

## **357 Hurricane Day26 02/08/2022 Polity, Social Justice Revision**

Q1 The 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Acts redefined and reshaped Indian Constitution in a number of ways. Elucidate. (10)

Q2 Why is the 'Inner party democracy' important for Indian democracy? In the context of political parties, what other reforms do you think are necessary for a more robust democracy? (10)

Q3 'Parliamentary debates today are rare, and informed debates are rarer'. Critically analyse the statement. (10)

Q4 'Migrants issues had always been complicated in India, which was further impacted by Covid-19 crisis'. Justify. (10)

Q5 Do you think there has emerged an increasing trend of divergence and conflicts between the Government and the Opposition in the recent years? Why?  
What repercussions does it have for Indian democracy and governance? (15)

Q6 'The gamut of health has shifted from traditional issues towards other important yet less recognised issues'. What do you understand by the statement? Examine. (15)

Q7 Differently abled are the 'largest unrecognised minority'. Why? Are they more vulnerable than the other vulnerable sections? What has the Government done to improve their living conditions? (15)

Ans. 1

42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 1976 is called as Mini Constitution and 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act-1978, both are known for their various changes in constitution.

[42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976] :-

- 1) Added Parliamentary duties (Art 51A) as per Swaran Singh Committee.
- 2) Added Tribunals provision ~~Art 323A~~ <sup>Centrally</sup> ~~Art 323B~~ <sup>Administrative</sup> ~~(SAT)~~ <sup>Internal</sup> ~~(SAT)~~
- 3) Added SECULAR, SOCIALIST and INTEGRITY words in Preamble.
- 4) ~~Art 323A~~ Made President bound to the advice of Cabinet Minister.
- 5) Education, forest were transferred from state to concurrent list.
- 6) Additions in DPSPs → secure opportunities for healthy development of children (39), free legal aid to poor etc.

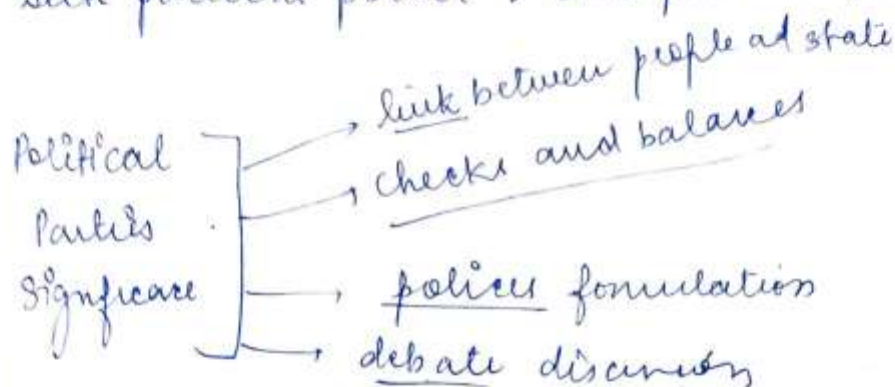
144<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act 1976 :-

- 1) Gave President the power to ask for reconciliation of advice by cabinet.
- 2) Removal of 'Right to Property', Art 31 as a fundamental right
- 3) Made changes in emergency provisions.  
~~4~~ Added 'armed rebellion' as the ground from internal disturbances
- 4) Added a DPSP → to minimize inequalities.

Hence, both the Amendment Acts hold immense significance because of huge number of changes they made in the constitution.

Ans-2

Political Parties are the group of people or organisation with their interest to seek political power. Examples: BJP, Congress.



One necessary feature always debated is the "Inner Party Democracy".

Importance of Inner Party Democracy :-

- 1) To strengthen Political Parties Internally
- 2) nexus within the members of Political Party has to be curbed
- 3) so as to curb the problem of Anti defections / horse trading.
- 4) so as to ensure stable political order.



\*) to bring about relevant steps for the betterment of citizens by checks and balances.

[Other reforms necessary in Political Parties]

- \*) Strengthening of anti-defection law.
- \*) Curbing their financial expenditure especially during elections.
- \*) Registration of unrecognized parties by ECI
- \*) curbing of Parochial based Political Parties which poses threat to national security.
- \*) MCC formulation and giving it legal backup.

Political Parties are necessary for robust representative democracy.  
So, relevant reforms are necessary to ensure their proper functioning.

Ans. 3

With the number of debates in Parliament sessions reaching abysmally low, there has been concerns about this countrywide.

- 1) The parliament known as the platform of debate and discussions have been criticized for not holding relevant deliberations.
- 2) Passage of hasty farm laws have highlighted this issue.
- 3) There have also been decreasing number of Parliament sittings as per recent reports.
- 4) The informed debates are also reaching as null.
- 5) The parliament today gives no importance to debates and discussions.

- ) accused of passing frequent ordinances thereby neutralising Parliament's function -
- ) control of Parliament by one major party
- ) No space for dissent, constructive criticisms.

Hence, recent study findings show that parliamentary and informed debates have been abysmally low. Parliament is the supreme representative body for deliberations and discussions hence needed to be looked at.



Ans. 4

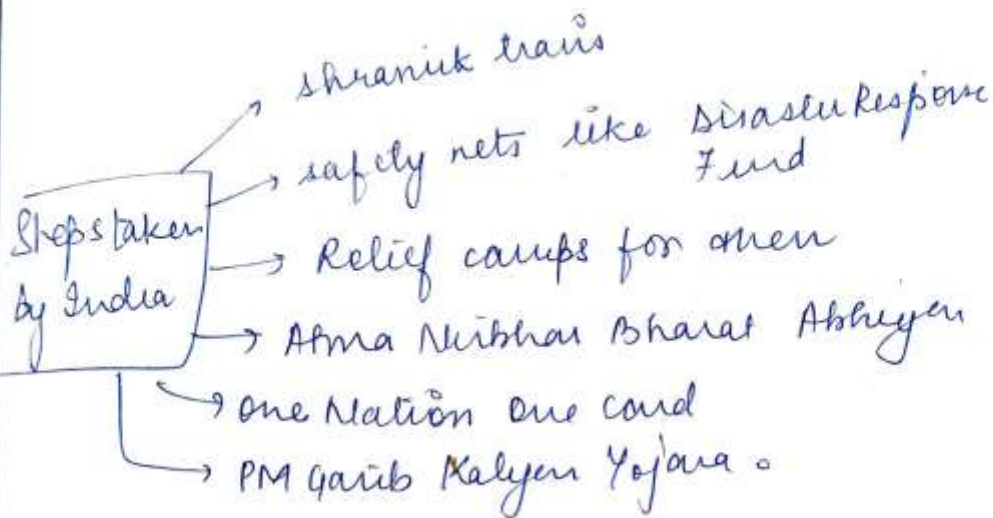
The covid-19 pandemic made 10 million migrants to return to their homes exacerbating the migrant issues in India.

Migrant Issues further impacted by covid-19 :-

- 1) Lockdown forced them to return to their home places because of closure of businesses -
- 2) Lack of demand especially in construction, factories during covid-19.
- 3) Economy slowdown and failure to give them relevant securities.
- 4) Health issues :- due to the pandemic were increased.
- 5) More Poverty :- With more people diving into the web of poverty → loss of income and livelihood



- 1) Shutting of Industries :- thousands of men lost their jobs.
- 2) Suspension of Public Transport facilities due to sudden announcement of lockdown imposition. Several had to walk on foot.
- 3) Food Problem due to ration card issues



Government made efforts but still they faced huge problems. Hence, these migrants were caught up in the vicious web of poverty.

Ans. 5

India is a multi-party democratic country with government ruling at the centre and the subsequent opposition. Constitution gives a mandate for opposition if the party secures  $\frac{1}{10}^{\text{th}}$  of the total seats.

Currently, the convention that Deputy speaker to be from opposition, the post has been vacant for past few years. This shows the growing rift between Government and the opposition.

## [Divergence and conflicts]

1) Due to the homogenisation of ideology, there has been increasing rift. For example, BJP's Hindutva.

2) Lack of efficient opposition has been witnessed since India does not have strong opposition.

- \*) Government's reluctance for debates and discussion especially witnessed in recent years when decreased number of Question hours
- \*) Majority bills passed without referring to standing committees . For eg: farm protests
- \*) Opposition's antagonism over every government's step . For eg: over lockdown, etc.
- \*) Government's restrictions over freedom of speech and spying incidents like use of sedition law or Pegasus case.

## Repercussions

- \*) Opposition is said to be an Important pillar for sustenance of democracy → hence this never undermines democratisation
- \*) Checks and balances : one of the feature of



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(Question No.)

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- of the democracy is hampered.
- o) social order is disturbed due to aggravated clashes and conflict.
  - o) with hindrance in delivery of services by opposition parties → it affects the governance.
  - o) Affects accountability and transparency.

Hence, there is a requirement for a resilient opposition so as to strengthen democracy and ensure checks and balances of the Government. For that, opposition should be mandatory, even the deputy speaker should be elected soon.

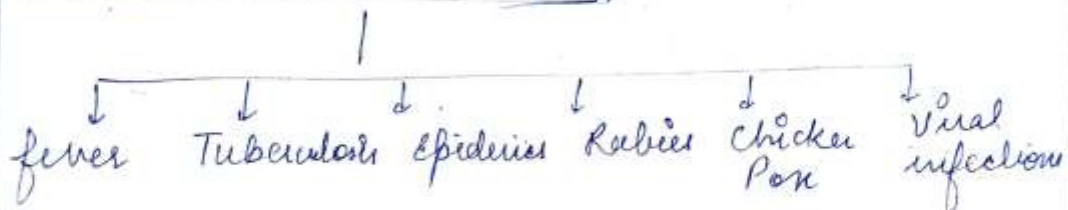


Ans. 6

SDG-3 ensures good health of all ~~other~~ beings. Health is defined as the complete social, mental and physical state of well-being. \*

The <sup>good</sup> health concept is not just about physical illness, it has multiple dimensions. It is state of complete social well being of an individual.

Traditional health issues include :-



However, now there has been a shift from these traditional health issues towards other important health issues which are less recognised.

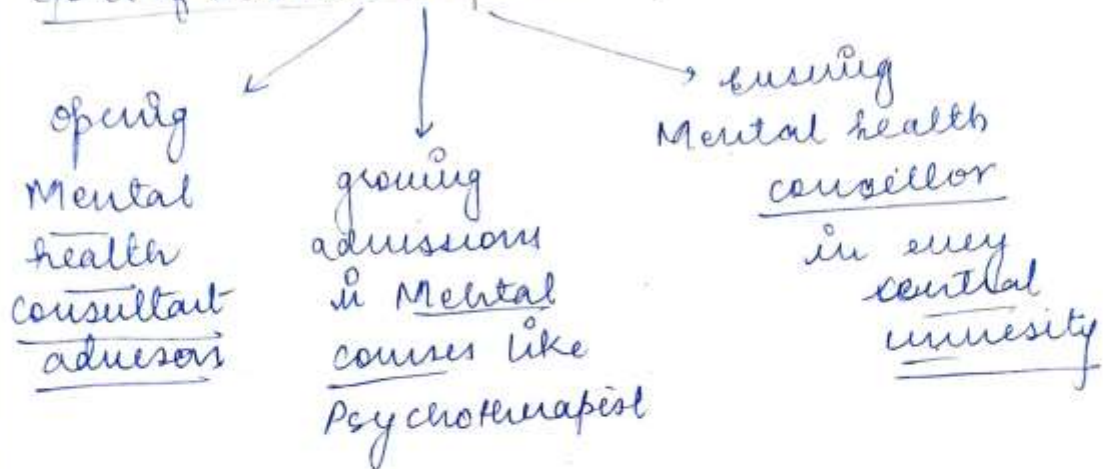
Shift

1) Mental Health :

Especially during Covid-times, the issue of Mental health has gained importance

Example :- stress, anxiety, depression

Govt of India's steps :-



(2) Non-communicable diseases

Like cancer, high Blood Pressure, Diabetes amongst individuals.

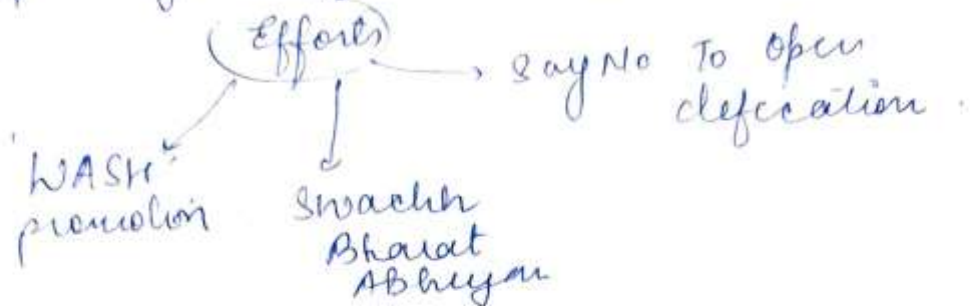
(3) Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

India is considered to be one of the most prone country for NTDs.

Example :- helminthic diseases, etc.

## 4) Sanitation issues

Especially emerged during covid times.



## 5) Community Health approach

So as to sensitise the entire community.  
One effort is Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

## 6) Drug addicted issue

So as to sensitise youth.

Efforts like NDPS Act; Nasha Mukti Kendras.

Hence, with new challenges and emerging issues, there has been paradigm shift from traditional health issues to new unrecognized important issues.



Ans. 7

Differently-abled sections of the society are classified as such because of their different abilities to carry out functioning of the tasks different from normal abilities. They comprise the part of vulnerable section.

In India, these are considered differently abled if the benchmark disability of 40% is crossed in order to give them the reservation.

Least Recognised And More Vulnerable because :-

- 1) Social ostracization : Because they feel social ostracization and alienation from the society.
- 2) Looked at it with inferiority : The normal people consider them 'handicapped', 'inferior', 'disabled'.
- 3) Neglect : They are even neglected by the families, society, state, government.



1) Education : because of their inability they are denied education.

Eg: blind don't have access to braille script.

2) Poverty : Generally, they're poor and hence excluded from the social resources.

3) Lack of medical infrastructure : to cure their issues on early detection.

Hence, these reasons make them the largest unrecognized and more vulnerable minority.

## Government Initiatives

1) Welfare Schemes : DISHA scheme, Sambhar Assistance Scheme.

2) Reservation : in central and state government jobs like UPSC etc.

3) Ministry of Social Empowerment and Justice to look after them.

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- ) Act : Legislative Act :- PwD empowerment Act
- ) Rehabilitation centres for them,  
counselling centres for them.
- ) Deffent olympics games for them.
- ) relevant sports infrastructure for PwDs.

However, Government has to do more to bring social empowerment like - strong political will, strengthening of medical infrastructure, social Inclusion and making infrastructure like school, hospitals / parks disabled friendly.

Since, these are the most vulnerable and cannot do anything for themselves, requires state and society efforts!