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## BJMC- 103

### Socio-Economic & Political Scenario

Course Code : BJ(MC) 103	L : 5	T/P : 0	CREDITS : 5
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#### SYLLABUS-

##### Unit-I [Indian History, Culture and Heritage]

1. India that is Bharat.

2. The Great Indian Heritage (art, culture, mythology, language, fairs and festivals)

Landmarks in Indian Freedom Movement (history, reforms, refer series-Bharat

Ek Khoj by Shyam Benegal)

##### Unit-II [Indian Economy: Issues and Concerns]

1. Nature of Indian Economy (reasons for underdevelopment)

2. India's planning for development (5-year plans)

3. Figures Speak: Ground realities of Indian Economy based on HDI

4. Explanation of economic concepts and terminologies

5. Mixed Economy: Public Sector Undertakings and Private Enterprises

6. Globalization and opening up of Indian Economy

7. Understanding Markets (Concepts-Sensex-Index-Bulls and Bears, Inflation-Cost of Living Index-Role of (SEBI)

8. Foreign trade and balance of payment.

9. Indian industry: an overview.

10. Disinvestment and FDI



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11 Bops: An era of outsourcing

### **Unit-III [The Indian Polity]**

1. Salient Features of Indian Constitution: Relevance of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.
2. Parliamentary Democracy (Federal and Unitary features) : Do we need to switch over to Presidential system.
3. Centre-State Relations: Issues of Regionalism
4. Decentralization of Power
5. Legislative Procedures-From Bill to Act.
6. Indian Judicial System: Judicial Activism
7. General Elections: Electoral Reforms, Politics of Vote Bank
8. Major National and Regional political parties in India and their changing trends

### **Unit-IV [Major Issues and Concerns]**

Population Explosion

2. Corruption
3. Illiteracy
4. Public Health and hygiene
5. Poverty
6. Caste Conflicts
7. Communal tensions
8. Gender Inequality
9. Reservation Issues

## Unit-I [Indian History, Culture and Heritage]

### 1. India that is Bharat.

India is a land of diversity in race, region, caste, language, mate, landform, flora and fauna and so on. From ancient time till day India has repainted this diversity from very ancient time. Nature has shaped the country so. Rightly this land has been termed as "the epitome of the world." The fundamental diversity in India is gleaned from the following.

**Geographical Diversity:** India is a vast country with great diversity of physical features. Certain parts in India are so fertile that they are counted amongst the most fertile regions of the world while other are so unproductive and barren that hardly anything can be grown there.

The regions of Indo- Gangetic Valley belong to the first category, while certain area of Rajasthan falls under the later category. From the point of view of climate, there is sharp contrast. As Minoo Massami has said that, "India has every variety of climates from the blazing heat of the plains, as hot in places as hottest Africa-Jacobabad in Sindh- to freezing point (the Arctic cold of the Himalayas). The Himalayan ranges which are always covered with snow are very cold while the deserts of Rajasthan are well known for their heat. The country also does not get uniform rainfall. There are certain areas like Cherapunji in Assam which get almost 460" of rain -fall per year which is considered to be world's highest record on the other hand, Sindh and Rajasthan get hardly 3 inches of rainfall per year. This variety in climate has also contributed to a variety of flora and fauna. In fact, India possesses richest variety of plants and animals known in the world.

**Racial Diversity:** India possesses a rich variety of races. In view of this variety Prof. V.A. Smith says, "From the human point of view India has been often described as an ethnological Dr racial museum in which numberless races of mankind may be studied." "The vast population of India consists of the jungles tribe (Hence Bhils, Kols, Santhals), the Greeks, the Sakas, the Kushanas, the Hunas, the Mongolians, the Arabs, the Turks, the Afghans etc. The physical features and color of the Indian people also differ from region to region- While the people of Kashmir are handsome and fair in complexion, these qualities are missing among the habitants of Assam.

**Linguistic Diversity:** India not only possesses racial diversity but also linguistic diversity- It is said that almost 400 languages are spoken in India. Some of the prominent language recognized by the constitution includes, Assamese Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannad, Kashmiri, and



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Malayalam. Marathi, Or Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Terrill, Telgu and Urdu. In fact it is commonly believed that in India the language changes after every four kooks. There is not only variety of languages but also variety of scripts in India some of the popular scripts in ancient times were Pali, Kharosthi Devnagri, etc. What is really striking is that almost all these language- possess their own literature which differ a great deal from each other

**Religious and social Diversity:** In the religious sphere also India possesses great diversity. Almost all the principal religions of the world like Brahmanism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity are found here. Most of these religions are further sub-divided into various sects and divisions. For example, Buddhism is divided into Hinayana and Mahayana; the Jainism is divided into Digambaras and Septembers and the Brahmanism is divided into the Vaishnavas, Shivas, Shaktis, Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj etc. In addition the primitive men have their own peculiar cults which are quite distinct from these major religions. Thus we can say India possess completely diversity on religious sphere. In the social sphere also the general customs and manners of the people greatly different. People of different regions use different types of dresses. Their eating habits and customs are also quite different. Certain people are quite civilized while other are yet backward in their customs. Thus we find as Radhakumud Mukherjee has put it, "India is a museum of cults and customs, creeds and cultures, faiths and tongues, racial types and social systems.

**Political Diversity:** The diversity in culture, races, language, religion etc. greatly stood in the way of political unity in India. As a result from the earliest times, India has been divided into several independent principalities. The rulers of these principalities were always engaged in wars with each other for supremacy. This disunity and friction was fully exploited by the foreign invaders to bring India under their subjugation. No doubt certain rulers like Chandra Gupta Maurya, Ashoka, Samudra Gupta, Ala- ud- din Khiliji and Akbar had subjugated these principalities and established strong empire but they were only handful of the rulers who could accomplish it. For most of the time India presented the spectacle of a divided country. Even under this mighty rulers a real unity could not be established both due to the lack of means of communication and transportation as well as national consciousness. In short, we can say that really speaking India could never be united politically.

In this way diversity pervades on the whole of Indian subcontinent. This diversity is so much so that a foreigner will simply stare at this. Anyway, such diversities are not the hallmarks of Indian culture. The main theme of this culture is unity which absorbs all the diversities

**The Great Indian Heritage:** Heritage means what we inherit from our ancestors and from our past. The heritage of India is the result of developments in the social, economic, cultural and political life of Indian people over a period of thousands of years. The land and people are the two components of this heritage. Nature has made India into a distinct geographical entity. India is a vast country. It extends for nearly 3000 km from Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south and for the same distance from its western-most parts to its eastern-most parts. The Himalayan ranges in the north and the sea in the east, west and south separates it from the rest of



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the world. Since the old Stone Age people from neighboring as well as distant regions having coming into India and making it their home

**ART:** Art in India has been synonymous with life, enmeshed into the daily existence of every individual born into this culturally rich and diverse land, long before written history became fashionable. The people born into this land developed alternative means of expressing themselves not only to record their stories, important events and their collective past, but also to embellish and enhance the simple objects of daily life. The range of material used to create art in India traverses the gamut from mud to metal; each medium handled in a unique, locality specific technique that evolved to best express the talents and needs of the people of that area. With royal patronage over millennia, artistic growth blossomed in a dynamic and competitive environment, with the highest standards of knowledge set for the King. The King, as patron was expected to know and critique the sixty-four mainstreams of the Arts and often was an artist himself.

No other country has a diversity of technique and expression as India and her people. While the techniques of traditional “craft” handed down generations by the master craftsmen continues to date, the art, expression through these channels, continue to evolve and adapt to changing times. With a tenacity of endurance, such “folk art” has found its way into the voice and expressions of contemporary artists who paint and sculpt following the traditions of the West.

India is a modern civilization of nuclear capability that continues to nurture its roots that go back to a time before the written record of history. In the words of Linda Johnson, “if you had been around in the third millennium B.C.E, India is where you would have wanted to be. The quality of life was higher there than practically anywhere else in the world. In fact, the towns of North India in 2600 B.C.E. were more comfortable and technologically advanced than most European cities till nearly the time of the Renaissance!”

India’s knowledge, springing from pre Vedic times, followed an oral tradition of documentation and research. Many of these streams of research were documented in the Vedas. The search for information was nurtured through observational research and guarded fiercely. Vedic scholar Jean Le Mee aptly stated, “Precious or durable materials – gold silver marble onyx or granite- have been used by most ancient peoples in an attempt to immortalize their achievements. Not so, however, with the ancient Aryans. They turned what may seem as the most volatile and insubstantial material of all- the spoken word- an out of this bubble of air fashioned a monument which more than thirty, perhaps forty centuries later stands untouched by time or the elements.

## **CULTURE AND MYTHOLOGY**

India has been a crucible of various 'races' and ethnic groups. They have all contributed to the making of Indian history and culture. The people from other cultures and civilizations have brought with them their own traditions which got intermixed and integrated with the pre-existing traditions. Similarly, people of India have gone to other parts of the world and various elements of culture carried by them have intermixed and integrated with the preexisting traditions. The



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mountains and the rivers systems have been an important factor in the emergence of a number of distinct cultural zones within the country. India's culture has been changing and developing due to internal factors and contacts with other cultures. The Harappan culture was the first urban culture to emerge in India. Jainism and Buddhism which arose in the sixth century B.C. left a lasting influence on Indian life and culture. This period saw the spread

- **LANGUAGES OF INDIA**

The **Languages of India** belong to several language families, the major ones being the Indo-Aryan languages (a sub branch of Indo-European) spoken by 74% of Indians and the Dravidian languages spoken by 23% of Indians. Other languages spoken in India belong to the Austro - Asiatic, Tibeto-Burman, and a few minor language families and isolates.

India has no national language . The official language of the Union Government of Republic of India is Standard Hindi while English is the secondary official language. The constitution of India states that "The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script." a position supported by a High Court ruling. However, languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian constitution are sometimes referred to, without legal standing, as the national languages of India.

Individual mother tongues in India number several hundred; the 1961 census recognized 1,652 (SIL Ethnologue lists 415). According to Census of India of 2001, 30 languages are spoken by more than a million native speakers, 122 by more than 10,000. Three millennia of language contact has led to significant mutual influence among the four language families in India and South Asia. Two contact languages have played an important role in the history of India: Persian and English

### **Language conflicts in India**

There are some significant conflicts over linguistic rights in India. The first major linguistic conflict, known as the Anti-Hindi agitations of Tamil Nadu took place in Tamil Nadu against the implementation of Hindi as the sole official language of India. Political analysts consider this as a major factor in bringing DMK to power and leading to the ousting and nearly total elimination of the Congress party in Tamil Nadu. Strong cultural pride based on language is also found in other Indian states such as Bengal, Maharashtra and in Karnataka. To express disapproval of the imposition of an alien language Hindi on its people as a result of the central government overstepping its constitutional authority, Maharashtra and Karnataka Governments made the state languages compulsory in educational institutions.

However, in Andhra Pradesh, in majority of the schools, students have to learn English and one chosen regional language (Telugu, Urdu or Hindi) as the main language subjects, and learn an other language (Telugu, or Hindi, or Special English) as a special language subject. So, usually they learn three in total. Recently anti-Hindi feelings have been expressed in Mumbai by Shiv Sena and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena. The Government of India attempts to assuage these conflicts with various campaigns, coordinated by the Central Institute of Indian Languages,



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Mysore, a branch of the Department of Higher Education, Language Bureau, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- **FAIRS AND FESTIVALS OF INDIA**

India is often described as a land of many religions and languages, but it might as well be described as a land of festivals. Some festivals are observed throughout the country; others have specific regional associations. India celebrates holidays and festivals of almost all the faiths in the world. In one region or the other, festivals happen almost every day, each with a specialty of its own. Each festival in each region has its own particular foods and sweets appropriate to the season and crops, and days are spent in their careful preparation.

**Independence Day:** This is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August as India gained independence from British rule on this day in 1947.

**Republic Day:** This is celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> January. On this day India became a republic.

**Gandhi Jayanti:** This is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October which is father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

**Diwali:** Diwali literally means an array of lamps is the Festival of Lights. Diwali is the occasion of joy and jubilation for one and all in the entire Hindu world. All the illumination and fireworks, joy and festivity, signifies the victory of divine forces over those of wickedness. Diwali symbolizes the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness. Diwali is a festival that lasts 5 days. In North India, Diwali is associated with the return of Sri Rama to Ayodhya after vanquishing the demon Ravana. The people of Ayodhya, overwhelmed with joy, welcomed Rama through jubilation and illumination of the entire capital. In South India, Diwali is celebrated to commemorate the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon Narakasura. To the Jains, Diwali has an added significance to the great event of Mahavera attaining the Eternal Bliss of Nirvana. Though, Diwali is mainly a 5 day festival but people start preparing for Diwali weeks ahead by cleaning and decorating their households. It is said that Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth roams the earth on this day and enters the house that is pure, clean and brightly illuminated. It is also the beginning of the new financial year for the business community.

**Bhai Dooj:** Bhaiya Duj is the festival that is celebrated on the fifth day of Diwali and it falls on second day after Diwali that is on 'Shukla Paksha Dwitiya' in the Hindi month of 'Kartik'. 'Dwitiya' means 'Duj' or the second day after the new moon. This festival is popular in different regions with different names such as 'Bhai-Dooj' in north India, 'Bhav-Bij' in Maharashtra, 'Bhai-Phota' in Bengal and 'Bhai-Teeka' in Nepal. On this day sisters perform 'aarti' of their brothers and apply a beautiful 'Tilak' or 'Teeka' on their forehead. Then they offer sweets to them. Then the brothers and sisters exchange gifts with each other. Sisters are lavished with gifts, goodies and blessings from their brothers.

**Dussehra or Vijaydashmi:** Dussehra or Navratri is one of the most popular festivals of India. Dussehra is the anniversary of the victory of Goddess Durga over the buffalo-headed demon,



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Mahishasura, giving the goddess her name Mahishasura-Mardini (the slayer of Mahishasura). Dussehra also commemorates the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana of Lanka. The theme of this festival is the victory of good over evil.

**Ganesh Chaturthi:** Ganesh Chaturthi, the birthday of Lord Ganesh, is celebrated in August-September. Ganesh is the elephant headed son of Goddess Parvati, consort of Lord Shiva.

In Maharashtra, it is most important festival and is celebrated for 10 days. It is celebrated from 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> day of bright fortnight of Bhadrapad month. In Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, images of Ganesh made of unbaked clay are worshipped on this day in every house. A special sweet called Modak is prepared on this occasion. To mark the end of the festivities, the clay idols are immersed in water.

**Holi:** The full-moon day in February-March is celebrated as Holi, the festival of colors. Holi is a festival of fun and gaiety for people of all ages. Bonfires are lit and people smear colors on each other. Holi signifies the start of spring and end of winter. People celebrate the new harvest and return of color in nature. The mythological origin of this festival varies in North and South India. In the South, especially in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it is believed that Kama Deva, the God of love, aimed his arrow at his wife Rati. The arrow hit Shiva by mistake. Kama was burnt to ashes by the fire coming out of the third eye of the enraged Lord Shiva. Rati, was so grief-stricken that Shiva relented and granted her the power to see Kama deva but without a physical form. In Tamil Nadu, the festival known as Kaman vizha, Kaman pandigai, or Kama Dahanam commemorates the burning of Kama.

In the North, it is believed that a mighty King Hiranyakashipu ordered his people to worship him as a God. But Prahlad, his only son, refused to accept his father as a God, because he believed only in Lord Vishnu. The King tried to kill his son, but every time Prahlad was saved as he uttered the name of Vishnu. Finally, Prahlad's aunt Holika, claiming herself to be fireproof, took the child in her lap and sat in the fire to burn him alive. When the fire subsided, the king found, the child alive while Holika had perished. In North India, grains and stalks saved from the year's harvest are offered to Agni, the God of Fire. Holi fire is a symbol of destruction of all filth and impurity be it physical or mental.

**Krishna Janmastami:** The birth of Lord Krishna an incarnation of Lord Vishnu is celebrated on the eight day (Ashtami) of a lunar fortnight in August-September hence the name (Krishna + ashtami). Krishnastami is celebrated over two days. This first day is Krishnastami or Gokulastami. The second day is called Kalastami or more popularly Janmastami.

Men and women fast and pray on the occasion of Janmashtami. As it is the worship of infant Krishna, who was fond of milk and butter, women prepare a variety of delicacies with milk products as offerings. This festival is a community celebration and people visit temples which are specially decorated for this occasion.

**Durga Puja or Navaratri:** This nine-day festival of the Hindus is celebrated in almost all parts of India in the month of Ashvina, and is marked by fasting and praying to different aspects of





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Devi. Literally 'nine nights', this nine-day period from the new moon day to the ninth day of Ashvina is considered the most auspicious time of the Hindu calendar.

It is celebrated as Durga Puja in the state of West Bengal. Durga Puja is the most important and the most eagerly awaited festival of the state. It commemorates the victory of Durga over the demon Mahishasura.

The nine different aspects of Devi are worshipped over the nine days.

- Durga: goddess beyond reach;
- Bhadrakali: the auspicious power of time;
- Amba or Jagdamba: mother of the world;
- Annapurna: giver of food and plenty;
- Sarvamangala: auspicious goddess;
- Bhairavi: terrible, fearful, power of death;
- Chandika or Chandi: violent, wrathful, furious;
- Lalita: playful;
- Bhavani: giver of existence.

The festivities culminate on the tenth day on Vijaydashmi or Dussehra.

In North India the nine-day period from the first to the ninth day in the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra is also known as Navaratri and is dedicated to the worship of nine different aspects of Devi. The ninth day in this month is also celebrated as Ramanavami.

In Gujarat, this is the time for the joyous Garba and Dandia dances and people pour out at night to participate in this community festival.

In Tamil Nadu, the first three days of the festival are dedicated to Lakshmi, the next three to Durga and the last three to Sarasvati.

**Maha Shivaratri:** On the 14th day of the dark half of Margshirsh month the great night of Shiva is celebrated. On this day the devotees of Shiva observe fast. According to a legend once King Bhagiratha left his kingdom to meditate for the salvation of the souls of his ancestors. He prayed for the holy River Ganga from heaven to wash over his ancestor's ashes to release them from a curse and allow them to go to heaven. But Lord Shiva was the only one who could sustain the weight of her descent. So he prayed to Lord Shiva and Ganga descended on Shiva's head, and after meandering through his thick matted locks, reached the earth.

This story is believed to be re-enacted by bathing the linga. The love of water, the primary element of life, is also remembered in this ritualistic action. The linga is bathed with milk, water and honey. It is then anointed with sandalwood paste. People offer wood apple or bel leaves and fruit, milk, sandalwood and jujube fruit or ber to the linga. People decorate the linga with flowers and garlands and also offer incense sticks and fruit.



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**Ramanavami:** The birth anniversary of Lord Rama is celebrated as Ramanavami in the Hindu month of Chaitra (March-April). It occurs on the ninth day (navami). The festival commemorates the birth of Rama who is considered to be Maryada Purushottam or The Ideal Man. Ramrajya (the reign of Rama) has become synonymous with a period of peace and prosperity. Mahatma Gandhi also used this term to describe how, according to him, India should be after independence. Celebrations begin with a prayer to the Sun early in the morning. At midday, when Lord Rama is supposed to have been born, a special prayer is performed.

**Raksha Bandhan:** This is a festival that falls on the brightest night of Shraavan month. Raksha Bandhan stirs up one of the deepest and noblest emotions - the abiding and chaste bond of love between the brother and the sister. On this day sisters tie a rakhi — which may be a colorful thread, a simple bracelet, or a decorative string — around the wrist of their brother(s). The word "raksha" signifies protection, and "bandhan" is an association signifying an enduring bond; and so, when a woman ties a rakhi around the wrist of her brother, she signifies her loving attachment to him. He, likewise, recognizes the special bond between them, and by extending his wrist forward, he in fact extends the hand of his protection over her.

**Yugadi:** The first day of the year according to the National Calendar of India is significant both for its historical importance and for the advent of bountiful nature. On the national plane, the day recalls the inspiring occasion when the invading Shakas - the barbaric tribal hordes from Central Asia descending on India like locusts during the 1st century A.D. - were vanquished by the great emperors Shalivahana and Vikramaditya.

The day falls in the beginning of spring - Vasanta Ritu - When the Goddess of Nature gets bedecked as a divine bride. In some parts of India, the tender leaves of Neem mixed with jaggery are distributed on the occasion. The Neem, extremely bitter in taste, and jaggery sweet and delicious, signify the two conflicting aspects of human life - joy and sorrow, success and failure, ecstasy and agony. The Neem-jaggery blend is offered to God as naivedya and then distributed as prasad. This embodies one of the highest philosophical attitudes taught by the Hindu spiritual masters.

**Makar Sankranti:** Makara Sankranti festival coincides with the beginning of the sun's northward journey, and falls on January 14 according to the solar calendar. According to legend, Bhishma, a great hero of the Mahabharata, though wounded mortally, waited for this auspicious time to give up his life. For, it is believed that, a person dying on this day reaches the Abode of Light and Eternal Bliss.

In many states, the celebration has a special offering of rice and pulses cooked together with or without jaggery and clarified butter. In many areas of India people distribute til-gud - the sesame seed and jaggery. The till brimming with fragrant and delicious oil, stands for friendship and comradeship and jaggery for the sweetness of speech and behavior.

In Tamil Nadu, Makara Sankranti is celebrated as Pongal, a three-day harvest festival. On Bhogi Pongal, the house is cleaned and the discards are burnt, while children sing and dance around the bonfire. On Surya Pongal, sweet Pongal is prepared and the Sun God is worshipped for a good



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yearly harvest. The last day of Pongal, Mattu Pongal, is celebrated to pay respects to the cows, the animal that is used in cultivation. In Uttar Pradesh, it is called the Khichri Sankranti. In Gujarat, there is a custom of making gifts to near relatives on this day. Makara Sankranti bears a festive occasion for the people of Rajasthan. Kite Festivals are organized on Makara Sankranti. Kite flyers from all over the world participate in the festival.

**Guru Purnima:** Devotional worship of the Guru - the teacher - is one of the most touching and elevating aspect of the Hindu cultural tradition. The auspicious moment of Vyasa Poornima, chosen for observing this annual festival, is no less significant. It was the great sage Vyasa, son of a fisherwoman, who classified the accumulated spiritual knowledge of the Vedas under four heads - Rig, Yajur, Saama and Atharva. The Guru in the Hindu tradition is looked upon as an embodiment of God himself. For, it is through his grace and guidance that one reaches the highest state of wisdom and bliss.

**Karwa Chauth:** Karwa Chauth is a very significant festival for the women of North Indian. Karwa means clay pot and Chauth corresponding to the fourth. The festival is celebrated nine days before Diwali, on the fourth day of the waning moon in the Hindu month of Kartik, around October-November Traditionally the Indian woman was expected to uphold family honor and repute. The festival of Karwa Chauth is not only a day when women pray to God for the long and prosperous lives of their husbands, but is also symbolic of their unflagging loyalty towards their spouses. Married women, old and young, begin their fast on the day of Karwa Chauth well before sunrise, and eventually partake of food and water only after spotting the moon. But this is not a solemn day rather a good measure of festivity, rituals and merriment complement its more serious aspects.

**Vasant Panchami:** Literally 'the fifth day of spring', Vasanta Panchami is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright fortnight in the month of Magha. The festival itself dates to antiquity. It is reminiscent of the festival of Vasantotsava of the ancient times, which was one of the most important celebrations as it marked the beginning of the agricultural season. Vasanta Panchami heralds the spring season. It is hence celebrated with gaiety and festivity to mark the end of the winter, which can be quite severe in northern India. The festive color yellow, symbolic of spring, plays an important part of this day. People wear yellow clothes, offer yellow flowers in worship and put a yellow, turmeric tilak on their forehead. They visit temples and offer prayers to various gods. It is also known as Sirapanchami in Bihar and Orissa, when the ploughs are worshipped and the land is furrowed after the winter months. In Bengal, the day is celebrated as Saraswati Puja and is marked by the worship of Saraswati.

**Baisakhi:** This is a major Sikh festival - a religious festival, harvest festival and New Year's Day all rolled into one. In April, this day marks the beginning of the Hindu solar New Year. In fact this day is celebrated all over the country as New Year day under different names. It is also the time when the harvest is ready to cut and store or sell. For the Sikh community Baisakhi has a very special meaning. It was on this day that the last Guru Gobind Singh organized the Sikhs into Khalsa or the pure ones. By doing so, he eliminated the differences of high and low and established that all human beings were equal.



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**Hanuman Jayanti:** Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman, the monkey god widely venerated throughout India. It is celebrated during Chaitra and is especially important to Brahmacharis, wrestlers and bodybuilders. Hanuman was an ardent devotee of Rama, and is worshipped for his unflinching devotion to the god. From the early morning, devotees flock Hanuman temples to worship him. The officiating priest bathes the idol and offers special prayers to the gods. Then the entire body is smeared with sindoor and oil, a symbol of life and strength. According to a popular belief, once when Sita was applying sindoor to her hair, Hanuman asked her the reason for doing so. She replied that by applying sindoor, she ensured a long life for her husband Shri Ram. The more sindoor she applied, the longer Rama's life would be. The devoted Hanuman then smeared his entire body with sindoor, in an effort to ensure Rama's immortality. Hence Hanuman's idol is always daubed with sindoor.

## MAJOR LANDMARKS IN INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT (history and reforms)

### The rebellion of 1857

The Indian rebellion of 1857 was a large-scale rebellion in northern and central India against the British East India Company's rule. It was suppressed and the British government took control of the company. The conditions of service in the company's army and cantonments increasingly came into conflict with the religious beliefs and prejudices of the sepoys. The predominance of members from the upper castes in the army, perceived loss of caste due to overseas travel, and rumours of secret designs of the government to convert them to Christianity led to deep discontentment among the sepoys. The sepoys were also disillusioned by their low salaries and the racial discrimination practiced by British officers in matters of promotion and privileges. The indifference of the British towards leading native Indian rulers such as the Mughals and ex-Peshwas and the annexation of Oudh were political factors triggering dissent amongst Indians. The Marquess of Dalhousie's policy of annexation, the doctrine of lapse (or escheat) applied by the British, and the projected removal of the descendants of the Great Mughal from their ancestral palace at Red Fort to the Qutb also angered some people.

The final spark was provided by the rumoured use of tallow (from cows) and lard (pig fat) in the newly introduced Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle cartridges. Soldiers had to bite the cartridges with their teeth before loading them into their rifles and the reported presence of cow and pig fat was religiously offensive to both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.

Mangal Pandey, a 29-year old sepoy, was believed to be responsible for inspiring the Indian sepoys to rise against the British. In the first week of May 1857, he killed a higher officer in his regiment at Barrackpore for the introduction of the offensive rule. He was captured and was sentenced to death when the British took back control over the regiment. <sup>1</sup>On 10 May 1857, the sepoys at Meerut broke rank and turned on their commanding officers, killing some of them. They then reached Delhi on 11 May, set the company's toll house afire, and marched into the Red Fort, where they asked the Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah II, to become their leader and reclaim his throne. The emperor was reluctant at first, but eventually agreed and was proclaimed



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Shehenshah-e-Hindustan by the rebels. The rebels also murdered much of the European, Eurasian, and Christian population of the city.

Revolts broke out in other parts of Oudh and the North-Western Provinces as well, where civil rebellion followed the mutinies, leading to popular uprisings. The British were initially caught off-guard and were thus slow to react, but eventually responded with force. The lack of effective organisation among the rebels, coupled with the military superiority of the British, brought a rapid end to the rebellion. The British fought the main army of the rebels near Delhi, and after prolonged fighting and a siege, defeated them and retook the city on 20 September 1857. Subsequently, revolts in other centres were also crushed. The last significant battle was fought in Gwalior on 17 June 1858, during which Rani Lakshmibai was killed. Sporadic fighting and guerrilla warfare, led by Tatya Tope, continued until spring 1859, but most of the rebels were eventually subdued.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a major turning point in the history of modern India. While affirming the military and political power of the British, it led to significant change in how India was to be controlled by them. Under the Government of India Act 1858, the Company was deprived of its involvement in ruling India, with its territory being transferred to the direct authority of the British government. At the apex of the new system was a Cabinet minister, the Secretary of State for India, who was to be formally advised by a statutory council; the Governor-General of India (Viceroy) was made responsible to him, while he in turn was responsible to the British Parliament for British rule. In a royal proclamation made to the people of India, Queen Victoria promised equal opportunity of public service under British law, and also pledged to respect the rights of the native princes. The British stopped the policy of seizing land from the princes, decreed religious tolerance and began to admit Indians into the civil service (albeit mainly as subordinates). However, they also increased the number of British soldiers in relation to native Indian ones, and only allowed British soldiers to handle artillery. Bahadur Shah was exiled to Rangoon, Burma, where he died in 1862.

### **Rise of Indian nationalism (1885–1905)**

By 1900, although the Congress had emerged as an all-India political organisation, its achievement was undermined by its singular failure to attract Muslims, who felt that their representation in government service was inadequate. Attacks by Hindu reformers against religious conversion, cow slaughter, and the preservation of Urdu in Arabic script deepened their concerns of minority status and denial of rights if the Congress alone were to represent the people of India. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan launched a movement for Muslim regeneration that culminated in the founding in 1875 of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh (renamed Aligarh Muslim University in 1920). Its objective was to educate wealthy students by emphasising the compatibility of Islam with modern western knowledge. The diversity among India's Muslims, however, made it impossible to bring about uniform cultural and intellectual regeneration.

The nationalistic sentiments among Congress members led to the movement to be represented in the bodies of government, to have a say in the legislation and administration of India.



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Congressmen saw themselves as loyalists, but wanted an active role in governing their own country, albeit as part of the Empire. This trend was personified by Dadabhai Naoroji, who went as far as contesting, successfully, an election to the British House of Commons, becoming its first Indian member.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first Indian nationalist to embrace Swaraj as the destiny of the nation. Tilak deeply opposed the then British education system that ignored and defamed India's culture, history and values. He resented the denial of freedom of expression for nationalists, and the lack of any voice or role for ordinary Indians in the affairs of their nation. For these reasons, he considered Swaraj as the natural and only solution. His popular sentence "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" became the source of inspiration for Indians.

In 1907, the Congress was split into two factions. The radicals led by Tilak advocated civil agitation and direct revolution to overthrow the British Empire and the abandonment of all things British. The moderates led by leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji and Gopal Krishna Gokhale on the other hand wanted reform within the framework of British rule. Tilak was backed by rising public leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, who held the same point of view. Under them, India's three great states – Maharashtra, Bengal and Punjab shaped the demand of the people and India's nationalism. Gokhale criticised Tilak for encouraging acts of violence and disorder. But the Congress of 1906 did not have public membership, and thus Tilak and his supporters were forced to leave the party.

But with Tilak's arrest, all hopes for an Indian offensive were stalled. The Congress lost credit with the people. A Muslim deputation met with the Viceroy, Minto (1905–10), seeking concessions from the impending constitutional reforms, including special considerations in government service and electorates. The British recognised some of the Muslim League's petitions by increasing the number of elective offices reserved for Muslims in the Indian Councils Act 1909. The Muslim League insisted on its separateness from the Hindu-dominated Congress, as the voice of a "nation within a nation."

## **Gandhian Era**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) had been a prominent leader of the Indian nationalist movement in South Africa, and had been a vocal opponent of basic discrimination and abusive labor treatment as well as suppressive police control such as the Rowlatt Acts. During these protests, Gandhiji had perfected the concept of satyagraha, which had been inspired by the philosophy of Baba Ram Singh (famous for leading the Kuka Movement in the Punjab in 1872). In January 1914 (well before the First World War began) Gandhiji was successful. The hated legislation against Indians was repealed and all Indian political prisoners were released by General Jan Smuts.

Gandhi returned to India, on 9 January 1915 and initially entered the political fray not with calls for a nation-state, but in support of the unified commerce-oriented territory that the Congress Party had been asking for. Gandhi believed that the industrial development and educational development that the Europeans had brought with them were required to alleviate many of



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India's problems. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, a veteran Congressman and Indian leader, became Gandhi's mentor. Gandhi's ideas and strategies of non-violent civil disobedience initially appeared impractical to some Indians and Congressmen. In Gandhi's own words, "civil disobedience is civil breach of unmoral statutory enactments." It had to be carried out non-violently by withdrawing cooperation with the corrupt state. Gandhi's ability to inspire millions of common people became clear when he used Satyagraha during the anti-Rowlatt Act protests in Punjab. Gandhi had great respect for Lokmanya Tilak. His programmes were all inspired by Tilak's "Chatusutri" programme.

Gandhi's vision would soon bring millions of regular Indians into the movement, transforming it from an elitist struggle to a national one. The nationalist cause was expanded to include the interests and industries that formed the economy of common Indians. For example, in Champaran, Bihar, Gandhi championed the plight of desperately poor sharecroppers and landless farmers who were being forced to pay oppressive taxes and grow cash crops at the expense of the subsistence crops which formed their food supply. The profits from the crops they grew were insufficient to provide for their sustenance.

The positive impact of reform was seriously undermined in 1919 by the Rowlatt Act, named after the recommendations made the previous year to the Imperial Legislative Council by the Rowlatt Commission. The Rowlatt Act vested the Viceroy's government with extraordinary powers to quell sedition by silencing the press, detaining the political activists without trial, and arresting any individuals suspected of sedition or treason without a warrant. In protest, a nationwide cessation of work (hartal) was called, marking the beginning of widespread, although not nationwide, popular discontent.

The agitation unleashed by the acts led to British attacks on demonstrators, culminating on 13 April 1919, in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (also known as the Amritsar Massacre) in Amritsar, Punjab. The British military commander, Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, blocked the main, and only entrance-cum-exit, and ordered his soldiers to fire into an unarmed and unsuspecting crowd of some 15,000 men, women and children. They had assembled peacefully at Jallianwala Bagh, a walled courtyard, but Dyer had wanted to execute the imposed ban on all meetings and proposed to teach all Indians a lesson the harsher way. A total of 1,651 rounds were fired, killing 379 people (as according to an official British commission; Indian officials' estimates ranged as high as 1,499 and wounding 1,137 in the massacre. Dyer was forced to retire but was hailed as a hero in Britain, demonstrating to Indian nationalists that the Empire was beholden to public opinion in Britain, but not in India. The episode dissolved wartime hopes of home rule and goodwill and opened a rift that could not be bridged short of complete independence

### **The non-cooperation movements**

The independence movement as late as 1918 was an elitist movement far removed from the masses of India, focusing essentially on a unified commerce-oriented territory and hardly a call for a united nation. Gandhi changed all that and made it a mass movement.



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## **The first non-cooperation movement**

At the Calcutta session of the Congress in September 1920, Gandhi convinced other leaders of the need to start a non-cooperation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for swaraj (self rule). The first satyagraha movement urged the use of khadi and Indian material as alternatives to those shipped from Britain. It also urged people to boycott British educational institutions and law courts; resign from government employment; refuse to pay taxes; and forsake British titles and honours. Although this came too late to influence the framing of the new Government of India Act 1919, the movement enjoyed widespread popular support, and the resulting unparalleled magnitude of disorder presented a serious challenge to foreign rule. However, Gandhi called off the movement following the Chauri Chaura incident, which saw the death of twenty-two policemen at the hands of an angry mob.

Membership in the party was opened to anyone prepared to pay a token fee, and a hierarchy of committees was established and made responsible for discipline and control over a hitherto amorphous and diffuse movement. The party was transformed from an elite organisation to one of mass national appeal and participation.

Gandhi was sentenced in 1922 to six years of prison, but was released after serving two. On his release from prison, he set up the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, on the banks of river Sabarmati, established the newspaper Young India, and inaugurated a series of reforms aimed at the socially disadvantaged within Hindu society — the rural poor, and the untouchables.

This era saw the emergence of new generation of Indians from within the Congress Party, including C. Rajagopalachari, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose and others- who would later on come to form the prominent voices of the Indian independence movement, whether keeping with Gandhian Values, or, as in the case of Bose's Indian National Army, diverging from it.

The Indian political spectrum was further broadened in the mid-1920s by the emergence of both moderate and militant parties, such as the Swaraj Party, Hindu Mahasabha, Communist Party of India and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Regional political organisations also continued to represent the interests of non-Brahmins in Madras, Mahars in Maharashtra, and Sikhs in Punjab. However, people like Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi, Vanchinathan and Neelakanda Brahmachari played a major role from Tamil Nadu in both freedom struggle and fighting for equality for all castes and communities.





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## **Purna Swaraj**

Following the rejection of the recommendations of the Simon Commission by Indians, an all-party conference was held at Bombay in May 1928. This was meant to instill a sense of resistance among people. The conference appointed a drafting committee under Motilal Nehru to draw up a constitution for India. The Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress asked the British government to accord dominion status to India by December 1929, or a countrywide civil disobedience movement would be launched. By 1929, however, in the midst of rising political discontent and increasingly violent regional movements, the call for complete independence from Britain began to find increasing grounds within the Congress leadership. Under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru at its historic Lahore session in December 1929, the Indian National Congress adopted a resolution calling for complete independence from the British. It authorised the Working Committee to launch a civil disobedience movement throughout the country. It was decided that 26 January 1930 should be observed all over India as the Purna Swaraj (total independence) Day. Many Indian political parties and Indian revolutionaries of a wide spectrum united to observe the day with honor and pride.

## **Karachi Congress session-1931**

A special session was held in Karachi to endorse the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. The goal of Purna swaraj was reiterated. Two resolutions were adopted-one on Fundamental rights and other on National Economic program. This was the first time the congress spelt out what swaraj would mean for the masses.

## **Salt March and civil disobedience**

Gandhi emerged from his long seclusion by undertaking his most famous campaign, a march of about 400 kilometres from his commune in Ahmedabad to Dandi, on the coast of Gujarat between 11 March and 6 April 1930. The march is usually known as the Dandi March or the Salt Satyagraha. At Dandi, in protest against British taxes on salt, he and thousands of followers broke the law by making their own salt from seawater. It took 24 days for him to complete this march. Every day he covered 10 miles and gave many speeches.

In April 1930 there were violent police-crowd clashes in Calcutta. Approximately 100,000 people were imprisoned in the course of the Civil disobedience movement (1930–31), while in Peshawar unarmed demonstrators were fired upon in the Qissa Khwani bazaar massacre. The latter event catapulted the then newly formed Khudai Khidmatgar movement (founder Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the Frontier Gandhi) onto the National scene. While Gandhi was in jail, the first Round Table Conference was held in London in November 1930, without representation from the Indian National Congress. The ban upon the Congress was removed because of economic hardships caused by the Satyagraha. Gandhi, along with other members of the Congress Working Committee, was released from prison in January 1931.

In March 1931, the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed, and the government agreed to set all political prisoners free (Although, some of the key revolutionaries were not set free and the death sentence for Bhagat Singh and his two comrades was not taken back which further intensified the



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agitation against Congress not only outside it but within the Congress itself). In return, Gandhi agreed to discontinue the civil disobedience movement and participate as the sole representative of the Congress in the second Round Table Conference, which was held in London in September 1931. However, the conference ended in failure in December 1931. Gandhi returned to India and decided to resume the civil disobedience movement in January 1932.

For the next few years, the Congress and the government were locked in conflict and negotiations until what became the Government of India Act 1935 could be hammered out. By then, the rift between the Congress and the Muslim League had become unbridgeable as each pointed the finger at the other acrimoniously. The Muslim League disputed the claim of the Congress to represent all people of India, while the Congress disputed the Muslim League's claim to voice the aspirations of all Muslims.

**Quit India Movement:** The Quit India Movement (Bharat Chhodo Andolan) or the August Movement was a civil disobedience movement in India launched on 9 August 1942 in response to Gandhi's call for immediate independence of India and against sending Indians to World War II. He asked all teachers to leave their schools, and other Indians to leave their respective jobs and take part in this movement. Due to Gandhi's political influence, his request was followed by a massive proportion of the population.

At the outbreak of war, the Congress Party had during the Wardha meeting of the working-committee in September 1939, passed a resolution conditionally supporting the fight against fascism, but were rebuffed when they asked for independence in return. In March 1942, faced with an increasingly dissatisfied sub-continent only reluctantly participating in the war, and deteriorations in the war situation in Europe and South East Asia, and with growing dissatisfactions among Indian troops- especially in Europe- and among the civilian population in the sub-continent, the British government sent a delegation to India under Stafford Cripps, in what came to be known as the Cripps' Mission. The purpose of the mission was to negotiate with the Indian National Congress a deal to obtain total co-operation during the war, in return of progressive devolution and distribution of power from the crown and the Viceroy to elected Indian legislature. However, the talks failed, having failed to address the key demand of a timeframe towards self-government, and of definition of the powers to be relinquished, essentially portraying an offer of limited dominion-status that was wholly unacceptable to the Indian movement. To force the British Raj to meet its demands and to obtain definitive word on total independence, the Congress took the decision to launch the Quit India Movement.

The aim of the movement was to bring the British Government to the negotiating table by holding the Allied War Effort hostage. The call for determined but passive resistance that signified the certitude that Gandhi foresaw for the movement is best described by his call to Do or Die, issued on 8 August at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, since renamed August Kranti Maidan (August Revolution Ground). However, almost the entire Congress leadership, and not merely at the national level, was put into confinement less than twenty-four hours after Gandhi's speech, and the greater number of the Congress khilands were to spend the rest of the war in jail.



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On 8 August 1942, the Quit India resolution was passed at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). The draft proposed that if the British did not accede to the demands, a massive Civil Disobedience would be launched. However, it was an extremely controversial decision. At Gowalia Tank, Mumbai, Gandhi urged Indians to follow a non-violent civil disobedience. Gandhi told the masses to act as an independent nation and not to follow the orders of the British. The British, already alarmed by the advance of the Japanese army to the India–Burma border, responded the next day by imprisoning Gandhi at the Aga Khan Palace in Pune. The Congress Party's Working Committee, or national leadership was arrested all together and imprisoned at the Ahmednagar Fort. They also banned the party altogether. Large-scale protests and demonstrations were held all over the country. Workers remained absent en masse and strikes were called. The movement also saw widespread acts of sabotage, Indian underground organisation carried out bomb attacks on allied supply convoys, government buildings were set on fire, electricity lines were disconnected and transport and communication lines were severed. The disruptions were under control in a few weeks and had little impact on the war effort. The movement soon became a leaderless act of defiance, with a number of acts that deviated from Gandhi's principle of non-violence. In large parts of the country, the local underground organisations took over the movement. However, by 1943, Quit India had petered out.

All the other major parties rejected the Quit India plan, and most cooperated closely with the British, as did the princely states, the civil service and the police. The Muslim League supported the Raj and grew rapidly in membership, and in influence with the British.

#### **REFER SERIES- BHARAT EK KHOJ BY SHYAM BENEGAL**

Students will be shown the movie- 'Bharat Ek khoj'

## Unit-II [Indian Economy: Issues and Concerns]

### 1. Nature of Indian Economy (reasons for underdevelopment)

Indian economy at present is undergoing far reaching changes, as it moves from the state of underdevelopment to development. In this phase, it has much to its credit and at the same time, is facing many problems.

The developing economy of India is facing the following problems-

**1. Inflation.** Fuelled by rising wages, property prices and food prices inflation in India is an increasing problem. Inflation is currently between 6-7%. A record 98% of Indian firms report operating close to full capacity. With economic growth of 9.2% per annum inflationary pressures is likely to increase, especially with supply side constraints such as infrastructure. The wholesale-price index (WPI), rose to an annualized 6.6% in January 2007

**2. Poor educational standards-** Although India has benefited from a high percentage of English speakers. (important for call centre industry) there are still high levels of illiteracy amongst the population. It is worse in rural areas and amongst women. Over 50% of Indian women are illiterate

**3. Poor Infrastructure.** Many Indians lack basic amenities lack access to running water. Indian public services are creaking under the strain of bureaucracy and inefficiency. Over 40% of Indian fruit rots before it reach the market; this is one example of the supply constraints and inefficiency's facing the Indian economy.

**4. Balance of Payments deterioration.** Although India has built up large amounts of foreign currency reserves the current account deficit has deteriorate in recent months. This deterioration is a result of the overheating of the economy. Aggregate Supply cannot meet Aggregate demand so consumers are sucking in imports. Excluding workers' remittances India's current account deficit is approaching 5% of GDP

**5. High levels of debt.** Buoyed by a property boom the amount of lending in India has grown by 30% in the past year. However there are concerns about the risk of such loans. If they are dependent on rising property prices it could be problematic. Furthermore if inflation increases further it may force the RBI to increase interest rates. If interest rates rise substantially it will leave those indebted facing rising interest payments and potentially reducing consumer spending in the future

**6. Inequality has risen rather than decreased.** It is hoped that economic growth would help drag the Indian poor above the poverty line. However so far economic growth has been highly uneven benefiting the skilled and wealthy disproportionately. Many of India's rural poor are yet to receive any tangible benefit from the India's economic growth. More than 78 million homes do not have electricity. 33% (268million) of the population live on less than \$1 per day.



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Furthermore with the spread of television in Indian villages the poor are increasingly aware of the disparity between rich and poor.

**7. Large Budget Deficit.** India has one of the largest budget deficits in the developing world. Excluding subsidies it amounts to nearly 8% of GDP. Although it is fallen a little in the past year. It still allows little scope for increasing investment in public services like health and education.

**8. Rigid labor Laws.** As an example Firms employing more than 100 people cannot fire workers without government permission. The effect of this is to discourage firms from expanding to over 100 people. It also discourages foreign investment. Trades Unions have an important political power base and governments often shy away from tackling potentially politically sensitive labor laws.

### **Solutions-**

The following solutions can be done-

- Speed up Aadhar pilots; use study results to shift to direct transfer of subsidies across India
- Controlling fiscal deficit will curtail current account deficit
- Ease supply constraints by removing APMC Act and opening up retail sector to FDI
- Overseas bonds are an option Clear FDI decisions quickly
- A few bold reforms can turn sentiments quickly, the govt must appear to be in charge
- Goods and services tax (GST) can change the game
- Strong commitment to fiscal consolidation will help the Reserve Bank cut rates
- Clarity on coal can kick start power investments
- Get cash-rich PSUs to fast-track plans
- Supply coal to plants working at sub-optimal capacity
- Revamp state electricity boards to ensure power producers can sell to them without payment worries
- A general improvement in sentiment will help
- Allow employees to migrate from EPF to NPS for long-term savings to be deployed in stocks

## **2. India's planning for development (5-year plans)**

After some 200 years of British rule, the command of our nation was in our hands. At the time of deciding an economic system for India, the then prime minister of India chose to adopt socialism for welfare of all rather than few. To decide some goals for our long-term development, the system of planning was adopted to efficiently utilize the resources of the country. Till date, twelve 5-yr plans have been made.

**TWELTH 5-YR PLAN: AN ANALYSIS:** Planning Commission of India first started talking of "inclusive growth" as an objective while formulating the 11th Five Year Plan which was in



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operation from 2007 to 2012. But we find that while this 11th Plan succeeded in achieving a remarkable rate of growth, it also witnessed impoverishment and exclusion of large sections of the populations from benefits of development. This was because of the singular focus of the planners on growth and not on distribution with the assumption that accelerated growth would trickle down to benefit all. Unfortunately this has not happened. On the contrary, the disparities seem to have increased.

### **11th Plan: Exclusion and Deprivations**

Despite an average 7.9 per cent growth in GDP (Gross Domestic Product) during the 11th Plan Period -sometimes peaking to 9 per cent- the performance of India in terms of the Human Development Index (indicative of inclusive growth and the extent of population benefiting from development) saw a downward slide from 128th and 127th positions in 2000 and 2005 respectively to 134th position in 2009 and 2011. While a handful are reaping benefits and have entered the billionaires club, millions are being forced into deprivation and disempowerment. For the first time in history, four Indians found a place amongst the 10 richest people of 2009, but three out of every ten poor people in the world in the same year were also Indians - an unusual phenomenon of continuing poverty and marginalization in the midst of galloping plenty.

While Planning Commission of India accepts GDP as a measure for assessing growth, it has not taken any steps to adopt any tool to quantitatively measure “inclusive growth”. Models and measures are indeed available to determine inclusivity of growth in the form of Gini Coefficient (the measure of income inequality) and HDI (Human Development Index) etc., but what seems to be lacking is the appropriate development philosophy and political will to adopt them. With such systemic privileging of “growth” and gross omission of any measures to assess “inclusion”, our planning process has taken a trajectory that has resulted in the doubling of inequity in incomes in India during the last 20 years, making it the worst performer on this count of all emerging economies according to a report of OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) released in December 2011. The OECD Report further shows that the top 10 per cent wage earners in India now make 12 times more than the bottom 10 per cent. Ironically, this was also a period when the GDP of the country started increasing at an unprecedented rate making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Further, despite all assertions of social inclusion, India spends an abysmal 5 per cent of its GDP on social protection schemes as compared to more than 15 per cent by Brazil, and during the last two decades India’s Gini Coefficient has climbed from 0.32 to 0.38 with 0 being the ideal score.

### **Conflicts: A Product of Inequity and Marginalization**

The deprivation and exploitation of millions of poor seems to be turning them against the system as they find themselves more and more excluded from the benevolent and protective character of the State. This disenchantment and exclusion of the masses is getting translated into a variety of social and political conflicts and manifests itself as agitations, riots, resistance, militancy and even demands for secession organized around caste, class, communal, regional and ethnic lines. Already one-third of the country is afflicted by some form of serious conflict due to the exploitative and unsustainable philosophy of growth we seem to be pursuing. Even the Planning



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Commission has explicitly stated in its Plan Document for the 12th Five Year Plan that “agitations around land acquisition, deforestation, water use, air and water pollution, and also our response to natural disasters have become more and pose challenges which this Plan must address squarely.”

If left unaddressed, all these conflicts could lead to increased violence between more and more groups and communities, set ablaze most of the country and have the potential of bringing down the legitimacy of the state and cause irreversible damage to the national polity. Hence, it is imperative that any planning process of the State should also focus on deliberations about how development in different spheres is contributing to generation/enhancement of conflicts and explore the possibility of using the planning process for mitigation of conflicts rather than provide conditions for their accentuation as seems to be the case now.

### **Adoption of Multiple Parameters**

The Plan Document asserts that “our focus should not be just on GDP growth itself, but on achieving a growth process that is as inclusive as possible” and rightly accepts that “strong inclusive growth is the only scenario that will meet the aspiration of the people”. But in terms of its approach and methodology, it unfortunately continues its primary focus on providing impetus to “growth” ( fixing a target of achieving 9 per cent GDP growth), but adopts no methodologies to measure and monitor “inclusive growth” despite explicitly mentioning that “the extent of inequality is measured by indices such as the Gini coefficient”. If the Planning Commission is indeed serious and honest about “inclusive growth” then it should also fix targets for Gini coefficient, HDI and other such measures also. Otherwise it would appear that “inclusive growth” is being used more as a slogan for effect than a parameter for the planning process.

**Endgame-** It is rightly said that growth for the sake of growth is the philosophy of a cancer cell. Whether we are the RBCs (Red Blood Corpuscles) or cancer cells for Mother Earth, the option can change with the Twelfth Plan. All that is required is a politics oriented towards the underprivileged

### **Figures speak: Ground realities of Indian Economy based on HDI**

Human Development Index is the most recent index of development. It is in use since 1990's and developed by UNDP.

Three factors are included in it-

- a. Longevity ( life expectancy at birth)
- b. Educational Attainment
- c. Standard of Living ( PCI)

**Educational Attainment-** It includes adult literacy as well as combined primary , secondary and tertiary enrolment ratio  
**Standard of Living-** It is a proxy measure of satisfaction derived from a bundle of basic goods and services. It is assumed to reflect employment levels of people.



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HDI ranks countries in relation to each other. To rank them, current minimum and maximum values are used. So, Index is the distance travelled from minimum to maximum ( progress) and the distance travelled in each case is the basis of combining three indices which acts further as a common denominator to rank countries on a uniform scale.

As per the report of UNDP ( released in Oct '11), HDI of India improved through the last decade. It increased by 21% from 0.387 in 1999-2000 to 0.467 in 2007-08. Also, the difference and inequality between different states reduced. It indicates towards improvement in education but a downfall in nutrition & sanitation. Gujarat ranks highest in Per Capita Income as well as child malnutrition. Overall, India ranks 134 out of 187 countries on HDI in 2011 as compared to 119<sup>th</sup> rank out of 169 countries in 2010.

### **Explanation of economic concepts and terminologies**

**Inflation-** It is a persistent tendency for prices and money wages to increase. It is measure by proportional changes over time in some appropriate price index, commonly called consumer price index. Economists have distinguished cost and demand inflation-

Cost inflation- it is started by an increase in some element of costs, for example the oil price explosion of 1973-74.

Demand inflation – It is due to too much aggregate demand.

**Cash Reserve Ratio-** The proportion of the total assets of a bank or other financial institutions are required to hold in money balances, or in some form of highly liquid assets . Minimum reserve requirements may be used as instruments of monetary policy , and as regulatory methods of attempting to ensure solvency.

**Recession-** A situation when demand is sluggish, real output is not rising and unemployment is increasing A recession is usually identified when real GDP falls for two successive quarters. It is not as severe as a depression

**GDP-**It is one of the main measures of economic activity. 'gross' indicates that it is calculated without subtracting any allowance for capital consumption, 'Domestic' means that it measures activities located in the country regardless of their ownership. It , thus includes the activities carried by foreign entrepreneurs in the country and excludes the activities by firms owned by residents but operated abroad. 'Product' indicates that it measures real output produced rather than output absorbed by the residents . GDP is reported at both current and constant prices.

**GNP-**It stands for Gross National Product. It is different from GDP as the term ' National' indicates that it includes residents' incomes from economic activities carried on abroad as well as at home, and excludes income produced at home but belonging to non-residents.

**Balance of trade -** The part of a nation's balance of payments that deals with merchandise (or visible) imports or exports





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**Bond** - A certificate reflecting a firm's promise to pay the holder a periodic interest payment until the date of maturity and a fixed sum of money on the designated maturity date

**Credit** - (1) In monetary theory, the use of someone else's funds in exchange for a promise to pay (usually with interest) at a later date. The major examples are short-term loans from a bank, credit extended by suppliers, and commercial paper. (2) In balance-of-payments accounting, an item such as exports that earns a country foreign currency

**Division of labor** - The process whereby workers perform only a single or a very few steps of a major production task (as when working on an assembly line.)

**Economic growth** - An increase in the total output of a nation over time. Economic growth is usually measured as the annual rate of increase in a nation's real GDP.

**Exchange** - Trading goods and services with others for other goods and services or for money (also called trade). When people exchange voluntarily, they expect to be better off as a result.

**Exchange rates** - The rate, or price, at which one country's currency is exchanged for the currency of another country.

**Excise Tax** - Taxes imposed on specific goods and services, such as cigarettes and gasoline.

**Exports** - Goods or services produced in one nation but sold to buyers in another nation

**Fiscal policy** - A government's program with respect to (1) the purchase of goods and services and spending on transfer payments, and (2) the amount and type of taxes

**Human capital** - The health, strength, education, training, and skills which people bring to their jobs.

**Human resources** - The quantity and quality of human effort directed toward producing goods and services (also called labor).

**Income** - The payments made for the use of borrowed or loaned money

**Interest rates** - The price paid for borrowing money for a period of time, usually expressed as a percentage of the principal per year

**Market** - A setting where buyers and sellers establish prices for identical or very similar products, and exchange goods and/or services.

**Market economy** - An economic system where most goods and services are exchanged through transactions by private households and businesses. Prices are determined by buyers and sellers making exchanges in private markets

**Monetary policy** - The objectives of the central bank in exercising its control over money, interest rates, and credit conditions. The instruments of monetary policy are primarily open-market operations, reserve requirements, and the discount rate.

**Money** - Anything that is generally accepted as a medium of exchange with which to buy goods



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and services, a good that can be used to buy all other goods and services, that serves as a standard of value, and has a store of value.

**National debt** - The net accumulation of federal budget deficits.

**National income** - The amount of aggregate income earned by suppliers of resources employed to produce GNP; net national product plus government subsidies minus indirect business taxes.

**Natural resources** - "Gifts of nature" that are used to produce goods and services. They include land, trees, fish, petroleum and mineral deposits, the fertility of soil, climatic conditions for growing crops, and so on.

**Profit** - The difference between total revenues and the full costs involved in producing or selling a good or service; it is a return for risk taking.

**Property tax** - Taxes paid by households and businesses on land and buildings.

**Public goods** - A commodity whose benefits are indivisibly spread among the entire community, whether or not particular individuals desire to consume the public good. For example, a public-health measure that eradicates smallpox protects all, not just those paying for the vaccinations. These goods are often provided by the government. To be contrasted with private goods.

**Revenue** - Payments received by businesses from selling goods and services

**Sales tax** - Taxes paid on the goods and services people buy

**Standard of living** - A minimum of necessities, comforts, or luxuries held essential to maintaining a person or group in customary or proper status or circumstances.

**Tariff** - A tax on an imported good.

**Taxes** - Required payments of money made to governments by households and business firms

**Unemployment** - The situation in which people are willing and able to work at current wage rates, but do not have jobs

**Wages** - The payment resource earners receive for their labor.

## Demand and Supply Concepts

### Demand

Law of demand: At higher prices, a lower quantity will be demanded than at lower prices, other things being equal. Alternatively, at lower prices, a higher quantity will be demanded, other things being equal.

### Reasons why observe law of demand:

1. Substitution effect: tendency of people to substitute in favor of cheaper commodities



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2. Real-income effect: change in purchasing power that occurs when the price of a good changes

## Supply

Law of Supply: At higher prices, a larger quantity will generally be supplied than at lower prices, all other things being equal.

Reasons why observe supply law:

1. higher prices increase incentives for increasing production
2. the law of increasing costs

## Supply and Demand Together

**Equilibrium** – a situation in which the plans of the buyers and sellers coincide so that there is neither excess quantity supplied or demanded (also called market clearing price)

**Shortage**—excess quantity demanded or insufficient quantity supplied. Difference between the quantities demanded and supplied at a specific price below the market clearing price.

**Surplus**—excess quantity supplied or insufficient quantity demanded. Difference between the quantities supplied and demanded at a price above the market clearing price.

## Mixed Economy: Public Sector Undertakings and Private Enterprises

In recent years role of private and public sectors have become a great controversy. For long, industries in India have been entirely within the private sector. The Government was just a silent spectator. Since Independence significant departure has been made. These were left to the enterprise and individuals and the Government remained a silent During World War II. But there was a sign of a well thought out and systematic. Similarly, the Government did take some measure some laws in respect of industrial labor and like these were adopted in the spirit of routine regulatory measure to own and run industries and the limits imposed on the private enterprise. Industries were divided in four categories. The first of these included the manufacture of arms and ammunition, production and control of economic energy and the ownership and management of railway transport. These were the exclusive monopolies of the State. The second category included six important industries—coal, iron and steel, aircraft manufacture, ship building, mineral oils and manufacture of telephones, telegraph and wireless apparatus (excluding radio sets). The development of these in future was primarily a responsibility of the State. The existing undertakings in these industries were left with the private sector for a period of ten years during which they were allowed all facilities for efficient working and reasonable expansion.

The third category comprised certain basic industries of importance including salt, automobiles, traction prime moving, electric engineering, heavy machinery, machine tools, heavy chemicals, fertilizers, electrochemical industries, nonferrous manufactures rubber manufactures, power and



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industrial alcohol, cotton and woolen textiles, cement, sugar, paper and newsprint, air and sea transport, minerals and industries relating to defense. These industries were regarded important for national interest and were, therefore, subjected to Central control and regulations. The fourth category of industries covered the rest of the industrial held and it was left open normally to the private enterprise individual as well as co-operative. The policy thus created two sectors— private and public.

The policy was given mixed reception. The supporters of the private sector described it one-sided and unduly prejudiced against the capitalists while the protagonists of Socialism regarded it as the first act to lay down the foundation of democratic socialism. This policy remained in force up to 1956. During these eight years private investment in industries increased considerably the immediate apprehensions regarding the circumscribing of the private sector proved unfounded. There was, however, one weakness in the policy and its implementation. No priorities were laid down and even if laid down were not followed in practice. State Governments adopted measures to nationalize electric supply concerns. Air transport, though not included in schedule was nationalized. Road transport, received a very high priority in the nationalization program of State Governments. On the other hand, the Government adopted a rigid approach in some cases; insisted that steel works in future could be taken only in the public sector. This gave the harmful consequences of slow expansion. There was lack of co-ordination between the various Departments of the Central Government on the one hand and the centre and the State Governments on the other. The New Industrial policy Resolution of 1956 included seventeen industries in schedule I and twelve in schedule II. The public sector now has a much wider field to itself. Its obligation has thus gone up.

Once again the supporter of the private sector, Dr. John Mathai pleaded for making free enterprise the normal practice. Mr. Bhabha saw in it the beginning of State Capitalism and the ultimate extinction of entrepreneurial activities, Mr. Eugene Black, the then President of the World Bank thought that the Government was exceeding its capacity. The expansion of the public sector is a matter of policy and is also being reflected in implementation. In context of the Indian conditions the Raison d'être can bring out five factors.

Better distribution of property and reduction in the concentration of wealth and economic power and facilitating the speedy accelerated industrialization of the country. In the past, industries were entirely in the private sector which became a repository of wealth and economic power. This had its harmful repercussions. A country accepting the socialist pattern of society and working within a politically democratic setup cannot permit these tendencies to continue undeterred. To prevent excessive concentration of power in a few hands, the undertaking of industrial enterprises in public sector is very wisely regarded as an effective remedy. The success of the public sector is reducing economic concentration and widely diffusing the benefits of industrialization. However it depends upon a number of factors. The public sector undertakings should be efficiently managed and should generate profits and surpluses. The second factor is more pressing. Indian industries recorded a very slow rate of progress in the pre-Independence period. To give it speed and directive, faster expansion of the public sector was thought necessary. The factors of controversy have been two. First the Government has reserved the



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fields in which the private sector could effectively function and has restricted its area of operation. Secondly the Government has placed unduly harsh restrictions and regulations on the expansion of private sector industries. But a little more thorough examination will prove that these changes are not well founded. In brief, we find that the expansion of the public sector has been more an activating impact than a restrictive one.

## **GLOBALISATION AND OPENING UP OF INDIAN ECONOMY-**

The concept of globalisation was first introduced by Adam Smith, the father of modern economics in the year 1776 through the book titled, "Wealth of the Nations", and since then the globalisation has been liked yo-yo.

In the days of yore, British, Chinese, Indians and Mughals were involved in global business. The Chinese used to sell silk to the world and buy dynamites. The British used to come to India to buy condiments and in return India used to buy ammunition.

So, the point is that - globalisation is not a new concept. In the good old days, globalisation even more prevalent because Indian spices, silk handicrafts, gold, silver jewellery, etc., were ubiquitous everywhere in European.

In the past globalisation meant quid pro quo i.e., one thing for another. But in the early 20th century, everything changed when France introduced the system of protectionism and every nation began to create boundaries.

Protectionism destroyed globalisation in total. But again in the late 20th century the winds of globalisation began to blow. Dr. Allen Green Span as well as Dr. Paul Walker began to egg the nation in favour of globalisation and it was July 1, 1991, when India became the part and parcel of globalisation and today every nation, which happens to be a pursuer of globalisation derives plenty of basketfuls of fruits.

The word "globalisation", which connotes where all the nations join their hands and create a kind of synergy to do business or any commercial, cultural or educational activities, in which every participant nation should be beneficiary. Globalisation in a nutshell is "one for all and all for no. The purpose behind globalisation has been to open the portals for each and every nation in different fields. A nation can buy from other nation and sell to other nation.

At the time when many analysts predict a booming future for Indian economy India remains hesitant to fully embrace globalisation India and its neighbour China have been tagged as the world's next economic super powers. Yet while China industriously makes its economy hospitable to foreign capital, Indian reformers continue to grapple with an intransigent domestic opposition to liberalization. Such are the pitfalls of Indian democracy.

"As Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and many other experts have pointed out that India, as a geographical, politico-cultural entity has been interacting with the outside world throughout history and still continues to do so.



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India has to adapt, assimilate and contribute." There are numerous experts to tell all who listen, that globalisation opens a tremendous potential for growth and poverty alleviation, and an outward looking model frees up entrepreneurs to innovate and invest.

Globalisation means many things to the hoi polloi, particularly in India, which is the to probably the widest range of anti-globalisation groups in the world Indian economy needs globalisation because it can reduce the poverty also increase India's forex level which means Indian can manage economic crisis through it.

During 1990's India was passing through mammoth economic crisis. The economic crisis of 1991 proved a real turning point for the Indian economy. Indian ambivalence towards markets and free trade has been evident in the way it has dealt with Bretton Woods institutions.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were created with the fundamental premise that protecting and expanding the system of liberal international trade would help avert a third major global conflict. India has been a vibrant participant in these institutions, not only as a major client, but also through its brilliant staff members and its commending executive directors.

Since the days of 1991, India has come a long way. It has comfortable foreign exchange reserves (despite high levels of domestic debt); booming software and services export market, and a burgeoning knowledge economic Clearly, India has tremendous opportunities to benefit from globalisation but there is also consensus that the challenges confronting In development are substantial, even daunting. India remains handicapped by enormous infrastructure and labour and capital constraints.

"Everyone is talking the talk, but not everyone is walking walk". This statement was made by Planning Commission De Chairman, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, in the closing remarks of his talk, globalisation and Indian Economy." Dr. Ahluwalia suggested that most people in India now agree in India's greater participation in the global economy, but more needs to be done to achieve that objective. Even so, there have have been significant changes made, especially compared to the 1980s, when there were much talk of liberalization, but no action.

Before the 1990, India's economic model was dominated by a large public sector, which favoured partitions for domestic industry. There was distrust for private sector and suspicion of foreign investment, with extremely high taxation levels on imported goods and a different business environment for foreign business interests.

However, a balance of payment crisis in —rushed India to seek loans from the International Monetary Fund and liberalise the economy. Dr. Ahulwalia stressed that this economic liberalization led to a rapid paradigmatic shift that significantly reduced suspicion of the private sector. Dr. Ahluwalia argued that India has undoubtedly benefited from the 1990s reforms. His argument was substantiated by two major facts:

(1) The reduction of Indian poverty rates in the 90s and (2) India's ranking second next to China, in comparison with growth rates for large developing countries.



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India, A Hub for Globalisation", is timely. India fever has caught on in the world's investment community. Nowadays the Western press rarely mentions that certified growth miracle, that leviathan of global trade, Car: without adding India".

India and China are amongst the most pro-competition countries. India produces bountiful of software engineers and software analysts, while China supplies all kinds of equipments. So, as per the current scenario, the conclusion has been derived, "India as back office supplier, China as front office supplier." Globalisation involves FDIs & FIIs.

FDIs. India is the 'best destination' for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and joint ventures, claims country's Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Kamal Nath. Addressing an audience of United States investors at the focus India Show in Chicago recently, he said that India had emerged as an across the board low cost base, attractive enough to multinationals, to relocate in the country More than one hundred of the Fortune 500 companies have a presence in India, as compared to only 33 in China.

Reiterating that India promises high returns on investments, Mr. Kamal Nath said that repatriation of profits was freely permitted, while according to a survey conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI) a few months ago, 70 percent of foreign investors were making profit and another 12 percent were breaking even. These figures would have since improved further, adding that FDI policies in India were among the most liberal, lucrative and attractive in emerging economics.

Mr. Kamal Nath listed out the policy initiatives taken by the Government in specific sectors such as telecom, ports, airports, railways, roads, and energy construction development with a view to improving competitiveness of the Indian economy.

Further, lucrative investment opportunities were being offered to investors through tax incentives and customs duty concessions for import of plant and machinery needed for the projects. The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act was also in place facilitate this process.

India has an open system with social and politic safety valves, and a regulatory mechanism that provides comfort, Ion term stability and security to the foreign investors. FDI plays an important role in the long-term economic development of the country, not only as a source of capital but also for enhancing competitiveness of the domes economy through transfer of technology, strengthening infrastructure raising productivity and generating new employment opportunity.

According to a survey by the global consultancy firm KMPG, India has emerged as the top FDI destination on the basis of higher returns - investment that foreign investors earn in the country compared to the other emerging markets like China, Brazil and Mexico.

The Foreign Institutional Investment flows to India are very high India is believed to be a good investment destination among the Europe investors, despite political uncertainty, bureaucratic hassles, shortage power and infrastructural deficiencies.

India presents a vast potential overseas investment and is actively encouraging the entrance of foreign players into the market. A report published by Goldman Sachs shows that India has



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grabbed the major share of the \$1 billion of investment made by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in emerging market; the last week of July 2006.

Due to globalisation, the Gross. Domestic Product (GDP) increase with meteoric speed. GDP is the value of all goods and services produced in a country during a given period. Today, India's rank is 10th in the top ten economies (GDP). The USA is numero uno in this. India is 5th largest economy in the world (ranking above France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Russia)

Indian exports grew by 27.08 percent during April 2006, while imports registered a growth of 20.52 percent during the same year. The exports of India are increasing due to globalisation.

Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Kamal Nath announced fresh trade initiatives to give incentives to make a India global hut gems and jewellery as well as auto components and to tailor expo; create more jobs. Mr. Kamal Nath launched two new schemes aimed creating more jobs in rural and semi-urban areas with diversifying trade basket to emerging markets of Africa and Latin America.

To take the benefits of foreign trade to rural areas, Krishi Vishesh Yojana is being expanded to include village and cottage industries while being renamed as the Krishi Vishesh Upaj Aur Gram Udyog Yojana. Now in rural areas, denizens can also get benefit of the globalisation can get employment also.

Today, the foreign universities and different educational institutions are establishing their branches in other nations. Due to globalization in — a student gets foreign education in his own country. India has also lunched many sub-centres of different educational institutions in other countries. The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are its best

The RBI recently formed a six-member committee headed by former Deputy Governor Mr. S.S. Tarapore to prepare a roadmap towards capital account convertibility (CAC), the first step towards making the Rupee fully convertible. The committee was formed to review the experience of measures of capital account liberalization in India, examine: implications of fuller capital account convertibility on monetary and exchange rate management and provide a comprehensive medium term operational framework. The committee has already submitted its report.

Now a days globalisation has become laissez faire i.e., unrestricted commerce. Today, Indian economy is burgeoning due to globalisation and it is important for the progress of Indian economy crucial

## Understanding Markets

### SENSEX

The **S&P BSE SENSEX** (S&P Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index), also-called the **BSE 30** or simply the **SENSEX**, is a free-float market capitalization-weighted stock market index of 30 well-established and financially sound companies listed on BSE Ltd. The 30 component





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companies which are some of the largest and most actively traded stocks are representative of various industrial sectors of the Indian economy. Published since 1 January 1986, the S&P BSE SENSEX is regarded as the pulse of the domestic stock markets in India. The base value of the S&P BSE SENSEX is taken as 100 on 1 April 1979, and its base year as 1978–79. On 25 July 2001 BSE launched **DOLLEX-30**, a dollar-linked version of S&P BSE SENSEX. As of 21 April 2011, the market capitalization of S&P BSE SENSEX was about ₹29,733 billion (US\$544 billion) (47.68% of market capitalization of BSE), while its free-float market capitalization was ₹15,690 billion .

**INDEX ( calculation of sensdex )** The BSE constantly reviews and modifies its composition to be sure it reflects current market conditions. The index is calculated based on a free float capitalisation method, a variation of the market capitalisation method. Instead of using a company's outstanding shares it uses its float, or shares that are readily available for trading. As per free float capitalisation methodology, the level of index at any point of time reflects the free float market value of 30 component stocks relative to a base period. The market capitalisation of a company is determined by multiplying the price of its stock by the number of shares issued by of corporate actions, replacement of scrips, etc.

## **Bulls and Bears**

A **market trend** is a tendency of a financial market to move in a particular direction over time. The terms bull market and bear market describe upward and downward market trends, respectively, and can be used to describe either the market as a whole or specific sectors and securities.

**Bull market-** A bull market is associated with increasing investor confidence, and increased investing in anticipation of future price increases (capital gains). A bullish trend in the stock market often begins before the general economy shows clear signs of recovery

**Bear market-** A bear market is a general decline in the stock market over a period of time. It is a transition from high investor optimism to widespread investor fear and pessimism. According to The Vanguard Group, "While there's no agreed-upon definition of a bear market, one generally accepted measure is a price decline of 20% or more over at least a two-month period."

## **INFLATION**

It is an economy-wide increase in the general level of prices. It affects all segments of the economy. it affects retired persons and those who have fixed income as they feel they can purchase less number of goods than before.

It is of many types-

- Demand pulls inflation- it occurs when excessive demand for commodities pulls up their prices.
- Cost Push inflation- it occurs when wages and other prices rise and the producers are successful in passing on the higher costs to the consumers in the shape of higher prices.



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- Stagflation- It occurs when high rates of inflation coexist with high rate of unemployment.
- Hyperinflation- it is a situation of runaway inflation reaching even upto 100 percent per annum. It also refers to rapid inflation in which prices increase so fast that money loses its importance as a medium of exchange

## **Role of SEBI**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (frequently abbreviated SEBI) is the regulator for the securities market in India. It was established in the year 1988 and given statutory powers on 12 April 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.

SEBI has to be responsive to the needs of three groups, which constitute the market:

- the issuers of securities
- the investors
- The market intermediaries.

SEBI has three functions rolled into one body: quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial and quasi-executive. It drafts regulations in its legislative capacity, it conducts investigation and enforcement action in its executive function and it passes rulings and orders in its judicial capacity. Though this makes it very powerful, there is an appeal process to create accountability. There is a Securities Appellate Tribunal which is a three-member tribunal and is presently headed by a former Chief Justice of a High court - Mr. Justice NK Sodhi. A second appeal lies directly to the Supreme Court.

## **Powers**

For the discharge of its functions efficiently, SEBI has been vested with the following powers:

1. to approve by-laws of stock exchanges
2. To require the stock exchange to amend their by-laws.
3. Inspect the books of accounts and call for periodical returns from recognized stock exchanges.
4. Inspect the books of accounts of a financial intermediary.
5. Compel certain companies to list their shares in one or more stock exchanges.
6. Levy fees and other charges on the intermediaries for performing its functions.
7. Grant license to any person for the purpose of dealing in certain areas.
8. Delegate powers exercisable by it.
9. Prosecute and judge directly the violation of certain provisions of the companies Act.
10. Power to impose monetary penalties.

## **SEBI Committees**

1. Technical Advisory Committee



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2. Committee for review of structure of market infrastructure institutions
3. Members of the Advisory Committee for the SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund
4. Takeover Regulations Advisory Committee
5. Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC)
6. Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC)
7. Mutual Fund Advisory Committee
8. Corporate Bonds & Securitization Advisory Committee
9. Takeover Panel
10. SEBI Committee on Disclosures and Accounting Standards (SCODA)
11. High Powered Advisory Committee on consent orders and compounding of offences
12. Derivatives Market Review Committee
13. Committee on Infrastructure Funds
14. Regulation over Financial Terms of Various Authorities.

### **Major achievements**

SEBI has enjoyed success as a regulator by pushing systematic reforms aggressively and successively. SEBI is credited for quick movement towards making the markets electronic and paperless by introducing T+5 rolling cycle from July 2001 and T+3 in April 2002 and further to T+2 in April 2003. The rolling cycle of T+2<sup>1</sup> means, Settlement is done in 2 days after Trade date. SEBI has been active in setting up the regulations as required under law. SEBI did away with physical certificates that were prone to postal delays, theft and forgery, apart from making the settlement process slow and cumbersome by passing Depositories Act, 1996.

SEBI has also been instrumental in taking quick and effective steps in light of the global meltdown and the Satyam fiasco.<sup>1</sup> In October 2011, it increased the extent and quantity of disclosures to be made by Indian corporate promoters. In light of the global meltdown, it liberalised the takeover code to facilitate investments by removing regulatory structures. In one such move, SEBI has increased the application limit for retail investors to Rs 2 lakh, from Rs 1 lakh at present.

**Foreign trade and balance of payment** Foreign trade is nothing but trade between the different countries of the world. It is also called as International trade, External trade or Inter-Regional trade. It consists of imports, exports and entrepot. The inflow of goods in a country is called import trade whereas outflow of goods from a country is called export trade. Many times goods are imported for the purpose of re-export after some processing operations. This is called entrepot trade. Foreign trade basically takes place for mutual satisfaction of wants and utilities of resources.

### **Types of Foreign Trade-**

Foreign Trade can be divided into following three groups :-



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1. **Import Trade:** Import trade refers to purchase of goods by one country from another country or inflow of goods and services from foreign country to home country.
2. **Export Trade:** Export trade refers to the sale of goods by one country to another country or outflow of goods from home country to foreign country.
3. **Entrepot Trade :** Entrepot trade is also known as Re-export. It refers to purchase of goods from one country and then selling them to another country after some processing operations.

### **Need and Importance of Foreign Trade-**

Following points explain the need and importance of foreign trade to a nation.

1. **Division of labor and specialization** Foreign trade leads to division of labour and specialization at the world level. Some countries have abundant natural resources. They should export raw materials and import finished goods from countries which are advanced in skilled manpower. This gives benefits to all the countries and thereby leading to division of labour and specialization.
2. **Optimum allocation and utilization of resources** Due to specialization, unproductive lines can be eliminated and wastage of resources avoided. In other words, resources are channelized for the production of only those goods which would give highest returns. Thus there is rational allocation and utilization of resources at the international level due to foreign trade.
3. **Equality of prices** Prices can be stabilized by foreign trade. It helps to keep the demand and supply position stable, which in turn stabilizes the prices, making allowances for transport and other marketing expenses.
4. **Availability of multiple choices** Foreign trade helps in providing a better choice to the consumers. It helps in making available new varieties to consumers all over the world.
5. **Ensures quality and standard goods** Foreign trade is highly competitive. To maintain and increase the demand for goods, the exporting countries have to keep up the quality of goods. Thus quality and standardized goods are produced.
6. **Raises standard of living of the people** Imports can facilitate standard of living of the people. This is because people can have a choice of new and better varieties of goods and services. By consuming new and better varieties of goods, people can improve their standard of living.
7. **Generate employment opportunities** Foreign trade helps in generating employment opportunities, by increasing the mobility of labour and resources. It generates direct employment in import sector and indirect employment in other sector of the economy. Such as Industry, Service Sector (insurance, banking, transport, communication), etc.
8. **Facilitate economic development** Imports facilitate economic development of a nation. This is because with the import of capital goods and technology, a country can generate growth in all sectors of the economy, i.e. agriculture, industry and service sector.



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**9. Assistance during natural calamities** During natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, famines, etc., the affected countries face the problem of shortage of essential goods. Foreign trade enables a country to import food grains and medicines from other countries to help the affected people.

**10. Maintains balance of payment position** Every country has to maintain its balance of payment position. Since, every country has to import, which results in outflow of foreign exchange, it also deals in export for the inflow of foreign exchange.

**11. Brings reputation and helps earn goodwill** A country which is involved in exports earns goodwill in the international market. For e.g. Japan has earned a lot of goodwill in foreign markets due to its exports of quality electronic goods.

**12. Promotes World Peace** Foreign trade brings countries closer. It facilitates transfer of technology and other assistance from developed countries to developing countries. It brings different countries closer due to economic relations arising out of trade agreements. Thus, foreign trade creates a friendly atmosphere for avoiding wars and conflicts. It promotes world peace as such countries try to maintain friendly relations among themselves

### **Balance of payments**

Since independence, India's balance of payments on its current account has been negative. Since economic liberalization in the 1990s, precipitated by a balance of payment crisis, India's exports rose consistently, covering 80.3% of its imports in 2002–03, up from 66.2% in 1990–91. However, the global economic slump followed by a general deceleration in world trade saw the exports as a percentage of imports drop to 61.4% in 2008–09. India's growing oil import bill is seen as the main driver behind the large current account deficit, which rose to \$118.7 billion, or 9.7% of GDP, in 2008–09. Between January and October 2010, India imported \$82.1 billion worth of crude oil. Due to the global late-2000s recession, both Indian exports and imports declined by 29.2% and 39.2% respectively in June 2009. The steep decline was because countries hit hardest by the global recession, such as United States and members of the European Union, account for more than 60% of Indian exports. However, since the decline in imports was much sharper compared to the decline in exports, India's trade deficit reduced to ₹252.5 billion (US\$4.3 billion). As of June 2011, exports and imports have both registered impressive growth with monthly exports reaching \$25.9 billion for the month of May 2011 and monthly imports reaching \$40.9 billion for the same month. This represents a year on year growth of 56.9% for exports and 54.1% for imports.

India's reliance on external assistance and concessional debt has decreased since liberalization of the economy, and the debt service ratio decreased from 35.3% in 1990–91 to 4.4% in 2008–09. In India, External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), or commercial loans from non-resident lenders, are being permitted by the Government for providing an additional source of funds to Indian corporate. The Ministry of Finance monitors and regulates them through ECB policy guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India under the Foreign Exchange Management Act of



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1999. India's foreign exchange reserves have steadily risen from \$5.8 billion in March 1991 to \$283.5 billion in December 2009

## **INDIAN INDUSTRY: AN OVERVIEW**

Industry accounts for 28% of the GDP and employs 14% of the total workforce. India is 11th in the world in terms of nominal factory output according data is compiled through CIA World Fact book figures. The Indian industrial sector underwent significant changes as a result of the economic liberalization in India economic reforms of 1991, which removed import restrictions, brought in foreign competition, led to privatization of certain public sector industries, liberalized the FDI regime, improved infrastructure and led to an expansion in the production of fast moving consumer goods. Post-liberalization, the Indian private sector was faced with increasing domestic as well as foreign competition, including the threat of cheaper Chinese imports. It has since handled the change by squeezing costs, revamping management, and relying on cheap labor and new technology. However, this has also reduced employment generation even by smaller manufacturers who earlier relied on relatively labour-intensive processes.

### **Textile**

Textile manufacturing is the 2nd largest source of employment after agriculture and accounts for 20% of manufacturing output, providing employment to over 20 million people. A previous Indian Minister of Textiles Shankersinh Vaghela, has stated that the transformation of the textile industry from a declining to a rapidly developing one has become the biggest achievement of the central government. After freeing the industry in 2004–2005 from a number of limitations, primarily financial, the government gave a green light to massive investment inflows – both domestic and foreign. During the period from 2004 to 2008, total investment amounted to 27 billion dollars. By 2012, this figure was predicted to reach 38 billion and was expected to create an additional 17 million jobs. However, demand for Indian textiles in world markets continues to fall. Ludhiana produces 90% of woollens in India and is known as the Manchester of India. Tripura has gained universal recognition as the leading source of hosiery, knitted garments, casual wear and sportswear. Considering the Rs 15,000,000,000 revenue from textile sales with an approximate of a nominal 20% net profit and with around 257,572 residents of the city, per capita income of Ichalkaranji is 116,472, among one of the highest per capita incomes in the country. Textile Development Cluster: To enhance and improve the infrastructure facilities of the city, the Municipal Council along with Ichalkaranji Co-operative Industrial Estate, Laxmi Co-operative Industrial Estate, Parvati Industrial Estate and DKTE Textile and Engineering Institute have jointly come together and formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) company viz. "Ichalkaranji Textile Development Cluster Limited (ITDC). The individual members will contribute to the extent of about 50% of the project cost and the balance amount would come in from the grant in aid from Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy, Government of India, under the Industrial Infrastructure up-gradation Scheme (IIUS).



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## Services

India is 13th in services output. The services sector provides employment to 23% of the work force and is growing quickly, with a growth rate of 7.5% in 1991–2000, up from 4.5% in 1951–80. It has the largest share in the GDP, accounting for 55% in 2007, up from 15% in 1950. Information technology and business process outsourcing are among the fastest growing sectors, having a cumulative growth rate of revenue 33.6% between 1997 and 1998 and 2002–03 and contributing to 25% of the country's total exports in 2007–08. The growth in the IT sector is attributed to increased specialization, and an availability of a large pool of low cost, highly skilled, educated and fluent English-speaking workers, on the supply side, matched on the demand side by increased demand from foreign consumers interested in India's service exports, or those looking to outsource their operations. The share of the Indian IT industry in the country's GDP increased from 4.8% in 2005–06 to 7% in 2008. In 2009, seven Indian firms were listed among the top 15 technology outsourcing companies in the world.

## Retail

Retail industry is one of the pillars of Indian economy and accounts for 14–15% of its GDP. The Indian retail market is estimated to be US\$ 450 billion and one of the top five retail markets in the world by economic value. India is one of the fastest growing retail markets in the world, with 1.2 billion people. India's retailing industry essentially consists of the local mom and pop store, owner manned general stores, convenience stores, hand cart and pavement vendors, etc. Organized retail supermarkets account for 4% of the market as of 2008. Regulations prevent most foreign investment in retailing. In 2012 government permitted 51% FDI in multi brand retail and 100% FDI in single brand retail. Moreover, over thirty regulations such as "signboard licenses" and "anti-hoarding measures" may have to be complied before a store can open doors. There are taxes for moving goods from state to state, and even within states.

**Tourism:** Tourism in India is relatively undeveloped, but a high growth sector. It contributes 6.23% to the national GDP and 8.78% of the total employment. The majority of foreign tourists come from USA and UK. India's rich history and its cultural and geographical diversity make its international tourism appeal large and diverse. It presents heritage and cultural tourism along with medical, business and sports tourism. India has one of the largest and fastest growing medical tourism sectors.

**Mining-** Mining forms an important segment of the Indian economy, with the country producing 79 different minerals (excluding fuel and atomic resources) in 2009–10, including iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, chromites, limestone, asbestos, fluorite, gypsum, ochre, phosphorus and silica sand

## Disinvestment and FDI

The process whereby activities of enterprises that were once owned and operated by government are now transferred to private hands. This gives much better results in terms of cost & quality of service. It replaces govt. monopolies with competitive pressures of the market place to increase efficiency, quality and innovation in delivery of goods & services.

**Various routes of privatization are-**



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- a. Sale to outsiders (disinvestment of shares)
- b. Management-employee buy-out
- c. Equal access voucher privatization
- d. spontaneous privatization
- e. Cross Holdings (one more route of disinvestment)

The sale of a part of equity holdings held by the government in any PSUs to private investors is called disinvestment .It is a major strategy of government to finance fiscal deficit, and also gives economic motivation to improve efficiency of PSUs.

Various objectives of disinvestment are-

1. To put natural resources and assets to optimal use
2. To raise resources from within PSUs and revive sick units along with retraining displaced workers
3. to improve performance by encouraging globally competitive PSUs
4. to modernize PSUs through increase in research and development
5. to retire public debt
6. to fund genuine needs of expansion
7. to wider capital base
8. to mitigate fiscal deficit

Disinvestment is popularly the sale of the business or of its assets. It has been the most widely employed and debated form of privatization.

There are many examples of disinvestment-

1. Maruti Case
2. Case of modern Food Industries
3. Balco case
4. Indo-Burman Petroleum Case

Privatization can be of anything but disinvestment can be of PSUs only. For example, education sector was earlier govt. responsibility of welfare state but now it has been privatized. Similarly, security sector has also been privatized and the sanitation staff of government offices/organizations are appointed from outsourcing ( through outside vendors)and not regular.

**FDI-** As the third-largest economy in the world in PPP terms, India is a preferred destination for FDI; during the year 2011, FDI inflow into India stood at \$36.5 billion, 51.1% higher than 2010 figure of \$24.15 billion. India has strengths in telecommunication, information technology and other significant areas such as auto components, chemicals, apparels, pharmaceuticals, and jewellery. Despite a surge in foreign investments, rigid FDI policies were a significant hindrance. However, due to positive economic reforms aimed at deregulating the economy and stimulating foreign investment, India has positioned itself as one of the front-runners of the rapidly growing Asia-Pacific region. India has a large pool of skilled managerial and technical expertise. The size of the middle-class population stands at 300 million and represents a growing consumer market.

During 2000–10, the country attracted \$178 billion as FDI. The inordinately high investment from Mauritius is due to routing of international funds through the country given significant tax advantages; double taxation is avoided due to a tax treaty between India and Mauritius, and Mauritius is a capital gains tax haven, effectively creating a zero-taxation FDI channel.

India's recently liberalized FDI policy (2005) allows up to a 100% FDI stake in ventures. Industrial policy reforms have substantially reduced industrial licensing requirements, removed





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restrictions on expansion and facilitated easy access to foreign technology and foreign direct investment FDI. The upward moving growth curve of the real-estate sector owes some credit to a booming economy and liberalized FDI regime. In March 2005, the government amended the rules to allow 100% FDI in the construction sector, including built-up infrastructure and construction development projects comprising housing, commercial premises, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, and city- and regional-level infrastructure.<sup>[142]</sup> Despite a number of changes in the FDI policy to remove caps in most sectors, there still remains an unfinished agenda of permitting greater FDI in politically sensitive areas such as insurance and retailing. The total FDI equity inflow into India in 2008–09 stood at ₹1,229.19 billion (US\$21 billion), a growth of 25% in rupee terms over the previous period.. India's trade and business sector has grown fast. India currently accounts for 1.5% of world trade as of 2007 according to the World Trade Statistics of the WTO in 2006.

### **Bpos: An era of outsourcing**

**Business process outsourcing to India** refers to the business process outsourcing services in the outsourcing industry in India, catering mainly to Western operations of multinational corporations (MNCs). As of 2012, around 2.8 million people work in outsourcing sector. Annual revenues are around \$11 billion, around 1% of GDP. Around 2.5 million people graduate in India every year. Wages are rising by 10-15 percent as a result of skill shortage

### **History of bpos in India**

**Airlines-** In the early 1980s several European airlines started using Delhi as a base for back office operations, British Airways being one among them. The BA captive was finally spun off as a separate organization called WNS Global Services in 2002.

**Amex-** In the second half of the 1980s, American Express consolidated its JAPAC (Japan and Asia Pacific) back office operations into New Delhi and NCR region.<sup>1</sup> This centre was headed by Raman Roy, and has been a source of several leading names in the Indian BPO Industry.

**General Electric-** In the 1990s Jack Welch was influenced by K.P. Singh, (a Delhi based realtor) to look at Gurgaon in the NCR region as a base for back office operations. Pramod Bhasin, the India head of G.E. hired Raman Roy and several of his management from American Express to start this enterprise called GECIS (GE Capital International Services). Raman for the first time tried out voice operations out of India, the India operations also was the Beta site for GE Six sigma enterprise. The results made GE ramp up their Indian presence and look at other locations. In 2004 GECIS was spun off as a separate legal entity by GE, called Genpact. GE has retained a 40% stake and sold a 60% stake for \$500 million to two equity companies, Oak Hill Capital Partners and General Atlantic Partners.

### **Third party BPOs**

Until G.E most of the work was being done by "captives"- a term used for in house work being done for the parent organization. In 2000 Raman Roy and some team members from GECIS quit, and with VC funding from Chrysalis Capital started Spectra mind. At the same time an organization called EFunds started in Mumbai and Gurgaon, and Daksh in Gurgaon. However, recently most of the Indian BPO's even smaller and mid-sized ones are actually setting-up their



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onshore presence. Most of the serious players are actually improving the outsourced business processes by leveraging on years of experience and now some of them are directly competing with their own older client base by marking this transition to KPO's.

### **Entry of IT majors**

In 2002 Spectra mind was bought by software major Wipro, and BPO by then had become mainstream like the IT Industry in India. The team that had set up Spectra mind went on to start Quattro in 2006, a BPO specializing in high end BPO/KPO services. By 2002 all major Indian software companies were into BPO, including Infosys (Progeon), Informix, HCL, Satyam (Neptune) and Patni. By 2003 Darkish was bought out by IBM, and later in 2006 MphasiS was acquired by EDS. Even international 3rd party BPO players like Convergys and Sitel had set up shop in India, swelling the BPO movement to India. Then service arms of organizations like Accenture, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Dell also set up shop in India. The Information Technology (IT) outsourcing phenomenon has put Indian engineering talent on the world map.

### **Emergence of Rural BPOs**

Booming India Inc has led to skyrocketing real estate and infrastructure costs in Tier-1 cities. BPO industry has thrived all these years because of its ability to deliver services at a low cost. Increasing infrastructure costs, real estate costs, and salaries have raised BPO costs significantly and as a result Indian BPOs in Tier-1 cities are looking at Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities for operation.

Few entrepreneurs who had a vision of bringing the rural India into the mainstream of knowledge economy have found an opportunity here - setting Rural BPOs. The transformation of rural India started with the emergence of these Rural BPOs.

### **Future of outsourcing services to India**

Analysts believe that India remains a vital destination for outsourcing and expect its annual GDP to grow at 8-10% for the next decade. In addition, outsourcing efforts to India are held up as an effective remedy for concerns about both Chinese government policy and labor force issues, such as increasing costs and shortages

The BPO industry in India faces two key criticisms .The first criticism concerns the damaging psychological effects on Indian call-centre employees who are expected to ape the Western employees they have replaced in terms of accents, slang and even names.

The second criticism focuses on the wider ramifications of the industry's political influence. It has been claimed that this influence, which far exceeds the industry's economic contribution, has allowed the industry to secure the support and resources of the Indian state ahead of other sectors of the national economy where the developmental returns would be far greater.

## Unit-III [The Indian Polity]

### 1. Salient Features of Indian Constitution: Relevance of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles

#### Features of Indian constitution

The Constitution of India has some distinct and unique features as compared to other constitutions to the world. As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee puts it, the framers had tried to accumulate and accommodate the best features of other constitutions, keeping in view the peculiar problems and needs of our country.

The following are the salient features of the Constitution of India.

#### 1. Longest written constitution

Indian Constitution can be called the largest written constitution in the world because of its contents. In its original form, it consisted of 395 Articles and 8 Schedules to which additions have been made through subsequent amendments. At present it contains 395 Articles and 12 Schedules, and more than 80 amendments. There are various factors responsible for the long size of the constitution. One major factor was that the framers of the constitution borrowed provisions from several sources and several other constitutions of the world.

They have followed and reproduced the Government of India Act 1935 in providing matters of administrative detail. Secondly, it was necessary to make provisions for peculiar problems of India like scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward regions. Thirdly, provisions were made for elaborate centre-state relations in all aspects of their administrative and other activities. Fourthly, the size of the constitution became bulky, as provisions regarding the state administration were also included. Further, a detail list of individual rights, directive principles of state policy and the details of administration procedure were laid down to make the Constitution clear and unambiguous for the ordinary citizen. Thus, the Constitution of India became an exhaustive and lengthy one.

#### (2) Partly Rigid and Partly Flexible

The Constitution of India is neither purely rigid nor purely flexible. There is a harmonious blend of rigidity and flexibility. Some parts of the Constitution can be amended by the ordinary law-making process by Parliament. Certain provisions can be amended, only when a Bill for that purpose is passed in each house of Parliament by a majority of the total membership of that house and, by a majority of not less than two-third of the members of that house present and voting. Then there are certain other provisions which can be amended by the second method described above and are ratified by the legislatures of not less than one-half of the states before



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being presented to the President for his assent. It must also be noted that the power to initiate bills for amendment lies in Parliament alone, and not in the state legislatures.

Pundit Nehru expressed in the Constituent Assembly, "While we want the Constitution to be as solid and permanent as we can make it, there is no permanence in Constitution. There should be certain flexibility. If you make anything rigid and permanent, you stop the nation's growth, the growth of a living, vital organic people."

### **3) A Democratic Republic**

India is a democratic republic. It means that sovereignty rests with the people of India. They govern themselves through their representatives elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. The President of India, the highest official of the state is elected for a fixed term. Although, India is a sovereign republic, yet it continues to be a member of the Commonwealth of Nations with the British Monarch as its head. Her membership of the Commonwealth does not compromise her position as a sovereign republic. The commonwealth is an association of free and independent nations. The British Monarch is only a symbolic head of that association.

### **4) Parliamentary System of Government**

India has adopted the Parliamentary system as found in Britain. In this system, the executive is responsible to the legislature, and remains in power only as long as it enjoys the confidence of the legislature. The president of India, who remains in office for five years is the nominal, titular or constitutional head. The Union Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head is drawn from the legislature. It is collectively responsible to the House of People (Lok Sabha), and has to resign as soon as it loses the confidence of that house. The President, the nominal executive shall exercise his powers according to the advice of the Union Council of Ministers, the real executive. In the states also, the government is Parliamentary in nature.

### **5) A Federation**

Article 1 of the Constitution of India says: - "India, which is Bharat shall be a Union of States." Though the word 'Federation' is not used, the government is federal. A state is federal when (a) there are two sets of governments and there is distribution of powers between the two, (b) there is a written constitution, which is the supreme law of the land and (c) there is an independent judiciary to interpret the constitution and settle disputes between the centre and the states. All these features are present in India. There are two sets of government, one at the centre, the other at state level and the distribution of powers between them is quite detailed in our Constitution. The Constitution of India is written and the supreme law of the land. At the apex of single integrated judicial system, stands the Supreme Court which is independent from the control of the executive and the legislature.

But in spite of all these essential features of a federation, Indian Constitution has an unmistakable unitary tendency. While other federations like U.S.A. provide for dual citizenship, the India Constitution provides for single citizenship. There is also a single integrated judiciary for the whole country. The provision of All India Services, like the Indian Administrative Service, the India Police Service, and Indian Forest Service prove another unitary feature.



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Members of these services are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission on an All-India basis. Because these services are controlled by Union Government, to some extent this constitutes a constraint on the autonomy of states.

A significant unitary feature is the Emergency provisions in the Indian constitution. During the time of emergency, the Union Government becomes most powerful and the Union Parliament acquires the power of making laws for the states. The Governor placed as the constitutional head of the state, acts as the agent of the centre and is intended to safeguard the interests of the centre. These provisions reveal the centralising tendency of our federation.

Prof: K.C. Where has rightly remarked that Indian Constitution provides, "a system of government which is quasi-federal, a unitary state with the subsidiary unitary features". The framers of the constitution expressed clearly that there exists the harmony of federalism and the unitary system. Dr. Ambedkar said, "The political system adopted in the Constitution could be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirement of time and circumstances". We can say that India has a "Cooperative federalism" with central guidance and state compliance.

## 6) Fundamental Rights

"A state is known by the rights it maintains", remarked Prof. H.J. Laski. The constitution of India affirms the basic principle that every individual is entitled to enjoy certain basic rights and part III of the Constitution deals with those rights which are known as fundamental rights. Originally there were seven categories of rights, but now they are six in number. They are (i) Right to equality, (ii) Right to freedom, (iii) Right against exploitation, (iv) Right to freedom of Religion, v) Cultural and Educational rights and vi) Right to constitutional remedies. Right to property (Article-31) originally a fundamental right has been omitted by the 44th Amendment Act. 1978. It is now a legal right.

These fundamental rights are justifiable and the individual can move the higher judiciary, that is the Supreme Court or the High Courts, if there is an encroachment on any of these rights. The right to move to the Supreme Court straight for the enforcement of fundamental rights has been guaranteed under Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies). However, fundamental rights in India are not absolute. Reasonable restrictions can be imposed keeping in view the security-requirements of the state.

## 7) Directive Principles of State Policy

A novel feature of the Constitution is that it contains a chapter in the Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles are in the nature of directives to the government to implement them for establishing social and economic democracy in the country.

It embodies important principles like adequate means to livelihood, equal pay for both men and women, distribution of wealth so as to subserve the common good, free and compulsory primary education, right to work, public assistance in case of old age, unemployment, sickness and disablement, the organisation of village Panchayats, special care to the economically back ward sections of the people etc. Most of these principles could help in making India welfare state.



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Though not justifiable. These principles have been stated as; "fundamental in the governance of the country".

### **8) Fundamental Duties**

A new part IV (A) after the Directive Principles of State Policy was incorporated in the constitution by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 for fundamental duties. These duties are:

- i) To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- ii) To cherish and follow the noble ideals, which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- iii) To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- iv) To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- v) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities, to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of woman;
- vi) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- vii) to protect and improve the natural environments including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures;
- viii) to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- ix) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- x) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of Endeavour and achievement.

The purpose of incorporating these duties in the Constitution is just to remind the people that while enjoying their right as citizens, should also perform their duties for rights and duties are correlative.

### **9) Secular State**

A secular state is neither religious nor irreligious, or anti-religious. Rather it is quite neutral in matters of religion. India being a land of many religions, the founding fathers of the Constitution thought it proper to make it a secular state. India is a secular state, because it makes no discrimination between individuals on the basis of religion. Neither it encourages nor discourages any religion. On the contrary, right to freedom of religion is ensured in the Constitution and people belonging to any religious group have the right to profess, practice or propagate any religion they like.

### **10) An Independent Judiciary**



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The judiciary occupies an important place in our Constitution and it is also made independent of the legislature and the executive. The Supreme Court of India stands at the apex of single integrated judicial system. It acts as protector of fundamental rights of Indian citizens and guardian of the Constitution. If any law passed by the legislature or action taken by the executive contravenes the provisions of the Constitution, they can be declared as null and void by the Supreme Court. Thus, it has the power of judicial review. But judicial review in India constitutes a middle path between the American judicial supremacy in one hand and British Parliamentary supremacy in the other.

## 11) Single Citizenship

The Constitution of India recognises only single citizenship. In the United States, there is provision of dual citizenship. In India, we are citizens of India only, not of the respective states to which we belong. This provision would help in promoting unity and integrity of the nation

### Relevance of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles –

The Directive Principles are an amalgam of diverse subjects embracing the life of the nation and include principles which are general statements of social policy, principles of administrative policy, socio-economic rights and a statement of the international policy of the country.

The sanction behind the Directives is, of course, political and not juridical. Though these Directives are not cognizable by the court and, if the Government of the day fails to carry out these objectives, no court can make the Government implement them, yet, these principles have been declared to be “fundamental in the governance of the country”.

### Overview of Part IV of the Constitution

Part IV contains nineteen articles, from arts. 36 to 51. They could be broadly divided under four heads, namely, 1) Social Policy Directives, 2) Principles of Administrative Policy, 3) Socio-Economic Rights, and 4) Principles of International Policy of the country.

**Social Policy Directives:** The concept of “Social Justice” which the Constitution of India engrafted consists of diverse principles essential for the orderly growth and development of personality of every citizen.

- Promotion of Social Order: The object of every government under Art. 38 is to secure and protect effectively a social order in which justice, social, economic and political is provided to the people in the national life. This Article, read with Art. 41, which calls for right to work, education and public assistance for weaker sections, makes it a duty of the State to grant pension to retired Government servants as well as their dependents.
- Better Industrial Relations: Art. 43A to better the industrial relations particularly relating to workers.
- Right to free and compulsory education: Art. 21A was inserted by Constitution (Eighty-sixth) Amendment Act, 2002 to bring free and compulsory education as part of fundamental rights. In Unnikrishnan v. State of A. P., Supreme Court explicitly declared that Art. 45 has to be implemented by the Government. In 2005, Right to Education Bill was tabled in the parliament which was finally passed in 2009 as Right to Education Act, 2009.



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- Uniform Civil Code: Also provision [Art. 44] for Uniform Civil Code to harmonize social relations is also enshrined within Part IV.
- Right to Health: The right to health and raising the levels of nutrition has its beginning with Art. 47. During Constituent Assembly Debates, many members with Gandhian vision wanted to bring prohibition throughout India and it was at their insistence this article also places special emphasis on prohibition of liquor throughout India.

**Principles of Administrative Policy:** To foster the involvement of individuals throughout the nation in the processes of democratic government and to gather the villagers' participation Art. 40 calling for village panchayats were inserted. Art. 50 on the other hand provide for complete separation of judiciary from executive.

The ideas so evolved, culminated in the passing of the Constitution 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Acts, 1992, which inserted Parts IX and IXA in the Constitution. While Part IX relates to the Panchayats bringing "panchayati raj"; Part IXA relates to the Municipalities.

**Socio-Economic Rights:** Directive Principles of State Policy were to build society on socialist pattern in the words of Pandit Nehru himself.

- Arts. 41-43A and Art. 48 specifically target the working sections of the nation and provide for the betterment of the workers and their living conditions.
- In the case Hanif Quareshi v. State of Bihar, Court held that the prohibition of slaughter of any of the species of cattle mentioned and held that such a prohibition is not an unreasonable restriction on right of individual to carry trade of his choice.

**Principles of International Policy:** Art. 51 clearly directs the state to maintain international peace and security, foster amicable solution of disputes and maintain just and honorable relations between nations

## **The Relationship Between Directive Principles And Fundamental Rights-**

Fundamental Rights and Directive Principle are integral components of the same organic constitutional system and no conflict between them could have been intended by founding fathers. But the views of Supreme Court on the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles have not been uniform throughout. There are three possible views on the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles. The first view is that former are the superior to the latter and so the latter must give way to the former in case of repugnancy or irreconcilable conflict between the two. The second view is that Fundamental Rights and directive principle are equal in importance and hence, in case of conflict between the two an attempt must be made to harmonize them with each other. The view is that Directive Principles are superior to Fundamental Rights mainly because the constitution provide that the former are 'fundamental in the governance of the country' and it shall be the 'duty' of the state "to apply these principle in making laws" and the binding nature of law does not cease to be so merely because it cannot be enforced.

2. Parliamentary Democracy (Federal and Unitary features) : Do we need to switch over to Presidential system





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A parliamentary system may be a bicameral system with two chambers of parliament (or houses): an elected lower house, and an upper house or Senate which may be appointed or elected by a different mechanism from the lower house. Another possibility is a unicameral system with just one parliamentary chamber. Scholars of democracy such as Arend Lijphart distinguish two types of parliamentary democracies: the Westminster and Consensus systems

A presidential system is a system of government where an executive branch is led by a person who serves as both head of state and head of government. That person is usually elected and titled "president", but can also be an unelected monarch. In a presidential system, the executive branch exists separately from the legislature, to which it is not responsible and which cannot, in normal circumstances, dismiss it.

### 3. Centre-State Relations : Issues of Regionalism

After independence India adopted the federal structure for, perhaps, administrative convenience. The nation is basically a Union of 28 states and 7 Union Territories that works according to the Indian Constitution, which was adopted on the 16th of November 1949.

The legislative relations between the centre and the states determined in accordance with the provisions of the Article 246 of the Constitution. The legislative powers are categorized in three lists—Union lists with 97 subjects, States List with 66 and Concurrent List with 47 subjects. Residuary legislative powers rest with the Parliament. Moreover when there is state of emergency, Parliament can make laws on the subjects given under Union List. In the case of a conflict between the laws made by the state and the laws passed by the centre the central law will prevail. Clearly the centre is decidedly stronger as far as legislative powers are concerned. The executive power of every state must comply with the laws made by the Parliament. The executive power of the state should be exercised in a manner that it does not impede or prejudice the executive power of the Union. The centre can direct the states if matters of national importance are concerned. During emergency, Union government can assume vast administrative powers. The financial relations between the centre and state are the main subject of controversy now-a-days. While deciding these relations the fathers of the Constitution followed the India Act of 1935. Some taxes are levied and collected exclusively by the central government while others are levied and collected only by the states. These are taxes levied by the centre which are collected by the states and others which are levied and collected by the centre and given to the states. The centre gives grants-in-aid to the states from the consolidated fund. The Constitution makes it clear that state legislature can make laws relating to taxes for the benefit of the state.

Since India attained independence from Britain, the politics of centre-state relations has remained a powerful force in shaping India's foreign policy. Furthermore, India's rapid economic growth has given a new found influence to regional parties, which has led to an increasing assertiveness of regional parties in India's political life. In turn, this has led to regional parties having disproportionate influence over the formulation of foreign policy particularly with regard to India's immediate neighbours.



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## **Trends in Coalition Politics**

Centre-State relations in India have undergone numerous transformations over the last decade. This has a lot to do with the increasing power of regional parties vis-a-vis national parties, such as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress. While there have been numerous experiments, regional parties have played a major role in the functioning of the current Congress-led, United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition government since 2004. We also should not forget the crucial role of regional players in cobbling up a BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which ruled from 1998-2004.

During the era from independence until the 1980s where Congress was dominant, regional parties did take a firm stand on economic and political issues affecting centre-state relations. It is only fair to make the point that even legitimate grievances of regional parties were not given adequate attention in the mainstream. This in spite of the fact there were coalition experiments in 1977, 1989 and 1990. Demands for greater autonomy, both political and economic, were not taken seriously, with the mainstream political parties asserting that such changes would weaken the centre and have an adverse impact on India's political balance.

The first crucial move towards greater autonomy was inspired by the United Front experiment of 1996 and 1997. As a result of that experiment, and its emphasis on the devolution of greater economic and administrative autonomy to the states, India's centralised political structure witnessed a genuine shift towards becoming a more federalised entity. Coalition governments have become an accepted norm in India. With their firm commitment to granting more autonomy to states and transferring the vast majority of centrally-sponsored programmes to state governments, regional parties have successfully advanced the cause of federalism. Regional parties and regional aspirations were further strengthened as a consequence of the NDA and UPA coalition governments, which have had to depend heavily upon regional allies.

## **Issues of regionalism**

The National Democratic Alliance coalitions had to give in on many occasions to allies such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) of Tamil Nadu, Telugu Desam of Andhra Pradesh and the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir. The first NDA Government actually fell as a consequence of the DMK withdrawing its support. Similarly, there were differences over the issue of giving more autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, between the National Conference, an important constituent of the NDA, and the BJP, which headed the alliance.

The National Conference actually passed a resolution supporting greater autonomy on the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on 26 June 2000, which would have been dubbed 'secessionist' had it been done a decade earlier. More recently, National Conference, which is now part of the ruling UPA, has taken a firm stand on the issue of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Kashmir. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, who heads an alliance government, has been publically demanding that this Act be withdrawn from certain parts of the state, much to the chagrin of his alliance partner, the Congress.



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There are some more interesting trends that have emerged over the last decade. Regional parties that are not part of an alliance have also had their way and shared a good rapport with New Delhi. There is no better illustration of this than the People's Democratic Party (PDP) which, despite being an ally of the Congress Party, functioned in sync with the BJP-led NDA. This enabled it to get its demand for a bus route connecting Sri Nagar and Muzaffarabad on the Pakistani side of Kashmir. This was a long standing demand of Kashmiri political actors and it was quite unusual that the BJP Government, supposedly tough on issues involving Pakistan, gave in on such an important issue. The bus service, an idea mooted by the PDP, was inaugurated in 2005 by current Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh.

With the coming of the different political parties in power in some states and the centre, a qualitative change in the relations is demanded. Foreign policy is a central subject in India, as in most other countries as well. The states do not have jurisdiction in determining India's external relations. That is an area to be handled exclusively by the government at the centre. But given the steady rise of regional parties and the increasing dependence of governments in New Delhi on their state allies, the impact is being felt in the area of foreign policy as well. The decision by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, to oppose the signing of the Teesta water accord between India and Bangladesh, at virtually the last moment, made headlines and mired Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in deep controversy. By opting out, despite high-level efforts to persuade her, Ms Banerjee catapulted herself onto the centre stage of foreign policy in the making and went on to announce an expert committee to "review the entire situation". By truncating the agreement singlehandedly, at great cost to India-Bangladesh relations, Ms Banerjee despite being just a state leader, has established herself as a player in bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Trinamool Congress was then actively supporting the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition and the ruling Congress party was reluctant to offend her and risk a withdrawal of support. Minister for External Affairs Salman Khurshid has recently expressed hope that Ms Banerjee will be persuaded to give up her objections, even as leaders of the Congress party and Bangladesh has been wooing her to ensure that the accord is signed, at some point, later this year. In fact, Dhaka is spending more time on the chief minister of West Bengal regarding this issue than it is on the central government with regard to the Teesta water issue, creating an unprecedented situation for the ministry of external affairs.

The second instance, defying an early resolution, is the strong response of Tamil Nadu to worldwide reports of the annihilation of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka's military operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The anger in Tamil Nadu compelled the two main parties, the ruling All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), to issue strong statements against Sri Lanka, urging New Delhi to treat that country as an unfriendly nation. This was just as the UPA government was heaving a sigh of relief at having "handled" the Sri Lankan situation through a policy of "neutrality", whereby relations with the Rajapaksa government were maintained without adverse reaction from the Tamils in Sri Lanka, or for that matter, India. Large-scale protests across Tamil Nadu and statements by the state political parties, including Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram, put a



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spoke in the works that have frozen relations completely. The UPA ally, DMK, has pulled out support.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a strong resolution seeking a referendum for a separate Tamil Elam, even as it urged New Delhi to stop treating Sri Lanka as a friendly country and slap economic sanctions against it. The situation became more bizarre with Sri Lanka reacting to the state resolution, describing it as “disturbing” and inviting all detractors to visit the country and see for themselves the progress on the ground. New Delhi was compelled to watch a diplomatic exchange between a state and a foreign country in silence. As if this was not enough, Tamil Nadu has trampled directly on the centre’s jurisdiction of allowing or disallowing foreigners, with a notice imposing a “ban” on all Sri Lankans from travelling to the state. A letter to this effect has been sent by the state chief minister to the prime minister, despite the fact that only the Union Home Ministry is authorized under the Constitution and the law to take such decisions.

In a country where the states had for long been complaining of central authoritarianism, the reverse now seems to be true. The pendulum of state-centre relations seems to be swinging towards the former, although the beginning is shaky, not very mature, and clearly too emotional for good governance. Two women chief ministers, Banerjee and Jayalalitha have, however, raised a red flag on foreign policy, leaving the dependent government at the centre virtually paralyzed on the two respective issues of import. Public opinion within the state and the constituencies of the regional political parties appears to be favoring the state government’s actions, although in other parts of India there is visible dismay. But clearly, the two states have sent out powerful signals that need to be understood, factored in and incorporated into the larger mould of centre-state relations to prevent discord and tension within coalition governments in the future.

**4. Decentralization of Power-** India is a vast country with many different cultures and languages. India democracy is known as one of the best democracy of the world. India is gifted with vast abundance of resources, whether it is a man or any other natural resource. Thus, India seldom has to depend on other countries for its needs. India is a developing country and it is developing at a steady speed. For example- Green Revolution and White Revolution are big examples of our country's development.

harmony between its own people has always been a tuff job. So, the ideas of states were introduced. States were mainly divided on the basis of cultures and languages and so followed its name. For example- Nagaland, Assam, Maharashtra, etc. But states were not divided on the basis of religion; this is because of main two reasons-

**1) People of same culture may follow different religion.**

**2) Moreover, by naming states on the basis of religion hampers the idea of secularity within India.**



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Furthermore, states were divided into districts to enable better and easy constitution. Now this promotes the idea of decentralization of power.

Constitution of India has divided the power to regulate the country between different levels of government. Namely-

**1) Central level**

**2) State level**

**3) Local level**

Federal form of government has two or more tiers of government. India adopted two tier system of government at the centre and state in beginning. But a vast country like India is impossible to control with only this two tiers so, the third local government below state government was introduced. This is the reason for decentralization of power in India.

The basic idea behind this is that there is large number of problems and issues which are best settled at local level.

**Legislative Procedures-From Bill to Act**

A Bill is the draft of a legislative proposal. It has to pass through various stages before it becomes an Act of Parliament.

**First Reading-** The legislative process starts with the introduction of a Bill in either House of Parliament—Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. A Bill can be introduced either by a Minister or by a private member. In the former case it is known as a Government Bill and in the latter case it is known as a Private Member's Bill.

It is necessary for a member-in-charge of the Bill to ask for leave to introduce the Bill. If leave is granted by the House, the Bill is introduced. This stage is known as the First Reading of the Bill. If the motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow brief explanatory statement to be made by the member who opposes the motion and the member-in-charge who moved the motion. Where a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit a full discussion thereon. Thereafter, the question is put to the vote of the House. However, the motion for leave to introduce a Finance Bill or an Appropriation Bill is forthwith put to the vote of the House.

**Publication in Gazette-** After a Bill has been introduced, it is published in the Official Gazette. Even before introduction, a Bill might, with the permission of the Speaker, be published in the Gazette. In such cases, leave to introduce the Bill in the House is not asked for and the Bill is straightaway introduced.



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## Reference of Bill to Standing Committee

After a Bill has been introduced, Presiding Officer of the concerned House can refer the Bill to the concerned Standing Committee for examination and make report thereon.

If a Bill is referred to Standing Committee, the Committee shall consider the general principles and clauses of the Bill referred to them and make report thereon. The Committee can also take expert opinion or the public opinion who are interested in the measure. After the Bill has thus been considered, the Committee submits its report to the House. The report of the Committee, being of persuasive value shall be treated as considered advice given by the Committees.

**Second Reading-** The Second Reading consists of consideration of the Bill which is in two stages.

**First Stage:** The first stage consists of general discussion on the Bill as a whole when the principle underlying the Bill is discussed. At this stage it is open to the House to refer the Bill to a Select Committee of the House or a Joint Committee of the two Houses or to circulate it for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon or to straightaway take it into consideration.

If a Bill is referred to a Select/Joint Committee, the Committee considers the Bill clause-by-clause just as the House does. Amendments can be moved to the various clauses by members of the Committee. The Committee can also take evidence of associations, public bodies or experts who are interested in the measure. After the Bill has thus been considered, the Committee submits its report to the House which considers the Bill again as reported by the Committee. If a Bill is circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon, such opinions are obtained through the Governments of the States and Union Territories. Opinions so received are laid on the Table of the House and the next motion in regard to the Bill must be for its reference to a Select/Joint Committee. It is not ordinarily permissible at this stage to move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

**Second Stage:** The second stage of the Second Reading consists of clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill as introduced or as reported by Select/Joint Committee.

Discussion takes place on each clause of the Bill and amendments to clauses can be moved at this stage. Amendments to a clause have been moved but not withdrawn are put to the vote of the House before the relevant clause is disposed of by the House. The amendments become part of the Bill if they are accepted by a majority of members present and voting. After the clauses, the Schedules if any, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title of the Bill have been adopted by the House, the Second Reading is deemed to be over.

**Third Reading-** Thereafter, the member-in-charge can move that the Bill be passed. This stage is known as the Third Reading of the Bill. At this stage the debate is confined to arguments either in support or rejection of the Bill without referring to the details thereof further than that are absolutely necessary. Only formal, verbal or consequential amendments are allowed to be moved at this stage. In passing an ordinary Bill, a simple majority of members present and voting



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is necessary. But in the case of a Bill to amend the Constitution, a majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting is required in each House of Parliament.

**Bill in the other House-** After the Bill is passed by one House, it is sent to the other House for concurrence with a message to that effect, and there also it goes through the stages described above except the introduction stage.

**Money Bills-** Bills which exclusively contain provisions for imposition and abolition of taxes, for appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund, etc., are certified as Money Bills. Money Bills can be introduced only in Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha cannot make amendments in a Money Bill passed by Lok Sabha and transmitted to it. It can, however, recommend amendments in a Money Bill, but must return all Money Bills to Lok Sabha within fourteen days from the date of their receipt. It is open to Lok Sabha to accept or reject any or all of the recommendations of Rajya Sabha with regard to a Money Bill. If Lok Sabha accepts any of the recommendations of Rajya Sabha, the Money Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses with amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha and accepted by Lok Sabha and if Lok Sabha does not accept any of the recommendations of Rajya Sabha, Money Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form in which it was passed by Lok Sabha without any of the amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha. If a Money Bill passed by Lok Sabha and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its recommendations is not returned to Lok Sabha within the said period of fourteen days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses at the expiration of the said period in the form in which it was passed by Lok Sabha

### **Indian Judicial System: Judicial Activism**

The **Indian Judiciary** is partly a continuation of the British legal system established by the English in the mid-19th century based on a typical hybrid legal system in which customs, precedents and legislative law have validity of law. The Constitution of India is the supreme legal document of the country. There are various levels of judiciary in India – different types of courts, each with varying powers depending on the tier and jurisdiction bestowed upon them. They form a strict hierarchy of importance, in line with the order of the courts in which they sit, with the Supreme Court of India at the top, followed by High Courts of respective states with district judges sitting in District Courts and Magistrates of Second Class and Civil Judge (Junior Division) at the bottom. Courts hear criminal and civil cases, including disputes between individuals and the government. The Indian judiciary is independent of the executive and legislative branches of government according to the Constitution.

### **Supreme Court of India**

The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial forum and final court of appeal as established by Part V, Chapter IV of the Constitution of India. According to the Constitution of India, the role of the Supreme Court is that of a federal court and guardian of the Constitution.



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Articles 124 to 147 of the Constitution of India lay down the composition and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court is meant to be the last resort and highest appellate court which takes up appeals against the verdicts of the High Courts of the states and territories. Also, disputes between states or petitions involving a serious infringement of fundamental and human rights are usually brought directly to the Supreme Court

**Composition-** As originally enacted, the Constitution of India provided for a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and seven lower-ranking Judges—leaving it to Indian Parliament to increase this number . As the number of the Judges has increased, they have sat in smaller Benches of two or three (referred to as a Division Bench)—coming together in larger Benches of five or more (referred to as a Constitutional Bench) only when required to settle fundamental questions of law. Any bench may refer the case under consideration up to a larger bench if the need to do so arises.

## **POWERS-**

**Original Jurisdiction-** The court has exclusive original jurisdiction over any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more States on the other or between two or more States, if and insofar as the dispute involves any question (whether of law or of fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends

**Appellate Jurisdiction-** The appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court can be invoked by a certificate granted by the High Court concerned under Articles 132(1), 133(1) or 134 of the Constitution in respect of any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court in both civil and criminal cases, involving substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution

**Advisory jurisdiction -** The Supreme Court has special advisory jurisdiction in matters which may specifically be referred to it by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution.

**Power to review its own judgments-** Under Order XL of the Supreme Court Rules, the Supreme Court may review its judgment or order but no application for review is to be entertained in a civil proceeding except on the grounds mentioned in Order XLVII, Rule 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure and in a criminal proceeding except on the ground of an error apparent on the face of the record.

**Powers to punish contempt -** Under Articles 129 and 142 of the Constitution the Supreme Court has been vested with power to punish anyone for contempt of any law court in India including itself. The Supreme Court performed an unprecedented action when it directed a sitting Minister of the state of Maharashtra, Swaroop Singh Naik, to be jailed for 1-month on a charge of contempt of court on 12 May 2006. This was the first time that a serving Minister was ever jailed

- **Judicial Activism-** Judicial activism is gaining prominence in the present days. In the form of Public Interest Litigation (PIL), citizens are getting access to justice.





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Judiciary has become the centre of controversy, in the recent past, on account of the sudden (Me in the level of judicial intervention. The area of judicial intervention has been steadily expanding through the device of public interest litigation. The judiciary has shed its pro-status-quo approach and taken upon itself the duty to enforce the basic rights of the poor and vulnerable sections of society, by progressive interpretation and positive action.

The Supreme Court has developed new methods of dispensing justice to the masses through the public interest litigation. Former Chief Justice PN. Bhagwat, under whose leadership public interest litigation attained a new dimension comments that "the supreme court has developed several new commitments. It has carried forward participative justice. It has laid just standards of procedure. It has made justice more accessible to citizens".

The term 'judicial activism' is intended to refer to, and cover, the action of the court in excess of, and beyond the power of judicial review. From one angle it is said to be an act in excess of, or without, jurisdiction. The Constitution does not confer any authority or jurisdiction for 'activism' as such on the Court. Judicial activism refers to the interference of the judiciary in the legislative and executive fields. It mainly occurs due to the non-activity of the other organs of the government.

Judicial activism is a way through which relief is provided to the disadvantaged and aggrieved citizens. Judicial activism is providing a base for policy making in competition with the legislature and executive. Judicial activism is the rendering of decisions, which are in tune with the temper and tempo of the times.

In short, judicial activism means that instead of judicial restraint, the Supreme Court and other lower courts become activists and compel the authority to act and sometimes also direct the government regarding policies and also matters of administration.

Judicial activism has arisen mainly due to the failure of the executive and legislatures to act. Secondly, it has arisen also due to the fact that there is a doubt that the legislature and executive have failed to deliver the goods. Thirdly, it occurs because the entire system has been plagued by ineffectiveness and inactiveness.

The violation of basic human rights has also led to judicial activism. Finally, due to the misuse and abuse of some of the provisions of the Constitution, judicial activism has gained significance.

Besides the above mentioned factors, there are some other situations that lead to judicial activism. These are:

- (i) When the legislature fails to discharge its responsibilities.
- (ii) In case of a hung parliament where the government is very weak and instable.
- (iii) When the governments fail to protect the basic rights of the citizens or provide an honest, efficient and just system of law and administration,



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(iv) When the party in power misuses the courts of law for ulterior motives as was done during the Emergency period, and

(v) Finally, the court may on its own try to expand its jurisdiction and confer on themselves more functions and powers.

### Areas of Judicial Activism

During the past decade, many instances of judicial activism have gained prominence. The areas in which judiciary has become active are health, child labour, political corruption, environment, education, etc.

Through various cases relating to Bandhua Mukti Morcha, Bihar Under trials, Punjab Police, Bombay Pavement Dwellers, Bihar Care Home cases, the judiciary has shown its firm commitment to participatory justice, just standards of procedures, immediate access to justice, and preventing arbitrary state action.

### Public Interest Litigation: An Innovative Step towards Judicial Activism-

Public interest litigation means a suit filed in a court of law for the protection of public interest such as pollution, terrorism, road safety etc. Judicial activism in India acquired importance due to public interest litigation. It is not defined in any statute or act.

In India, PIL initially was resorted to towards improving the lot of the disadvantaged sections of the society who due to poverty and ignorance were not in a position to seek justice from the courts. After the Constitution (Twenty Fifth Amendment Act, 1971), primacy was given to Directive Principles of State Policy by making them enforceable. The courts to improve administration by taking up PIL cases, for ensuring compliance constitutional provisions has also increased.

Presently the court entertains only writ petitions filled by an aggrieved person or public spirited individual or a social action group for enforcement of the constitutional or the legal rights of a person in custody or of a class of persons who due to reasons of poverty, disability, socially or economically disadvantaged position are finding it difficult to approach the court for redress.

PIL is an extraordinary remedy available at a cheaper cost. As Justice Bhagwati observed in the case of Asiad workers case, 'now for the first time the portals of the court are being thrown open to the poor and the downtrodden. The courts must shed their character as upholders of the established order and the status quo. The time has come now when the courts must become the courts for the poor and the struggling masses of this country'.

### **7. General Elections: Electoral Reforms, Politics of Vote Bank**

The General elections was held for the first time in 1951. However, then the House had a strength of 489 seats, with members chosen from the 26 states of India. Presently, there a total of 545 members in the House, with two unelected members as representatives of the Anglo-Indian community in India. A total of 543 members are chosen by the general elections.



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The General election continues to be by far the most important political event in the country. They are held once in every five year, unless the Central government is dissolved beforehand. India follows a bicameral legislative structure. The members to the House of the People or the Lok Sabha are elected through the General elections. These members are chosen from the parliamentary constituencies. The number of parliamentary constituencies in a state depends upon the size and the population of the state. The executive along with the Council of Ministers is chosen from among the members of the winning party or the ruling coalition, as the case may be.

The State elections in India are structurally similar to the general elections in India. It chooses members for the state assembly. The numbers of seats in the assembly as well as the number of members in the Cabinet vary from state to state, depending on its size and population.

### **The Election Commission of India**

The Election Commission is the apex body that conducts the elections in India. Both the general and the assembly elections in India are held in accordance with the clear rules laid down by the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission or the EC comprises high-ranking government officials and is formed under the guidelines of the Indian Constitution. The EC is a highly powerful body and is granted with a great degree of autonomous powers to successfully conduct the elections. Even the judiciary resists from intervening while the electoral process is on. The work of the Election Commission typically starts with the announcement of various important dates and deadlines related to the election, including the dates for voter registration, the filing of nominations, counting and results. Its activities continue throughout the time-period, when the elections are conducted in the country. The fact that elections across the country are held in phases and not at the same time extends the period of its work. The responsibilities of the EC finally conclude with the submission of the results of the elections.

An election in India is a daunting affair because of the expanse and the high population of the country. The logistical involvement is really overwhelming. The work begins with the formation of the electoral list. All Indian citizens above the age of 18 are eligible for polling rights. A great involvement of man power is needed for the preparation of the elections list, which involves not less than 670 million people. The Election Commission has undertaken a number of extremely effective steps in order to render the electoral list full-proof and comprehensive, including door-to-door registration and verification systems. Registration can be done till a week before the date of the filing of the nominations.

The next important part of the Election Commission's pre-election activities involves the preparation of the candidate's list. The candidates have to declare their age, properties and criminal records to run the elections. A convicted criminal cannot run as a candidate. However, criminals under trial can do so, although he has to vacate the office if he declared convicted in future. The political parties are commonly brought together by the EC to lay down the lines for the common code of conduct that is expected to be followed by all the relevant and participating parties. The code of conduct was brought about primarily to cut down on the exorbitant amounts spent on the elections in the previous versions of the Indian elections. The amount spent are presently limited, as are the modes of campaigning. Handing out of gifts, bribery, as well as the



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use of loudspeakers and microphones after 10.00 pm are banned and are considered to be gross violation of the code of conduct. Any announcement of sops and benefits is also restricted after the election days are announced. The political parties are also barred from taking any step that may aggrandize communal or class-based tension among the various groups of people who inhabit the land. The campaigning stops 48 hours before the actual polling begins. Any breach of the code of conduct can be judged by the Election Commission, which has the power to act as a Civil Court during the Election time.

**The Voting Process-** The Voting Day is a declared holiday. The enthusiasm is noted at every sphere of the Indian society who queues up from early in the morning in order to cast their polls. The polling is typically conducted by government officials and are held in government schools and colleges, as well as certain other government owned venues. An indelible ink is applied on the finger of the voter once the process is complete; this is done in order to avoid the risk of bogus voting. Presently, the Electronic Voting Machines or EVMs have replaced the traditional ballot boxes in most areas. This was done to counter the great degree of booth capturing and rigging that became a common feature of the elections in certain parts of the country.

Soon after the voting process is over, the EVMs are conducted under strict security to highly guarded centers where they are kept till the counting begins. The results of the elections usually keep coming within hours of the final phase of voting is complete. There are provisions of bye-elections in booths and constituencies where some kind of dispute arises related to the voting process. The candidate with the maximum number of votes in a single constituency is declared to be the winner. The announcement of the results is extremely well-publicized event. The media gets into the scene right from the polling day through conducting the exit polls. Regular bulletins keep the states and the entire country tuned in to the results of the elections. Excitement runs high as the final phase of the counting are entered. Usually, the picture becomes clear by the end of the day

After the final results are submitted, the legislative head invites the winning party to form the government. In the case of the Center, it is the President; whereas in the states, it is the Governor, who performs this duty. The party, or the coalition, then has to ensure its majority through a vote of confidence. It needs a simple majority of at least 50% of the House to form the government.

## **Electoral Reforms**

### **Electoral reforms introduced by the Election Commission**

Many a time, the Election Commission has expressed its concern and anxiety for removing obstacles in the way of free and fair polls. It has had made a number of recommendations and repeatedly reminded the government the necessity of changing the existing laws to check the electoral malpractices. The Tarkunde Committee Report of 1975, the Goswami Committee Report of 1990, the Election Commission's recommendations in 1998 and the Indrajit Gupta Committee Report of 1998 produced a comprehensive set of proposals regarding electoral reforms. A number of new initiatives have been taken by the Election Commission to cleanse the electoral process in India. The important among these are being discussed here.



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## **Model Code of Conduct**

THE Election Commission of India is regarded as guardian of free and fair elections. In every election, the EC issues a Model Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates to conduct elections in a free and fair manner. The Commission circulated its first Code at the time of the fifth general elections, held in 1971. Since then, the Code has been revised from time to time. The Code of Conduct lays down guidelines as to how political parties and candidates should conduct themselves during elections. A provision was made under the Code that from the time the elections are announced by the Commission, Ministers and other authorities cannot announce any financial grant, lay foundation stones of projects of schemes of any kind, make promises of construction of roads, carry out any appointments in government and public undertakings which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the ruling party. Recently, the Punjab Government, which announced the budget for 2008-2009, did not propose any new concessions, because the Code of Conduct was in force for the May 2008 Panchayat elections. However, the Punjab Congress leveled serious allegations against the ruling SAD-BJP alliance for misusing government vehicles and making certain announcements, thereby violating the Model Code of Conduct.

Despite the acceptance of the Code of Conduct by political parties, cases of its violation have been on the rise. It is a general complaint that the party in power at the time of elections misuses the official machinery to further the electoral prospects of its candidates. The misuse of official machinery takes different forms, such as issue of advertisements at the cost of public exchequer, misuse of official mass media during election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding their achievements, misuse of government transport including aircraft/helicopter, vehicles. For example, during the 2003 Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, the Commission had issued strict instructions to the political parties to abstain from the use of plastic and polythene for the preparation of posters and publicity material. But the political parties, particularly the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, put up a large number of saffron and green publicity flags made of polythene. [The Tribune: 2003] During the 2002 Punjab Assembly elections, an aggressive advertisement campaign was launched by the Congress against Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and his son, accusing them of corruption and bartering away the interests of Punjab. The Akali Dal hit back with its own set of equally aggressive advertisements against the Congress leaders. [Prashar: 2002] The Election Commission of India had to intervene to clarify that under the Model Code of Conduct, personal allegations against individual leaders were not allowed, though criticisms of policy decisions and performance were permitted. Similarly, the EC also held Narendra Modi and Sonia Gandhi responsible for violation of the Model Code of Conduct by making controversial remarks during election campaign in the 2007 Gujarat Assembly polls. The EC expressed its severe displeasure over its violation by the two leaders and expected that both of them in future would adhere to the salutary provisions of the Code in letter and spirit. [The Financial Express: 2007] Despite sincere efforts on the part of the EC to check malpractices, in each and every election India witnesses violation of the Model Code of Conduct. Disclosure of Antecedents by Candidates

IN June 2002, the EC on the direction of the Supreme Court, issued an order under Article 324 that each candidate must submit an affidavit regarding the information of his/her criminal



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antecedents; assets (both movable and immovable) of self and those of spouses and dependents as well; and qualifications at the time of filing his/her nomination papers for election to the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies. But political parties believed that the Election Commission and the judiciary were overstepping their powers. At the all-party meeting, held on July 8, 2002, representatives of 21 political parties decided that the Election Commission's order should not be allowed to be implemented. The Supreme Court again came out as a guardian of the citizen's right to information. The Apex Court gave its judgment on March 13, 2003, basically asserting its previous June 2002 decision, which required full disclosure by all candidates. The order made it clear that failing to furnish the relevant affidavit shall be considered as a violation of the Supreme Court's order and as such the nomination papers shall be liable to be rejected by the Returning Officer. Furnishing of wrong or incomplete information shall result in the rejection of nomination papers, apart from inviting penal consequences under the Indian Penal Code. The 2004 General Elections were conducted under these rules.

The above order is an effective step to make democracy healthy and unpolluted. Citizens have every right to know about the persons whom they prefer as their representatives. The EC has directed all Returning Officers to display the copies of nomination papers and affidavits filed by candidates to the general public and representatives of print and electronic media, free of cost.

### **Registration of Political Parties**

THE party system is an essential feature of parliamentary democracy. However, there is no direct reference of political parties in the Constitution of India. The statutory law relating to registration of political parties was enacted in 1989 which was quite liberal. As a result, a large number of non-serious parties mushroomed and got registered with the Commission. Many of them did not contest elections at all after their registration. It led to confusion among electors as to whom to vote.

To eliminate the mushrooming of parties, the EC had to take some rigorous steps. The Commission now registers a party which has at least 100 registered electors as its members and is also charging a nominal processing fee of Rs 10,000 to cover the administration expenses which it will have to incur on correspondence with the parties after their registration.

In order to ensure that the registered political parties practice democracy in their internal functioning, the Commission requires them to hold their organisational elections regularly in accordance with their constitutions. The measures taken by the Election Commission to streamline the registration of political parties have shown effective results. These have lessened the headache of the administrative machinery, as well as confusion of the electorate.

### **Checking Criminalisation of Politics**

CRIMINALISATION of politics is a grave problem in India. This menace began in Bihar and gradually spread to every nook and corner of the nation. In 2003, a law was introduced to prohibit the election of criminals to the legislative bodies. However, persons with criminal



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background continue to hold seats in Parliament and State Assemblies. This leads to a very undesirable and embarrassing situation when law-breakers become law-makers and move around under police protection. During the 13th Lok Sabha elections candidates having criminal cases against them numbered 12 in Bihar and 17 in Uttar Pradesh. It has been rightly observed by J.P.Naik: "Power is the spoiler of men and it is more so in a country like India, where the hungry stomachs produce power hungry politicians."

The EC has expressed its serious concern over the entry of anti-social and criminal persons into the electoral arena. From time to time, it has set down norms and made recommendations to the government to curb the menace of criminalization of politics. The Commission has urged all political parties to reach a consensus that no person with a criminal background will be given the party ticket. The candidates to an election are also obliged to submit an affidavit in a prescribed form declaring their criminal records, including convictions, charges pending and cases initiated against them. The information so furnished by the candidates shall be disseminated to the public, and to the print and electronic media.

### **Limits on Poll Expenses**

TO get rid of the growing influence and vulgar show of money during elections, the EC has made many suggestions in this regard. The Commission has fixed legal limits on the amount of money which a candidate can spend during the election campaign. These limits have been revised from time to time. During 2004 elections, the ceiling limits for Lok Sabha seats varied between Rs 10, 00,000 to Rs 25, 00,000. For Assembly seats, the highest limit was Rs 10,00, 000 and the lowest limit was Rs 5,00,000. The EC, by appointing expenditure observers keeps an eye on the individual accounts of election expenditure made by a candidate during election campaign. The contestants are also required to give details of expenditure within 30 days of the declaration of the election results. However, political parties do not adhere to the financial Lakashman Rekha (limits) as huge amounts are spent by parties under the garb of their supporters.

Apart from this, the EC is also in favor of holding the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections simultaneously, and to reduce the campaign period from 21 to 14 days. This, they feel, will lead to trim down the election expenditure. The Election Commission's attempt to impose these measures has been a move in the right direction.

### **Multi-Member Election Commission**

THERE was a longstanding demand to make the EC a multi-member body. The Supreme Court in the S.S.Dhanao versus Union of India case had observed: "When an institution like the Election Commission is entrusted with vital functions and is armed with exclusive and uncontrolled powers to execute them, it is both necessary and desirable that the powers are not exercised by one individual, however wise he may be. It also conforms to the tenets of democratic rule." With the 1993 Constitution Amendment Act, the Election Commission was made a multi-member body. The EC was made a multi-member body by the government in the wake of certain controversial decisions taken by the Chief Election Commissioner, T.N.Seshan.



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The Act provided that the decision of three members 'shall, as far as possible, be unanimous'. But in case of difference of opinion among three members, the matter 'shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority'. It was a significant step to remove a one-man show in such an important function as that of conducting elections. A single member EC would have no longer 'unbridled' powers. In view of the large size of the country and the huge electors, the Election Commission also made a proposal for the appointment of Regional Commissions to different zones to reduce its burden.

### **Use of Scientific and Technological Advancements**

THE Election Commission of India has been trying to bring improvements in election procedures by taking advantage of scientific and technological advancements. The introduction of 'electronic voting machines' (EVMs) is one of the steps in that direction. The Election Commission has recommended the introduction of electronic voting machines with a view to reducing malpractices and also improving the efficiency of the voting process. On an experimental basis, the EVMs were first tried in the State of Kerala during the 1982 Legislative Assembly Elections. After the successful testing and long legal inquiries of the technological aspects of the machines, the EC took a historic decision to go ahead and start the use of EVMs for certain Assembly elections in November 1998. The Commission selected 16 Assembly constituencies in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Union Territory of Delhi. Later, in the June 1999 Assembly elections, Goa became the first State to successfully use EVMs in all its Assembly constituencies. In the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, the machines were used all over the country. It is a major initiative taken by the EC to make the electoral process simple, quick and trouble-free. It has saved money, solved several logistical issues and also contributed to the conservation of environment through saving of paper. Another major advantage of these machines is that the counting of votes becomes more fast and accurate. Now there are no invalid and wasted votes at all, as every vote recorded in the machine is accounted for in favor of the candidate for whom it was cast.

The Election Commission has not lagged behind in making use of Information Technology for efficient electoral management and administration. It launched a website of its own on February 28, 1998. This is now a good source to have accurate information about elections, election laws, manuals and handbooks published by the Election Commission. During the 1999 Lok Sabha elections, the Commission's Secretariat was directly connected with nearly 1500 counting centres across the country. The round-wise counting results were fed into the Commission's website from those counting centres. These results were instantly available throughout the world.

In order to bring as much transparency as possible to the electoral process, the media—both electronic and print—were encouraged and provided with facilities to report on the actual conduct of the poll and counting. The Commission had, in cooperation with the State owned media (Doordarshan and All India Radio) taken several innovative and effective steps to create awareness among voters. All recognised national as well as State parties were allowed free access to the state-owned media on an extensive scale for their election campaign. During the 2004 general elections, the total free time allocated to political parties was 122 hours.





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With a view to prevent impersonation of electors at the time of voting and to eliminate bogus and fictitious entries into electoral rolls, the Election Commission took a bold step. In 1998, it decided to take a nationwide programme for the 'computerization' of electoral rolls. The printed electoral rolls as well as CDs containing these rolls are available to the general public for sale national and State parties are provided these free of cost after every revision of electoral rolls. The entire country's electoral rolls are available on its website. Karnataka became the first State to prepare electoral rolls with the photographs of voters in the 2008 elections. The State EC developed the electoral roll management software called 'STEERS' (State Enhanced Electoral Roll System) to prevent duplication of voters lists and to eliminate wrong addresses. The EC has decided to introduce photo electoral rolls for proper verification of voters across the country by the 2009 general elections.

In an attempt to improve the accuracy of the electoral rolls and prevent electoral fraud, the Election Commission in August 1993 ordered the issuance of electors' photo identity cards (EPICs) for all voters. A modest attempt to introduce the photo identity cards was made for the first time in 1978 at the instance of the then Chief Election Commissioner, S.L. Shakhder, in the case of elections to the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim. During the 2004 Assembly elections, it was mandatory for people possessing EPICs to furnish it at the time of voting. People who did not possess EPICs had to bring the proofs of identity as prescribed by the EC at the time of voting. During the 2007 Punjab Assembly elections, Parneet Kaur (MP from Patiala), could not cast her vote till late afternoon as she had misplaced her voter card. The distribution of EPICs, on the part of Election Commission, was a major step to reduce electoral malpractices. Only genuine voters were listed in the rolls with the issuance of voter identity cards

- **Politics of Vote Bank**

A vote bank is a loyal bloc of voters from a single community, who consistently back a certain candidate or political formation in democratic elections. Such behaviour is often the result of an expectation of real or imagined benefits from the political formations, often at the cost of other communities.

Vote bank politics is the practice of creating and maintaining vote banks through divisive policies. As this brand of politics encourages voters to vote on the basis of narrow communal considerations, often against their better judgment, it is considered inimical to democracy.

The term was coined in India, where the practice of vote bank politics is rampant. Since then, it has gained currency in other Asian countries with a significant English-speaking population

#### EXAMPLE OF VOTEBANK POLITICS

For the SP, shifting focus on the backward castes is important after its vociferous protest against the quota in promotion bill. Though the move may have helped party to attract the upper caste voters disenchanted with the BJP or the Congress, it has alienated a section of the backward class. By targeting the backward castes, the party hopes to compensate for the alienated in order to benefit from the shift from the upper caste.



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It was not therefore surprising that once the SP was in the saddle in UP, the Akhilesh Yadav government got down to work immediately thereafter. Akhilesh slotted the welfare of the backward castes on top priority in his first official document released on March 28, 2012. The chief secretary Jawed Usmani has since been heading the high level committee to study and design the welfare schemes for these castes in the state. Not only the SP, even the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress too are trying to woo backward votes, which, till recently, was seen as the Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSPs) traditional vote bank. The BJP too had shown its inclination towards the backward section well in advance when more than 30% of the candidates won its organizational elections held before 2012 assembly election. The Congress-led UPA government is also not lagging behind and has three key ministers from the backward castes -- Sriprakash Jaiswal, RPN Singh and Beni Prasad Verma.

Besides, the parties left nothing to chance during allotment of tickets for the UP assembly poll. Sample this: BJP fielded 126 backward castes, followed by SP with 125 such candidates. The BSP nominated 113 backward caste candidates while the Congress fielded 110 candidates. The allocations of these candidates exceeded far beyond the ratio of candidates from other castes and communities like 30% dalits, 20% OBCs, 20% Muslims, 15% Brahmins and 15% other castes

## 8. Major National and Regional political parties in India and their changing trends

India has a multi-party system with predominance of small regional parties. The Indian political parties are categorized into two main types: National level parties and State level parties. National parties are those that are recognized in four or more states. They are accorded this status by the Election Commission of India, which periodically reviews the election results in various states. National parties are political parties which, participate in different elections all across India. Few such National Parties in India are Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), etc. There are state parties also who participate in elections within some particular state they belong to. Usually they participate in Elections within one state only. For example Shiv Sena participates in elections only in Maharashtra, Telegu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, Akali Dal in Punjab and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu.

The Constitution of India stipulates that India be a federal polity with a central government in New Delhi, and state governments for the various states and Union territories. Consequently, political parties in India are classified as national and state (regional) parties based on their realms of influence .

### National Parties:

1. Indian National Congress- (INC, led by Party President: Sonia Gandhi)
2. Bhartiya Janata Party- ("Indian People's Party", BJP, led by Party President: Rajnath Singh)
3. Nationalist Congress Party- (NCP, led by Party President: Sharad Pawar)
4. Bahujan Samaj Party- ("Majoritarian Society Party", BSP, led by Party President: Mayawati)
5. Communist Party of India (Marxist) - (CPI (M), led by Party President: Prakash Karat)



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6. Communist Party of India- (CPI, led by Party President: Ardhendu Bhushan Bardhan)
7. Rashtriya Janata Dal - (RJD, led by Party President: Lalu Prasad Yadav)

**Regional Parties:**

Parties that have received certain amount of votes or seats in a state might be recognized as a state party by the Election Commission. Recognition as a state party gives the party the possibility to reserve a particular Election Symbol in the concerned state. A party might be recognized in more than one state. A party recognized in four states is automatically recognized as a national party. Below is the list of recognized Indian State Parties:



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## Unit-IV [Major Issues and Concerns]

### • POPULATION EXPLOSION

Population explosion is the most serious problem facing our country today. With 16 per cent of the world's population, India is today the second largest population country in the world. As on March 1, 1991, when the last census was conducted, the country's population stood at 846.30 million, with 439.23 males and 407.07 females. The country's population is currently estimated at about 950 millions. The population growth has been extremely rapid in the last 50 years. The phenomenal growth is now more appropriately termed as "population explosion". The phenomenal growth rate in population is largely because of the industrial and technological revolutions that had taken place in the recent times. The new technologies have not only brought down the death rate because of the vastly improved Medicare resulting in increased life expectancies, but had also facilitated increased food production to take care of food needs of the increasing population. Though population explosion is a major problem being faced by several other countries too, with the world population estimated to reach 7 billion by the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the problem is much more severe in India because of the increasing pressure on the limited resources of the country. With the growth of food grains not keeping pace with the increase in population during some years because of the unfavourable weather conditions, the specter of hunger hunts millions of households in the country.

Even when the country is fortunate enough to have a bumper crop, these hungry households do not have the economic strength or purchasing power to buy the required food grains. The phenomenal population growth exerts immense pressure on other basic necessities like education, health, housing, clothing, employment opportunities etc.

With employment opportunities in the rural areas becoming scarce, population explosion is resulting in increasing migration of rural poor to the urban areas in search of jobs. The increasing pressure on the urban areas is giving rise to more number of slums and this is multiplying the problems in the urban areas as health is the first casualty in slums. To check ill-effects of population growth on the socio-economic front, the Indian government had launched the Family Planning Programme in 1951. This was later rechristened as the Family Welfare Programme. This programme promotes on a voluntary basis, responsible Planned Parenthood, through independent choice of family planning methods best suited to the people.

Though the Family Welfare Programme has resulted in significant declines in death rates and infant mortality besides almost doubling life expectancy, a lot more needs to be done if the population explosion is to be effectively checked. For this, we have to improve the literacy rate, female education and the socio-economic status of the families as population growth is directly linked to these factors. The fact that Kerala could make a lot of progress in checking population growth testifies to the impact of literacy on population explosion.



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The government should also intensify its efforts to educate the people on the adverse effects of population explosion. The population explosion can be effectively checked only when the people are inclined towards smaller families. With increasing literacy rate and improved socio-economic status, the people can be educated to adopt a favorable attitude towards smaller families. When this happens, the population explosion can be checked

- **CORRUPTION**

Now-a-days corruption can be seen everywhere. It is like cancer in public life, which has not become so rampant and perpetuated overnight, but in course of time. A country where leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Lai Bahadur Shastri and Kamraj have taken birth and led a value-based is now facing the problem of corruption.

When we talk of corruption in public life, it covers corruption in politics, state governments, central governments, "business, industry and so on. Public dealing counters in most all government offices are the places where corruption most evident. If anybody does not pay for the work it is sure work won't be done. People have grown insatiable appetite for money in them and they can go to any extent to get money. Undoubtedly they talk of morality and the importance of value-based life but that is for outer show. Their inner voice is something else.

It is always crying for money. It has been seen the officers who are deputed to look into the matters of corruption turn out to be corrupt. Our leaders too are not less corrupt. Thus the network of corruption goes on as usual and remains undeterred. Corruption is seen even in the recruitment department where appointments are ensured through reliable middle agencies. Nexus between politicians and bureaucrats works in a very sophisticated manner. Nexus does also exist between criminals and police. Everybody knows that criminals have no morals, hence nothing good can we expect from them. But police are supposed to be the symbol of law and order and discipline. Even they are indulged in corruption. This is more so because they enjoy unlimited powers and there is no action against them even on complaints and sufficient proof of abuse of office atrocities and high handedness.

Corruption can be need-based or greed-based. Better governance can at least help to check need-based corruption. Better governance can check greed based corruption also because punishment for the corrupt will be very effective and prompt in a better-governed country.

The steps should be taken to correct the situation overall. Declarations of property and assets of the government employees are made compulsory and routine and surprise inspections and raids be conducted at certain intervals. Though it series very difficult to control corruption but it is not impossible. It is not only the responsibility of the government but ours too. We can eliminate corruption if there will be joint effort. We must have some high principles to follow so that we may be models for the coming generation. Let us take a view to create an atmosphere free from corruption. That will be our highest achievement as human beings.



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- **POVERTY**

Poverty is one of the major problems in India. It is the root cause of many socio-economic problems including population explosion, unemployment, and child labor and rising graph of crimes. Poverty alleviation should be the main target of the nation so as to make it a prosperous and developed country. Thus, poverty elimination is a matter of fundamental importance.

Poverty implies a condition in which a person finds him unable to maintain a living standard adequate for his physical and mental efficiency. He even fails to meet his basic requirements. Poverty is in fact a relative concept. It is very difficult to draw a demarcation line between affluence and poverty. According to Adam Smith, "Man is rich or poor according to the degree in which he can afford to enjoy the necessaries, the conveniences and the amusements of human life." The pathos of Indian story is that 220-230 million of Indian population, which constitutes 22 per cent of the total population, is poor, as per the findings of the National Sample Survey Organisation. This makes India home to the world's largest proportion of the poor, even if the percentage of the people living below poverty line reduced from 36 per cent in 1993-1994 to 22 per cent in 2004-05. The problem of poverty is acute in villages. More than 75 per cent people live in villages. Even prevalence of poverty is not uniform all across India. The poverty level is below 10 per cent in states like Delhi, Goa, Punjab, etc. while it is nearly 50 per cent in socio-economically backward states like Bihar and Orissa. The percentage of poverty fluctuates between 30 to 40 in north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, and in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

There are other dismal facts about poverty in this 4th largest economy of the world on GDP at Purchasing Power Parity: it ranks 126th out of 177 countries listed in the World Human Development Index and the rate of child malnutrition double than that of sub-Saharan Africa. The most recent World Bank estimates for India are based on household surveys carried out in 1999-2000. It was found that almost 80 per cent of India's population was surviving on less than \$2.15 a day (in PPP terms), i.e. is about 800 million \$1.40 a day or less and nearly 35 per cent were found to be living on \$1.20 a day or less. With such factual and visible evidence enforcing existing bias, the defining element of our economy would remain identified with poor millions.

Rather than getting drowned into swirling oceans of data we need to look into the factors which lead to poverty. Since India is predominantly an agricultural country, it is the largest source of employment. More than three-fourths of their populations depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture here is dependent on monsoon. Sometimes due to uncertainty and irregularity of monsoon, agriculture collapses. Food grains production declines. Often there is drought. All these adversely affect the income generation prospect. These combine to result in poverty. People do not have other means of livelihood; they are left with no other option except to starve.



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- **ILLITERACY**

Illiteracy constitutes a major cause of poverty. It is really very distressing that after more than 60 years of independence, about one-fourth of our population do not know how to read and write. Illiteracy is one of the constraints which deprive one from opportunities to seek other forms of livelihood. It in fact forces people to stick to ancestral jobs and prevents them from having job flexibility. Besides, caste system also puts constraints in the access to lucrative jobs to a vast majority of the people. Though constitutionally such institutions have been dismantled, their presence can still be seen in rural areas.

Furthermore, there has been increase in unemployment adding to the woes of poverty. Growing population is a great contributor to poverty. The average size of Indian family is relatively bigger, consisting of 4.2 members. All these factors make a vicious cycle of poverty and aggravate the problems related to poverty. Poverty is a great pollutant. It is marked by an apathy that erodes self-esteem and any willingness to live life to the fullest. It is also an important factor in the creation of paradoxical situation, the lack of purchasing power amidst plentiful availability of food causing starvation deaths. Poverty makes education, balanced diet, health care facilities, etc. inaccessible. Obviously, all these deprivations immensely affect the personality development of a person, thus creating wide gaps between haves and have-nots.

The dimensions of poverty have been changing from time- to-time and place-to-place. There are two inter-related aspects of poverty-urban and rural. The main causes of urban poverty are predominantly due to impoverishment of rural peasantry that forces them to migrate to big cities to find livelihood. In this process they lose even the open space or habitat they had in villages, albeit without food and other basic amenities. In the cities, though they get food but other sanitary facilities including clean water supply still elude them. They are compelled to live in sub-human conditions. There is really a very paradoxical situation, when wealth and prosperity is concentrated in a few homes while millions have to go to bed without food. A select few enjoy the standards of living comparable to the richest in the world while the majority fails to meet both their ends.

It cannot be said that attempts have not been made by the government. Since 1970s poverty alleviation became the priority in government's development planning. Policies have been framed with prime focus on improving standard of living of the people by ensuring them food security, promoting self-employment through greater access to assets, increasing wage employment and improving access to basic social services. It is with this aim that Public Distribution System was launched in 1965 to provide food grains to the poor at subsidized rates. The Government of India launched the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the largest credit-based government poverty reduction program in 1979 to provide rural households below the poverty line with credit to purchase income-generating assets. The beneficiaries include small and marginalized farmers, agricultural laborers, rural artisans, the physically handicapped, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Within the targeted population, 40 per cent of the beneficiaries are supposed to be women. Significantly, the program has been successful enough to increase the income of 57 per cent of assisted families.



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Unemployment and low-productivity have been significant causes of rural poverty. It is to address the problem that a national public work scheme, the Jawaharlal Rozgar Yojana was launched in 1989 to provide unemployment at the statutory minimum wage for unskilled manual labor, besides low-cost housing and to supply free irrigation well to poor and marginalized farmers. The programme has had a significant impact on poverty reduction. Besides, a number of other programmers for poverty alleviation are being carried on by government-Central and State.

As a consequence of attempts made by government, poverty showed a sharp decline in 1980s. This decline in poverty, to some extent, is also attributed to agriculture development of 1970s and 1980s resulting from the Green Revolutions. However, much more needs to be done, for India is the home to the largest poor population in the world. Basic necessities of life such as drinking water, health care facilities, etc. are still inaccessible to majority of population.

In this regard community participation and awareness campaign can make a difference. The media and the NGOs, besides other institutions have crucial role to play. The machinery involved in poverty alleviation need to be accountable, sensitized and sincere. New laws have to be evolved to ensure more accountability. The lack of transparency and accountability has hampered our economic development at all levels. A system of incentives and disincentives can also be of great importance. Thus, the situation is bound to change and society will be free from deprivation.

- **PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE**

There are various issues of public health in India-

### **Malnutrition**

According to a 2005 report, 42% of India's children below the age of three were malnourished, which was greater than the statistics of sub-Saharan African region of 28%.<sup>[6]</sup> Although India's economy grew 50% from 2001–2006, its child-malnutrition rate only dropped 1%, lagging behind countries of similar growth rate. Malnutrition impedes the social and cognitive development of a child, reducing his educational attainment and income as an adult.<sup>[7]</sup> These irreversible damages result in lower productivity.

### **High infant mortality rate**

Approximately 1.72 million children die each year before turning one. The under five mortality and infant mortality rates have been declining, from 202 and 190 deaths per thousand live births respectively in 1970 to 64 and 50 deaths per thousand live births in 2009. However, this decline is slowing. Reduced funding for immunization leaves only 43.5% of the young fully immunized. A study conducted by the Future Health Systems Consortium in Murshidabad, West Bengal indicates that barriers to immunization coverage are adverse geographic location, absent or inadequately trained health workers and low perceived need for immunization. Infrastructure like hospitals, roads, water and sanitation are lacking in rural areas. Shortages of healthcare providers, poor intra-partum and newborn care, diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections also contribute to the high infant mortality rate.





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## **Diseases**

Diseases such as dengue fever, hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria and pneumonia continue to plague India due to increased resistance to drugs. In 2011, India developed a totally drug-resistant form of tuberculosis. India is ranked 3rd highest among countries with a high rate of HIV-infected persons. Diarrheal diseases are the primary causes of early childhood mortality. These diseases can be attributed to poor sanitation and inadequate safe drinking water in India. India also has the world's highest incidence of Rabies.

However in 2012 India was polio-free for the first time in its history. This was achieved because of the Pulse Polio Programme started in 1995-96 by the government of India.

Indians are also at particularly high risk for atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease. This may be attributed to a genetic predisposition to metabolic syndrome and adverse changes in coronary artery vasodilation. NGOs such as the Indian Heart Foundation and the Medwin Foundation have been created to raise awareness of this public health issue.<sup>1</sup>

## **Poor sanitation**

As more than 122 million households have no toilets, and 33% lack access to latrines, over 50% of the population (638 million) defecate in the open. This is relatively higher than Bangladesh and Brazil (7%) and China (4%). Although 211 million people gained access to improved sanitation from 1990–2008, only 31% use the facilities provided. Only 11% of Indian rural families dispose of stools safely whereas 80% of the population leave their stools in the open or throw them in the garbage. Open air defecation leads to the spread of disease and malnutrition through parasitic and bacterial infections.

## **Inadequate safe drinking water**

Access to protected sources of drinking water has improved from 68% of the population in 1990 to 88% in 2008. However, only 26% of the slum population has access to safe drinking water, and 25% of the total population has drinking water on their premises. This problem is exacerbated by falling levels of groundwater caused mainly by increasing extraction for irrigation. Insufficient maintenance of the environment around water sources, groundwater pollution, excessive arsenic and fluoride in drinking water pose a major threat to India's health.

## **Female health issues**

Women's health in India involves numerous issues. Some of them include the following:

- **Malnutrition:** The main cause of female malnutrition in India is the tradition requiring women to eat last, even during pregnancy and when they are lactating.
- **Breast Cancer:** One of the most severe and increasing problems among women in India, resulting in higher mortality rates.
- **Stroke**
- **Polycystic ovarian disease (PCOD):** PCOD increases the infertility rate in females. This condition causes many small cysts to form in the ovaries, which can negatively affect a woman's ability to conceive.
- **Maternal Mortality:** Indian maternal mortality rates in rural areas are among the highest in the world.



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## **Rural health**

Rural India contains over 68% of India's total population, and half of all residents of rural areas live below the poverty line, struggling for better and easy access to health care and services. Health issues confronted by rural people are many and diverse – from severe malaria to uncontrolled diabetes, from a badly infected wound to cancer. Postpartum maternal illness is a serious problem in resource-poor settings and contributes to maternal mortality, particularly in rural India. A study conducted in 2009 found that 43.9% of mothers reported they experienced postpartum illnesses six weeks after delivery.

## **HEALTH CARE SYSTEM-**

### **Public and private sector**

According to National Family Health Survey-3, the private medical sector remains the primary source of health care for 70% of households in urban areas and 63% of households in rural areas. Reliance on public and private health care sector varies significantly between states. Several reasons are cited for relying on private rather than public sector; the main reason at the national level is poor quality of care in the public sector, with more than 57% of households pointing to this as the reason for a preference for private health care. Other major reasons are distance of the public sector facility, long wait times, and inconvenient hours of operation.

### **National Rural Health Mission**

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in April 2005 by the Government of India. The goal of the NRHM was to provide effective healthcare to rural people with a focus on 18 states which have poor public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure

- **CASTE CONFLICTS IN INDIA**

The Indian caste system is the traditional organisation of South Asian, particularly Hindu, society into a hierarchy of hereditary groups called castes or jatis. In broad outline, marriage occurs only within caste, caste is fixed by birth, and each caste is associated with a traditional occupation, such as weaving or barbering. Hindu religious principles underlay the caste hierarchy and limit the ways that castes can interact.

The caste system is connected to the Hindu concept of the four varnas, which order and rank humanity by innate spiritual purity. The highest Varna is the Brahmins, or priests. Next comes the Kshatriyas, the warriors, and then the Vaishyas, the merchants. The lowest varna is the Shudras, consisting of laborers, artisans and servants who do work that is ritually unclean. Contact between varnas, and particularly the sharing of food and water, must be limited to avoid pollution of higher, purer individuals by lower, more unclean ones.

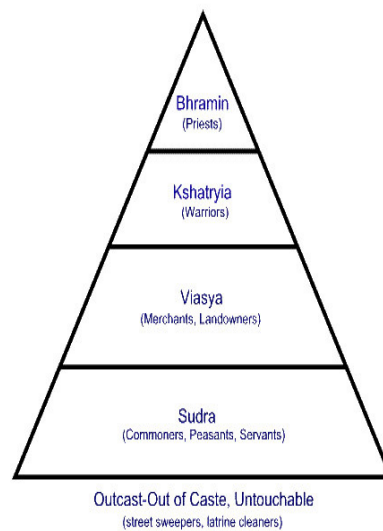
In practice, the caste system consists of thousands of jatis, generally of a local or regional nature. Each has its own history, customs, and claimed descent from one of the four varnas. Members of a jati may have many different professions, although commonly they will be related in status and nature to the jati's traditional occupation. Wealth and power generally rise with caste status, but individuals may be rich or poor. Subgroups within a jati may practice hyper gamy or exogamy. There is no official or universal ranking that determines the caste hierarchy. Precedence depends



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on the local community's estimation of a jati's secular importance and ritual purity, and is therefore somewhat fluid. A jati can increase its status by growing in size, wealth and power, by avoiding low or unclean work, and by adopting priestly ways, such as vegetarianism and teetotalism, a process called sanskritisation. Generally, however, Brahmins are the highest caste, and at the bottom of society are those associated with occupations considered extremely unclean, such as handling garbage, excrement, or corpses. In the past these castes were called untouchables, because their touch polluted. They were often forbidden from entering temples, living inside the village, drinking from wells used by high castes, or even letting their shadows fall on a Brahmin.



For years, the Government of India has opposed efforts to place the issue of caste discrimination on the agenda of the international community. This attitude is counterproductive as it would be to India's advantage to support such efforts and take the lead in the global struggle against a form of discrimination which affects an estimated 260 million people around the world. The caste system may be outlawed in India, but legislation is poorly implemented, and the country's 200 million Dalits – formerly known as 'untouchables' – continue to suffer appalling forms of discrimination. Murder, rape and other crimes against them are mostly committed with impunity, while many Dalits experience forced prostitution and other forms of modern slavery.

India has much to gain from encouraging international involvement in this issue. Its endorsement of a UN framework to eliminate caste discrimination would set an example to other countries and strengthen its own unsuccessful efforts to end this human rights problem. Such a framework exists in the form of the draft UN Principles and Guidelines to eliminate caste discrimination, which have been published, but not yet adopted, by the UN Human Rights Council. Recently, civil society activists and an Indian MP have urged the government to stop opposing the inclusion of caste discrimination in the international human rights regime, and to become a champion of the draft UN Principles and Guidelines in the UN. However, government officials



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continue to reject such claims based on misguided interpretations of caste discrimination in the context of international human rights law.

Some officials claim that caste is not part of the existing international human rights regime and oppose the adoption of a new and specific framework to address this form of discrimination in the UN. IDSN believes that caste discrimination warrants separate and distinctive treatment in the UN human rights system because of its unique nature, the vast numbers of people affected and the severity of the associated violations.

The Government of India has officially documented castes and sub-castes, primarily to determine those deserving reservation (positive discrimination in education and jobs) through the census. The Indian reservation system relies on quotas. The Government lists consist of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes:

**Scheduled castes (SC)**- Scheduled castes generally consist of Dalit. The present population is 16% of the total population of India (around 165 million). For example, the Delhi state has 49 castes listed as SC.

**Scheduled tribes (ST)**- Scheduled tribes generally consist of tribal groups. The present population is 7% of the total population of India i.e. around 70 million.

**Other Backward Classes (OBC)**- The Mandal Commission covered more than 3000 castes under Other Backward Class (OBC) category, regardless of their affluence or economic status and stated that OBCs form around 52% of the Indian population. However, the National Sample Survey puts the figure at 32%. There is substantial debate over the exact number of OBCs in India; it is generally estimated to be sizable, but many believe that it is lower than the figures quoted by either the Mandal Commission or the National Sample Survey.

The caste-based reservations in India have led to widespread protests, such as the 2006 Indian anti-reservation protests, with many complaining of reverse discrimination against the forward castes (the castes that do not qualify for the reservation).

In May 2011, the government approved a caste census with the intention of verifying the claims and counterclaims by various sections of the society about their actual numbers. The census would also help the government to re-examine and possibly undo some of the policies which were formed in haste like Mandal commission and bring more objectivity to the policies with respect to contemporary realities. Critics of the reservation system believe that there is actually no social stigma at all associated with belonging to a backward caste and that because of the huge constitutional incentives in the form of educational and job reservations, a large number of people will falsely identify with a backward caste to receive the benefits. This would not only result in a marked inflation of the backward castes' numbers, but also lead to enormous administrative and judicial resources being devoted to social unrest and litigation when such dubious caste declarations are challenged



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The caste system has been criticized by many Indian social reformers over India's history. For example, Jyotirao Phule vehemently criticized any explanations that caste system was natural and ordained by the Creator in Hindu texts. If Brahma wanted castes, argued Phule, he would have ordained the same for other creatures. There are no castes in species of animals or birds, why should there be one among human animals. In his criticism Phule added, "Brahmins cannot claim superior status because of caste, because they hardly bothered with these when dining and dining with Europeans." Professions did not make castes, and castes did not decide one's profession. If someone does a job that is dirty, it does not make them inferior; in the same way that no mother is inferior because she cleans the excreta of her baby. Ritual occupation or tasks, argued Phule, do not make any human being superior or inferior.

Vivekananda similarly criticized caste as one of the many human institutions that bars the power of free thought and action of an individual. Caste or no caste, creed or no create, any man, or class, or caste, or nation, or institution that bars the power of free thought and bars action of an individual is devilish, and must go down. Liberty of thought and action, asserted Vivekananda, is the only condition of life, of growth and of well-being

## **CASTE POLITICS**

B. R. Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru had radically different approaches to caste, especially concerning constitutional politics and the status of untouchables. Since the 1980s, caste has become a major issue in the politics of India. The Mandal Commission was established in 1979 to "identify the socially or educationally backward" and to consider the question of seat reservations and quotas for people to redress caste discrimination. In 1980, the commission's report affirmed the affirmative action practice under Indian law, whereby additional members of lower castes—the other backward classes—were given exclusive access to another 27 percent of government jobs and slots in public universities, in addition to the 23 percent already reserved for the Dalits and Tribals. When V. P. Singh's administration tried to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission in 1989, massive protests were held in the country. Many alleged that the politicians were trying to cash in on caste-based reservations for purely pragmatic electoral purposes.

Many political parties in India have indulged in caste-based vote bank politics. Parties such as Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Samajwadi Party and the Janata Dal claim that they are representing the backward castes, and rely on OBC support, often in alliance with Dalit and Muslim support, to win elections. Remarkably, in what is called a landmark election in the history of India's most populated state of Uttar Pradesh the Bahujan Samaj Party was able to garner a majority in the state assembly elections with the support of the high caste Brahmin community.

- **RESERVATION**

We live in a free country and this freedom is a gift of democracy to us. Our constitution gives us the right to freedom and most importantly to exercise this freedom in an equitable manner. At the same time it is incumbent on the part of the state to ensure that equality prevails in all sections of



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the society. However in today's time one of the major roadblocks to this equality is the Reservation System.

India being a developing nation is currently facing many challenges and the reservation system being one of them. The biggest question that lies in front of us is whether implementing this reservation system has really helped the downtrodden? The current scenario clearly depicts that the 'lower' castes are still discriminated in their daily lives. To uproot casteism it is important that we fight the reservation system which alone will lead us to development, competency, equality and unity. The reservation system finds its origin in the age-old caste system of India. The caste system at its birth was meant to divide people on the basis of their occupation like teaching and preaching (Brahmins), kingship and war (Kshatriya) and lastly business(vaish) etc. but soon it became an instrument to divide the society on caste-basis, creating various walls between different sections of the society. Today we stand divided widely into Hindu, Muslim, SC, ST & OBCs with newer reservations coming up for other different sections of the society like Christians, Kashmiris, Jats, Kashmiri Pandits, Tribals etc.

Firstly we need to understand that the reservation system only divides the society leading to discrimination and conflicts between different sections. It is oppressive and does not find its basis in casteism. It is actually the antithesis of a communal living. Currently, as per the government policy, 15% of the government jobs and 15% of the students admitted to universities must be from Scheduled castes and for the Scheduled tribes there is a reservation of about 7.5 %. Other than this, the state governments also follow their own reservation policies respectively based upon the population constitution of each state. So nearly 50% seats are reserved.

The Mandal commission was established in 1979 by the central government to identify the socially or educationally backward people. It was also set up to consider the question of seat reservations and quotas for people to redress caste discrimination. It used social, economic, and educational indicators to determine backwardness. But today are these reservations actually being utilized on the above mentioned factors? The answer is prima facie 'NO' because the benefits are being stolen away by the creamy layer. The 93rd Constitutional Amendment allows the government to make special provisions for "advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens", including their admission in aided or unaided private educational institutions. Gradually this reservation policy is to be implemented in private institutions and companies as well. This move led to opposition from non-reserved category students, as the proposal reduced seats for the General (non-reserved) category from the existing 77.5% to less than 50.5% (since members of OBCs are also allowed to contest in the General category). Article 15(4) of our constitution empowers the government to make special provisions for advancement of backward classes. Similarly Article 16 provides for equality of opportunity in matters of employment or appointment to any post under the State.

"Clause 2 of article 16 lays down that no citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them be discriminated in respect of any employment or office under the State."



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However clause 4 of the same article provides for an exception by conferring a certain kind of power on the government:“it empowers the state to make special provision for the reservation of appointments of posts in favor of any backward class of citizens which in the opinion of the state are not adequately represented in the services”

Thus two conditions have to be satisfied:

1. The class of citizens is backward
2. The said class is not adequately represented.

In a case *Balaji v/s State of Mysore* (AIR 1963 SC649) it was held that ‘caste of a person cannot be the sole criteria for ascertaining whether a particular caste is backward or not. Determinants such as poverty, occupation, place of habitation may all be relevant factors to be taken into consideration. The court further held that it does not mean that if once a caste is considered to be backward it will continue to be backward for all other times. The government should review the test and if a class reaches the state of progress where reservation is not necessary it should delete that class from the list of backward classes.’

What is surprising is that our constitution clearly is a reservation-friendly constitution but nowhere in the constitution is the term ‘backward classes defined. What actually constitutes a backward class? What are the determinants of a backward class? These questions remain unanswered and it is only with the help of judicial pronouncements that they have been given some meaning. Question arises how can reservations be made for something that has not been defined? Today when a student applies for an admission in any university, the admissions forms are filled with questions like ‘Are you SC/ST or OBC or General Category?’ How does it matter which category does he belong to, what matters is his merit. A category cannot decide whether he is eligible for admission or not. There many economically worse off children belonging to the forward classes but they cannot get the fruits of such reservation merely by virtue of belonging to the ‘general’ category. Sometimes these children belonging to the backward classes do not even deserve and still possess the necessary merit as against a child who studied very hard for months to get a seat, thereby snatching away that seat just because he comes from a particular religion or caste for which our government provides reservation.

Reservation should be purely made on the basis of the economical conditions of the applicant and nothing else. The kind of reservation policy that our government currently follows does nothing but divide the society into different sections. When the then HRD minister Mr. Arjun Singh introduced 27.5% reservation for OBC in centrally funded educational institutes including IIMs and IITs a petition was moved to the President and the Prime Minister stating that such a reservation will take India back from where she is today. Further “everyone understands the need for all sections of the Indian Society to get an opportunity to be a part of this economy but reservation based on caste is not an answer to this. These policies have been in India since the last 50 years and they have failed to meet their objectives. The government should go into the reasons of the failure. Many students don’t make it to the institutes because of the economic reasons and those who do not fall in the reservation criteria don not get a fair opportunity too”.



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Instead of introducing reservations for these backward classes what is required is to bring about revolutionary changes in our education system at the grass-root level. When proper education is not provided to children belonging to such categories during the primary stage itself then on what basis are the reservations provided at a subsequent stage. Reservations are nothing but means to prosper the vote banks of politicians. They are hindering the country's growth, development and competency in all aspects. On one hand the preamble of our constitution states that we are a free, democratic and sovereign nation and on the other hand reservation system is chaining all these aspects into its clutches. It is creating disparity and differences amongst the people. The constitution lays down that every child has a right to education and nowhere expresses that any child belonging to a backward class has a little more of this right than the general category. By reserving one category against another creates a feeling of division which is now resulting in a chaos with every small section of the society asking for it.

Reservations on the basis of caste and not on the basis of condition are bad and unacceptable. Fair and just reservations to uplift the people with poor conditions of life, those who don't have meals to eat, clothes to wear and no home to live in. They shall be made on the basis of factors such as gender as women are more disadvantaged than men since primitive times, domicile, family education, family employment, family property, family income and if any disabilities and traumas. The process of reservation should be such that it filters the truly economically deprived individuals and bring them all to justice. Thus reservations are anti-thesis of development and equality. We don't need reservations based on castes or religion but only to actually provide aid to those who have minimal resources; and merit should be given equal and due importance in admission procedures as well employment opportunities. This way we would be successful in removing caste discrimination and unite the economically rich together in helping the economically poor, irrespective of their castes.

## **GENDER INEQUALITY**

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles as well as biologically through chromosomes, brain structure, and hormonal differences. Gender systems are often dichotomous and hierarchical; gender binary systems may reflect the inequalities that manifest in numerous dimensions of daily life. Gender inequality stems from distinctions, whether empirically grounded or socially constructed.

There are natural differences between the sexes based on biological and anatomic factors, most notably differing reproductive roles. Biological differences include chromosomes, brain structure, and hormonal differences. Wage discrimination exists when workers are equally qualified and perform the same work but one group of workers is paid more than another. Historically, wage discrimination has favored men over similarly qualified women. Income disparity between genders stems from processes that determine the quality of jobs and earnings associated with jobs<sup>1</sup>. Earnings associated with jobs will cause income inequality to take form in the placement of individuals into particular jobs through individual qualifications or stereotypical norms. Placement of men or women into particular job categories can be supported through the human capital theories of qualifications of individuals or abilities associated with biological differences in men and women. Conversely, the placement of men or women into separate job





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categories is argued to be caused by social status groups who desire to keep their position through the placement of those in lower statuses to lower paying positions

Although the disparities between men and women appear to be decreasing in the medical field, gender inequalities still exist as social problems. Recently qualified female doctors in the U.S. make almost \$15,000 less than their male counterparts. Over a 30-year career, it adds up to more than \$450,000.

### **Gender roles in parenting and marriage**

Gender roles develop through internalization and identification during childhood. From birth, parents interact differently with children depending on their sex, and through this interaction parents can instill different values or traits in their children on the basis of what is normative for their sex. This internalization of gender norms can be seen through the example of which types of toys parents typically give to their children (“feminine” toys such as dolls often reinforce interaction, nurturing, and closeness, “masculine” toys such as cars or fake guns often reinforce independence, competitiveness, and aggression). On the other hand it has been shown that chimpanzee children exhibit preferences for stereotypically male and female toys. Education also plays an integral role in the creation of gender norms.

Despite the increase in women in the labor force since the mid-1900s, traditional gender roles are still prevalent in American society. Women are usually expected to put their educational and career goals on hold in order to raise children, while their husbands work. However, there are women who choose to work as well as fulfill their gender role of cleaning the house and taking care of the children. Despite the fact that different households may divide chores more evenly, there is evidence that supports that women have retained the primary caregiver role within familial life despite contributions economically. This evidence suggest that women who work outside the home often put an extra 18 hours a week doing household or childcare related chores as opposed to men who average 12 minutes a day in childcare activities. In addition to a lack of interest in the home on the part of some men, some women may bar men from equal participation in the home which may contribute to this disparities.

- **COMMUNAL TENSIONS**

**Communal tensions in India** includes acts of violence by followers of one religious group against followers and institutions of another religious group, often in the form of rioting. Religious violence in India, especially in recent times, has generally involved Hindus and Muslims, although incidents of violence have also involved Christians, Jews, and Sikhs.

Despite the secular and religiously tolerant constitution of India, broad religious representation in various aspects of society including the government, the active role played by autonomous bodies such as National Human Rights Commission of India and National Commission for Minorities, and the ground-level work being out by Non-governmental organizations, sporadic and sometimes serious acts of religious violence tend to occur as the root causes of religious violence often run deep in history, religious activities, and politics of India. Along with domestic



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organizations, international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch publish reports on acts of religious violence in India.

### **1984 Anti-Sikh Riots**

For several decades after Partitions, Sikhs in Punjab had complained about domination by the Hindu majority. In a 1975 court case, Indira Gandhi was found guilty of electoral malpractice which barred her from government offices for six years and opposition parties staged protests to demand her resignation. In response, she declared a State of Emergency during which she jailed thousands of opposition members, censored the press, postponed elections, and changed the constitutional law she was convicted of violating. During the Indian Emergency, thousands of Sikhs campaigning for autonomous government and against the "fascist tendency" of the Central Government were imprisoned. As a result of their "Campaign to Save Democracy", out of 140,000 people arrested without trial during the Indian Emergency, 40,000 were Sikhs.

In later elections she supported the politics Jarnail Bhindranwale, a religious conservative, in an effort to undermine the Akali Dal, the largest Sikh political party. However, Bhindranwale began to oppose the central government and moved his political base to the environs of the Darbar Sahib in Amritsar, Punjab. While there he gained considerable political power and disrupted the local state machinery. In June 1984, under orders from Indira Gandhi, the Indian army attacked the Darbar Sahib with tanks and armoured vehicles. Although the operation was militarily successful, it aroused tremendous controversy, and the government's justification for the timing and style of the attack are highly debated. In response, some Sikhs and some Punjabi Hindus began a separatist campaign to free Punjab from the Indian Government. Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31 October 1984 by two of her bodyguards in retaliation for the storming of the Golden temple. After the assassination the 1984 anti-Sikh pogroms took place in Delhi, where government and police officials aided Congress party worker gangs in "methodically and systematically" targeting Sikhs and Sikh homes. As a result of the pogroms 10,000-17,000 were burned alive or otherwise killed, Sikh people suffered massive property damage, and "at least 50,000" Sikhs became displaced persons. To date, the Government of India has not prosecuted any of the assailants. The attack on the Harmandir Sahib and the 1984 Anti-Sikh pogroms led to the increasing popularity of the Khalistan movement. From 1987 until 1992, the Indian government dismissed the elected government of the state, banned elections and imposed direct rule.

In the peak years of the insurgency, religious violence by separatists, government-sponsored groups, and the paramilitary arms of the government was endemic on all sides. Human Rights Watch reports that separatists were responsible for "massacre of civilians, attacks upon Hindu minorities in the state, indiscriminate bomb attacks in crowded places, and the assassination of a number of political leaders" According to Human Rights Watch, the Indian Government's response "led to the arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial execution, and enforced disappearance of thousands of Sikhs" The government generally targeted "young Sikh men on suspicion that they were involved in the militancy" but would later deny having them in custody, as a result, many of the victims of enforced disappearances are believed to have been killed. The insurgency resulted in the penalization of Punjab's economy until normalization in 1993.



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## **Ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Hindus**

In the Kashmir region, approximately 300 Kashmiri Pandits were killed between September 1989 to 1990 in various incidents. In early 1990, local Urdu newspapers Aftab and Al Safa called upon Kashmiris to wage jihad against India and ordered the expulsion of all Hindus choosing to remain in Kashmir. In the following days masked men ran in the streets with AK-47 shooting to kill Hindus who would not leave. Notices were placed on the houses of all Hindus, telling them to leave within 24 hours or die.

Since March 1990, estimates of between 300,000 to 500,000 pandits have migrated outside Kashmir due to persecution by Islamic fundamentalists in the largest case of ethnic cleansing since the partition of India. The proportion of Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir valley has declined from about 15% in 1947 to, by some estimates, less than 0.1% since the insurgency in Kashmir took on a religious and sectarian flavor.

Many Kashmiri Pandits have been killed by Islamist militants in incidents such as the Wandhama massacre and the 2000 Amarnath pilgrimage massacre. The incidents of massacring and forced eviction have been termed ethnic cleansing by some observers.

## **Religious involvement in North-East India Militancy**

The separatist group National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) seeks to convert all tribals in the state of Tripura, who are mostly Hindu or Buddhist, to Christianity. It has proclaimed bans on Hindu worship and has attacked animist Reangs and Hindu Jamatia tribesmen who resisted. Some resisting tribal leaders have been killed and their womenfolk raped. The RSS has attempted to counter Christian separatist groups by backing Reang and Jamatia tribals, and has called for the central government to help arm and fund them

Hindu nationalists, upset with the rapid spread of Christianity in the region, link the overt Christian religiosity of the groups and the local churches' liberation theology-based doctrine to allege church support for ethnic separatism Vatsala Vedantam identifies statements from the American Baptist Churches USA as endorsing the Naga separatist cause.

According to The Government of Tripura, the Baptist Church of Tripura is involved in supporting the NLFT and arrested two church officials in 2000, one of them for possessing explosives. In late 2004, the National Liberation Front of Tripura banned all Hindu celebrations of Durga Puja and Saraswati Puja. The Naga insurgency, ethnic separatism reinforced in their identity by Christianity, has been repeatedly involved in violence against Hindus in the region.

The United States does not designate as terrorist organizations most of those groups that continue violent separatist struggles in India's northeastern states



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## **Anti Muslim Violence**

Two major anti-Muslim riots have happened in India since the 1990s and none since 2002. The history of modern India has many incidents of communal violence. Tensions between Hindu and Muslim started coming to light a few years before the independence of the Indian-sub continent. This thought contrasts with the more widely held Two Nation Theory as the main reason. These riots were supposedly provoked by colonizers and politicians for personal gains and vested interests. India have risen and has led to several major incidences of religious violence such as Hashimpura massacre (1987), Bombay riots, 1993 Bombay bombings, Godhra Train Burning, and 2002 Gujarat violence.

On 6 December 1992, members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal destroyed the 430 year old Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, it was claimed by the Hindus that the mosque was built over the birthplace of the ancient deity Rama. This action caused humiliation to the Muslim community. The resulting religious riots caused at least 1200 deaths Since then the Government of India has blocked off or heavily increased security at these disputed sites while encouraging attempts to resolve these disputes through court cases and negotiations.

In the aftermath of the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu nationalists on 6 December 1992, riots took place between Hindus and Muslims in the city of Mumbai. Four people died in a fire in the Asalpha timber mart at Ghatkopar, five were killed in the burning of Bainganwadi; shacks along the harbor line track between Sewri and Cotton Green stations were gutted; and a couple was pulled out of a rickshaw in Asalpha village and burnt to death The riots changed the demographics of Mumbai greatly, as Hindus moved to Hindu-majority areas and Muslims moved to Muslim-majority areas.

The Godhra train burning incident in which innocent Hindus were burned alive by Muslims by closing door of train, led to the 2002 Gujarat riots in which mostly Muslims were killed in an act of retaliation. According to the death toll given to the parliament on 11 May 2005 by the government, 790 Muslims and 254 Hindus were killed, and another 2,548 injured. 223 people are missing. The report placed the number of riot widows at 919 and 606 children were declared orphaned. According to hone advocacy group, the death tolls were up to 2000. According to the Congressional Research Service, up to 2000 people were killed in the violence. Tens of thousands were displaced from their homes because of the violence. . According to New York Times reporter Celia Williams Dugger, witnesses were "dismayed by the lack of intervention from local police", who often "watched the events taking place and took no action against the attacks on muslims and their property". Sangh leaders<sup>1</sup> as well as the Gujarat government maintain that the violence was rioting or inter-communal clashes — spontaneous and uncontrollable reaction to the Godhra train burning.

## **Anti-Christian violence**

In recent years, there has been a sharp increase in violent attacks on Christians in India, often perpetrated by Hindu Nationalists. Between 1964 and 1996, thirty-eight incidents of violence against Christians were reported. In 1997, twenty-four such incidents were reported. In 1998, it



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went up to ninety. Between January 1998 and February 1999 alone, one hundred and sixteen attacks against Christians in India were reported by church. Between 1 January and 30 July 2000, more than fifty-seven attacks on Christians were reported. These acts of violence include forcible reconversion of converted Christians to Hinduism, distribution of threatening literature and destruction of Christian cemeteries.

In some cases, anti-Christian violence has been co-ordinated, involving multiple attacks. In Orissa, starting December 2007, Christians have been attacked in Kandhamal and other districts, resulting in the deaths of two Hindus and one Christian, and the destruction of houses and churches. Hindu Extremists claim that, Christians first killed a Hindu saint Laxmananand. So the attacks on Christians supposedly were in retaliation. However there was no conclusive proof to support this claim. Twenty people were arrested following the attacks on churches. Similarly, starting 14 September 2008, there were numerous incidents of violence against the Christian community in Karnataka.

Foreign Christian missionaries have mostly been targets of attacks. In a well-publicized case Graham Staines, an Australian missionary, was burnt to death while he was sleeping with his two sons Timothy (aged 9) and Philip (aged 7) in his station wagon at Manoharpur village in Keonjhar district in Orissa in January 1999. In 2003, Dara Singh was convicted of leading the gang responsible.

In its annual human rights reports for 1999, the United States Department of State criticized India for "increasing societal violence against Christians. The report listed over 90 incidents of anti-Christian violence, ranging from damage of religious property to violence against Christian pilgrims.

In 2007 and 2008 there was a further flare up of tensions in Orissa. Another church was attacked in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, where unidentified persons set two Statues inside St Peter and Paul Church in Jabalpur on fire, and more attacks in Karnataka, The archbishop, Bernard Moras, met the BJP CM BS Yeddyurappa after he had taken a decision to invoke the provisions of Goonda Act against those nabbed for vandalizing churches as part of its strategy to salvage its image and to instill confidence. The Bajrang Dal convenor was arrested after the incidents of church burning in Mangalore

### **Anti-Hindu violence**

The passage to the permanent Durga mandap at Chattalpalli was being dug up to prevent the Hindus from entering the area. There have been a number of more recent attacks on Hindu temples and Hindus by Muslim militants. Prominent among them are the 1998 Chamba massacre, the 2002 fidayeen attacks on Raghunath temple, the 2002 Akshardham Temple attack allegedly perpetrated by Islamic terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba and the 2006 Varanasi bombings (supposedly perpetrated by Lashkar-e-Toiba), resulting in many deaths and injuries. Recent attacks on Hindus by Muslim mobs include Marad massacre, Godhra train burning etc.



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In August 2000, Swami Shanti Kali, a popular Hindu priest, was shot to death inside his ashram in the Indian state of Tripura. Police reports regarding the incident identified ten members of the Christian militant organization, NLFT, as being responsible for the murder. On Dec 4, 2000, nearly three months after his death, an ashram set up by Shanti Kali at Chachu Bazar near the Sidhai police station was raided by Christian militants belonging to the NLFT. Eleven of the priest's ashrams, schools, and orphanages around the state were closed down by the NLFT.

In September 2008, Swami Laxmanananda, a popular regional Hindu Guru was murdered along with four of his disciples by unknown assailants (though a Maoist organization later claimed responsibility for that), allegedly due to the Guru's provocative opposition of Christians' conversion activities and Missionary propaganda. Later the police arrested three Christians in connection with the murder. Congress MP Radhakant Nayak has also been named as a suspected person in the murder, with some Hindu leaders calling for his arrest.

Lesser incidents of religious violence happen in many towns and villages in India. In October 2005, five people were killed in Mau in Uttar Pradesh during Hindu-Muslim rioting, which was triggered by the proposed celebration of a Hindu festival. On 3 and 4 January 2002, three Hindus and two Muslims were killed in Marad, near Kozhikode due to scuffles between two groups that began after a dispute over drinking water. On 2001 three Muslims were killed by Rashtreeys Sevak Sangam. in response of this incident On 2 May 2003, eight Hindus were killed by a Muslim mob, in what is believed to be a sequel to the earlier incident. One of the attackers, Mohammed Ashker was killed during the chaos. The National Development Front (NDF), a right-wing militant Islamist organization, was suspected as the perpetrator of the Marad Massacre

In the 2010 Deganga riots after hundreds of Hindu business establishments and residences were looted, destroyed and burnt, dozens of Hindus were severely injured and several Hindu temples desecrated and vandalized by the Islamist mobs led by Trinamul Congress MP Haji Nurul Islam. Three years later, during the 2013 Canning riots, several hundred Hindu businesses were targeted and destroyed by Islamist mobs in the Indian state of West Bengal Several Hindu temples desecrated and vandalized by the mobs. The Indian media puts on a blindfold to such incidents, it makes either very less or no reporting of incident. Very few media organization covered the 2013 riots of West Bengal,India.

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