



FORTUNE WEEKLY DIGEST



> Cloudburst

> Coalition Government

> Mission Karmayogi

02<sup>nd</sup> JUNE - 07<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As UPSC aspirants, it is essential to stay updated on current affairs to excel in the examination. This **Fortune Weekly Digest (ForWarD)** brings you the latest news and developments from around the world, carefully curated and analyzed to help you prepare for the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

We understand that time is precious, and we have made sure to present the information in a concise and easy-to-understand manner.

The magazine is divided into different sections. Mains relevant topics have been covered in detail with a UPSC previous year question perspective. The jot downs are examples and interesting facts to enrich your answer writing. Cherrypicks has some key words from the week, helpful again in answer writing and essay. We have also included essay topics and sample questions to help you gauge your preparation.

We have designed this magazine to best supplement the daily current affairs notes we have launched by the name of **FIND (Fortune IAS News Daily)** and **FINDER (Fortune IAS News Daily Explainer)** and the **Fortune Prelims Precise** monthly compilation. This magazine will be explained in detail and your queries addressed in a live class we conduct.

At a time when there is no dearth of current affairs materials, our hope is help you get a one-stop solution for all your current affairs needs.

This magazine is a work in progress and your feedback will be appreciated.

We hope that this magazine will serve as a valuable resource for your exam preparation and contribute to your success in the UPSC examination.

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**FIRST ATTEMPT TOPPERS FROM  
OUR PRELIMS CUM MAINS BATCH**

**KASTURI SHA**  
AIR 68

**MANJIMA P**  
AIR 235

**FABI RASHEED**  
AIR 71

**SWATHI S BABU**  
AIR 522

**OORMILA J S**  
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# ANDHRA PRADESH BIFURCATION

*Syllabus: GS I - Society: Regional Disparity*

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the states? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. (2017)

**Q)** The political and administrative reorganisation of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (2022)

## SHORT TAKES

### Special Category Status -

- A mechanism that was introduced to help states facing **economic, social and other developmental backwardness**.
- Five factors stand as the qualifying benchmark for the **granting of SCS** —
  1. States that comprise a **majority tribal population**,
  2. **Low density** of population,
  3. **Hilly States** and close to international borders,
  4. States that have **socio-economic and industrial backwardness**,
  5. Lack of adequate **State Finances**
- **Article 371 (D)** - It is a **constitutional provision** in India that safeguards the rights of local residents in matters of employment and education in **Andhra Pradesh & Telangana**.
- **Fazl Ali Commission** - Established in **December 1953**, the Fazal Ali Commission consisted of three members and was tasked with State Reorganisation. The other two members were **K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru**. It recognizes four primary factors for state reorganisation:
  1. **Linguistic and cultural** affinities.
  2. Reinforcement and preservation of **India's unity and integrity**.
  3. **Administrative, financial, and economic** factors.
  4. **Planning and advancement** of the welfare of the people.

## WHY IN NEWS?

It has been **10 years** since Andhra Pradesh was divided into two States- Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.

## INTRODUCTION

Andhra Pradesh was formally bifurcated through the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**. The act split the state of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and the residuary Andhra Pradesh state. The event marked the end of the decades-old separatist Telangana movement.

## HOW IS A NEW STATE IS CREATED IN INDIA?

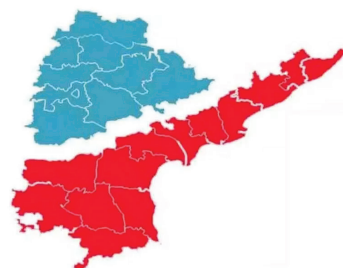
**Article 3 of Indian Constitution** assigns to Parliament the power to enact legislation for the formation of new States.

Parliament may create new States in a number of ways, namely by (i) **separating territory from any State**, (ii) **uniting two or more States**, (iii) **uniting parts of States** and (iv) **uniting any territory to a part of any State**.

### The Process

Parliament's power under **Article 3** extends to increasing or diminishing the area of any State and altering the boundaries or name of any State.

- 👉 **Proposal:** A demand for creating a new state arises from political parties, state legislatures, or regional movements. The **Centre then creates a Bill** with a proposal for a new state.
- 👉 **State Legislature's Opinion:** The proposal with prior **permission of the president** is forwarded to the concerned state legislature(s) for their views, though their **opinion is not binding**.
- 👉 **Bill Introduction in Parliament:** The bill with or without the state legislatures amendments is then **introduced in the Parliament**
- 👉 **Parliamentary Approval:** The bill is debated and passed by a **simple majority** in both houses of Parliament.
- 👉 **President's Assent:** The bill is **sent to the President for assent**. Once signed, it becomes an Act.
- 👉 **Formation of the New State:** The Act specifies the date when the new state will come into existence, set by the central government.



## HISTORY OF ANDHRA PRADESH

### ➤ Formation of Hyderabad State -

- In **1724, Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah** established Hyderabad, a state that spread over most of the Deccan plateau. In **1798, the Royal state of Hyderabad** was the first to agree to British protection under the policy of Subsidiary Alliance
- When India gained independence in 1947, **Hyderabad was a princely state** and was given the choice to join the Indian or Pakistani Union or stay independent.
- The **Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khanto**, wanted to remain independent.
- The anti-monarchy communist movement and the use of excessive force against the **Hindu majority state by Razakars**, the paramilitary force of Nizam had created a law and order problem in the state.
- In 1948 the Indian Army annexed Royal state Hyderabad through "**Operation Polo**" to the Dominion of India, where it became Hyderabad State.

### ➤ Formation of Andhra state -

- The Telugu speaking populace was **spread across Hyderabad state and Madras state** in independent India.
- Congress leader Potti Sriramulu's advocacy for a state distinct from the **Madras Presidency and Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu's social reform movements** paved the way for the establishment of Andhra State by splitting the Telugu speaking regions from Madras state in 1953.
- With its **capital at Kurnool**, Andhra State became the **first state in India to be created on linguistic grounds**.

### ➤ Formation of state of Andhra Pradesh-

- Telugu-speaking people were still dispersed across **22 districts: nine in Hyderabad State, 12 in the Madras state, and one in the French-controlled territory of Yanam**.
- In December 1953, the **States Reorganisation Commission** was tasked with laying the groundwork for the formation of states based on linguistic considerations. Responding to widespread public calls, the commission proposed the dissolution of Hyderabad state and the **integration of Marathi-speaking areas with Bombay state**, as well as the incorporation of Kannada-speaking regions into Mysore state.
- In 1956, Andhra State was merged with the Telugu-speaking area of Hyderabad State to form the state of Andhra Pradesh.

### ➤ Telangana Agitation -

- A violent agitation erupted in **1969 demanding a separate state of Telangana**.
- The movement underwent a significant shift in 2001 when **K Chandrasekhar Rao parted ways with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)**, with the explicit goal of advocating for the division of the state.

### ➤ Committee for Consultations on the Situation in Andhra Pradesh (CCSAP)-

- In February 2010, the government established a five-member committee chaired by former Supreme Court judge, **Justice B N Srikrishna**, with the mandate to conduct extensive consultations with various segments of society as well as political parties and groups.
- A year later, the **Srikrishna committee** presented its findings, which included **six alternatives**, one of which was the possibility of bifurcation.

### ➤ Bifurcation -

- On July 30, 2013, the proposal for establishing **Telangana was endorsed amidst protests by students of Osmania University**, which had emerged as a focal point for the pro-Telangana movement. It was determined that the new state would encompass 10 districts, with Hyderabad serving as the shared capital for a decade.
- In December 2013, the Union Cabinet sanctioned the **AP Reorganisation Bill**, marking the path for the division of Andhra Pradesh.

## KEY FEATURES OF ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANISATION ACT 2014

### ➔ Functioning of common capital -

- » Hyderabad was designated as the shared capital for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for a duration **not exceeding ten years**.
- » Following the conclusion of this timeframe, **Hyderabad will become the capital of the State of Telangana**, while a new capital will be established for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

### ➔ Legislature -

- » Allocation of seats in Legislative Assembly. (**Andhra Pradesh has 175 seats. Telangana has 119 seats**).
- » Legislative Council formed in accordance with **Article 169** of the Constitution. (Legislative council of Andhra has **58 members** while that of **Telangana has 40 members**).

### ➔ Judiciary -

- » Functioning of High Court - The **High Court at Hyderabad will serve as the unified High Court** for both the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh until a distinct High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh is established under **Article 214** of the Constitution. (The high court for Andhra Pradesh was constituted in 2019.)
- » Location of High Court - The **primary location of the Andhra Pradesh High Court will be determined by the President through a notified order**. (The seat of the High Court is currently located at Nelapadu, Amaravati.)

### ➔ Amendments to first and fourth schedule of constitution -

- » When there are alterations in the territorial boundaries of a state or union territory, or the creation, merger, or division of states or union territories occurs, amendments are made to **Schedule 1**.
- » The 4th Schedule of the constitution is amended to allocate seats to the Council of States (**Rajya Sabha**).

### ➔ Functioning of Governor -

- » The **governor of Andhra Pradesh will serve as the governor** for both the successor states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for a duration as decided by the President. (E.S.L. Narasimhan assumed office as the inaugural governor of the newly formed state and remained in the position overseeing both states until 2019, when Biswabhusan Harichandan was appointed as the governor of Andhra Pradesh.)

### ➔ Special Provisions -

- » The legislation included provisions such as allocation of seats in educational institutions and government employment opportunities for individuals from various regions thus safeguarding the interests of diverse groups.

### ➔ Apportionment of Assets & Liabilities and Resource sharing -

- » The apportionment of **assets and liabilities shall be subject to financial adjustment** to secure just, reasonable and equitable apportionment of the assets and liabilities amongst the successor States.
- » It also includes **provisions related to river water sharing**.

### ➔ Provisions relating to All-India Services -

- » Instead of the cadres of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, and Indian Forest Service for the current state of Andhra Pradesh, there will be **two distinct cadres established from the appointed day: one for the State of Andhra Pradesh and another for the State of Telangana**, each pertaining to these respective services.

## COMPARISON BETWEEN ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA

	Andhra Pradesh	Telangana
<b>Location</b>	Andhra Pradesh is situated on the southeastern coast, bordered by Tamil Nadu to the south, Karnataka to the southwest and west, Telangana to the northwest, and Odisha to the northeast.	Telangana is landlocked and surrounded by Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

<b>Area &amp; Population</b>	Andhra Pradesh is <b>larger</b> in terms of area compared to Telangana.	Telangana has a <b>higher population density</b>
<b>Geography</b>	Andhra Pradesh has a varied geography, including a <b>long coastline</b> along the Bay of Bengal, fertile plains along the rivers, and hilly regions in the Eastern Ghats	Telangana, on the other hand, is primarily composed of the <b>Deccan plateau</b> , with some hilly regions in the eastern part of the state.
<b>Climate</b>	Andhra Pradesh has a <b>coastal climate with high humidity</b> and moderate temperatures	Telangana has a more <b>arid and dry climate</b> with hot summers and relatively milder winters.
<b>Economy</b>	Andhra Pradesh's economy has been driven by <b>agriculture</b> , with a focus on crops like rice, sugarcane, and cotton.	Telangana, despite having an agricultural base, has seen rapid <b>industrialization</b> , particularly in sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing, owing to the presence of Hyderabad, a major IT hub in India.
<b>Culture and Language</b>	Andhra Pradesh has its own folk arts like <b>Kuchipudi dance and Burra Katha</b> , a traditional storytelling art form. Coastal Andhra <b>dialect of Telugu</b> is spoken in Andhra Pradesh.	Telangana has its own folk arts like <b>Perini Shivatandavam</b> , which is a traditional dance form performed by men, and <b>Telangana Oggu Katha</b> , a form of traditional storytelling through songs. The Telangana dialect of Telugu, is sometimes called Telangana Telugu. Due to the historical influence, there is some <b>Urdu influence</b> in the Telugu spoken in Telangana

## BENEFITS OF BIFURCATION

- ✓ **Administrative Efficiency:** Dividing a large state like Andhra Pradesh into smaller units improve administrative efficiency and governance by allowing for more focused attention on regional issues and development:
  - » **VISION 2030** action plan for Telangana
  - » Incorporation of E governance initiatives to improve service delivery in Andhra Pradesh(Eg: **ICT initiatives in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh**)
- ✓ **Regional Development:** Both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can now focus on their specific developmental needs and priorities, leading to **more targeted and effective policies for regional growth and infrastructure development:**
  - » Introduction of **Rural Inclusive Growth Project** in Andhra Pradesh.
  - » In FY 2018-19, **Rs.951.79 crs are allocated to development of Infrastructure facilities** in Tribal areas by Telangana Govt.
  - » Establishment of **Tribal University in Telangana**
- ✓ **Political Representation:** With separate state governments, the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have the opportunity for better political representation and governance that is more closely aligned with their interests and aspirations:
  - » Political representation from **Kammas, Kapus, Reddys and from castes like Mala, Madiga etc.**
  - » In Telangana political representation from **Backward Classes, who make up 52% of the population** including **Gouds, Yadavas, Munnurukapus and Padmashalis. Reddys and Velamas** are also present



- ✓ **Resource Allocation:** The bifurcation enables more equitable allocation of resources, ensuring that each region receives its **fair share of funds and attention** from the central and state governments for development projects and welfare programs:
  - » The Central Government has released **₹1.19 lakh crore to Telangana** as its share of Union taxes and duties from **2014 to 2023**.
  - » In accordance with the **APRA-2014**, the Government of India released **Rs 2,250 crore for the years 2015-16 to 2018-2019 and 2020-21 at Rs 450 crore per year** for development of nine erstwhile backward districts in the state
- ✓ **Cultural Preservation:** The separation allows for the preservation and promotion of distinct cultural identities and heritage within **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among the local populace:
  - » Celebration of **Bonalu festival related to Mahakali, Bathukamma**- flowers festival, preserving Telugu language, **Pochampally Ikat** weaves in Telangana.
  - » Flavours of **Andhra biryani, gongura chutney**, exuberant celebrations of **Sankranti, Ugadi, and Lumbini Festival** and preserving **Kuchipudi dance in Andhra Pradesh**.
- ✓ **Economic Growth:** The division stimulated economic growth by encouraging competition between the two states and attracting investment to both regions, leading to job creation and overall prosperity:
  - » The State Domestic Product grew **117 per cent from Rs 4,51,580.40 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 9,80,407.01 crore in 2020-21**.
  - » Jump in Gross value added in agriculture (Increase by 71 per cent from Rs 47,092.85 crore to Rs 80,574 crore in 2020-21) in Telangana.

## POTENTIAL ISSUES

- **Diminishing Political influence:**
  - » When **Andhra Pradesh split, it changed the state of political influence of the state, as the new ones became smaller**. This difference in size can make some regions less important and others more important in deciding national power.
  - » Varying state sizes result in different numbers of seats in the central legislature, which can lead to **unequal political power** and resource allocation, potentially marginalising certain regions.
- **Criterion for division of States:**
  - » The incident of Andhra bifurcation put forth a question whether other linguistic States are likely to meet the **same fate in the near future**.
  - » If the underlying organising principle of language is unlikely to hold them together as units, giving greater force to **economic, political, historical** and other fault lines, an alternative principle like size or population will have to be formulated sooner or later.
  - » Hence, the question emerges as to whether the unified **vision of Telugu elites from both the Madras Presidency and Hyderabad State**, based on language, is weaker in comparison to the shared visions of Kannada and Marathi elites.
- **Issues related to division of institutions:**
  - » In December 2022, Andhra Pradesh filed a case with the Supreme Court alleging that the commencement of the division of assets outlined in the **Ninth and Tenth Schedules of the APRA had not begun**.
  - » The Act enumerates 245 institutions or assets previously owned by the State of Andhra Pradesh, with **91% of these assets situated in Hyderabad, evidently favouring Telangana**.
- **Water Sharing Dispute:**
  - » Andhra Pradesh alleges that Telangana has been drawing Krishna water from four projects — **Jurala, Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Pulichintala** — for hydropower generation without approvals from the **Krishna River Management Board (KRMB)**.
  - » Telangana has taken strong exception to the irrigation projects of the Andhra Pradesh government, especially the

**Royalaseema Lift Irrigation Project (RLIP)**, which it claims is illegal. Telangana has called for a 50:50 allocation of water from the Krishna river.

- » The allocation of **Godavari water and the Polavaram project** emerged as a source of conflict between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh following its bifurcation. The project aims to address the irrigation requirements of Andhra Pradesh's Godavari districts, but Telangana is concerned about the potential flooding of Khammam district.

#### ● **Fiscal Issues:**

- » Andhra Pradesh faced **financial challenges** following the bifurcation, as it lost revenue from Hyderabad. Telangana, on the other hand, sought financial assistance from the central government to address its infrastructure needs and **promote economic growth**.
- » Out of 91 PSUs, the division of **22 PSUs** still remains unresolved. Besides, a dispute continues between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over **Rs 6,756.92 crore in dues** that Telangana was asked to pay by the Centre for the supply of power post-bifurcation.

### WAY FORWARD

#### \* **Constitutional Measures:**

**Article 263** of Indian Constitution provides for an inter-State Council. Establishing a **Permanent Inter-State Council** is crucial to facilitate continuous communication and resolve disputes, particularly focusing on resource allocation and collaborations between states.

#### \* **Swift resolution of pending cases:**

It is essential to implement a **fast-track judicial mechanism** to ensure the equitable division of assets and expedite conflict resolution between states following bifurcation.

#### \* **Fiscal Support:**

Increasing allocation under state **specific grants by the Finance commission**, or special targeted economic package for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh focussed on stimulating growth in underdeveloped areas.

#### \* **Enhancing the governance structure:**

- » Implementing measures to **decentralize governance structures** and empower local governments can enhance efficiency, accountability, and citizen participation.
- » Implementing policies and programs like **Arogya Lakshmi scheme, Residential Schools programme** etc to improve social indicators thus ensuring social justice.

#### \* **Infrastructure & Investment:**

- » Prioritise infrastructure development projects, especially those that promote **connectivity between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**, such as transportation networks, irrigation systems, and industrial corridors, to facilitate economic integration and growth.
- » Encourage inter-state trade and investment by creating a **conductive business environment, streamlining regulatory procedures**, and offering incentives to attract businesses and industries to both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

### CONCLUSION

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana can overcome the challenges of bifurcation and work towards building a mutually beneficial relationship. Governance based on cooperation, trust, and shared prosperity is the key.

### ARE SMALLER STATES BETTER OR NOT?

Yes	No
<b>Efficient administration and effective governance</b>	<b>Burden of administrative expenditures.</b> Eg: Cost incurred for Andhra Pradesh in building new capital.



Decentralised development and grassroots level people's participation	Conflicts related to <b>resource sharing</b> . Eg: water sharing issues between Andhra and Telangana
Helps to <b>preserve culture, tradition</b> etc of minorities like tribal groups	<b>Divergence in economic growth</b> . Eg: Chattisgarh fails to attract adequate investment compared to its parent state Madhya Pradesh
Equitable <b>resource allocation and management</b> thus eliminating regional disparities	Can result in <b>dominance of certain castes and religions</b> .
Improves <b>economic efficiency</b> . Eg- chhattisgarh performing better in Multidimensional poverty index than its parent state Madhya Pradesh	It can <b>trigger the rise of intra-regional competition</b> among subregions, as seen in Himachal Pradesh, religious factions as in Punjab, and caste/tribal divisions as in Haryana and Manipur

### SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** Division of larger states into smaller ones has its own benefits and challenges. Evaluate the statement in the light of 10 years of Andhra Pradesh bifurcation? **(10 marks)(150 words)**

## COALITION POLITICS

**Syllabus: GS II - Structure, organisation and functioning of the Executive, Parliament and State Legislatures**

### PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss. **(2016)**

**Q)** While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. **(2022)**

### SHORT TAKES

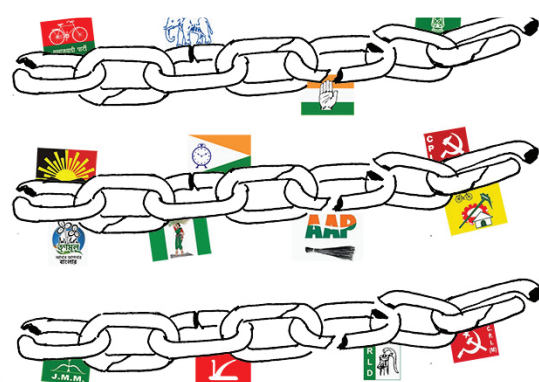
- **Zonal Councils** - Zonal Councils in India are **statutory bodies** established under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, with the objective of promoting cooperative federalism and fostering coordination among states within specific geographic zones.
- **National Integration Council** - The National Integration Council (NIC) in India is a **non-statutory advisory body** established to address issues related to national unity, communal harmony, and integration among various communities and regions of the country. It was first constituted in **1961**.
- **Sarkaria Commission** - The Commission aimed to assess the current arrangements between the Union and States as outlined in the Indian Constitution concerning powers and functions, across various domains, encompassing legislative and administrative relations. It also sought to review the roles of Governors, emergency provisions, financial relations, economic and social planning, Panchayati Raj Institutions, resource allocation (**including Inter-state river waters**), and propose suitable changes considering practical challenges.

### WHY IN NEWS

The **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** has made history by securing a third consecutive term in power at the Centre. As no party has been able to catch up with the threshold of minimum majority (**272 seats**), coalition politics once again takes the centre stage.

### INTRODUCTION

A coalition government is established when **multiple political parties** unite to **collectively wield authority and establish governance**. This arrangement arises when no single party achieves an outright majority in parliamentary elections.



## HISTORY OF COALITION POLITICS IN INDIA

Period	Coalition Govt.	Description
1977-1979	Janata Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>coalition government of 1977-1979</b> in India was significant because it marked the end of the Emergency era and the return of democracy.</li> <li>The Janata Party was formed as a coalition included parties such as the <b>Bharatiya Lok Dal, the Congress (O)</b>, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the Socialist Party, and others with <b>Morarji Desai as head</b>.</li> </ul>
1979-1980	Janta Party (Secular)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charan Singh became the Prime Minister of India, leading the <b>Janata Party (Secular) government</b>. To date, he is the only Indian Prime Minister who did not face Parliament during his tenure.</li> </ul>
1989-1990	National Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coalition government of <b>V.P. Singh</b> was formed after the 1989 general elections in India. V.P. Singh led the National Front coalition, which was a grouping of several political parties, including the Janata Dal, Left Front parties, Telugu Desam Party and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).</li> <li>Implementation of the <b>Mandal Commission recommendations</b> took place during this tenure.</li> </ul>
1990-1991	Samajwadi Janata Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Samajwadi Janata Party</b> was a political party formed by the merger of the Janata Dal faction led by Chandra Shekhar and the Samajwadi Party led by <b>Mulayam Singh Yadav</b>.</li> </ul>
1996-1997	United Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>H. D. Deve Gowda</b>, the leader of the Janata Dal (Secular), was chosen as the consensus candidate to lead the United Front coalition government as the <b>Prime Minister</b>.</li> <li>It pursued a policy agenda focused on social justice, economic reforms, and <b>decentralisation of power to the states</b>.</li> </ul>
1997-1998	United Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inder <b>Kumar Gujral</b> became the <b>Prime Minister</b> of India in April 1997 after H. D. Deve Gowda resigned from the post.</li> <li>One of the notable aspects of the Gujral government was its emphasis on a "<b>Gujral Doctrine</b>" in foreign policy.</li> </ul>
1999-2004	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government was formed by the <b>National Democratic Alliance (NDA)</b>, a <b>coalition</b> of several political parties led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).</li> <li>The <b>Pokhran-II nuclear tests</b> conducted in May 1998 and the <b>Kargil conflict</b> in 1999 were in this tenure.</li> </ul>
2004-2014	United Progressive Alliance (UPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was a coalition government led by the <b>Indian National Congress (INC) party</b>, with Dr. Manmohan Singh serving as the Prime Minister. The UPA included several political parties such as the Indian National Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and several others.</li> <li>The UPA government's policies were guided by a <b>common minimum programme</b>. introduced several significant legislative and policy measures, such as the <b>Right to Information Act</b>, the <b>National Food Security Act</b>, and the <b>Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act</b></li> </ul>

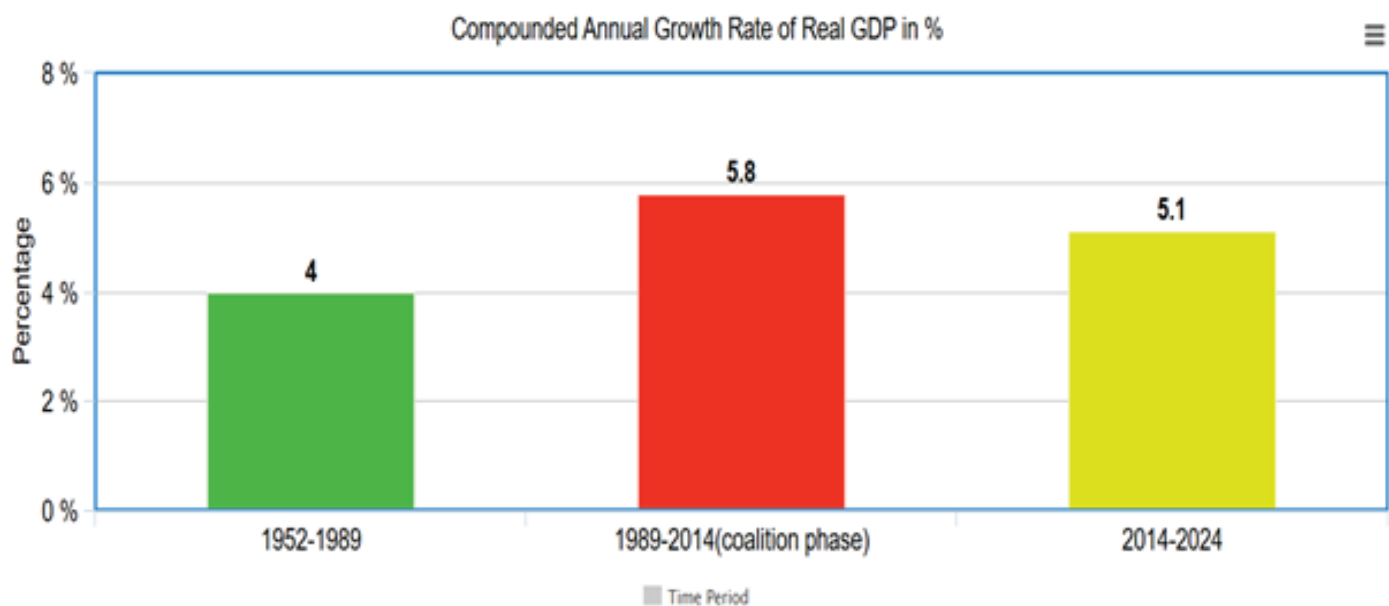
## ADVANTAGES OF COALITION POLITICS

### ✓ Inhibits Political Extremism:

- » It aids in mitigating political polarisation by **diminishing extreme political views**. Coalitions show the way for more inclusive politics as **decision-making involves participation** from all coalition members. Here **consensus based politics** comes into play
- » **Eg-** The Congress's one party dominant rule in the 1970s which resulted in **emergency came to an end** with the formation of Janata government in 1977

### ✓ Boost In Economic growth:

- » India experienced its fastest compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **6.8% during the 10-year** tenure of the UPA, marking a historic achievement in economic growth.



- » The agriculture sector and mining sectors, for example, **grew an average of 2.7 percent** during the first stable phase(1952-1989), and accelerated **to 3 percent** during the coalition phase. Similarly, the industrial sector — comprising manufacturing, construction, and utilities — saw growth speeding up from 5.3 percent to 6.4 percent.

### ✓ Introduction of Large Number of Quality Reforms

- » During the tenure of the H.D. Deve Gowda-led coalition in 1996-97, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram presented what is now famously referred to as the 'dream budget'. This budget involved a **reduction in the marginal income tax rate for individuals, a decrease in corporate tax rates, a lowering of peak customs duties, and the introduction of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS)** aimed at combating the issue of black money.
- » Under the leadership of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the NDA government of 1999 initiated several significant developments. These included laying the groundwork for the ambitious **golden quadrilateral highway project, the implementation of the National Telecom Policy, the elevation of foreign direct investment limits in banking and insurance sectors, and the establishment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.**
- » Introduction of **RTI act (2005), National Food Security ACT 2013, MGNREGA** etc during UPA tenure.

### ✓ Embrace diverse interests:

- » A government in a coalition is formed through the collaboration of multiple political parties, each with **distinct agendas and priorities**. This diversity enables the representation of various socio-cultural groups within the government.
- » **Eg - The first UPA govt.** Included various parties like DMK(Tamil Nadu), Shiv Sena(Maharashtra), NCP(Maharashtra), RJD(Bihar), JMM(Jharkhand) etc. thus representing the diverse fabric of India.

### ✓ Reinforce federalism:

- » A coalition government tends to be more attentive and receptive to regional needs. Governing in coalition



will introduce **multiple centres of power**, pushing against the centralisation of decision-making in the Prime Minister's Office.

- » Regional parties in the national coalition government seek to advance the interests of their parties and of their states.
  - » Eg - **TDP party in NDA alliance** pitched for Special assistance package for Andhra following bifurcation in 2014
- » **Interstate councils** which embrace cooperative federalism worked more efficiently during coalition tenure than a single party dominant rule.

#### ✓ Deepening of democracy:

- » Coalition politics **can deepen democracy** by fostering representation, consensus-building, checks and balances, stability, institutional strengthening, and social cohesion within the political system.
- » **Eg-** Initiatives like the **Right to Education (RTE) Act**, **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**, and the **Food Security Act** during UPA tenure reflected the input and priorities of coalition partners, contributing to democratic governance that addresses the needs of all segments of society. Additionally, the UPA government enacted **landmark legislation such as the RTI Act**, which increased transparency and accountability in government functioning.

## ISSUES RELATED TO COALITION POLITICS

### ● Issue of political instability:

- » Diverse Ideologies, **Policy Gridlock and Leadership Challenges** can lead to the collapse of the government. Eg - The United Front govt. which was a coalition government formed in 1996 **eventually stepped down** in 1998 following Congress's withdrawal of support.
- » Communist party withdrew support for the UPA government following the **Nuclear deal**.

### ● Rise of Regionalism:

- » Regional parties try to incorporate **regional aspirations into national decision-making processes** and exert undue influence on the central executive to accommodate their regional priorities.
- » DMK in the UPA coalition demanded that the Centre should introduce certain conditions in the US-led resolution, the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** took up, which calls on the Sri Lankan government to investigate war crimes committed by its army **against the rebel LTTE in 2009**. They withdrew their support for UPA after the coalition failed to address their demand.

### ● Compromising on crucial issues, policies and legislations:

- » It may occur within a coalition government that parties might need to relinquish significant policies in order to preserve unity, potentially impeding overall progress. Eg - **Important reforms, such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Direct Taxes Code (DTC)**, were delayed or stalled due to **political deadlock** and resistance from allies during 2nd UPA tenure.

- » The Janata Party government had an **ideological commitment to pro-poor, pro-labour policies**, but under the influence of coalition politics, industrial de-licensing and an increase in agricultural subsidies to relatively well-off communities and castes occurred.

- » The **Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA)**, enacted in 2002 by the NDA government in response to increasing terrorist threats, faced opposition from some coalition partners and opposition parties. The UPA, after coming to power in 2004, **repealed POTA as part of its Common Minimum Programme (CMP)**, which was a compromise to maintain the coalition.

### ● Lack of political accountability:

- » Blame games are frequently employed by coalition governments to sidestep accountability for administrative failures and lapses, effectively deflecting **both collective and individual responsibilities**.
- » The PDP-BJP coalition came to power in **Jammu and Kashmir in 2015**. The coalition was marked by significant ideological differences. Governance failures (**kathua rape and murder issue**) and security challenges (**death of journalist Shujaat Bukhari and an army jawan during ceasefire**) led to both parties blaming each other for the deteriorating situation in the region.

### ● Diminishing role of the Cabinet:

- » Delegation of authority **outside the formal cabinet structure** and establishing informal decision-making forums or committees can reduce the formal cabinet's role in decision-making processes.

- » During the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime, the National Advisory Council, led by Sonia Gandhi, functioned as an **informal grouping that influenced policy decisions** outside the purview

of the cabinet. The NAC played a significant role in shaping welfare policies and social legislation, often bypassing traditional cabinet channels.

## WAY FORWARD

- ✦ **Efficient working of Inter-state councils:**
  - » The Inter-State Council was established following the **Sarkaria Commission on Centre-state relations** in the 1980s. Enhancing its capabilities is crucial for improving coordination between the central government and states, especially when **coalition partners represent diverse** states and political parties.
- ✦ **Justice M N Venkatachaliah commission report:**
  - » It proposed the concept of a permanent coalition, highlighting the preference for all governments in India to attain a mandatory **50-plus vote share**. This implies that only a government with a vote share **exceeding 50%** would possess the requisite legitimacy for governance.
- ✦ **Punchhi Commission recommendations:**
  - » Revival and reorganisation of the **National Integration Council (NIC)** to tackle the increasing intricacies of coalition politics and guarantee national cohesion.
  - » Establishment of **Interstate Trade and Commerce commission** and other frameworks to resolve conflicts concerning inter-state trade and commerce, which may escalate in coalition scenarios involving regional parties with differing interests.
- ✦ **Revival of National Development Council and Zonal councils:**
  - » The NDC provides a platform for dialogue and consensus-building on national development priorities among central and state governments and ensures alignment between central policies and state priorities. This helps to bridge ideological differences and foster cooperation, thereby **mitigating some of the challenges associated with coalition politics**.
  - » Zonal councils facilitate the harmonisation of policies and help resolve disputes and **conflicts between states**, which may arise due to differences in governance priorities.

## BEST PRACTICES

- ✦ **Case of Germany** - In Germany, several measures are taken to ensure the stability of coalition governments:
  - » **Clear Coalition Agreements:** Coalition partners negotiate detailed **coalition agreements** outlining policy priorities, legislative agendas, and power-sharing arrangements.
  - » **Proportional Representation:** Germany's **mixed-member proportional** representation electoral system encourages coalition governments by allocating seats in the Bundestag (parliament) based on the proportion of votes each party receives.
  - » **Coalition Discipline:** Coalition partners adhere to a principle of coalition discipline, meaning they support the coalition's decisions in parliament even if they disagree on certain issues.

## CONCLUSION

Coalition politics can serve as a catalyst for **social cohesion** by promoting representation, consensus-building, inclusive policy making, celebration of cultural diversity, empowerment of minority groups, conflict resolution, and promotion of social justice. Through collaboration and cooperation across political and social divides, coalition governments can contribute to a more **inclusive and harmonious society**.

### SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** *It is the Coalition Government that suits best for a country as diverse as India. Critically Examine?* **(15 marks)(250 words)**

# SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS

*Syllabus: GS II - Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure*

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss (2014)

**Q)** How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer (2020)

**Q)** While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. (2022)

## SHORT TAKES

- **Finance Commission:** Established under **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution, it is appointed by the President to allocate revenue between the Union and State Governments. The current serving commission is the **16th one**.
- **Multidimensional poverty index(MPI):** UNDP and OPHI jointly release the MPI, which measures interconnected deprivations in health, education, and living standards, directly impacting well-being.
- **Gadgil Formula:** Named after **Dhananjay Ramchandra Gadgil**, former vice-chairman of Planning Commission. It was developed in 1969 to determine the allocation of central assistance for state plans in India as part of the five year plans..

## WHY IN NEWS

With the General Elections throwing up a fractured mandate, **Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United)** and Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party are set to play a key role in government formation at the Centre. As a result, their past demands for **special category status (SCS)** for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, respectively, are back in focus.

## INTRODUCTION

The uniqueness of **India's federal structure** is highlighted by the special treatment given to various states through Special Category Status. These provisions were introduced to address the diverse sizes, populations, and **social and historical contexts of the states**. With the current elections creating a crucial situation in Indian Politics, Special category status has reemerged as a major concern.

## WHAT IS SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS?

- ➔ **Meaning:** Special Category Status is a classification assigned by the Centre to support the development of states experiencing geographical and socio-economic challenges.
- ➔ **Origin:** This is not a constitutional provision but done as per the recommendations of the **5th Finance Commission in 1969**.
  - » The National Development Council, the apex coordination body to implement the five year plans of the Planning Commission granted SCS.
- ➔ **Determinants:** As per the **Gadgil Formula of Fiscal Transfers**, Hilly Terrain, low Population Density and/or Sizeable Share of Tribal Population, strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, economic and infrastructure backwardness; and nonviable nature of State finances are the determinants of the status.
- ➔ **Beneficiaries:** On the basis of this special Category status was first accorded to **Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland** in 1969. Subsequently, eight more states were granted special status, making it **11 out of 28 states**, or **over a third of Indian states**.
  - » The **8 states** include, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand were granted the special category status.
  - » It was also announced for **Telangana in 2014**.
- ➔ **Later proposal:** **Raghuram Rajan committee**, in 2013, had presented an alternative classification of states based on a **multi-dimensional index**
- ➔ **Alternative adopted:**
  - » **Government decision:** The **SCS system** was scrapped with the abolition of the Planning Commission and the



categorisation of plan and non-plan funds. Government cited the **14th Finance Commission recommendations and removed the SCS for all states.**

- It also suggested that the resource gap of the states should be filled by increasing the **devolution of tax to 42% from the existing 32%** which has been in place since 2015

» **Finance Commission's clarification:** M. Govinda Rao, a former FC member, clarifies that **Fourteenth FC(FFC) is unfairly criticised** for not granting special category status. Accordingly,

- **FFC's Job:** The FFC assesses states' finances and recommends ways to address imbalances. It **doesn't categorise states as special or non-special.**
- **Report Misunderstood:** The FFC report treats all states based on their unique situations, **not a pre-defined category.**
- **Special Status History:** Special category status is decided by the National Development Council, **not the FFC or the Constitution.**
- **Executive Call:** Granting special status is always an executive decision, **not linked to the FFC.**

➔ **Distinction from Special Status:** SCS differs from Special status which imparts enhanced legislative and political rights, as SCS deals with only economic and financial aspects. For instance, J&K used to have Special status before **Article 370** was repealed.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### Andhra Pradesh

The demand for SCS for Andhra Pradesh stems from the bifurcation of the state in 2014, which led to significant economic challenges and the loss of Hyderabad, where much of the development was concentrated.

- ➔ **Unjust Bifurcation:** Andhra Pradesh argues that the undivided state was bifurcated in an unjust manner as the successor state inherited **nearly 59% of the population**, debt, and liabilities but **only 47% of the revenues.**
  - **Example:** Of the **Rs 57,000 crore** in software exports from **AP in 2013-14**, Hyderabad alone, now part of Telangana, accounted for **Rs 56,500 crore.**
  - The per capita revenue of Telangana for 2015-16 was **Rs 14,411**, while it was only **Rs 8,397 for AP.**
- ➔ **Prime minister's assurance:** During the bifurcation discussions, then **Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** assured special status to Andhra Pradesh for five years. This status was meant to provide additional central assistance, tax concessions, and other financial benefits to foster economic growth.
- ➔ **Political Promises and Friction:** Successive governments and political parties have reiterated the promise of special status, making it a crucial electoral issue. Initially, the **BJP and TDP alliance promised special status** but later offered a special financial package instead, leading to political friction and the breakup of the alliance. Public sentiment in Andhra Pradesh sees special status as essential for the state's development.
- ➔ **Electoral Impact:** In the 2019 elections, YSRCP's Jagan Mohan Reddy won decisively, banking on the SCS issue. He criticised Naidu and TDP for failing to secure SCS for the state and accused the BJP of not fulfilling its promise. This led to the **TDP severing ties with the BJP-led NDA government in 2018.**
- ➔ **Economic Situation:** According to the **AP government's presentations to NITI Aayog**, the **14th Finance Commission** estimated AP's post-devolution revenue deficit for **2015-20 at Rs 22,113 crore**, but it actually reached Rs 66,362 crore. The state's debt, which was Rs 97,000 crore at bifurcation, now exceeds **Rs 3.5 lakh crore.**

### Bihar

- ➔ **Jharkhand's Long-Standing Demand for SCS:** Since Jharkhand was carved out of **Bihar in 2000**, the state has been seeking SCS. Current **CM Nitish Kumar** has been a prominent advocate for this status **since 2006.**
- ➔ **Bihar's Poverty Challenges:** According to the Centre's '**Multidimensional Poverty Index**' (MPI) report, Bihar is the poorest state in India, with **nearly 52 percent** of its population lacking adequate health, education, and living standards
  - Bihar's **per capita income of around ₹60,000** is among the lowest in the country and the State lags behind the national average in several human development indicators as well.

..The most recent Bihar caste based survey of **2022 indicates** that nearly a third of the State's people live under the poverty line.

👉 **Economic Hardship:** With a per capita **GDP of around Rs 54,000**, Bihar remains one of the poorest states. Nitish Kumar had earlier said that SCS would help secure about **Rs 2.5 lakh crore** needed for welfare measures over the next five years.

👉 **Renewed Push for SCS: Caste Survey and Threat of Movement:** **November 2023**, Kumar's cabinet passed a resolution demanding SCS for Bihar, following a caste-based survey revealing **94 lakh** poor families. He had even threatened to launch a state-wide movement if the Centre does not grant SCS to Bihar promptly.

## Odisha

👉 Odisha has also demanded the **SCS tag**, on the basis of its climate change related vulnerabilities and large tribal population (nearly 22%).

## BENEFITS

- ✔ **Higher central funding allocation: 90 percent** of funds under centrally sponsored schemes was contributed by the Centre, with only 10 per cent being the state contribution. For all other states, the split was 60:40 with the Centre contributing just 60 per cent.
- ✔ **Normal Central Assistance from the Union government:** For special category states it **comprised 90 per cent grants and 10 per cent loan**; for other states, it was 30 per cent grants, and 70 per cent loans.
- ✔ **Budget allocation to special category states: 30% of the Centre's Gross Budget** goes to Special Category states.
- ✔ **Unspent funds: Unspent money** in a financial year does not lapse and is carried forward.
- ✔ **Industrial Incentives:** SCS states enjoy **special industrial incentives** such as Income-tax exemptions, custom duty waivers, reduced excise duty, corporate tax exemption for a certain period, concessions and exemptions relating to GST.
- ✔ **Investments: Granting SCS would encourage investments** in specialty hospitals, five-star hotels, manufacturing industries, high-value service industries such as IT, and premier institutions of higher education and research.
- ✔ **Economic transformation and employment :** State governments argue that these special incentives are **crucial for the rapid industrialisation** of their primarily agrarian economies and would create more employment opportunities for the youth.
- ✔ **Tax concessions:** Significant concessions are provided to these states in excise and customs duties, income tax and corporate tax.
- ✔ **Financial Benefits:** Special Category Status (SCS) would bring **significant financial benefits** to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, providing them with more central funds.
  - » **Example:** The per capita grants to SCS states amount to **Rs 5,573 crore** per year, while Andhra Pradesh currently receives only **Rs 3,428 crore**.

## FEASIBILITY

- ★ **Obsolete Concept:** The concept of special category status, once tied to Plan Assistance under the Planning Commission, is now obsolete. States seeking this status are essentially requesting a **special assistance package**, necessitating design and implementation by bodies like **NITI Aayog based on state-specific needs**.
- ★ **Financial Commission's Stance on SCS:** The **14th Finance Commission** deemed SCS a burden on the Centre's resources, a rationale the central government has used to deny SCS to additional states.
- ★ **Increased Tax Devolution :** To address the resource gap without extending SCS, the tax devolution to states was **increased to 42% by the 14th FC and maintained at 41% by the 15th FC**.
- ★ **Prospects with the 16th Finance Commission:** However, with the 16th FC now established and formulating the **tax devolution formula for the five-year period** beginning April 1, 2026, granting special category status to these two states may become easier.



## CONSEQUENCES

- **Economic Burden:** Granting Special Category Status (SCS) imposes an additional **economic burden, particularly when increased devolution, as advised by the Finance Commission**, is already being allocated to the state.
- **Center-State Financial Relations :** SCS affects the financial dynamics between the centre and the state, **creating complexities and hindering the spirit of competitive federalism** among states.
- **Competitive Populism:** Political parties vying for power at the Centre may compete to either gain or retain power by promising to grant special status to certain states. This practice can **lead to biased resource allocation** and inequitable distribution of federal funds.
  - » **Example:** The Congress party, for instance, in its **2024 election manifesto** promised to grant the special category status to Bihar if it comes to power.
- **Political Influence:** Political considerations play a **significant role in the granting of special status** to states. States with better political bargaining power with the Centre may secure more funds, either through special status or other means.
- **Ambiguity:** The method for creating new special category states, including legislative considerations, is yet to be determined. According to experts, **fund transfers must align with the finance commission's guidelines**, as special packages cannot be allocated directly from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Incentivizing Poor Policies:** Increased allocation of **funds to poorer states** may incentivize bad policies and penalise more developed states that have adopted better policies.
- **More Demands:** Granting special category status to certain states may set a precedent, **prompting other states to demand the same benefits**. This could strain federal resources and create political tensions over fairness and resource allocation.

## WAY FORWARD

- ✦ **Redefining Special Designation Criteria:** It's crucial to review the standards for special status if it is to be introduced again, including the inclusion of new states in this select category while **simultaneously excluding those no longer requiring such assistance**.
- ✦ **Harnessing Industrial Potentials Strategically:** States should analyse their industrial capacities and develop a policy framework enabling them to leverage their distinctive resources. This strategy seeks to promote self-sufficiency **rather than reliance on central government aid**.
- ✦ **Strengthening rule of law:** Analysts believe states need stronger rule of **law rather than more fiscal help** from the Centre to improve their economies. While additional funds offer short-term relief, long-term prospects depend on strengthening governance and legal frameworks.
  - » **Example:** In 2022-23, **Bihar's GDP grew at 10.6%, surpassing the national average of 7.2%**, and its per capita income grew by 9.4% the previous year, highlighting more fiscal support is not necessary
- ✦ **Holistic Development Strategy:** States should be motivated to design complete development plans that prioritise long-lasting growth, job opportunities, building infrastructure, and improving human skills. **Special Category Status should be integrated into a larger strategy for overall progress**.
- ✦ **Promoting State Self-Sufficiency :** Promote self-reliance and economic diversification in states by gradually reducing their reliance on central assistance. **Encourage states to develop their own revenue sources**.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Special Category Status was meant to highlight India's commitment in balancing national unity with the unique needs of its states and territories, and emphasising tailored support for regions with specific challenges. Moving forward, India should adopt a flexible framework for targeted financial and developmental aid based on criteria like economic and geographical disadvantages, ensuring balanced regional growth and national cohesion.

### SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** How can the criteria for Special Category Status (SCS) be revamped to accommodate new entrants while discontinuing support for states that have surpassed the need for such assistance? **(10 marks)(150 words)**



## MISSION KARMAYOGI

*Syllabus: GS II - Role of civil services in a democracy*

### PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** *Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio- economic development in India.” Comment. (2016)*

**Q)** *Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment (2017)*

**Q)** *“Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance”. In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy. (2020)*

### SHORT TAKES

**Quality Council of India (QCI):**

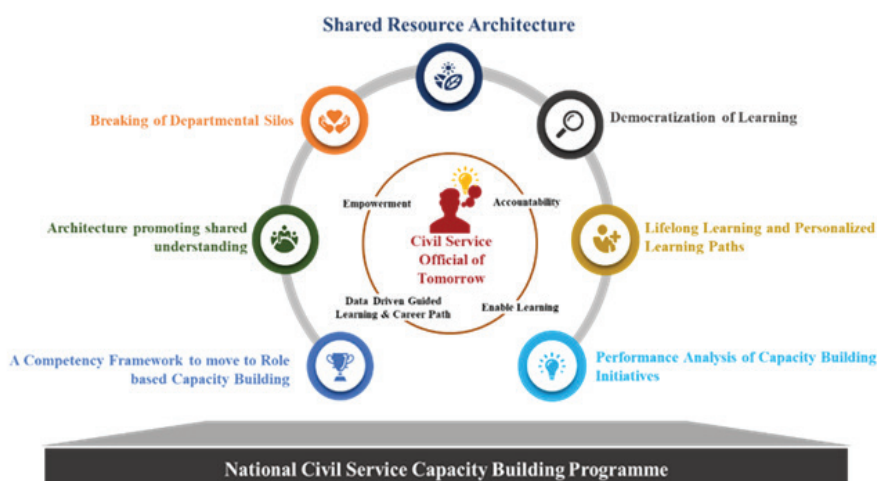
Established in 1997, QCI is a national accreditation body in India, operating as a non-profit under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. It functions through a public-private partnership and is overseen by the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, which coordinates its role in quality-related issues and government decision implementation.

### WHY IN NEWS?

In recent news, **India's Mission Karmayogi**, aimed at transforming civil services into **citizen-centric, future-ready entities**, has shown significant progress, with over 24,000 officials trained in digital courses related to infrastructure development and emerging technologies.

### INTRODUCTION

India's Mission Karmayogi also known as **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)** was launched to revolutionise its civil services. It has garnered attention for its efforts to equip officials with the skills needed to drive the nation towards its ambitious economic goals. Spearheaded by the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**, this initiative seeks to enhance governance and efficiency within India's vast civil services landscape.

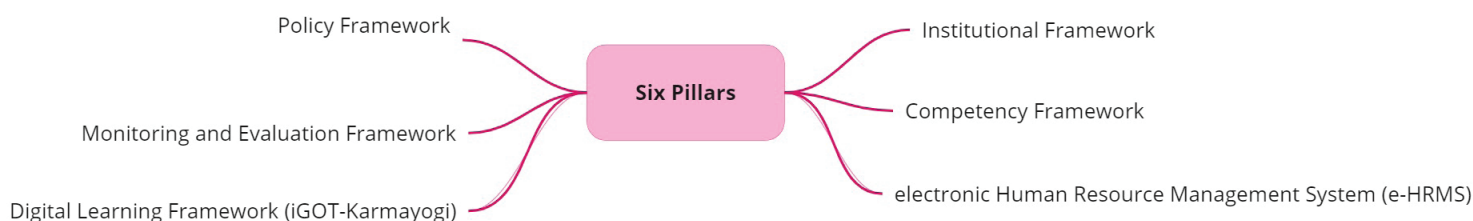
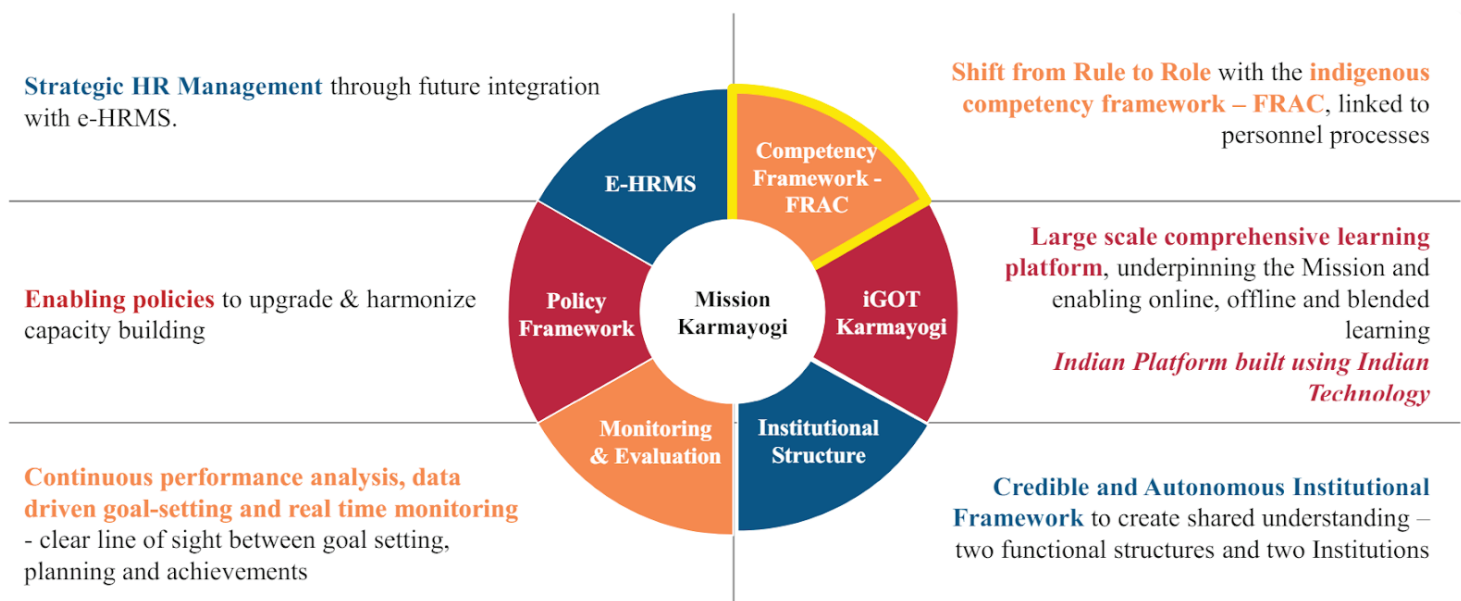


### FEATURES

- ➔ **Launched:** On September 2, 2020 under **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions**
- ➔ **Meaning of Karmayogi:** Derived from Sanskrit, "Karma" (action/duty) and "Yogi" (one who practises integration), signifying a commitment to righteous action.
- ➔ **Inspiration from Bhagavad Gita:** The program draws on the Gita's teaching of "**Karmanye Vadhikaraste, Ma Phaleshu Kadachana**" emphasising focus on duty and excellent service without seeking personal gain.
- ➔ **Goals:**
  - » Transform India's 3 million civil servants into citizen-centric and results-oriented professionals or **Karmayogis**—agents of transformative change endowed with a profound sense of duty and an unwavering commitment to the nation's progress.
  - » To equip India's civil services with a futuristic vision to effectively chart a **25-year roadmap**, shaping a progressive and resilient India by 2047 through a constant learning approach.
  - » Creating a civil service that is '**fit-for-purpose**' and '**fit-for-future**' based on a **competency-driven capacity building approach** focused on imparting critical competencies necessary for effective role discharge.

- » To **shift from "rule based appointments" to "role based appointments" in governance**, Thus, a position will be filled based on the experience of the officer rather than any rule of promotion.
- » **More on-site learning** than textbook learning. This helps the officers to get exposed to the realities of the common people and report back with **innovative solutions**. It expands their thinking and inculcates **empathy**.
- » **Better resource architecture utilisation** by sharing the training infrastructure and materials. It helps in smoother workflow within and between departments.
- » Common framework approach called **Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies (FRAC)** will help departments in their personnel processes.

## SIX PILLARS



### Institutional and structural framework

- » **Capacity Building Commission (CBC):** Established in 2021 to provide policy guidance, develop training tools, and build a comprehensive learning ecosystem.
- » **Prime Minister's Human Resources (HR) Council:** Apex body which provides strategic directions to capacity building reforms
- » **Cabinet Secretariat Co-ordination Unit:** To monitor progress, execution and oversee plans
- » **iGOT(Integrated Govt. Online training) Karmayogi:** An online learning platform being developed as an integral part of the Digital India stack for capacity building of all government employees. It will provide 'anytime-anywhere-any device' learning to train around 2.0 crores users which was so far unachievable through traditional measures.

**Karmayogi Competency Framework:** Developed by the Capacity Building Commission,



outlines behavioural and **functional competencies** and values for civil servants, providing a roadmap for their professional development to become proficient administrators and empathetic leaders in modern governance.

- » **Amrit Gyan Kosh:** An expansive knowledge repository that will provide civil servants with access to learning materials, including case studies, policy simulations, and interactive content, to **enhance their future readiness**.

## BENEFITS

- ✓ **Emerging Technologies:** Training in new technologies like **AI and Big Data** empower civil servants to make faster, data-driven decisions.
  - » **Example:** Over **388,000 government** personnel gained valuable knowledge in **AI, IoT, and Big Data** analysis through online modules curated by CBC and uploaded to the iGOT Karmayogi Bharat platform.
- ✓ **Infrastructure Development:** Trained civil servants can **streamline project planning and coordination**, leading to more efficient infrastructure development.
  - » **Example:** Over **24,000 civil servants** from various departments learned project planning and coordination skills through digital courses co-developed by **CBC and relevant ministries**. This equips them to implement the **PM Gati Shakti** infrastructure initiative effectively.
- ✓ **Promoting Citizen-Centric Policing:** Mission Karmayogi, through the CBC, partnered with the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to equip police personnel with skills for improved public interaction.
  - » **Example:** By **focusing on Seva Bhaav (Service Mentality)** over **50,000 police officers** from Union Territories underwent a research-based self-reflection course to foster a service-oriented approach.
- ✓ **Citizen Satisfaction:** Mission Karmayogi's training fosters trust and improves citizen satisfaction.
  - » **Example:** An independent assessment by the Quality Council of India in Puducherry showed a significant rise in citizen satisfaction with police stations, **jumping from 24% "very satisfied" to 66% after the Mission Karmayogi training**.
- ✓ **Enhanced Safety:** Training fosters trust, leading to a stronger sense of security in communities which creates a safer environment with reduced crime and greater public cooperation.
  - » **Example:** The surge in tourist arrivals in **Kashmir (nearly 21 million in 2023)** suggests a stronger sense of security among citizens, linked to improved police performance.
- ✓ **Enhanced Expertise:** The era of generalists is over, making this approach highly relevant to administration as we enter the age of super-specialisation.
- ✓ **International Recognition:** Mission Karmayogi's police training garners international recognition, boosting India's reputation for **public safety and potentially leading to collaborations with other police forces**.
  - » **Example:** The Delhi Police received praise for their soft skills and professionalism during the **G-20 summit**.

## ISSUES

- ▼ **Resistance to Change:** Bureaucratic structures frequently resist change due to entrenched norms and inertia, which prioritise maintaining the status quo. However, adapting to modern demands necessitates a shift towards **specialised knowledge and roles within the bureaucracy**.
- ▼ **Ensuring Participation:** Online courses for officers should not become a pretext for taking **sabbatical leaves**. It is essential to ensure that officers are genuinely attending and actively participating in these courses to fulfil their intended purpose.
- ▼ **Implementation Challenges:** Ensuring consistent and effective implementation of the Karmayogi Competency Framework across all levels of civil services nationwide may pose logistical and administrative challenges.
- ▼ **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing robust mechanisms for monitoring the impact of training programs on the performance and efficiency of civil servants, and ensuring continuous evaluation and improvement.
- ▼ **Sustainability:** Ensuring the **long-term sustainability** of the initiative beyond initial enthusiasm, including securing ongoing political and bureaucratic support, and maintaining relevance amidst evolving governance challenges.
- ▼ **Compliance Culture:** Critics argue that it prioritises compliance over constitutional values, **eroding civil service independence**, and aligning them with political agendas, raising concerns about its impact on governance and public trust.



## GLOBAL AND NATIONAL OR STATE EXAMPLE

### Global

- 📍 **Te Kawa Mata'aho Public Service Commission of New Zealand:** The Commission establishes and enforces integrity standards across New Zealand's Public Service, provides ethical guidance to staff, and actively promotes a strengthened relationship with Māori communities ensuring equitable and respectful governance practices.
- 📍 **The Public Service Division (PSD) of Singapore:** It fosters a trusted and effective Public Service through **strategic leadership development**, ensuring leaders at all levels embody core values and a unified vision. Additionally, PSD champions good governance practices, guiding public entities to align with citizen needs.

### National

- 📍 **Railways:** A joint program by CBC, Railway Board, and **Indian Railways Institute of Rail Transport Management (IRITM)** trained over 100,000 railway staff in passenger and freight customer service. Independent surveys showed a significant increase in citizen satisfaction (1.5 to 1.9 times) across key railway divisions.
- 📍 **Rural Services:** Over **4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks (postal workers)** and **nearly 1 lakh village CSC** (citizen service centre) personnel underwent training to enhance citizen service delivery in rural areas, indicating Mission Karmayogi's reach beyond traditional sectors.
- 📍 **Municipal Corporations:** The CBC has initiated capacity-building in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Nagpur, Pune, Bhubaneswar, and Mysuru municipal corporations. **Nearly all staff from Ahmedabad and Nagpur** have enrolled in iGOT Karmayogi Bharat courses on municipal finance, road engineering, and solid waste management.

## WAY FORWARD

- ✳️ **Refinement of strategies:** It involves continuous adaptation to evolving challenges, leveraging feedback loops for improvement, and integrating emerging technologies to enhance learning effectiveness
- ✳️ **Enhance Technological Integration:** Expand the use of advanced technologies like **AI, big data, and IoT in civil service training programs** to ensure that civil servants are equipped with cutting-edge skills necessary for modern governance.
- ✳️ **Strengthen State-Level Implementation:** Increase collaboration with state governments and municipal corporations to tailor training programs to local needs, ensuring that the benefits of Mission Karmayogi reach the **grassroots level effectively**.
- ✳️ **Regular Impact Assessment:** Implement regular and rigorous assessments of training programs to measure their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. This includes gathering **feedback from citizens and officials to continuously improve the training modules**.
- ✳️ **Promote Lifelong Learning:** Foster a culture of continuous learning among civil servants by offering ongoing professional development opportunities and incentives for completing advanced training modules, ensuring they stay updated with the latest governance practices.
- ✳️ **Focus on Soft Skills Development:** **In addition to technical skills, emphasise the importance of soft skills such as communication**, empathy, and problem-solving in the training programs to enhance the overall effectiveness and citizen-centric approach of civil servants.
- ✳️ **Focus on Role-Specific Learning Needs:** Tailor training programs to address the specific learning needs of various roles within the civil service to maximise effectiveness and relevance.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Mission Karmayogi marks a **pivotal step in enhancing India's civil service**, aiming to strengthen governance and public trust through continuous learning and effective service delivery. By addressing **its limitations and promoting a culture of adaptation**, it can significantly contribute to India's journey towards a more just and sustainable democracy.

### SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** Critically evaluate Mission Karmayogi's potential to address the challenges faced by the Indian civil service and contribute to effective governance **(10 M)(150 W)**

# CLOUDBURST

Syllabus: GS III - Disaster Management

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples.(2022)

**Q)** Describe the various causes and the effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy.(2021)

**Q)** With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.(2016)

## SHORT TAKES

**Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:** It is a global agreement adopted in 2015 at the Third **UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan**. Principles are:

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better"

**National Landslide Risk Management Strategy:** It addresses all the components of landslide disaster risk reduction and management, which includes – **hazard mapping, monitoring, and early warning system, awareness programs, capacity building etc.**

## WHY IN NEWS

Recently Pune experienced a very intense to extremely intense spell of rainfall which resembled **cloudbursts** according to experts. The Dhanori, Lohegaon and **Kalyani Nagar** areas reported flash floods as a result.

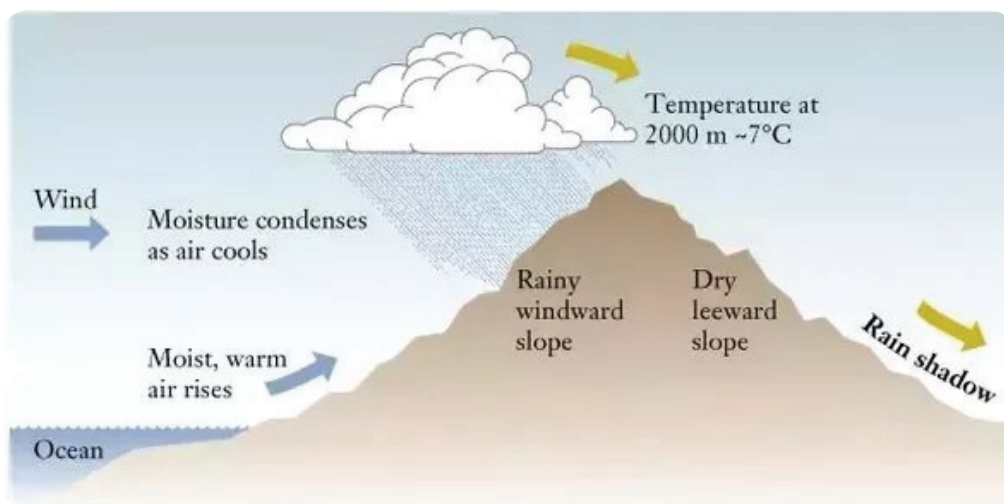
## INTRODUCTION

Cloudburst is an extreme weather event characterised by an intense and sudden downpour of rainfall over a small geographical area within a short duration of time. The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** defines it as unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm (or 10 cm) per hour over a geographical region of approximately 20 to 30 square km.



## MECHANISM OF CLOUDBURST

- ➔ **Orographic lift** is the mechanism behind the sudden and intense precipitation observed during cloudbursts. It occurs when **cumulonimbus clouds**, already laden with moisture, are propelled upwards by warm air currents.
- ➔ As these clouds ascend to higher altitudes, the water droplets they contain **coalesce** and new droplets form, aided by the cooling temperatures at higher elevations. **Lightning** activity within these clouds can further delay the release of rainfall.
- ➔ Eventually, these dense clouds reach a point where they can **no longer retain** the immense volume of moisture they've accumulated. This leads to their bursting, unleashing torrential downpours upon the region directly below.
- ➔ The **rapid influx of precipitation overwhelms** water bodies, causing them to overflow within a very short span of time. This phenomenon is particularly



prevalent in mountainous areas, where the topography facilitates the swift ascent of **moisture-laden air along the slopes**.

- ➔ It can also happen on plains due to **Convection**. As the air near the surface heats up, it becomes less dense and starts to rise. This rising air parcel is called a thermally driven convection current. As it ascends, it carries moisture with it, which may have been evaporated from nearby water bodies, moist soil, or vegetation.
- ➔ The moisture in the **rising air condenses to form cumulus clouds initially**. With further ascent and cooling, these clouds may develop into towering cumulonimbus clouds.
- ➔ Cumulonimbus clouds are characterised by strong updrafts. **Inside the cumulonimbus cloud**, water droplets continue to **grow in size due to collisions and coalescence**. Eventually, these droplets become large enough to overcome the updrafts and fall as precipitation

## ISSUES

### ● Flash Flooding:

- » Cloudbursts often result in rapid and intense **rainfall over a short period**, leading to flash floods. These floods can be particularly dangerous as they occur suddenly and without much warning, posing risks to lives and properties.
- » **Eg: Flood in Sikkim in 2023** was due to Cloudbursts.

### ● Landslides:

- » Cloudbursts can trigger landslides, especially in hilly or mountainous regions where the soil is already saturated with water. Its impact is predominantly found in areas where excessive deforestation is experienced.
- » **Eg: Landslide in Himachal Pradesh due to Cloudburst in 2023.**

### ● Environmental Degradation:

- » Intense rainfall associated with cloudbursts can cause erosion of **soil**, leading to sedimentation in rivers and streams. This sedimentation can affect water quality and aquatic habitats.
- » **Eg - 2013 Kedarnath floods.**
- » Cloudbursts can also result in the **release of pollutants** into water bodies, further compromising

environmental health.

### ● Property damage and economic loss:

- » Cloudbursts can cause **extensive damage to property**, including homes, businesses, and infrastructure which results in significant economic losses.
- » **Eg- In 2021, Uttarakhand witnessed devastating cloudbursts** in several districts, including Chamoli, Uttarkashi, and Pithoragarh. It led to destruction of pilgrimage sites and severely impacted tourism, leading to a decline in tourist arrivals and revenue.

### ● Social vulnerability:

- » Certain groups within society, such as the elderly, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities, may be disproportionately affected by cloudbursts due to **factors such as limited mobility**, lack of access to resources, and social exclusion.
- » **Eg- 2022 cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh** resulted in disruption of Education, increased health risk due to flooding (waterborne diseases such as cholera & typhoid, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression) and loss of livelihoods (tourist homes, restaurants etc).

## SOLUTIONS

### ☀️ Landslide prevention:

- » The Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts landslide susceptibility mapping in various regions across the country and has implemented a **Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS)**
- » NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) has released the **National Landslide Risk Management Strategy** and guidelines for Landslide Hazard Zonation.

### ☀️ Early Warning & Prediction:

- » IMD has been using **Doppler radars** that can predict sudden changes in the weather about three to six hours in advance and can assist in early warning for cloudbursts. These have been fixed in the western and eastern Himalayas and in the plains as well.
- » Disseminates timely warnings to vulnerable communities **through SMS alerts**, sirens, mobile apps, and community-based systems.

### ☀ Flood prevention:

- » Govt. has enforced zoning regulations and building codes to restrict construction in flood-prone areas and ensure that new developments adhere to flood-resilient design standards.
- » The **National Guidelines for the Management of Flooding** issued by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) provide guidance to ministries/ departments, States/UTs and urban local bodies for the preparation of their Disaster Management (DM) plans.
- » Sensors have been deployed to gather and analyze rainfall pattern data. Based on this analysis, warnings are issued if cloudburst events are anticipated.

### ☀ Mitigation Measures:

- » Financial assistance and disaster relief funds to individuals and families affected by floods and cloudbursts.
- » **Eg-** In 2023, the **High-Level Committee (HLC)** chaired by the Union Home Minister sanctioned extra Central assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five states that had experienced flooding, landslides, and cloudbursts in 2022.
- » Availability of national and state disaster response forces, including NDRF (National Disaster Response Force), for search, rescue, and evacuation operations.
- » Set up **temporary shelters and relief camps** to provide immediate accommodation, food, and medical assistance to displaced individuals and families.
- » Conducts community-based disaster preparedness and risk reduction programs to enhance local resilience, improve early warning systems, and strengthen disaster response capacities at the grassroots level.

## WAY FORWARD

- ✱ **Radar Network & enhanced early warning:** Setting up numerous radars over cloudburst prone areas with 24x7 applicability to provide early warnings and minimise damage.
- ✱ **Enhanced Infrastructure and Drainage Systems:** Encourage the development of sustainable infrastructure and stormwater drainage systems capable of managing intense rainfall. Enhance the capacity of drainage networks and ensure ongoing maintenance to avoid blockages and overflow.
- ✱ **Community Preparedness:** Educating and training communities on disaster preparedness, evacuation procedures, and first aid to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability during cloudburst events.
- ✱ **Public Awareness and Participation:** Engaging citizens in flood risk awareness campaigns, fostering community-based disaster management committees, and promoting public participation in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction.
- ✱ **Research and Innovation:** Investing in research and innovation to better understand cloudburst phenomena, improve forecasting capabilities, and develop innovative solutions for flood risk reduction.

## BEST PRACTICES

### Copenhagen Climate Adaptation Plan - Denmark

Copenhagen's Cloudburst Management Plan is part of the city's broader Climate Adaptation Plan. It focuses on combining blue-green infrastructure projects that manage stormwater at the surface with underground drainage tunnels where necessary. The plan is envisioned with a view to cope with effects of climate change.

## CONCLUSION

By adopting a comprehensive approach that integrates technological advancements, sustainable development practices, community empowerment, and effective governance, the adverse effects of cloudbursts can be mitigated and can enhance resilience to extreme weather events in the future

## SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** Explain the mechanism of formation of cloudburst. Discuss the impacts associated with it? **(15 M)(250 W)**



## ETHICS - CASE STUDY

**Q)** You are a District Magistrate in a district with a notable transgender population. While discrimination against this community is acknowledged, there are frequent complaints from travelling citizens about harassment by transgender individuals, particularly in public transportation and busy traffic areas where begging is common. This not only disrupts traffic flow but also creates a sense of insecurity among travellers. You have received numerous complaints on this matter and must address it promptly. However, some transgender groups argue that begging is their only means of survival, citing the lack of government support for their social protection.

- Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case?
- Evaluate the options available to you?
- What will be your course of action? Justify it.

## ETHICS - EXAMPLES

- Ethics in Public Life:** Mexico elects its first female president, Claudia Sheinbaum, a scientist and guerrilla sympathiser who achieved the highest vote count ever recorded for a Mexican candidate. Despite facing a misogynist campaign that targeted her appearance, credentials, and Jewish background, including false AI-generated audio claims, she emerged victorious.
- Ethics in Technology:** Google's recent AI upgrade to its search engine, faced widespread criticism for producing incorrect and bizarre responses, such as recommending eating rocks. In response, Google has significantly reduced the frequency of these AI Overviews.
- Women Empowerment:** The decision to send a team of women police officers to arrest rape-accused MP Prajwal Revanna was a deliberate choice aimed at sending a message about women's authority in legal proceedings against him for alleged misuse of power to exploit women.
- Ethics in Public Service:** Chandigarh police filed an FIR against CISF constable Kulwinder Kaur for reportedly slapping BJP MP Kangana Ranaut. Kaur was suspended following the incident, with charges under sections 323 and 341 of the Indian Penal Code filed against her.
- Social Responsibility:** Kerala schools will provide newspapers for free in all classrooms to promote reading habits, as proposed in a draft report by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).




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## MODEL ESSAY

*"The wound is the place where the light enters you"*

### Introduction

- Quote by Rumi, the 13th-century Persian poet
- Meaning: Struggles can ultimately lead to personal growth and positive change.
- Introduce the concept of challenges and setbacks in life- overcoming difficulties- catalyst for growth and positive change

### Types of Struggle

- **Internal Struggles:** Self-doubt, insecurities, overcoming personal limitations (e.g., stage fright, fear of failure).
- **External Struggles:** Physical challenges (e.g., illness, injury), social obstacles (e.g., discrimination, bullying), economic hardships (e.g., poverty, job loss).
- **Academic Struggles:** Difficulty with specific subjects, learning disabilities, overcoming academic pressure.
- **Relationship Struggles:** Family conflicts, romantic breakups, navigating friendships or social circles.
- **Loss and Grief:** The death of a loved one, loss of a job or security, overcoming emotional trauma.

### Positive Impacts of Struggle

- **Develop resilience:** Embrace challenges to build resilience and unlock new skills. Eg: Nelson Mandela's imprisonment leading to his emergence as a leader for racial equality.
- **Discovering Inner Strength:** Struggles can push us beyond perceived limitations, revealing hidden capabilities and reserves of courage. Eg: Malala's recovery and continued activism after Taliban attack
- **Building Character:** Facing difficulties teaches valuable life lessons, hones our sense of integrity, and fosters empathy.
- **Cultivating Gratitude:** The experience of overcoming hardship makes us appreciate the good times and the people who support us.
- **Sparkling Innovation:** Struggles can inspire

creative problem-solving, leading to new ideas and approaches to life's challenges. Eg: Stephen Hawking's groundbreaking work in physics despite battling ALS

### Way Forward

- **Develop a Growth Mindset:** Instead of viewing challenges as setbacks, actively cultivate a belief that you can learn and improve from them.
- **Seek Support:** Build a strong network of friends, family, or mentors who can offer encouragement and guidance during tough times.
- **Set SMART Goals:** Break down large challenges into smaller, **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound goals. This creates a roadmap for progress and fosters a sense of accomplishment.
- **Practice Self-Compassion:** Be kind to yourself throughout the struggle. Acknowledge your emotions and celebrate small victories.
- **Learn from Every Experience:** Reflect on what you gained from the struggle, even if the outcome wasn't what you had hoped for.
- **Celebrate Milestones:** Acknowledge and celebrate your progress. This helps maintain motivation and reinforces the positive aspects of overcoming challenges.

### Conclusion

- Emphasise the transformative power of overcoming challenges.
- Conclude with a final thought-importance of embracing challenges as opportunities for growth and positive change.

### Sample Quotes

- *We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated- Maya Angelou*
- *Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are - Benjamin Franklin*
- *People are more impressed by the power of our example rather than the example of our power - Bill Clinton*



## MAINS JOT DOWN



### GS- III - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (**JWST**) has spotted the earliest-known galaxy called as **JADES-GS-z14-0**.
- It observed the galaxy as it existed about **290 million years** after the Big Bang event
- The James Webb Space Telescope is a collaborative space telescope led by **NASA, ESA(European Space Agency), and CSA(Canadian Space Agency), intended to follow the Hubble Space Telescope as NASA's primary telescope.**



### GS- II - HEALTH

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) has instructed all Food Business Operators (**FBOs**) to eliminate any mention of '**100% fruit juice**' from their labels and advertisements.
- These claims can be deceptive, especially when the main component of the fruit juice is water, and the advertised primary ingredient is present only in small amounts, or when the juice is reconstituted using water along with fruit concentrates or pulp.
- The FSSAI was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 as an autonomous body.



### GS- II - POLITY

- The **18th Lok Sabha** finds 13.6% of women's representation in Lok Sabha. In 17th Lok Sabha it was 14.4%.
- Globally, the share of women in national parliaments is **26.9%**.
- Gender violence, Societal prejudices and workplace discrimination still pose a threat to women's political participation.
- In **Rajya Sabha, women members constitute 14.05% of total seats.**



### GS- III - ENVIRONMENT

- The **UNESCO State of the Ocean Report 2024** emphasises key concerns about the ocean's contribution to climate regulation and data required to tackle various ocean crises and validate emerging carbon dioxide removal technologies.
- The report emphasises a lack of adequate and aggregated data necessary for comprehensive ocean observations and research.
- The report identifies a rise in ocean acidification across all ocean basins.
- The **Global Soil Partnership(GSP)** Assembly urges immediate action to enhance and sustain the health of at least 50 percent of the world's soils by 2030.
- It aims to position soils on Global Agenda, promote inclusive policies and soil governance as well as sustainable soil management.
- It was established by FAO in 2012.
- On World Oceans Day (June 08), the director general of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) called on countries globally to work towards implementing a comprehensive High Seas Biodiversity Treaty.
- It is an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**) concerning the conservation and sustainable utilisation of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (**BBNJ**).
- India has neither signed nor ratified the treaty.



### GS- III - ENERGY

- The Coal Ministry has published a report named "Greening Initiative in Coal & Lignite PSUs."
- The report emphasises the initiatives of Public Sector Undertakings (**PSUs**) to reduce the environmental impact of coal mining by engaging in continuous reclamation and afforestation activities in and around mining zones.



### GS-II - SOCIAL JUSTICE

- ➔ Recently **UNICEF** released **CHILD NUTRITION REPORT, 2024**.
- ➔ Globally around 27% of children are living with severe Child Food Poverty. In India it is around 40%.
- ➔ Inequality, climate crisis, food inflation and unhealthy foods are the main reasons for it.



### GS- II - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- ➔ Recently India attended the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** Ministerial meeting.
- ➔ The major outcomes of the meeting were:
  - Clean Economy Agreement
  - Fair Economy Agreement
  - **Cooperative Work Programme (CWP)**
  - IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund

## CHERRYPICKS OF THE WEEK

### GIFFEN GOODS

- A Giffen good is a **non-luxury product** for which demand increases as its price rises, contrary to the typical behaviour described by the law of demand.
- Examples of Giffen goods can include **bread, rice, and wheat**. These goods are commonly essentials with few near-dimensional substitutes at the same price levels

### GREEDFLATION

- It refers to the phenomenon where **excessive greed or a focus on profit leads to inflationary pressures**.
- It implies that companies took advantage of the inflation experienced by consumers by significantly raising their prices beyond what was necessary to cover their increased costs. They then used these price increases to maximise their profit margins, thereby exacerbating inflation further.

### RECESSIONARY GAP

- It refers to a situation in macroeconomics where an economy is operating **below its potential GDP** (Gross Domestic Product), resulting in unused resources and higher unemployment.
- This **gap occurs when aggregate demand** (the total demand for goods and services in an economy) falls short of the economy's potential output level.

### CYCLICAL UNEMPLOYMENT

- It refers to the variation in unemployment caused by fluctuations in economic activity, **particularly the business cycle**.
- It occurs when there is a downturn in the economy, leading to reduced demand for goods and services and consequently fewer job opportunities. Workers may be laid off or find it difficult to secure employment during these periods.