian and Nordic scientists are jointly studying climate change, glacier melting, and cryosphere dynamics.

9. **Multilateral Reform:** The Nordic countries have consistently vocalized their support for India's permanent membership in a reformed **UN Security Council (UNSC)** and its bid for the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
10. **Indo-Pacific & Connectivity:** Both regions are actively working to link Nordic economies to the Indo-Pacific through corridors like the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**, ensuring secure and resilient supply chains.

What is the significance of India-Nordic Relationship?

1. **Strategic & Diplomatic Significance**: The Nordic countries, despite their small size, exert greater influence in global governance, multilateralism, and international institutions — areas where India, as a rising power, seeks wider partnerships. Both sides share commitments to a rules-based international order, democratic values, and multilateral frameworks like the UN.
2. **Economic & Trade**: Nordic countries are home to globally competitive companies in sectors like shipping (Denmark's Maersk), telecom (Nokia, Ericsson), energy, and life sciences. For India, Nordic firms are important sources of technology, investment, and innovation.
3. **Climate & Clean Energy**: The Nordics are world leaders in green technology — wind energy, hydropower, carbon capture, and sustainable urban planning. India, with its massive climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and its National Solar Mission, sees the Nordics as critical partners in its clean energy transition.
4. **Technology & Innovation**: Nordic nations consistently rank among the world's most innovative. Collaboration in digital infrastructure, fintech, AI, cybersecurity, and the startup ecosystem is growing. India's large and skilled tech workforce complements Nordic technological leadership.
5. **Arctic & Maritime**: Norway and Iceland give the relationship an Arctic dimension. As India develops its **Arctic Policy** (released in 2022), Nordic expertise in polar research, sustainable Arctic development, and maritime governance becomes increasingly relevant.
6. **People-to-People & Education**: There is a growing Indian diaspora in Nordic countries, and academic exchanges, research partnerships, and cultural ties are strengthening the foundation of the relationship.

What are the challenges in India-Nordic relationship?

1. **Trade Asymmetry and Barriers**: India's trade with Nordic nations collectively stood at $19 billion in 2024, which, while growing, remains well below the relationship's potential. The target to double bilateral trade by 2030 is ambitious but may be difficult to achieve given persistent trade barriers, particularly for Indian exports in textiles and pharmaceuticals.
2. **India's Relationship with Russia**: India's relationship with Russia is a key stumbling block. India's foreign policy is often misunderstood in Nordic countries. The Nordic countries, now deeply embedded in NATO and the EU's security architecture, are particularly sensitive to India's continued defence and energy engagements with Russia amid the Ukraine war.
3. **Human Rights and Democratic Values Friction**: EU and Nordic concerns over India's internet restrictions, freedom of expression, and human rights create periodic friction in diplomatic engagements. The Nordics, which consistently rank at the top of global democracy and press freedom indices, sometimes vocalize concerns about democratic backsliding that India views as interference in internal affairs.
4. **India Lagging Behind China as an Economic Partner**: While India is emerging as a key economic and technological partner for the Nordics, it still lags behind China in terms of overall economic engagement, making it harder to displace China-centric supply chains and business ties despite the political will on both sides.
5. **Arctic Complexity**: Since 2022, the Arctic region has faced rising tensions due to Russia's war in Ukraine and its growing military presence near Nordic countries. At the same time, China is expanding its role in the Arctic through the "**Polar Silk Road**" initiative to access new trade routes and natural resources. Balancing relations with both Russia and China makes Arctic cooperation between India and Nordic countries more challenging.
6. **Visa and Mobility Barriers**: Strict visa policies remain a challenge for Indian workers and professionals seeking to work in Nordic countries, even as Indian professionals are increasingly in demand in Nordic tech and healthcare sectors.
7. **Scale vs. Niche:** Nordic companies are typically smaller, highly specialized niche players (in fields like green

hydrogen, carbon mineralization, or biotech). Scaling these technologies to fit the sheer volume of the Indian market often overwhelms Nordic corporate structures, which are unaccustomed to navigating the complex, multi-tiered Indian bureaucratic and regulatory landscape.

What should be the way forward?

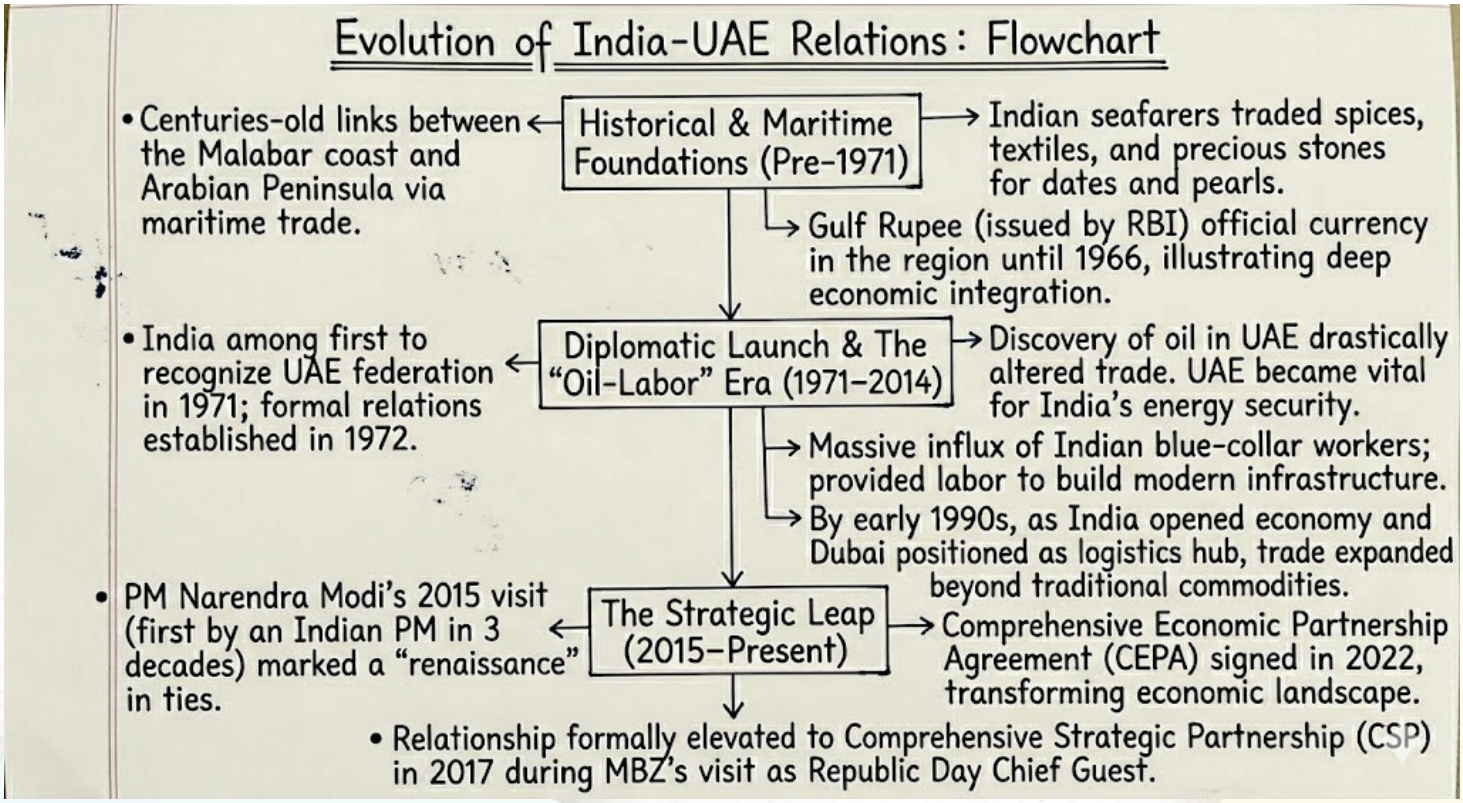
1. **Institutionalizing the Partnership**: Establish a **Permanent Secretariat** to ensure continuity between summits, monitor MoU implementation, drive agenda-setting year-round, and to take the relationship beyond the periodic summits.
2. **Leveraging the India-EFTA TEPA & India-EU FTA:** The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with Norway and Iceland must be operationalized effectively, with both sides actively reducing non-tariff barriers and facilitating investment flows toward the $100 billion target. Since Denmark, Finland, and Sweden are EU members, the India-EU FTA should be used to unlock deeper market access.
3. **Green Technology and Climate as the Anchor**: The elevation to a **Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership** is the relationship's most promising pillar. To leverage it fully, India & Nordic countries should focus on initiatives like joint green hydrogen projects, technology transfer framework, carbon market cooperation, triangular development cooperation (Nordic countries and India can co-fund clean energy projects in the Global South).
4. **Managing India-Russia Relationship Diplomatically**: India should proactively communicate its strategic autonomy doctrine to Nordic partners, framing it as a stabilizing rather than destabilizing posture. Track-II dialogues between Indian and Nordic think tanks can help bridge the perception gap on India's Russia policy.
5. **Building a Structured Defence and Security Architecture**: India should actively engage Nordic countries — especially Sweden (Saab), Norway (naval technology), and Finland (surveillance) — in its Defence Industrial Corridors under the 100% FDI framework. Cybersecurity cooperation, where Nordic nations are world leaders, should be elevated to a dedicated bilateral track.
6. **Arctic Engagement**: India should build on its Arctic Policy (2022) and engage Nordic nations as primary partners in Arctic science, shipping route development, and environmental monitoring. Jointly countering China's Polar Silk Road ambitions through transparent, rules-based Arctic governance frameworks would align India and Nordic interests.
7. **Streamlined Visa Regimes:** A dedicated **Nordic-India Mobility Partnership**, similar to what India has with some EU states, would facilitate easier movement of students, professionals, and researchers. The Nordic nations should introduce streamlined, fast-track visa categories specifically for Indian STEM professionals, researchers, and academic exchange students involved in joint green-tech and digital projects.



INTRODUCTION

India and the United Arab Emirates share a long-standing relationship shaped by trade, cultural exchanges, and strong community connections across the Arabian Sea. Trade in pearls, dates, spices, textiles, and fisheries connected western India with the Gulf region for centuries.

Recently, PM Narendra Modi had a brief stopover in Abu Dhabi, days after UAE came under Iranian missile & drone attacks. Criticizing the attack on the Emirates, PM Modi said that India stands shoulder to shoulder with the UAE.



What are the various initiatives to boost India-UAE relations?

Energy Security	• **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) Expansion:** The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) have entered into structural pacts to store millions of barrels of Emirati crude in India's underground strategic reserves. This guarantees India emergency access to oil during geopolitical supply chain chokepoints. • **Long-Term LPG & LNG Sourcing:** Moving away from volatile spot-market purchases, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and ADNOC finalized robust, long-term supply agreements for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to ensure structural price stability for Indian consumers.
Economic	• **CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement):** Implemented to eliminate or drastically reduce tariffs on over 90% of products, this agreement successfully pushed bilateral merchandise trade past **$100 billion** for the first time in the 2025–2026 fiscal year. Bolstered by this success, both nations have officially committed to an ambitious target of **$200 billion in bilateral trade by 2032.** • **Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS):** This operationalized mechanism allows Indian and Emirati businesses to bypass the US dollar entirely, settling trade invoices directly in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams. • **Digital Payment Linking (UPI & JANI/Jaywan):** India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been interconnected with the UAE's instant payment platform. This integration allows seamless cross-border fund transfers and card swiping for travelers, dramatically reducing transaction costs for the massive Indian diaspora.
Security	• **Joint Military Exercises:** – **Desert Cyclone (Army):** This is the flagship joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces. It focuses explicitly on **urban warfare, counter-insurgency, and desert combat operations.** – **Zayed Talwar (Navy):** A bilateral naval exercise designed to enhance interoperability between the Indian Navy and the UAE Navy. It focuses on maritime search and rescue, anti-piracy operations, air defense tracking, and securing vital Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea. – **Desert Eagle (Air Force):** Periodic tactical fighter exercises where the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the UAE Air Force engage in simulated, high-intensity aerial combat maneuvers. • **Zero Tolerance on Extremism:** Both nations have created a joint working group on counter-terrorism. This has led to highly effective intelligence sharing regarding online radicalization, the movement of transnational terrorists, and the tracking of extremist recruitment networks across the Middle East and South Asia.
Technological	• **8-Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster:** A breakthrough technological initiative signed between India's C-DAC and the UAE's AI giant, G42, to co-develop an ultra-high-speed, sovereign supercomputing cluster to advance AI research, climate modeling, and data analytics. • **Integrated Space Ecosystem:** Moving beyond simple satellite launches, both nations have agreed on an initiative aimed at full-scale commercialization of the space sector. This includes building end-to-end infrastructure, launching joint space missions, and fostering cross-border aerospace startups. • **Project SHANTI (Civil Nuclear Cooperation):** Enabled by India's legislative advancements in advanced energy, both nations have established a roadmap to collaborate on advanced reactor systems, small modular reactors (SMRs), and mutual maintenance workflows for nuclear power plants.

Misc	• **I2U2 Food Security Corridor:** Funded by UAE, this initiative integrates Israeli water-saving technology with Indian agricultural land. High-tech **Food Parks** are being built across India to process and package crops directly for dedicated, cold-chain export corridors to the UAE, creating guaranteed demand for Indian farmers and food security for the Gulf. • **Global Off-shore Campuses:** Elevating cultural and academic soft power, elite Indian institutions have physically expanded into the UAE, highlighted by operational offshore campuses of the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi in Abu Dhabi** and the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad in Dubai.**

What is the Significance of India-UAE Relations?

Geopolitical Significance	• **Bridge to the Arab World:** The UAE, under its visionary leadership, is a pivotal state in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the wider Islamic world. Strong ties with the UAE enhance India's standing and diplomacy across the Middle East. • **Balancing Act in a Multipolar Region:** Both nations share a preference for strategic autonomy. The partnership helps balance other regional powers and provides India a stable, influential partner amid complex regional dynamics (e.g., Iran-Saudi tensions). • **Counter-Balancing:** The partnership provides India with a stable anchor in West Asia, especially as a counterweight to shifting dynamics like the 2025 Saudi-Pakistan defense pact. • **Multilateral Forums:** The UAE is a key partner for India in mini-laterals like the **I2U2 Group** (India-Israel-UAE-USA) and within BRICS and the UN. This amplifies India's voice on global issues.
Economic & Trade Significance	• **Trade Powerhouse:** The UAE is India's **3rd largest trading partner** (after US and China) and **2nd largest export destination**. Bilateral trade reached **$100 billion** in FY 2024–25, aided by the landmark **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** signed in 2022. • **Investments:** UAE sovereign wealth funds are major investors in India across infrastructure, renewable energy, technology, and logistics. The UAE committed to a **$75 billion investment** in India's infrastructure, signaling a move from being just a trade partner to a long-term stakeholder. • **Gateway to West Asia & Africa:** The UAE's world-class logistics hubs (like Jebel Ali Port) serve as a critical **trade and connectivity corridor** for Indian goods to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.
Energy Security	• **Energy Supplier**: The UAE is a **stable and reliable energy supplier** for India, meeting a significant portion of its crude oil and LNG needs. Last year, UAE was 4th largest source of crude oil, meeting nearly 11% of the requirement. UAE is the largest source of LPG, catering to ~40% of the requirement. • **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):** The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) was the first foreign mega-corporation to invest in India's underground strategic oil reserves (such as the Mangaluru facility). • **Renewable Energy**: Growing collaboration in **renewable energy**, with UAE investing in India's massive solar energy sector.
Diaspora & Remittances	• The **3.5 million-strong Indian community** in the UAE (~35% of its population) is the **largest expatriate group** and the backbone of the UAE's workforce, contributing significantly to its economy and society. The diaspora has transitioned from predominantly blue-collar labor to high-earning white-collar professionals, tech entrepreneurs, and academics. • The UAE is the **largest single-source of remittances to India** (over **$15-18 billion annually**), vital for India's foreign exchange reserves and household incomes in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. • The community acts as a **living bridge**, fostering deep people-to-people ties and cultural understanding.

Strategic & Security Cooperation	• **Counter-Terrorism & Intelligence:** Close cooperation on counter-terrorism, deradicalization, and intelligence sharing is crucial for regional stability and for addressing mutual security threats. • **Defense Ties:** Regular joint military exercises (air force 'Desert Eagle', naval exercises), port calls, and defense dialogues. The UAE is a key security partner in the volatile Gulf region. • **Maritime Security:** Collaboration to secure vital sea lanes in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf, which are lifelines for India's energy and trade flows.
Cultural & Soft Power	• The inauguration of the **BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi** is a historic symbol of religious tolerance and deep cultural respect, significantly boosting India's soft power.

What are the Challenges in India-UAE Relations?

1. **Economic & Trade Frictions:**
   - **Trade Imbalance:** While trade volume is huge, the balance often tilts toward the UAE (due to oil & gold imports). India's exports to the UAE are heavily dominated by traditional sectors like gems, jewelry, textiles, and refined petroleum. Expanding India's share in high-value manufacturing, engineering goods, and technology services remains slow due to non-tariff barriers.
   - **Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):** Indian exporters, particularly in the agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors, frequently encounter strict sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Despite the CEPA, issues like stringent product standards, certification hurdles, and customs procedures can act as de facto barriers for Indian exporters.
   - **Oil Dependency:** While the relationship is diversifying into renewables and nuclear (under the SHANTI Law), the bulk of trade is still anchored in hydrocarbons. This makes both economies vulnerable to global oil price shocks and the accelerating global shift toward green energy.
2. **Geopolitical Tightrope:**
   - **UAE-Pakistan Relations:** The UAE has historically close ties with Pakistan, including military cooperation and hosting of Pakistani diaspora. While the relationship with India has grown, the UAE continues to engage with Pakistan, which can be a source of sensitivity, especially during India-Pakistan crises (e.g. post-Pulwama or Operation Sindoor).
   - **Iran-UAE Tightrope:** Following intense geopolitical flare-ups in the region – such as the recent missile and drone strikes targeting the UAE – India has had to walk a narrow diplomatic tightrope. Indian Prime Minister explicitly condemned the strikes, standing "shoulder-to-shoulder" with Abu Dhabi. However, India must simultaneously manage its vital strategic relationship with Tehran, particularly regarding the operation of the Chabahar Port and transit access to Central Asia.
   - **China's Growing Role in the UAE:** China is the UAE's largest trading partner. The UAE is a key node in China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). Chinese ports, tech companies (Huawei, 5G), and military cooperation in the UAE create strategic competition for India, which sees the UAE as a partner for the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC).
   - **Vulnerability of Maritime Chokepoints:** The modern maritime crisis underscores a shared vulnerability. A major portion of India's energy imports passes directly through the **Strait of Hormuz**. Any blockade or escalation by regional actors directly threatens India's domestic energy security and food corridor logistics with the UAE.
3. **Diaspora-related Issues:**
   - **Economic Vulnerability of Blue-Collar Workers:** Despite a massive shift toward high-skilled white-collar professionals, a significant portion of the diaspora remains in low-wage construction and domestic sectors. Issues related to harsh working conditions, delayed wage payments, and the strict *Kafala* (sponsorship) system require constant diplomatic intervention.
   - **Visa and Labor Reforms:** The UAE's evolving labor laws (like the **"Emiratization" Policy** *[increase the national workforce in the private sector]*) and visa regulations, while progressive, can create uncertainty for the large Indian workforce, especially blue-collar workers.

What should be the Way Forward?

1. **Deepen the Economic Integration**: The current CEPA is a foundation, not the ceiling. The focus must shift to **value-added sectors** and **financial integration.** Move beyond raw materials (oil, gems) and low-skill exports. Target co-production in:
   - **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices:** Create a joint regulatory fast-track for Indian generics and medical devices to access UAE ports for re-export to Africa and the Middle East.
   - **Aerospace & Defense:** Move from joint exercises to joint manufacturing (e.g., co-developing UAVs, cybersecurity

hardware, or maintenance hubs for Indian military platforms in UAE).

- **Semiconductors & Electronics:** Leverage UAE sovereign wealth and Indian talent to build chip design or assembly units under India's semiconductor mission.

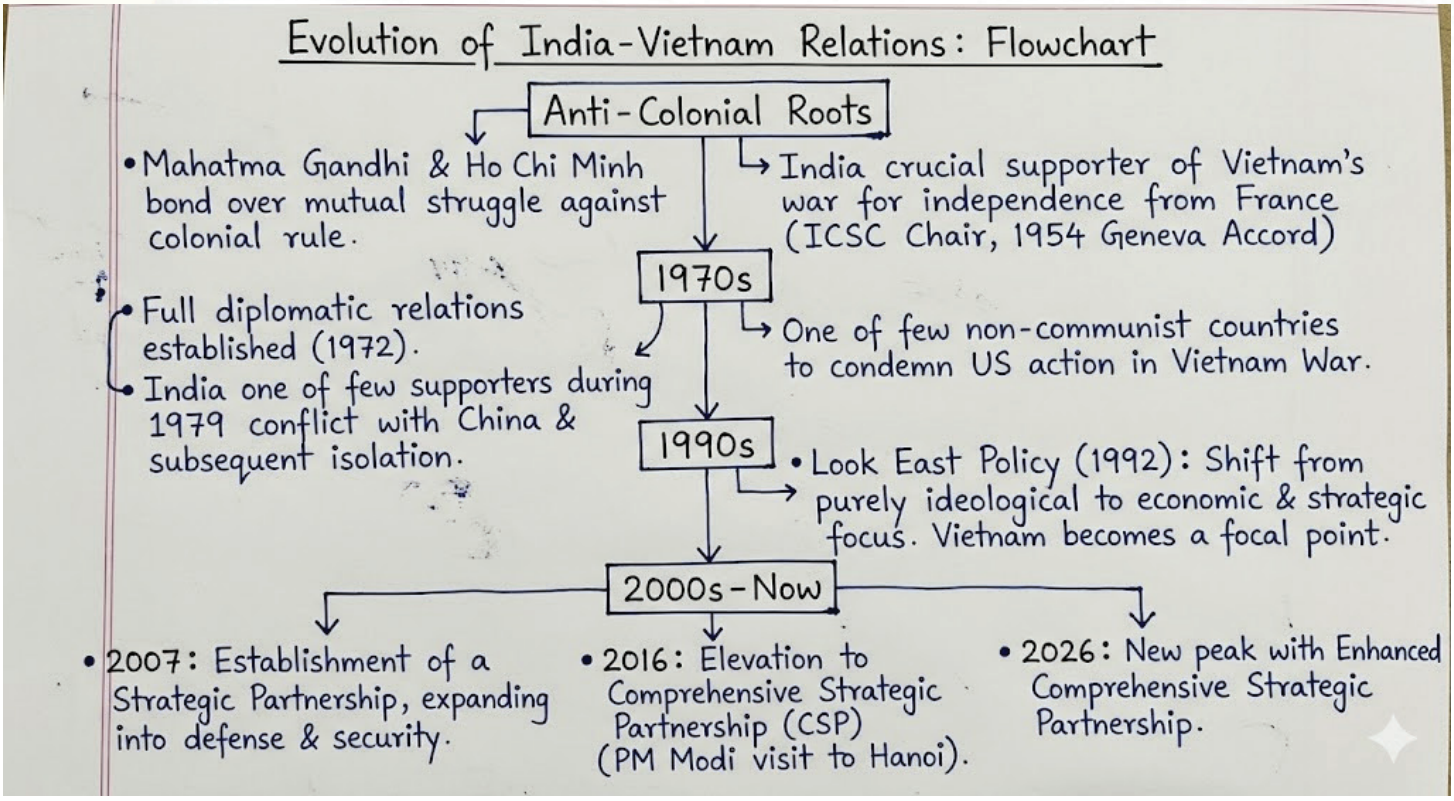
2. **Manage Geopolitical Frictions Maturely**:
   - **On China:** Instead of demanding the UAE to choose sides, offer a superior "India-UAE model" (democracy + market + technology) versus the "China-UAE model" (autocracy + credit + infrastructure). Let the UAE benefit from both while tilting towards India on strategic issues (like IMEC).
   - **On Pakistan:** Institutionalize a "no-surprises" protocol. The UAE should inform India in advance of any high-level military or political engagement with Pakistan, and India should similarly share its concerns. This builds trust without requiring the UAE to break ties.
   - **On Iran:** Maintain a "separation of tracks." Both nations can cooperate on maritime security with the US while continuing trade with Iran. A joint India-UAE working group on sanctions compliance will help navigate US secondary sanctions.
3. **Institutionalize a 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:** Like India has with the US and Australia, a regular dialogue between the Indian External Affairs & Defence Ministers and their UAE counterparts (Foreign & Defence) to coordinate on maritime, air, and cyber security.
4. **Operationalizing IMEEC and MAITRI:** Both nations must expedite the technical and customs integration of the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)** and Project **MAITRI**. This includes harmonizing digital custom clearances and container-tracking systems to ensure that goods move seamlessly from Indian ports to Jebel Ali, and onward via rail.
5. **Scaling the Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS):** While the framework to trade in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams exists, its adoption must be scaled beyond major oil and gold conglomerates. Incentivizing small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to use the LCSS will drastically reduce dollar-dependence and transaction costs.
6. **Joint Skill-Mapping and Certification:** As the UAE pushes its "Emiratization" policy and transitions toward a high-tech economy, India's National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) should partner with UAE authorities to align Indian vocational training with modern Emirati job requirements. This will ensure that Indian workers transition from low-wage manual labor to high-value technical and service roles.
7. **Digital Upgradation of Worker Portals:** Integrating India's *e-Migrate* system directly with the UAE's Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) digital platform will eliminate predatory middle-men, automate contract verification, and guarantee transparent wage payouts, effectively insulating vulnerable blue-collar workers.

INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS



Introduction

The President of Vietnam is currently on a state visit to India, an occasion that has seen the two nations upgrade their ties to an "Elevated Comprehensive Partnership." During this visit, 13 separate accords were finalized, notably a deal concerning essential minerals. Additionally, both governments have committed to hitting a $25 billion bilateral trade goal by the year 2030 while pledging to step up their cooperation in the acquisition of military hardware. Vietnam represents a primary anchor of India's 'Vision MAHASAGAR' and its 'Act East Policy.' Furthermore, India intends to use its bond with Vietnam to broaden its influence within ASEAN, as both nations maintain a unified perspective regarding the Indo-Pacific theater.



What is the significance of the India-Vietnam relationship?

Strategic & Security Significance: Vietnam stands as the most vital component of India's "Act East Policy." A robust alliance with Vietnam grants India a strategic foothold in the South China Sea, which helps guarantee that the Indo-Pacific remains an open and unrestricted zone.

India is regarded as a "steadfast ally" and a dependable partner for military modernization. By partnering with India on maritime reconnaissance and BrahMos missile systems, Vietnam is able to vary its security sources and uphold its "Four No's" defense strategy (which prohibits military alliances, taking sides in international conflicts, hosting foreign bases, or using force in global relations). This enables Vietnam to manage its complicated ties with China without relying exclusively on any one major power.

Economic Significance:

- **Supply Chain Resilience:** In 2026, the two nations inked a major MoU regarding Critical Minerals and Rare Earths. This was a calculated attempt to minimize dependence on Chinese monopolies and guarantee the supply of raw materials required for advanced industries like semiconductors and EVs.
- **Trade Complementarity:** Vietnam relies on Indian raw materials such as cotton, iron, steel, and medical supplies to drive its industrial growth. Conversely, India buys mobile parts, electronics, and chemicals from Vietnam to enhance its own digital systems.
- **Digital Connectivity:** The 2026 integration of India's UPI with Vietnam's financial payment networks has transformed how tourists and small enterprises conduct trade.
- **Voice of the Global South:** As two of the most rapidly expanding economies in 2026, they leverage their alliance to advocate for the needs of developing nations within the UN and ASEAN frameworks.

- **Gateway to ASEAN:** Vietnam is a highly influential and energetic member of ASEAN. A solid partnership with Vietnam acts as a vital conduit for India to strengthen its strategic, cultural, and economic ties with the full 10-country bloc. In exchange, India offers Vietnam a vast consumer base and a strategic partnership within the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Defense and Security Cooperation: A central pillar of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic partnership is collaboration in security and defense. Vietnam is India's most reliable military ally in the Southeast Asian region. This level of cooperation assists India in acquiring important operational experience in the area, vetting its military equipment, and helping a like-minded country build its internal capacity.

Civilizational Ties: A shared history of Buddhist heritage creates a "soft power" foundation that ensures the public remains supportive of political and defense-related alliances.

What are the challenges in the India-Vietnam relationship?

- **Untapped Trade Potential:** Economic exchange is still performing under its maximum capacity. The previous $15 billion trade goal has seen multiple delays. Additionally, India experiences a trade imbalance with Vietnam, as Vietnamese shipments of machinery and electronics outweigh India's exports.
- **Tariff & Non-Tariff Barriers:** The trade agreement between India and ASEAN (AITIGA) features inconsistent tariff rules, leaving numerous products categorized as sensitive. Furthermore, non-tariff obstacles—such as regulatory friction, varied technical benchmarks, and complicated certification—notably increase the cost of doing business.
- **Logistical Inefficiencies:** A lack of robust maritime connections and direct shipping paths leads to high transport costs, making bilateral commerce less competitive than trade with countries that have superior infrastructure.
- **Lack of Direct Links:** Geography separates the two by the Bay of Bengal, and there is a lack of efficient sea or land pathways. While the Trilateral Highway involving Thailand, Myanmar, and India is being built, the plan to extend it east to Vietnam is still in the discussion phase with no active projects under implementation.
- **Economic Dependency:** Despite various strategic tensions, China remains Vietnam's primary trading partner and a major source of foreign investment. Vietnam is forced to balance its security ties with India against the potential for economic blowback from Beijing.
- **Vietnam's Balancing Act:** Vietnam's foreign policy is centered on "diversification" to prevent being too dependent on a single nation. While it maintains a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with India, it recently upgraded its ties with China to a "Community with a Shared Future."
- **Defense and Arms Supply Challenges:** Although India provides military gear, intense competition from the US, Israel, and Russia restricts India's share of the Vietnamese defense market. Furthermore, India's own export systems and industrial defense capacity are still maturing.
- **Limited People-to-People and Cultural Exchange:** Even with ancient links like Buddhism and the Cham culture, modern awareness of each other within both populations is relatively low. The Indian community living in Vietnam is small, which weakens the human bridge compared to India's connections with places like the US or Singapore.

Initiatives to Strengthen the India-Vietnam Relationship

Political Cooperation

- **Elevated Partnership (2026):** The diplomatic bond reached a new milestone as it was officially rebranded as an "Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," representing a major progression from the 2016 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:** The two nations have launched a Strategic Diplomacy-Defense Dialogue (2+2) featuring their respective Defense and Foreign Ministers. India maintains this high-level diplomatic arrangement with only a few select partners, such as Japan and the United States.

Economic & Trade Cooperation

- **Trade Target:** A goal has been set to increase bilateral trade to $25 billion by the year 2030.
- **UPI-VietQR Interoperability:** In a significant 2026 development, Vietnam's NAPAS and India's NIPL signed an accord to integrate their payment architectures. This enables frictionless cross-border QR code transactions, providing major benefits to small businesses and travelers.
- **IT and Software Services:** An agreement between India's Ministry of Electronics & IT and Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology prioritizes deep-tech cooperation, specifically regarding semiconductor supply chains, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.
- **Rare Earths Partnership:** India and Vietnam's ITRRE signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the collaborative exploration and refinement of rare earth elements. With Vietnam holding the second-largest reserves globally, this

alliance aims to establish a supply chain independent of China.

Defense and Strategic Security Cooperation

- **Shared Vision 2030:** Military collaboration is steered by the "Joint Vision Statement on India-Viet Nam Defence Partnership towards 2030," which emphasizes joint military exercises, industrial cooperation, and capacity building.
- **BrahMos Missile Deal:** Talks for the acquisition of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile—a deal worth roughly $629 million—are in the final stages. This marks a transition from simple capacity building toward active cooperation in deterrence.
- **Naval Support:** India is moving forward with a $500 million defense credit line. This includes upgrading Vietnamese submarines and ships and constructing 14 high-speed patrol vessels.
- **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI):** In 2026, Vietnam formally joined the IPOI, aligning its interests with India's strategy for disaster relief and maritime security in the region.

Cultural Cooperation

- **Preserving Heritage:** To reinforce historical civilizational connections, India is providing funds for the preservation and digitization of ancient Cham manuscripts of Indian origin located in Vietnam.
- **Academic Chairs:** Through the ICCR, new India Studies Chairs have been inaugurated at the University of Da Nang and in Ho Chi Minh City.
- **Nalanda University Link:** A new partnership between Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Nalanda University has been established to train Vietnamese researchers and officials in governance and public policy.

What should be the way forward?

Institutionalizing the Relationship

- Conduct yearly summit-level talks to maintain political drive rather than meeting only on the sidelines of larger forums.
- Form a Joint Strategic Vision Committee led by foreign ministers to conduct quarterly progress assessments.
- Launch a Track 1.5 or Track 2 dialogue system that brings together business leaders, retired diplomats, and think tanks to produce innovative strategies.

Boost Economic Ties, Trade, and Investment

- Define sector-specific plans with practical, time-sensitive trade goals, such as reaching $20 billion by 2028.
- Address the trade imbalance by actively marketing Indian agricultural products, machinery, IT services, and pharmaceuticals in Vietnam.
- Prompt Indian firms—particularly in manufacturing, textiles, and electronics—to establish supply chain hubs in Vietnam as part of a "China+1" strategy.
- Create a "Fast Track Investment Mechanism" for Indian companies, providing them with benefits similar to those enjoyed by South Korean and Japanese investors in Vietnam.

Deepening Defense and Security Cooperation

- **Accelerate BrahMos Transfer:** Finalizing the delivery of the BrahMos system would serve as a powerful sign of strategic confidence and highlight India's role as a reliable exporter of defense technology.
- **Broaden Naval Drills:** Increase joint exercises in the South China Sea to improve operational coordination and signal a mutual commitment to maritime freedom of navigation.
- **Provide Indian-made Defense Equipment:** Offer ammunition, radar systems, and patrol ships through favorable credit terms to help Vietnam reduce its reliance on Russian arms, especially amid post-Ukraine war supply issues.
- **Found a Defense Industry Working Group:** Create a bilateral body to jointly develop or produce military hardware tailored to Vietnam's specific operational requirements.

Enhancing Physical and Digital Connectivity

- Promote the establishment of direct shipping routes between Vietnamese hubs (Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City) and Indian ports (Vishakhapatnam, Chennai).
- Expand direct flight options between major cities in both nations to encourage business travel and tourism.
- **Partner on Digital Public Infrastructure:** India can share its digital governance models, payment systems, and [Aadhaar-equivalent Redacted] frameworks with Vietnam as it undergoes rapid digital transformation.
- Investigate an "India-Vietnam digital corridor" to support startup ecosystems, e-commerce, and fintech.

Strengthening Multilateral Alignment

- Systematically coordinate diplomatic stances at the United Nations, UNCLOS tribunals, the East Asia Summit, and ASEAN.
- India should look for alternative routes to join RCEP or negotiate bilateral trade upgrades to offset its absence from the bloc.

- Collaborate on modernizing the WTO, reforming the UNSC, and securing climate finance, areas where both countries share significant interests.

Expanding People-to-People and Cultural Ties

- Provide a substantial increase in scholarships for Vietnamese students to study in India, particularly in business, medicine, and STEM fields.
- Utilize Buddhist cultural diplomacy, pilgrimage tours, cultural festivals, and restoration efforts to forge deeper societal bonds.
- Open Vietnamese cultural centers in Mumbai and Delhi, and Indian Cultural Centers in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.
- Actively support Indian soft power, such as Ayurveda and Yoga, within Vietnam where interest in these practices is increasing.

Indian Government and Politics (IGP)

Importance of Governor in Government Formation



Introduction

In the recently held Tamil Nadu Assembly elections (2026), the Governor's role in government formation became a major constitutional and political issue because the verdict resulted in a hung Assembly. TVK emerged as the single largest party but initially lacked a clear majority in the Assembly. The Governor reportedly asked TVK to furnish support from at least 118 MLAs before government formation, leading to political controversy and debate regarding constitutional conventions. Constitutional experts emphasized that the proper method to determine majority is a floor test in the Assembly rather than subjective assessment by the Governor.

What is the role & powers of Governor in Indian polity?

1. **Constitutional & Ceremonial Role:**

a. The Governor is the constitutional head of the State executives.

b. The executive power of the State is vested in the Governor (**Article 154**), and all executive actions of the State government are formally taken in their name (**Article 166**).

c. The Governor acts as a bridge between the Centre and the State.

d. He/she enjoys various executive, legislative, financial and discretionary powers.

2. **Constitutional Provisions:**

a. **Article 153:** Provides for a Governor for one or more than one states.

b. **Article 154:** The executive powers of the state are vested in the Governor and can be exercised directly or through subordinate officers in accordance with the Constitution.

c. **Article 155:** Provides for the appointment of the Governor by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

d. **Article 156:** Provides the term of office of Governor-Appointed for a period of five years and holds office during the pleasure of the President. Pleasure of the President means that he can be removed anytime by the President, even before the expiry of five years.

e. **Article 157: Qualifications** – He should be a citizen of India and must have completed the age of 35 years.

f. **Article 164(1)**: Provides that the Chief Minister of a State shall be appointed by the Governor, while other ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

3. **Discretionary Powers:** Governor has two types of discretion in the execution of his work:

Constitutional Discretion	• **Article 200 & 201 = Reservation of Bills:** The Governor can reserve certain bills for the consideration of the President. • **Article 356 = President's Rule Report:** The Governor can send a report to the President declaring the failure of the constitutional machinery in the state. This action is taken in personal discretion without ministerial advice. • **Article 239 (2) = Administrator of Adjacent Union Territory:** Where the Governor is also appointed as administrator of some Union Territory in respect of administration of such territories he will act independently of his Cabinet. • **Article 167 = Seeking Information:** He seeks information from the Chief Minister with regard to the administrative and legislative matters of the state. • **Special Tribal/Regional Responsibilities:** Determining royalties payable to Tribal District Councils (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram).
Situational Discretion	• **Appointment of Chief Minister**: When no single party has a clear majority, the Governor must use discretion to invite the leader most likely to command a majority in the House. • **Dismissal of Council of Ministers**: If the Council of Ministers loses the confidence of the House or acts unconstitutionally, the Governor may dismiss them. • **Dissolution of Assembly**: The Governor may dissolve the Legislative Assembly if a government loses a vote of confidence and no alternative government can be formed. • **Asking for a Floor Test:** When the Governor has reasonable grounds to believe the government has lost its majority, they can direct the CM to prove it on the floor of the House.

What are the recommendations of various commissions regarding the Governor's role in the formation of government?

Sarkaria Commission (1988)	The Sarkaria Commission was the first to systematically address this issue. It recommended that the Governor, when inviting a party to form a government, should be guided by the following **'order of preference'**: 1. **Pre-poll alliance:** First, invite the coalition of parties that was formed before the elections and commands the largest support. 2. **Single largest party:** If no pre-poll alliance has a majority, invite the single largest party that stakes a claim to form the government with the support of others. 3. **Post-poll coalition:** Next, consider a coalition formed after the election, with all partner parties joining the government.

	4. **Post-poll alliance:** As the last option, consider an alliance formed after the election, where some parties form the government and others (including independents) support it from outside. 5. **Final arbiter:** In all these scenarios, the Governor's ultimate task is to select the leader who, in their judgment, is most likely to command a majority in the Assembly.
Punchhi Commission (2010)	The Punchhi Commission largely concurred with the Sarkaria Commission's order of preference but also made some significant additional recommendations: • It reiterated the same **four-step order of preference** for government formation in a hung house, firmly supporting the principle that pre-poll alliances should be treated as a single political party. • It also suggested that Governors must make decisions within a **fixed time frame (4 months)** and not sit on them indefinitely. • **Codification:** It recommended that these guidelines be codified into the Constitution or through a "Code of Conduct" so that Governors cannot use personal whims.

What are the issues related to the Governor's role in the formation of government?

1. **The Constitutional "Grey Area"**: The primary issue is the Constitution's silence on the exact procedure for a hung Assembly. While Article 164(1) gives the Governor the power to appoint the Chief Minister, it does not specify any criteria for when no party has a clear majority – leaving the Governor to exercise what is known as "situational discretion." This ambiguity creates a vacuum that has often been exploited for political maneuvering.
2. **Disagreement Over the "Order of Preference"**:
   - **Legally Non-Binding:** While Sarkaria & Punchhi commissions have recommended a clear order of preference for whom the Governor should invite first, these are not legally binding. This has led to direct conflicts between the Governor and the political parties.
   - **Subjective Interpretation:** Governors often alternate between inviting the **Single Largest Party (SLP)** and a **Post-Poll Coalition**, depending on which aligns with the party in power at the Centre.
3. **The "Agent of the Centre" Perception**: The most persistent political issue is the widespread perception that Governors act not as impartial constitutional heads but as agents of the central government. The actions of Governors in hung Assembly situations are often viewed not as neutral constitutional decisions but as deliberate attempts to keep opposition parties out of power and favor a party aligned with the Centre.
4. **Misuse of the "Time Frame" for Floor Tests**: When a Governor invites a leader to form a government, they specify a period to prove a majority (the **Floor Test**). Giving an exceptionally long period (e.g., 15 days) is often viewed as providing a window for **"Horse-Trading"**.
5. **"Subjective Satisfaction" vs. "Objective Proof"**: Governors sometimes reject claims of support based on their "subjective satisfaction" regarding the stability of a coalition. Instead of allowing the **Floor of the House** to be the judge (as mandated by the *S.R. Bommai* case), Governors sometimes act as "gatekeepers," deciding in the Raj Bhavan whether an alliance is "principled" or "opportunistic." The mandate should be tested in the Assembly, not in the Governor's office.

What should be the way forward?

1. **Codification of the "Order of Preference"**: The recommendations of the **Sarkaria** and **Punchhi Commissions** should be formally codified into a "Code of Conduct" or added as a **New Schedule** to the Constitution.
2. **Strengthening the "Floor Test" Doctrine**: The **Supreme Court** has repeatedly stated that the floor of the House is the only place to prove a majority:
   - **Mandatory Timelines:** A standard "Floor Test" window (e.g., 48 to 72 hours) should be institutionalized to prevent the "buying of time" for horse-trading.
   - **Physical Verification:** Governors should be discouraged from demanding "physical parades" or "letters of support" at Raj Bhavan, instead, they should let the legislative process determine the majority.
3. **Reform in Appointment and Tenure**: A Governor who is constantly worried about being removed by the Centre cannot remain neutral:
   - **Security of Tenure:** As suggested by the **Punchhi Commission**, the phrase "during the pleasure of the President" should be replaced with a fixed 5-year term.

Removal should only be possible through a process similar to impeachment by the State Legislature.

– **Appointment Panel:** Instead of unilateral appointment by the Centre, a panel comprising the **Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, and the Chief Minister of the concerned state** should select the Governor to ensure state-level consensus.

4. **Regulating the Discretionary Powers**: It is imperative that the Governors exercise their discretionary powers in a bona fide manner. The recent Justice Kurian Joseph Committee report on Union-State Relations, constituted by TN government, recommended incorporating a new schedule into the Constitution to codify the rules governing the Governor's use of discretionary powers.

Anti Defection Law



Introduction

The Anti-Defection Law has recently come into focus following a significant move where seven out of ten Rajya Sabha MPs from a single party switched sides, avoiding disqualification under the specific "merger" clause. To understand why this is possible and why the law exists, it is essential to look at the framework of the Tenth Schedule.

What is the Anti-Defection Law?

Included in the **10th Schedule** of the Indian Constitution, this law outlines the grounds for the disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) due to defection. It was created to stop the political instability caused by frequent "party-hopping" that plagued Indian politics in the late 1960s.

Grounds for Disqualification

A legislator can lose their seat under the following conditions:

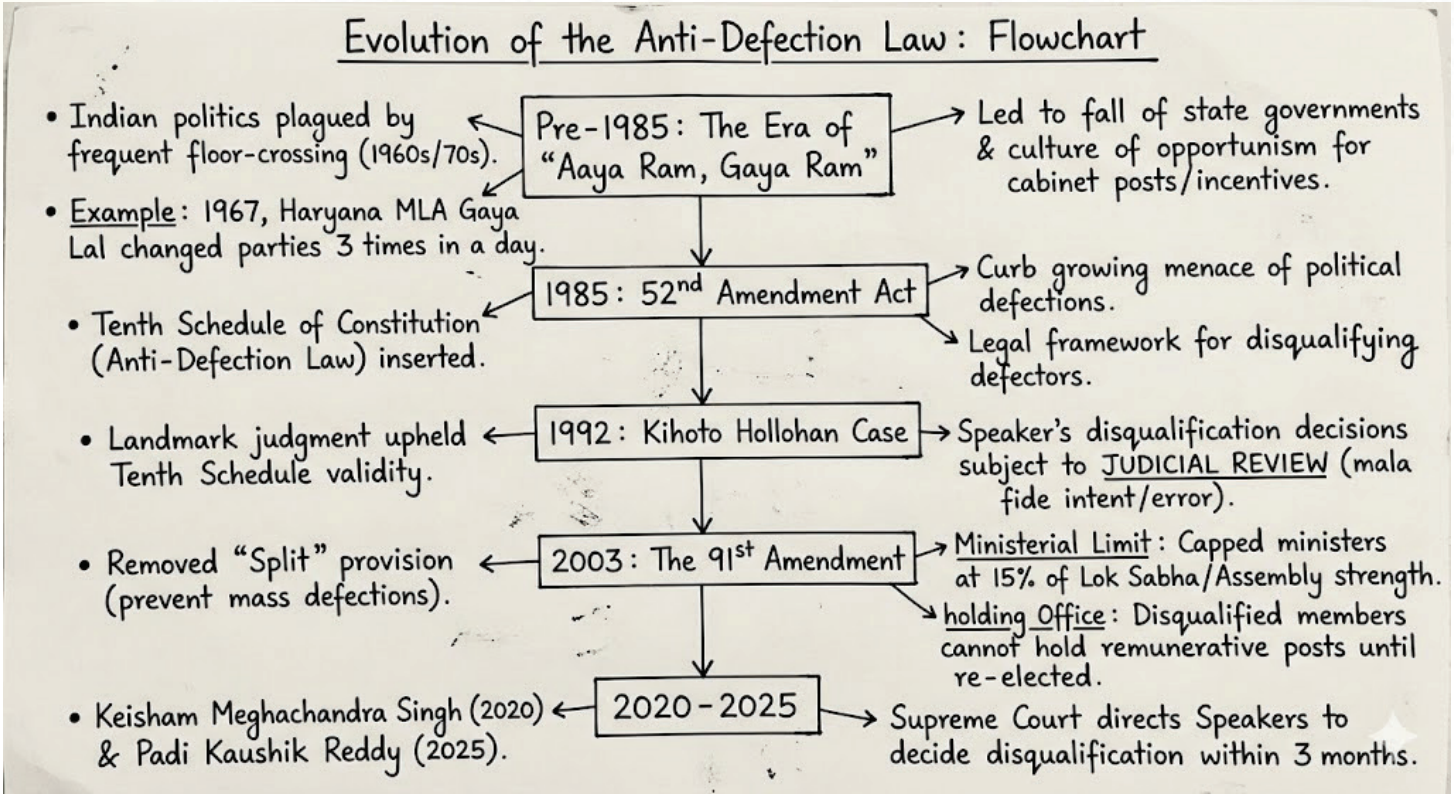
- **Voluntary Resignation:** If they choose to give up their membership of the party that originally issued their election ticket.
- **Violating the Whip:** If they vote—or choose not to vote—against the formal instructions (the "whip") of their party without getting prior permission.
- **Independent Candidates:** If an individual elected as an independent candidate joins any political party after the election.
- **Nominated Members:** If a nominated member joins a political party after more than **six months** from the date they took their legislative seat.

Legal Exceptions

- **The Merger Rule:** Disqualification does not apply if at least **two-thirds** of the members of a legislative party decide to merge with another political entity.
- **Presiding Officers:** To ensure impartiality, a Speaker or Chairman may resign from their party upon election to the post and can rejoin after their term ends without penalty.

Deciding Authority and Judicial Oversight

The final call on disqualification is made by the **Presiding Officer** (the Speaker or Chairman). While the law originally intended this decision to be final, the Supreme Court ruled in the **Kihoto Hollohan case (1992)** that the Presiding Officer functions as a tribunal. Consequently, their decisions are now open to **judicial review** by the High Courts and the Supreme Court.



The Necessity of the Anti-Defection Law

The law was introduced to address several systemic failures in the Indian democratic process:

1. **Guaranteeing Political Stability:** In the period between 1967 and 1971, nearly half of India's 4,000 legislators changed parties, leading to the collapse of numerous state governments. By making it difficult for individuals to defect without losing their legislative status, the law allows governments to prioritize policy-making and long-term administration over constant survival.
2. **Curbing Corruption and "Horse Trading":** Historically, defections were often motivated by the promise of money or powerful Cabinet positions rather than ideological shifts. This "horse trading" corrupted the democratic process. The Anti-Defection Law serves as a barrier against the use of illicit funds and power-brokering to topple governments.
3. **Upholding the Electorate's Trust:** Voters typically choose a representative based on a specific party's ideology and manifesto. When a representative switches parties, it essentially invalidates the voters' mandate. The law ensures that representatives remain loyal to the platform on which they were elected.
4. **Enforcing Party Discipline:** The law provides legal authority to the "Whip," ensuring that a political party can act as a cohesive unit. This prevents internal sabotage and allows the ruling party to pass essential legislation without fear of members breaking ranks.
5. **Formal Constitutional Recognition:** Before the 10th Schedule, political parties were not formally mentioned in the Constitution. This law provided them with **constitutional legitimacy**, acknowledging parties as the foundational pillars of the Indian democratic system.
6. **Conserving Taxpayer Resources:** Frequent government collapses often resulted in expensive mid-term elections or the imposition of President's Rule. By stabilizing the term of the legislature, the law prevents the massive financial drain associated with constant re-elections.

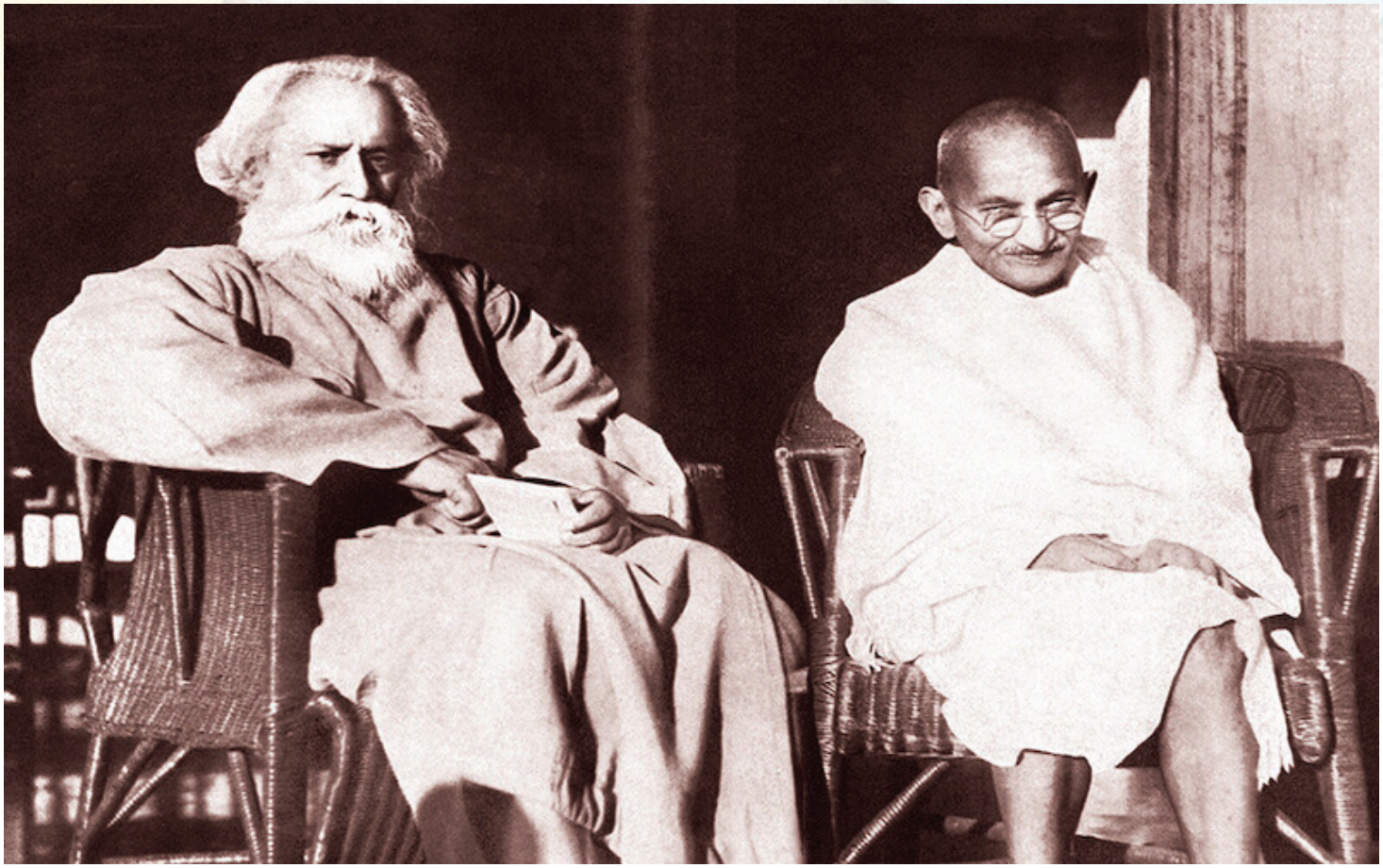
Concerns and Issues Raised Against the Law

1. **Suppression of Legislative Dissent:** The law mandates that every member must follow the party "whip," making the results of most debates predictable. This undermines the importance of high-quality debate and logical persuasion within the House. It also creates a **conflict of interest**, where a legislator might be legally forced to vote for a bill that is detrimental to their specific constituency just to avoid disqualification.
2. **Partisanship of the Presiding Officer**
   - **Lack of Neutrality:** Since Speakers usually remain members of the ruling party, their decisions can be biased. Disqualification petitions against the opposition are often fast-tracked, while those favoring the ruling party are frequently ignored.
   - **Indefinite Delays:** Without a legal timeframe for decisions, Speakers often "sit on" petitions, allowing defectors to complete their full terms without facing any legal consequences.
3. **"Wholesale" vs. "Retail" Defection:** The law punishes individual ("retail") defections but inadvertently encourages mass ("wholesale") defections. The 91st Amendment allows **two-thirds** of a party to defect under the guise of a "merger" without penalty. This leads to political crises where legislators are often sequestered in "resorts" to prevent—or facilitate—mass horse-trading.
4. **The Resignation Loophole:** To bypass the law, legislators often simply resign their seats rather than voting against the whip. This reduces the government's majority and causes it to fall. These members then frequently contest by-elections for the opposing party and return to the House as ministers, following the letter of the law while violating its spirit.
5. **Lack of Intra-Party Democracy:** By centralizing power in the hands of party leadership through the "Whip," the law discourages internal debate. Rank-and-file members often stay silent about policy failures for fear that expulsion would effectively end their political careers.

Proposed Reforms for the Anti-Defection Law

1. **Establishing a Neutral Decision-Making Authority:** To ensure impartiality, the power to disqualify should be moved away from the Speaker:
   - **Election Commission (EC):** The 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) suggests that the President or Governor should decide these cases based on the **binding advice** of the EC.
   - **Independent Tribunal:** In the *Keisham Meghachandra Singh case (2020)*, the Supreme Court suggested that Parliament create a permanent, independent tribunal to handle defection cases.
2. **Narrowing the Scope of the "Whip":** The Dinesh Goswami Committee recommended that the "Whip" should only apply to matters critical to the **survival of the government**, such as:
   - No-Confidence Motions
   - Money Bills (Budgets)
   - Votes of Thanks
   - On all other social or developmental legislation, members should have the **freedom of conscience** to vote according to their constituents' needs.
3. **Closing the Merger Loophole:** The "merger" provision is often viewed as legalized mass horse-trading. Proposed fixes include:
   - **Raising the Threshold:** Increasing the required number of members for a merger to **three-quarters** or eliminating the exception entirely.
   - **Resign and Re-elect:** The Law Commission suggested that any defector (individual or group) must immediately vacate their seat and be barred from ministerial posts until they win a fresh by-election.
4. **Blocking the "Resignation Route":** To prevent politicians from resigning just to switch sides and become ministers, any legislator who resigns should be **barred from contesting by-elections** or holding any remunerative political post for the remainder of that House's five-year term.
5. **Enforcing Strict Decision Timelines:** A statutory deadline (commonly suggested as **90 days**) should be established for the Speaker to decide on petitions. If the deadline passes without a decision, the member in question should face automatic disqualification.
6. **Implementing Stricter Penalties:** To increase deterrence, the following punishments have been proposed:
   - **Six-Year Disqualification:** Barring defectors from contesting any election for a full six-year cycle.
   - **Forfeiture of Pension:** Similar to recent actions in Himachal Pradesh, disqualified members should lose their right to a legislative pension.

Tagore vs Gandhi



Introduction

The friendship between Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi was built on a foundation of profound mutual admiration, yet they held diverging views on numerous political, economic, and philosophical matters. Their dispute regarding the **charkha** (spinning wheel) emerged as the most prominent symbol of their clashing perspectives on society, personal liberty, and nationalism.

Ideological Differences Between Tagore and Gandhi

Perspectives on Nationalism

- **Gandhi's View:** He maintained that mass-scale national movements, such as Non-Cooperation, were vital tools for unifying the Indian population against colonial authorities.
- **Tagore's View:** He expressed concern that intense nationalism could devolve into a narrow-minded, intolerant, and overly emotional force. He advocated for a balance between national identity and a broader sense of internationalism and universal humanism.

The Debate over Charkha and Khadi

- **Gandhi's Stance:** He viewed the charkha as a representation of economic empowerment for rural areas, the dignity of manual labor, and self-sufficiency. For Gandhi, spinning khadi was a way to instill moral discipline in activists while decreasing reliance on imported British textiles.
- **Tagore's Stance:** He criticized what he termed the "cult of the charkha," arguing that it promoted mechanical monotony and unthinking obedience. He contended that mandatory spinning stifled human creativity and ignored the diverse talents of individuals, famously remarking that the practice occupied "the muscles and not the mind."

Individual Liberty vs. Collective Action

- **Gandhi:** He placed a high value on group participation and collective discipline within the framework of the national struggle.
- **Tagore:** He was a staunch advocate for independent thought and personal freedom. He worried that an unquestioning devotion to Gandhi's philosophy might result in the suppression of critical thinking and intellectual autonomy.

Modernity and Scientific Progress

- **Gandhi:** He remained skeptical of large-scale industrialization and modern machinery, fearing they would erode the self-sufficient nature of village economies. He championed a return to simple, rural-based production.
- **Tagore:** He believed India should actively engage with global scientific advancements and intellectual trade. He argued that turning away from modern science would ultimately leave the nation in a weakened state.

Philosophy and Social Interpretation

- **Gandhi:** He frequently linked spiritual or moral failings to physical events. For instance, he interpreted the 1934 Bihar earthquake as a form of divine retribution for the practice of untouchability.
- **Tagore:** He fundamentally disagreed with this logic, asserting that natural phenomena should be explained through science rather than being tied to moral or social transgressions.

Approaches to Social Change

- **Gandhi:** His strategy centered on political activism, moral rigor, and large-scale social mobilization.
- **Tagore:** His approach was rooted in cultural evolution, creative expression, and the intellectual development of the individual through education.

Common Ground Between the Two Leaders

Despite their public debates, they shared several core values:

- Both were committed to ending British colonial rule and securing India's independence.
- Both were vocal critics of untouchability and social injustice.
- Both sought a moral awakening and regeneration of Indian society.
- They maintained a deep-seated personal respect for one another regardless of their intellectual friction.

Significance

The dialogue between Gandhi and Tagore was indicative of the broader complexities within the Indian independence movement. It highlighted the ongoing tension between **tradition and modernity**, **nationalism and universalism**, and **individual liberty and collective discipline**. Their exchange of ideas served to deepen Indian political philosophy and underscored the necessity of healthy democratic dissent.

Conclusion

The ideological gap represented two distinct blueprints for India's future. While Gandhi saw the charkha as a moral and unifying instrument for the masses, Tagore feared its exaltation would come at the cost of intellectual freedom and artistic creativity. Together, their combined—yet differing—contributions shaped India's intellectual and political legacy.

Q. Make a comparative assessment of Greek perspective of Justice with the Rawlsian concept of Justice.

The concept of justice has evolved over time, as evident from the perspectives of various philosophers across history. In Plato's "Republic," justice was one of the four cardinal virtues alongside temperance, wisdom, and courage. Plato envisioned an ideal state where individuals fulfilled their roles based on their inherent nature. Justice was a fundamental principle, and each person's duty was to be diligently carried out.

Aristotle, building on this foundation, introduced additional dimensions to justice, including considerations of equality, proportionality, and maintaining societal balance. The Greek understanding of justice often included hierarchical elements, drawing from divinity, natural principles, or established traditions.

Moving forward in history, John Rawls introduced a modern perspective on justice. He emphasized that justice was achieved when deviations from equality could be reasonably justified. Rawls' theory of justice revolved around the idea of fairness, where societal and economic conditions played a crucial role. His works, "A Theory of Justice" and "Justice as Fairness," delved into the economic and social realities of contemporary societies.

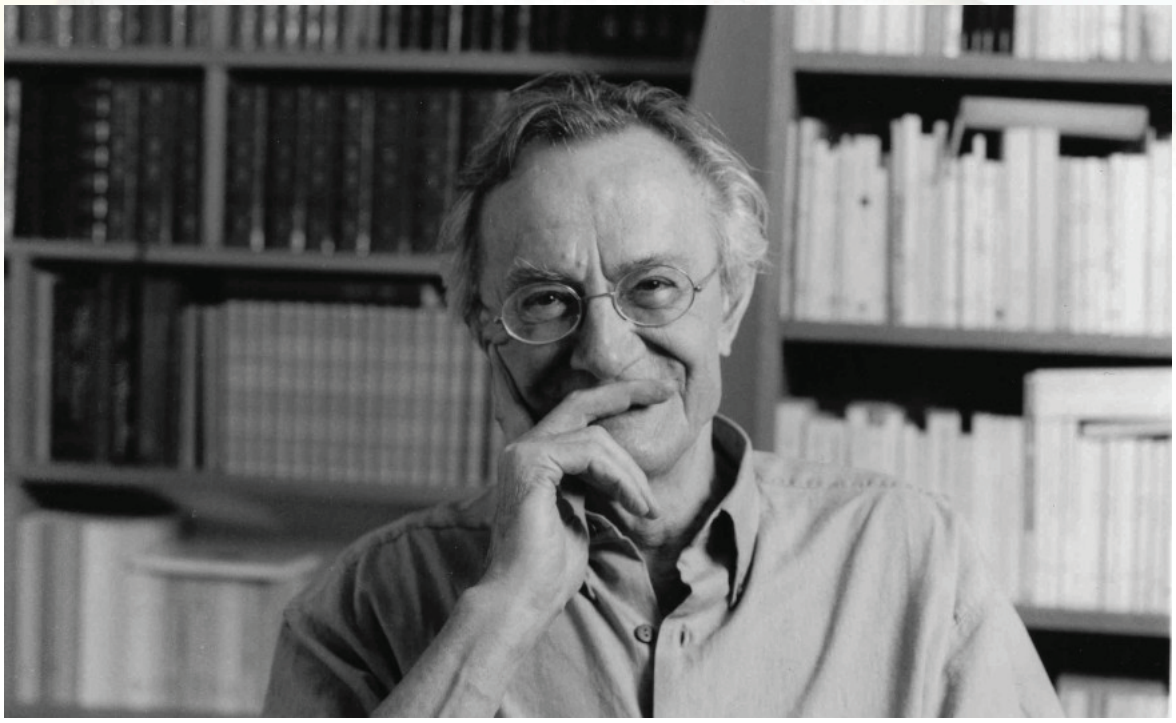
Rawls' assertion that "justice is the first virtue of social institutions" and the emphasis on the "basic structure of society" being the primary focus of justice continues the classical legacy. This echoes Aristotle's observation that people pursue what they consider good and prefer more to less. While Rawls' approach is less abstract than Plato's and more attuned to the current social context, the evolution of justice is evident as it incorporates both historical ideas and contemporary considerations.

In essence, justice remains a moral virtue throughout this evolution. Like Plato, Aristotle, and Rawls, the concept of justice is still tied to a "public conception of justice." As societies evolve, so does the notion of justice, yet it continues to draw from its early philosophical roots while adapting to the changing dynamics of the world.



Scholar Digest: Know Your Scholars

Lyotard



Introduction

Jean-François Lyotard, a renowned French philosopher, made significant contributions to postmodern philosophy. His ideas challenged traditional notions of truth, power, and narratives, influencing various fields such as philosophy, sociology, and cultural studies. This article delves into Lyotard's main ideas and their implications, highlighting his concept of incredulity towards metanarratives, critique of grand narratives, and the relationship between language and knowledge.

Incredulity Towards Metanarratives

Lyotard questioned the legitimacy of metanarratives, which are overarching narratives claiming to provide comprehensive understandings of the world. Metanarratives include concepts like progress, enlightenment, or Marxism. Lyotard argued that these narratives had lost credibility, as society became increasingly skeptical of their claims to truth and universality. He advocated for embracing micro-narratives, recognizing the diversity and incommensurability of different perspectives and experiences.

Critique of Grand Narratives

A central aspect of Lyotard's work was his critique of grand narratives and their connection to power. He argued that grand narratives often functioned as tools of domination, allowing those in power to legitimize their control over society. By imposing a singular narrative, those in authority marginalize alternative viewpoints and suppress dissent. Lyotard believed that by dismantling grand narratives, we create space for a multiplicity of voices and foster a more democratic and inclusive society.

Language and Knowledge

Lyotard explored the relationship between language and knowledge, emphasizing the limitations and complexities of linguistic representation. He rejected the idea that language could provide an objective and transparent representation of reality. Instead, he argued that language is inherently unstable, fragmented, and subject to different interpretations. Knowledge, according to Lyotard, is contingent upon language games, which are socially constructed systems of meaning. These language games shape our understanding of reality, but they are not universally valid or comprehensive.

The Postmodern Condition

Lyotard's ideas were influential in defining the postmodern condition. He described the postmodern era as characterized by a skepticism towards grand narratives, a celebration of diversity, and a recognition of the fragmentation of knowledge. In the postmodern condition, truth becomes a matter of individual interpretation and subjective experience. This challenges traditional notions of authority and encourages a constant reassessment of knowledge and its foundations.

Implications and Criticisms

Lyotard's ideas have both positive and negative implications. On one hand, his emphasis on the plurality of narratives and the rejection of grand narratives allows for a more inclusive and democratic society, where diverse perspectives are valued. It promotes critical thinking, as individuals are encouraged to question dominant narratives and engage in dialogue. On the other hand, critics argue that Lyotard's ideas can lead to a relativistic stance, where all narratives are considered equally valid, undermining the pursuit of objective truth.

Furthermore, some critics argue that Lyotard's work lacks concrete solutions or a coherent alternative to grand narratives. They suggest that while skepticism towards metanarratives is valuable, it is essential to find a balance between acknowledging the limitations of overarching narratives and maintaining a shared understanding of the world.

Conclusion

Jean-François Lyotard's ideas have left a significant impact on postmodern philosophy and the understanding of knowledge, power, and narratives. His skepticism towards metanarratives and emphasis on the plurality of narratives challenged established notions of truth and authority. While his ideas have faced criticism, they continue to stimulate intellectual debates and encourage critical engagement with dominant discourses.



Q. Analyse the role of the election commission towards electoral reforms.

Q → Analyse the role of Election Commission towards electoral reforms.

Approach of Answer

(Intro): Briefly write about Election Commission

(Body)

Write about positive role played by ECI towards electoral reforms.

eg → Introduction of EVM's.

→ Launch of website for information sharing

→ Computerisation of Electoral rolls 1998

→ Introduction of VVPAT.

→ Introduction of NOTA in 2014

→ Recently launched SVEEP for Voter's education.

What more can be done

→ ECI be given rule making power under RPA

→ ECI be given more power's w.r.t Model code of Conduct.

Conclusion

Election reforms are mother of all reforms and should be given prime importance.

Prelims Practice Questions

1. **Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India?**
   1. **Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour**
   2. **Abolition of untouchability**
   3. **Protection of the interests of minorities**
   4. **Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines**

   Select the correct answer using the code given below:

   (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
   (c) 1 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

2. **Which one of the following statements is correct?**
   (a) Rights are claims of the State against the citizens.
   (b) Rights are privileges which are incorporated in the Constitution of a State.
   (c) Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.
   (d) Rights are privileges of a few citizens against the many.

3. **In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?**
   (a) Rights are correlative with Duties.
   (b) Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
   (c) Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
   (d) Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.

4. **Who/Which of the following is the custodian of the Constitution of India?**
   (a) The President of India (b) The Prime Minister of India
   (c) The Lok Sabha Secretariat (d) The Supreme court of India

Answers

1. **(c)**
2. **(c)** New NCERT,Std. 11, Political Theory Chapter 5: Rights , Page 72. Through these rights, people make demands upon the state. So, "C" is the most fitting answer.
3. **(a)** Rights and duties are correlative and inseparable, hence A is the answer.
4. **(d)** The Supreme Court of India is the apex court in India. As stated by the Indian Constitution, the function of the Supreme Court of India is that of the custodian of the Constitution.

UPSC IAS (Mains)

LIVE PSIR OPTIONAL

STUDY IQ PUBLICATIONS

FEATURES OF THE COURSE -

1. 400+ hours of live lectures spread over 5 months
2. Comprehensive coverage through high quality lecture notes
3. Hand written notes and hand written model answers
4. Live answer writing program under the guidance of faculty
5. Previous Year Questions discussions
6. PSIR Current affairs to keep the aspirant updated
7. Doubt clearing sessions by the faculty
8. Static Session

Contributor:
Sajal Tiwari

For any feedback, Kindly reach out on:
psirsupport@studyiq.com



@SHASHANKTYAGI4U

SHASHANKTYAGI4U



Shashank Tyagi

Faculty PSIR Optional, StudyiqIAS
Ex. Consultant, Office of Minister Social Welfare, GNCTD