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EXAM PREP | **IAS**



POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

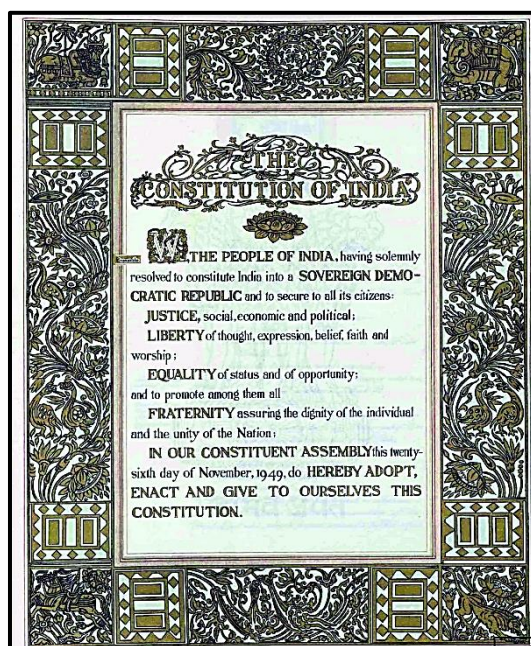
Webinar Handout

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PSIR (NOVEMBER 2022: PART - II)

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1. Different Social and Political Perspectives of the Indian Constitution



Introduction

- The Constituent Assembly was a confluence of ideologies. Though the Congress dominated the Assembly, however by its nature was a party of consensus, including a wide diversity of ideologies, and the societal section within itself.
- Congress included conservatives, industrialists, Liberals, radical Marxists to Hindu revivalists.
- The assembly also included some members from smaller parties, such as the Scheduled Caste Federation, the Communist Party of India, and the Unionist Party.
- The constituent assembly due to this wide ideological diversity essentially became a deliberative platform. There were a lot of debates in the assembly. One of the reasons for the lengthiest constitution is that it accommodates different perspectives.
- The members of the Constituent Assembly were drawn from all walks of life and represented almost every section of the Indian people.
- Thus, the constituent assembly becomes the representative of the General Will of the Indian people.

Ideological Background of Constituent Assembly

- The Constituent Assembly of India was a true representative of the Indian people. It included all the prominent leaders of major political parties.
- The philosophical foundations of the Indian Constitution are a reflection of the ideological and philosophical background of the members of the Constituent Assembly.
- The Constituent Assembly consisted of members with diverse ideological and social backgrounds. There were ideological differences among the members.
- The different provisions of constitutions are a synthesis of the discussion of their ideas. These provisions emerged from serious debate with the Constituent Assembly.
- According to Granville Austin, four members, Maulana Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Rajendra Prasad, formed an oligarchy within the Assembly, and they played a key role in the Constituent Assembly.
- B.N. Rau was not a member of the Constituent Assembly but he played an important role as an advisor to the Constituent Assembly.
- The ideological premises of the Constitution was based on the core democratic values – republicanism, individual and group rights, constitutional protection of rights, universal suffrage, parliamentary democracy, sharing power between different arms of government (separation of power), sharing of power between Union and states (a division of power).

- According to Granville Austin, both Nehru and Patel are credited with sketching the fundamentals of the Constitution, Patel was more interested in the Princely States, the public services and the working of the Home Ministry, and Nehru was in Fundamental Rights, and protection of minority rights, and social reform aspects of the Constitution.
- So, there were debates and influences of the constituent assembly members on the various provisions of the constitutions.
- This forms the basis for different social-political perspectives within the constitution-making process. Some of the major debates in the constituent assembly can be discussed as follows,

Nature of Political System

- There were major disagreements among the constituent assembly members regarding the future governing system for India. Ambedkar, Nehru, Patel were divided.
- K.M. Munshi favoured the Presidential system as he thought that there would be quick decision-making for the rapid developmental challenges facing India.
- Leaders like Nehru, and Patel were in favour of the Parliamentary system due to its simplicity and familiarity with the Indian people.
- Then there were Gandhians within the Constituent Assembly, who supported Village-based complete decentralized governing models.
- Finally, The Constituent Assembly has opted for the British Parliamentary System of Government rather than the American Presidential System of Government.

Nature of Federalism

- The Indian constitution opted for the Federal model of governance due to the wide diversity within the country.
- It is also the product of the influence of the Government of India 1935 Act and Cabinet mission plan.
- The Nature of Federalism was part of intense debate in the Constituent Assembly.
 - J.B. Kriplani- Supported the maximum autonomy of the states.
 - Opposition to the Unitary System- Due to internal and external situations, there was unanimity for the federal principles of governance.
 - N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar- Supported the constitutional separation of powers between centre and state.
 - Supporters of the Strong Centre- After the partition, riots, and external threats there was strong support for the strong central government. Ambedkar, Nehru, and Patel supported the strong centre.
 - The Constituent Assembly rejected the Gandhian vision for decentralized village-based federalism and opted for the strong centre.

Debate on the Preamble

- Prof K T Shah proposed inserting the words Secular, Federal, Socialist. He was of the opinion that using such words in the Preamble would give an idea about the governing ideals of the Constitution.
- Ambedkar and H.V. Kamath was opposed to the idea. Ambedkar rejected the proposal by K.T.Shah by saying that a decision on the inclusion of these ideals will be made by the people themselves, according to time and circumstances. It cannot be laid down in the Constitution itself, because that is destroying democracy altogether.
- Maulana Hasrat Mohani favored the inclusion of the words the Independent Sovereign Republic as given by the objective resolution. But the Drafting Committee had adopted the phrase the Sovereign Democratic Republic because independence is usually implied in the word "Sovereign".

Debate on Fundamental Rights

- There have been elaborate debates on fundamental rights. The longest debate has been on the Right to property.
- There has been dissatisfaction over the status of DPSP. Leaders like NG Ranga, Jaipal Singh, and Ambedkar wanted constitutional guarantees for the rights given under Part 4 of the constitution just like the rights from Part 3.
- There was also a debate regarding the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive principles.

Debate on the Untouchability

- Mr. Muniswamy Pillai wanted the abolition of Untouchability. He wanted the abolition of untouchability to be included in the Constitution. K.T.Shah proposed to use an alternate word instead of untouchability as this word has a wide meaning, which was rejected by Ambedkar.

Nature of Judiciary

- The nature of the judiciary was another debated issue. The Constituent Assembly did consider the system of appointment of judges by the judges for the sake of independence.
- However, it was opposed by Ambedkar on the ground that there can be no 'Imperium in Imperio' i.e., no state within the state.

Debate on the Reservation

- The issue of reservation was explained, accommodated, and accepted with the national spirit to assimilate sections of society that were historically discriminated against.
- Members like Nagappa, and Ambedkar supported positive discrimination in the form of reservations rather than any other affirmative action.

Debate on Uniform Civil Code

- One of the most debatable issues was the uniform civil code. Members of minority groups like Pocker Sahib, and Ismail Sahib were against UCC whereas women members like Hansa Mehta, and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and leaders like K.M. Munshi strongly favoured UCC.
 - Mohammad Ismail opposed the UCC on the grounds that personal laws are the foundation of every religion. The state should not interfere with it.
 - Both Muslim and Hindu organizations questioned the competence of the Constituent Assembly to interfere with religious laws. UCC was thus antagonistic to religious freedom.
 - K.M.Munshi expressed his views that it would be lawful for Parliament to enact a uniform civil code since the article guaranteeing religious freedom gave the state power to regulate secular activities associated with religion.

Debate on the Electoral System

- Members of the minority like Pocker Sahib and scheduled caste members like Nagappa demanded a separate electorate.
- However, Sardar Patel and Govind Vallabh Pant strongly opposed it.
- Sardar Patel held that a separate electorate would be suicidal for the minorities. It will always prevent them from becoming an integral part of the nation. The members of minority groups like Begum Aizaas Rasul also opposed separate electorates.

Debate on the Abolition of the Death Penalty

- Mr. Z.H. Lari proposed the insertion of an article for the abolition of capital punishment except for sedition involving the use of violence. He was of the opinion that human life is sacred and capital punishment is abolished in various countries of the world.
- Shri. K. Hanumanthaiya stated that instead of capital punishment, life imprisonment must be given to the convict.

Debate on the Institution of the Governor

- There was a huge concern with the nature of the institution of the governor.
- Pandit Thakurdas Bhargav recommended making elaborate provisions on the qualifications of the governor in the constitution itself rather than leaving it to conventions.

Debate on Grassroot Democracy

- Gandhians supported the constitutional guarantee for the local-level administration.
- It was opposed by Modernists like Patel and Nehru.
- Dr. Ambedkar criticized this notion because villages are breeding grounds for casteism. It has been given space in the directive principles as a compromise solution.

Debate on Ordinance Making power of President

- Some members opposed the Ordinance making power as a legacy of the colonial era and sought to amend the article.
- Dr. Ambedkar opposed the argument stating that there can be emergency situations during which Parliament could not reassemble within the prescribed time frame under any circumstances. He supported the ordinance-making power with the safeguarding provisions.

Assessment

- According to Granville Austin, the Constitution of India was a continuation of the social revolution started by the national movement through legal means.
- It is a vision document about the welfare of all irrespective of class, race, caste, or place of birth.
- This vision is present in the Preamble and several other parts of the Constitution.
- Indian people through their representatives visualized their thoughts about political values like democracy, sovereignty, accommodation, consensus, socialism, and safeguarding the minorities and backward sections of the society.
- The constituent assembly adopted different provisions after elaborate debates and with consensus.
- Constitution making is a 'work in progress' and as mentioned by the Supreme Court, the Indian constitution is an 'organic document.' It is a mix of rigidity and flexibility.
- Besides the formal process of amendment, the provisions of the constitution have been continuously amended to meet the aspirations of the people in an informal manner by judiciary and adoption of the new conventions.
- Due to the wisdom of the founding fathers of the constitution, western notions like Democracy and Republicanism worked in Asian countries like India.

Previous Year/ Prospective Questions

1. The complexity and diversity of the Indian constitution can be traced back to the lively debates in the Indian constituent assembly. Elaborate.

2. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)



Source: The Print

Introduction

- The Constitution provides for four watchdogs (i.e., the Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and the Union Public Service Commission) that help to keep a check on different functions of the State.
- The Union Public Service Commission is a watchdog to ensure fair recruitment based on merit.
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India.
- The Public Service Commissions were established by the Government of India Act, 1935, at the Provincial level known as the State Public Service Commission, and the constitution of India gave it a constitutional status.
- UPSC is an independent constitutional body in the sense that it has been directly created by the Constitution.

Constitutional Provisions

- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the powers and functions of the UPSC.
- Article 315 - Provisions for Public Service Commissions for the Union and the States.
- Article 316 - Provisions regarding appointment and term of office of members.
- Article 317 - Provisions regarding removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission.
- Article 320 - Provisions regarding functions of Public Service Commissions.
- Article 323 - Provisions regarding reports of Public Service Commissions.

Composition Of UPSC.

- The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
- The usual commission consists of 9 to 11 members, including the chairman. (the number is not defined in Constitution, and it changes from time to time and is decided by the president)
- The current sanctioned strength of the Commissions is 11 (i.e., one Chairman and ten members).

Appointment and Eligibility of Members

- The Chairman and other members of UPSC are appointed by the President of India.
- Qualification: No specific qualification is mentioned in the Constitution, but it mandates that 50% of the members of UPSC should be the ones who have held government office for at least 10 years.
- The President is empowered by the Constitution of India to determine the conditions of service of the Chairman and other members.
- The appointed person should not hold any Office of Profit.
- Tenure: For the Union Public Service Commission, it is for six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

- Resignation: They can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the president.
- Report - Article 323- Union Commission submit to the President an annual report of the work done.

Removal

- The President can remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC from the office under the following circumstances:
 - If he is adjudged an insolvent (that is, has gone bankrupt);
 - If he engages, during his term of office, in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
 - If he is, in the opinion of the president, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.
 - The president can also remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC for misbehaviour.

Structure Of The Organization

- UPSC members regulation 1969 governs the terms and conditions of service of chairman and members of the Commission.
- The functions of the Commission are performed by a Secretariat headed by a Secretary with four Additional Secretaries. The secretariat is further divided into several divisions, each undertaking a specific responsibility which are as follows: General Administration. Examinations. Service-related matters like Promotions. Appointments.

Powers Of UPSC

- The main power of UPSC is the advisory power to the President on the following affairs on all matters related to the appointment of the civil servants of the governments.
- The evaluation of the efficiency and standard of the candidates for appointment, promotion or transfer in all civil posts.
- On all matters regarding the discipline and punctuality of the employees of the civil services.
- It also has powers to deal with matters related to punishment measures of those employees who have violated discipline.

Functions Of UPSC

- It conducts examinations for appointments to the all-India services, Central services and public services of the centrally administered territories.
- Under Article 320, appoint meritorious and potential candidates in administrative services after selecting them through competitive examinations.
- To assist the legislature in framing and operating schemes of joint recruitment.
- Lay down principles for appointment, promotion and transfer for the civil services.
- To look at all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the administration.
- The additional functions relating to the services of the Union can be conferred on UPSC by the Parliament.
- Any other matter related to personnel management.

Independence Of UPSC

- Security of Tenure- Removal after Supreme court inquiry in misbehaviour case.
- Appointment and Terms of condition are determined by the President
- Financial independence through charged expenditure.
- No further employment for the chairman of UPSC- No second term for chairman, whereas A member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state.
- The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for reappointment to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term).

Evaluation Of UPSC

- The Constitution visualizes the UPSC to be the 'watch-dog of merit system' in India.
- The role of UPSC is limited, the recommendations made by it are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government.
- The government can also make rules which regulate the scope of the advisory functions of UPSC.
- Conflict with CVC- CVC as an anti-corruption and disciplinary agency has in some aspects usurped the role of UPSC.

Reforms Needed

- As the think tank for the rapidly changing administrative requirements. Decentralization of work and increasing efficiency.
- Association with research institutes and universities for the management of administration courses.
- Changes in the Recruitment process- Separation of the IFS exam, Introduction of the psychometric tests- Evaluation after 15 years of services etc.

Prospective Question

1. With new challenges emerging in the Indian democracy, there is a need for Civil Servants to evolve parallelly. In this context, examine the role of UPSC in this regard.



3. National Commission for Scheduled Castes



- National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is a constitutional body under Article 338, that works to safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes (SC) in India.
- The first National Commission for Scheduled Castes was constituted in 2004 with Suraj Bhan as the chairman.

Evolution of the NCSC

- Originally, Article 338 of the Constitution provided for the appointment of a Special Officer for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to investigate all matters relating to the constitutional safeguards for the SCs and STs and to report to the President on their working. He was designated as the Commissioner for SCs and STs and assigned the said duty.
- In 1978, the Government (through a Resolution) set up a non-statutory multi member Commission for SCs and STs; the Office of Commissioner for SCs and STs also continued to exist.
- In 1987, the Government (through another Resolution) modified the functions of the Commission and renamed it as the National Commission for SCs and STs.
- 65th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1990 - established a high level multi-member National Commission for SCs and STs replacing the Commissioner for SCs and STs as well as the Commission set up under the Resolution of 1987.
- 89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003 - bifurcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies, namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (under Article 338) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (under Article 338-A).
- The separate National Commission for SCs came into existence in 2004.

Composition of NCSC

- The NCSC consists of one chairperson, one vice-chairperson and three full-time members. It is mandatory to have one female member.
- Tenure: All the members of the Commission have a tenure of 3 years.
- Appointment - All the members are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- Conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President

Functions of NCSC

- It monitors and investigates all issues concerning the safeguards provided for the SCs under the constitution.
- It inquires into complaints relating to the deprivation of the rights and safeguards of the SCs.
- Advising the central or state governments with respect to the socioeconomic development of the SCs, presenting annual reports to the President.
- The Commission also charged with similar functions with regard to the Anglo-Indian Community as it does with respect to the SCs.
- Till 2018, the commission was also required to discharge similar functions with regard to the other backward classes (OBCs). It was relieved from this responsibility by the 102nd Amendment Act of 2018.
- Monitoring activity
 - Setting up of special courts for the speedy trial of offences under the Civil Rights Act (1955) and the Atrocities Act (1989).
 - Monitors the case disposal rates of these courts. Over the years, the Commission has conducted several on-the-spot inquiries into complaints of atrocities.

Powers of NCSC

- The Commission is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.
- The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters:
 - Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
 - Requiring the discovery and production of any document;
 - Receiving evidence on affidavits;
 - Requisitioning any public record from any court or office;
 - Issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
 - Any other matter which the President may determine.
- The Central government and the state governments are required to consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the SCs.

Evaluation of NCSC

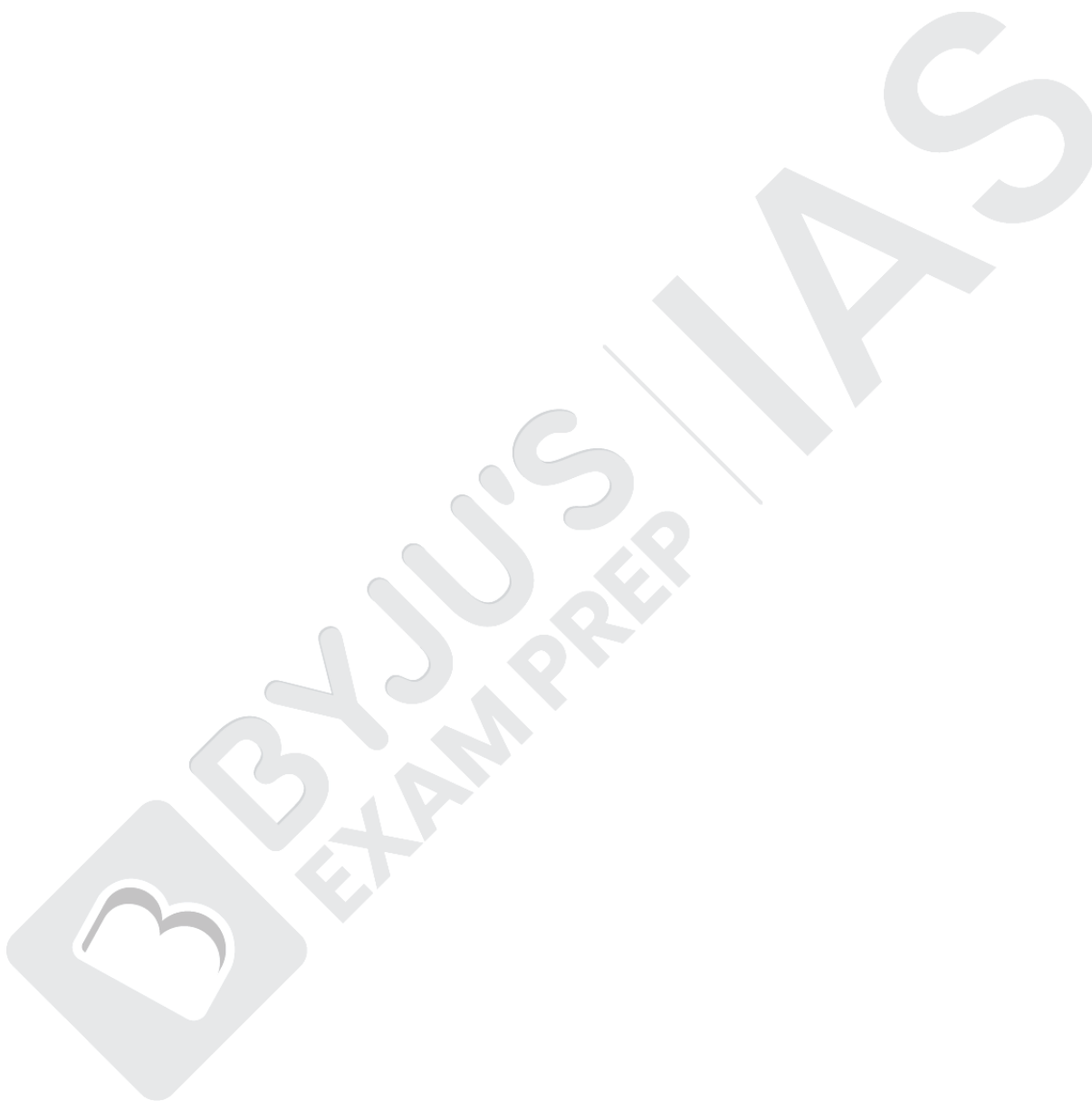
- Elite bias in working - Works only in service-related aspects working in the narrow constitutional mandate. Only upward sections grievances are addressed.
- Commission criticized for its inability to reduce the incidence of atrocities and violence against Dalits, or to effectively fight the untouchability.
- Lack of institutionalization in the procedures of appointment.
- The most significant handicap of the Commission is the fact that its decisions are not binding, but recommendatory.
- Overlapping functions - Constitutional obligation of monitoring the working of safeguards for S.Cs and its functioning as a body that redresses complaints of violations of safeguards.

Some Recommendations

- An amendment is required in Article 338 itself, or in the rules by which the President may fix a period for the discussion of the Report in Parliament.
- Qualitative and Quantitative reports.
- The process of appointment to the Commission should be made more autonomous of the government of the day.
- Conflict between the Minister-Chairman and members of the commission should be addressed.
- Giving the commission additional powers like, in the matter of criminal investigation within cases.

Views of Harsh Srivastava

- NCSC should help better institutional structures and human resources for effective implementation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.
- The Commission should work with legislators to identify four or five priorities across all government schemes and reorient all SC sub plan spending around those priorities.
- The Commission should create a platform for structured engagement with civil society groups working on Dalit issues.



4. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)



Introduction

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
- In 2004 the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely
 - The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
 - The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

Scheduled Tribes in India

- According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 104 million representing 8.6% of the country's population.
- The essential characteristics of these communities are:
 - Primitive Traits
 - Geographical isolation
 - Distinct culture
 - Shy to contact with the community at large
 - Economically backwards
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 - Set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing a more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Background

- Under the original provisions of Art.338 of the Constitution, a Special Officer (Commissioner) for SC&ST appointed was assigned the duty to investigate all matters relating to the Safeguards for SCs and STs in various Statutes and to report to the President upon the working of these Safeguards.
- In 1978 the Government through a Resolution decided to set up a Multi-Member Commission for SCs and STs. Bhola Paswan Shastri as Chairperson and having 4 Members (with 3-year tenure) - Office of Commissioner for SCs & STs also Continued to exist.
- The constitutional National Commission for SCs & STs by 65th Constitutional Amendment Act 1990. It was headed by Sh. Ram Dhan with 6 Members- replacing the Special Officer for SCs and STs.

Composition of NCST

- The NCST consists of one chairperson, one vice-chairperson and three full-time members. It is mandatory to have one female member.
- Tenure: All the members of the Commission have a tenure of 3 years.
- Appointment - All the members are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- Conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President

Functions of NCST

- To investigate and monitor all matters related to safeguarding the provisions for Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution and evaluating the working of those safeguards.
- To inquire into specific complaints concerned with the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the STs.
- The commission participates and advises on the planning process for the socio-economic development of the STs and also evaluates the progress of the various developmental activities.
- The commission presents an annual report on the working of safeguards and other reports like initiatives from government to the President.
- Commission discharges other functions like Measures taken for Tribal rights like ownership of resources, MFP, rehabilitation of displaced, prevention of alienation of tribal land.
- Implementation of PESA, reducing practice of shifting cultivation etc.

Constitutional Safeguards for STs

- Educational & Cultural Safeguards
 - Art. 15(4) - Special provisions for advancement of other backward classes (which includes STs).
 - Art. 29 - Protection of Interests of Minorities, Right to conserve distinct language, Script or Cultures. (which includes STs).
 - Art. 46 - DPSP for the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people- Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes-Protection from social injustice and exploitation,
 - Art. 350 - Instruction in Mother tongue.
- Social Safeguard
 - Art. 23 - Prohibition of traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar form of forced labour
 - Art. 24 - Forbidding child labour. Economic Safeguards
 - Art. 244 (1) - Provisions of Fifth Schedule- Governance of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.
 - Art. 275 - Grants in-Aid to specified States (STs &SAs) covered under Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution.
- Political Safeguards
 - Art.164 (1) - Provides for Tribal Affairs Ministers.
 - Art. 330 - Reservation of seats for STs in Lok Sabha
 - Art. 332 - Reservation of seats for STs in State Legislatures
 - Art. 334 - 10 years period for reservation (Amended several times to extend the period)
 - Art. 243 - Reservation of seats in Panchayats
 - Art. 371 - Special provisions in respect of NE States and Sikkim

Report of the Commission

- The Commission presents an annual report to the President. It can also submit a report as and when it thinks necessary.
- The President places all such reports before the Parliament.
- The President also forwards any report of the Commission pertaining to a state government to the state governor.
- The governor places it before the state legislature, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission.

Prospective Question

1. Despite their constitutional status, the National Commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes haven't been able to fulfil their mandate. Critically analyse.

5. G20

Context:



- Recently in the Third week of November 2022 - the 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia.
- India takes over the next presidency of the G20.

G20

- The G20 is a strategic multilateral platform connecting the world's major developed and emerging economies.
- The G20 holds a strategic role in securing future global economic growth and prosperity.
- Starting in 1999 as a meeting for the finance minister and central bank governors, the G20 has evolved into a yearly summit involving the Head of State and Government.
- In addition to that, the Sherpa meetings (in charge of carrying out negotiations and building consensus among Leaders), working groups, and special events are also organized throughout the year.



Origins of G20

- The G20 was formed in 1999 with the aim of discussing policies in order to achieve international financial stability.
- This forum was formed as an effort to find a solution to the global economic conditions hit by the global financial crisis in 1997-1999 by involving middle-income countries and having systemic economic influence, including Indonesia.
- On the advice of the G7 Finance Ministers, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors began holding meetings to discuss the response to the global financial crisis that occurred.
- After that, the Minister of Finance level meeting is held regularly..
- Nine years later, in November 2008, the leaders of the G20 countries gathered for the first G20 Summit.
- On that occasion, the country's leaders coordinated the global response to the impact of the financial crisis that occurred in the US at that time and agreed to hold a follow-up meeting.

- To prepare for the annual summit, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, together with Sherpas, meet several times a year.

Participants/Members

- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- Spain is also invited as a permanent guest.
- Each year, the Presidency invites guest countries, which take full part in the G20 exercise.
- Several international and regional organisations also participate, granting the forum an even broader representation.



How does the G20 Work?

- The presidency of the G20 rotates yearly among its members, with the country that holds the presidency working together with its predecessor and successor, also known as the Troika, to ensure the continuity of the agenda.
- Currently Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries.
- The G20 has no permanent secretariat.
- Agenda and work coordination is completed by G20 leaders' personal representatives, known as sherpas together with finance ministers and central bank governors.
- The pinnacle of the G20 work in each cycle is a communiqué expressing members' commitments and vision for the future, drafted from the chosen recommendations and deliverables from ministerial meetings and other work streams.

Significance of G20

- The G20 has no parallel among intergovernmental forums that comprises major developed as well as developing economies, thus offering a unique platform which brings together the world's major economies.
- G20 accounts for 80% of global GDP and 75% of global trade and 60% of the global population
- Also takes into account other relevant issues of global importance such as terrorism, climate change, taxation, energy, etc.
- Meetings at the Highest Level – National Leaders.
- G20 provides unique platforms in which the presiding country can invite some guest countries and international organisations to its G20 meetings and summit.
 - ex. In the 2022 Summit, countries such as Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as well as International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) are invited.

Bali Summit, 2022 – Outcomes

- It was the 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit.
- As the theme says, 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger', the summit focus is on post-pandemic economic recovery (food and energy security) as well as the disruption of global value chains and lessening the effects caused by the Russia – Ukraine war.
- Focus on three main pillars:
 - Global Health Architecture,
 - Sustainable Energy Transition, and
 - Digital Transformation
- Russia's aggression against Ukraine is condemned.
- The leaders vowed to work together to address food security issues.
- G20 leaders decided to pursue measures to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, reaffirming their commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.
 - G20 countries account for 81 percent of energy-related CO2 emissions and 77 percent of global energy consumption.
- G20 countries agreed to encourage international collaboration to further develop digital skills and literacy.
- Focus on Health
 - Committed to promoting a healthy and sustainable recovery towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage.
 - They supported the World Bank's establishment of a new financial intermediary fund for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (the 'Pandemic Fund').
 - Leaders committed to strengthening global health governance.

Challenges before the G20 Member Countries.

- The implications of the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - Disrupted the Global supply chains.
 - Spiked the Global inflation - energy prices.
 - Posed a threat to food security.
- Slow growth of Major Economies.
- Increasing geopolitical rifts.
 - Tensions between US and China, US and Russia, etc.

India's Presidency, 2023

- India's Presidency begins in December 2022.
- India will host the 18th G20 Summit in September 2023.

Significance of G20 for India

- India is currently a part of the G20 Troika (current, previous, and incoming G20 presidencies) comprising Indonesia, Italy, and India.
- During India's imminent presidency, India, Indonesia, and Brazil formed the troika. This would be the first time the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies, providing them with a greater voice at a very crucial juncture when the fundamentals are moving fast in a reset mode.
- Platform to highlight Global Issues that concern India.
- Concerted action with like-minded countries to stand up against China and Pakistan.
- Huge scope for Economic Integration: G20 accounts for over 80% of Global Trade Value.

Prospective Question

1. The G20 Presidency is an opportunity for India to cement its place as an emerging world leader. Do you agree? Elaborate.

6. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Context

- Recently, in November 2022, the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits were held in Cambodia.



- The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, accompanied by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, led the Indian delegation to Cambodia to attend 19th ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and the 17th East Asia Summit.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Source: Wikipedia

- ASEAN is a regional organisation founded in 1967 to foster political and social stability in the Asia-Pacific region's postcolonial governments.
- Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.



Source: Wikipedia

Objectives of ASEAN

- ASEAN is a regional organization that aims to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations.
- ASEAN promotes regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.
- ASEAN promotes active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields.
- The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.

Historical Background

- Bangkok Declaration, 1967: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN in 1984, followed by VietNam in 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar in 1997, and Cambodia in 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.

Organizational Structure

- ASEAN is headed by a chair—a position that rotates annually among member states—and is assisted by the secretariat, based in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Important decisions are usually reached through consultation and consensus guided by the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful resolution of conflicts.
- In 2007 ASEAN charter a constitutional document that provided the grouping with legal status and an institutional framework.
- The charter laid out a blueprint for a community made up of three branches:
 - The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC),
 - The ASEAN Political-Security Community, and
 - The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.
- The ASEAN Summit is the supreme policy-making body of ASEAN. It meets twice a year and is composed of the ASEAN Heads of State or Government.
- The ASEAN Coordinating Council is the second highest body within ASEAN and is composed of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers. Like the Summit, the Coordinating Council meets twice yearly. The Coordinating Council decides the criteria and rules for ASEAN engagement with external entities, including civil society organizations.

- The ASEAN Community Councils include the Political-Security Community Council, ASEAN Economic Community Council, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council
- The ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies are constituted by the ministers from different countries for specific sectors.
- ASEAN intergovernmental commission on Human Rights.

Other Initiatives by ASEAN

From the starting of regional cooperation, ASEAN developed several regional conventions and forums to interact with the world,

- **ASEAN Regional Forum (1994):** It is a forum for security coordination, which includes India, South Korea, and other countries with 10 ASEAN member states.
- **ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+6 Initiatives, East Asia Summits:** These are the forums developed by ASEAN for close economic cooperation with the other east Asian countries like China, Japan, Korea, after the 1997 economic crisis. With the inclusion of India, Australia, and New Zealand, EAS formed the lynchpin of the Asia-Pacific region.
- **ASEAN's Foreign Relations:** Though not a single foreign policy agenda like E.U., ASEAN maintains relations with Dialogue partnerships, alliances, and diplomatic missions.
- ASEAN countries in 1994 declared South-East Asia as a Nuclear Free Zone.

The success of ASEAN

- **Economic Development:**
 - ASEAN has made notable progress toward economic integration and free trade in the region.
 - In 1992, members created the ASEAN Free Trade Area, with the goals of creating a single market, increasing intra-ASEAN trade and investments, and attracting foreign investment.
 - Intra-ASEAN trade as a share of the bloc's overall trade grew from about 19% in 1993 to 23% in 2017.
 - Across the grouping, more than 90 percent of goods are traded with no tariffs. The grouping's gross domestic product growth increased from 4.8 percent in 2016 to 5.3 percent in 2017.
 - Total trade value grew from US\$2.238 trillion in 2016 to US\$2.574 trillion in 2017. In 2020, ASEAN signed RCEP, an FTA with ASEAN+6 countries.
- **Peace and Security:**
 - ASEAN has developed and expanded the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia as a foundation of inter-state relations that has been endorsed by 27 states within and outside Southeast Asia.
 - It is the success of ASEAN to declare itself the Nuclear Free Zone.
 - ASEAN and China also reached a framework for the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea in 2017.
 - ASEAN has established the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMMplus for external partners as foundations of intra-ASEAN defense cooperation and military cooperation between ASEAN and its external partners.
- **Socio-Cultural Integration:**
 - ASEAN positively contributed to social progress by reducing the proportion of people living under poverty from one in every two persons to one in every eight within two decades.

Criticism/Challenges of ASEAN

Though as we have seen ASEAN has achieved quite a success in different fields, even surpassing E.U. in some arena-like nuclear disarmament, there has been strong criticism of ASEAN by various thinkers,

1. There has been strong criticism of the ASEAN way of working, which focuses on principles of Consensus building and Non-interference. According to Joshua Kurlantzick, these norms of consensus and non-interference have increasingly become outdated, and they have hindered ASEAN's influence on issues ranging from dealing with China and crises, in particular, ASEAN states like Cambodia, etc.
2. **Challenges to Economic Integration:** Despite the progress in economic development, some of the important industries are not covered by preferential trade measures, and differences in income among members could make integration difficult.

3. **Security Challenges:** Disagreements over security issues continue to challenge ASEAN's unity. The group's most glaring issue has been finding a joint response to the rise of China. According to Mark Beeson, China's re-emergence as the major power in the East Asia region is not only likely to transform Southeast Asia's relations with China, but also perhaps the internal relations within ASEAN itself. Maritime disputes in the South China Sea divide ASEAN, unresolved border disputes between members also created challenges to regional unity. ASEAN members have been divided over their ties to China and the United States.
4. **Structural Challenge:** Like E.U. which has criteria for admission and has uniformity of having democratic states, ASEAN is a widely diverse regional organization with a range of regimes, from authoritarian, to socialist and democratizing states.
5. ASEAN's reputation to tackle human rights issues is another major challenge that has harmed the organization for decades. Myanmar's Rohingya refugee crisis recently shows the ineffectiveness of the ASEAN Human Rights charter.

India and ASEAN Relationship



Source: ORF

History of India-ASEAN Relations

- Cultural ties that go back to ancient era - Cholas, Buddhism, Hinduism, diaspora, etc.
- India and Indonesia were one of the founding members of NAM.
- South Asia was part of the India's Look East policy in early 1990s
- India - ASEAN Partnerships
 - Sectoral partner in 1992
 - Dialogue partner in 1996
 - Summit-level partner in 2002
- The year 2022 marks 30 years of ASEAN-India relations and it has been designated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

Areas of Cooperation

Political Corporations

- India and ASEAN countries are part of 30 dialogue mechanisms that exist across various sectors.
- Common platforms - ARF, ASEM, BIMSTEC, EAS
- 'Delhi Dialogue' (DD) mechanism hosted by India annually, traditionally inaugurated jointly by India and ASEAN at the Foreign Minister's level, serves as the main Track 1.5 mechanism for continuous engagement.
- ASEAN-India Centre as a centre of excellence for research, advocacy, etc.
- India contributed \$ 1 million to COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.

Economic Cooperation

- The three main formal institutional mechanisms being used to promote the India-ASEAN economic 'connect':
 - ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations (AEM + India)
 - The ASEAN India Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (2003)
 - ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC)
- Commodity trade between India and ASEAN region has reached 98.39 billion in the period 2021-2022.
- Investment:
 - Cumulative FDIs from ASEAN to India was \$117.88 billion and Indian investment into ASEAN is US\$ 55.5 billion.
- India also actively participates in various 'ASEAN-led frameworks' like:
 - East Asia Summit (EAS),
 - ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF),
 - ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting+ (ADMM+)
 - Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)

Development Cooperation

- ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund (\$50M)
- Space
 - Space Data Processing Facility at Ho Chi Minh City
 - Training of personnel in space science
- Science and technology
 - ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund (\$5M)
 - ASEAN-India Innovation Platform
- ASEAN-India Green Fund (\$5M)
- India has set up \$75M Project Development Fund to develop manufacturing hubs in CMLV countries
- Agriculture
 - ASEAN-India Agriculture Ministers Meeting

Defence Cooperation

- ADDM+ brings together Defence Ministers from the 10 ASEAN nations plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States on a biannual basis
- India has held joint military drills with Singapore, Thailand under its SIMBEX
- SITMEX exercises to ensure maritime security, peace in the Indo Pacific
- India, Indonesia held 37th edition of coordinated patrol
- Restricting drug trafficking, terrorism, piracy and armed robbery.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

- Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) announced by the PM Modi at 14th EAS in 2019 which aimed at forging partnerships in the key areas like:
 - Maritime Security
 - Capacity building and resource sharing in the region.
 - Disaster risk reduction and management.
 - Science, technology and academic cooperation.
 - Trade, connectivity and maritime transport.

Issues in the Relationship

- India opting out of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- Negative trade balance - FTA needs to be updated
- Indian Projects like India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway not keeping pace with China's BRI model.
- Some members like Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar are succumbing to Chinese inducements and pressure

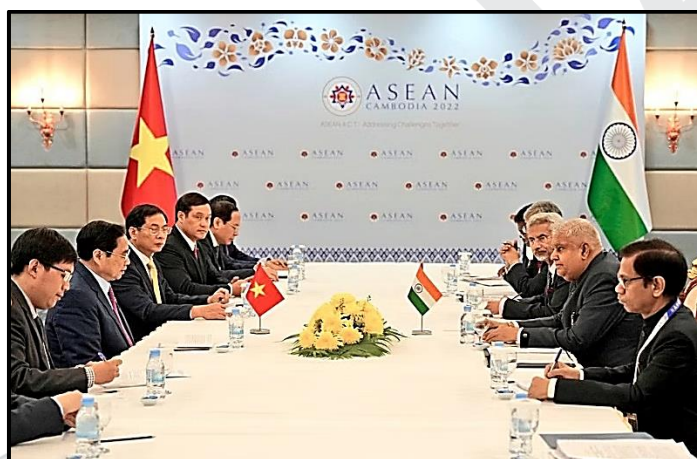
East Asia Summit

- The East Asia Summit (EAS), founded in 2005, is a forum for strategic debate and cooperation among 18 regional leaders on the critical political, security, and economic concerns confronting the Indo-Pacific region.
- There are 16 participating countries which includes 10 ASEAN countries and Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.
- The EAS membership accounts for approximately 54% of the world's population and 58% of global GDP.
- The EAS is an ASEAN-centered forum, and its chairperson must be an ASEAN member.
- Key areas of Cooperation include Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, ASEAN Connectivity, Economic Trade & Cooperation, Food and Maritime Security.

Significance of East Asia Summit for India

- East Asia Summit acts as an alternative to APEC, in which India is not a member.
- India's admission to the EAS reflects its expanding economic and political influence.
- It plays an important role in India's Act East Policy.

India-ASEAN Summit, 2022



Source: Greater Kashmir

- The Vice President of India attended the 19th ASEAN - India Summit to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in November 2022.
- The Vice President also attended the 17th East Asia Summit.
- 2022 marks the 30th year of ASEAN-India relations and has been designated the "ASEAN-India friendship year" by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

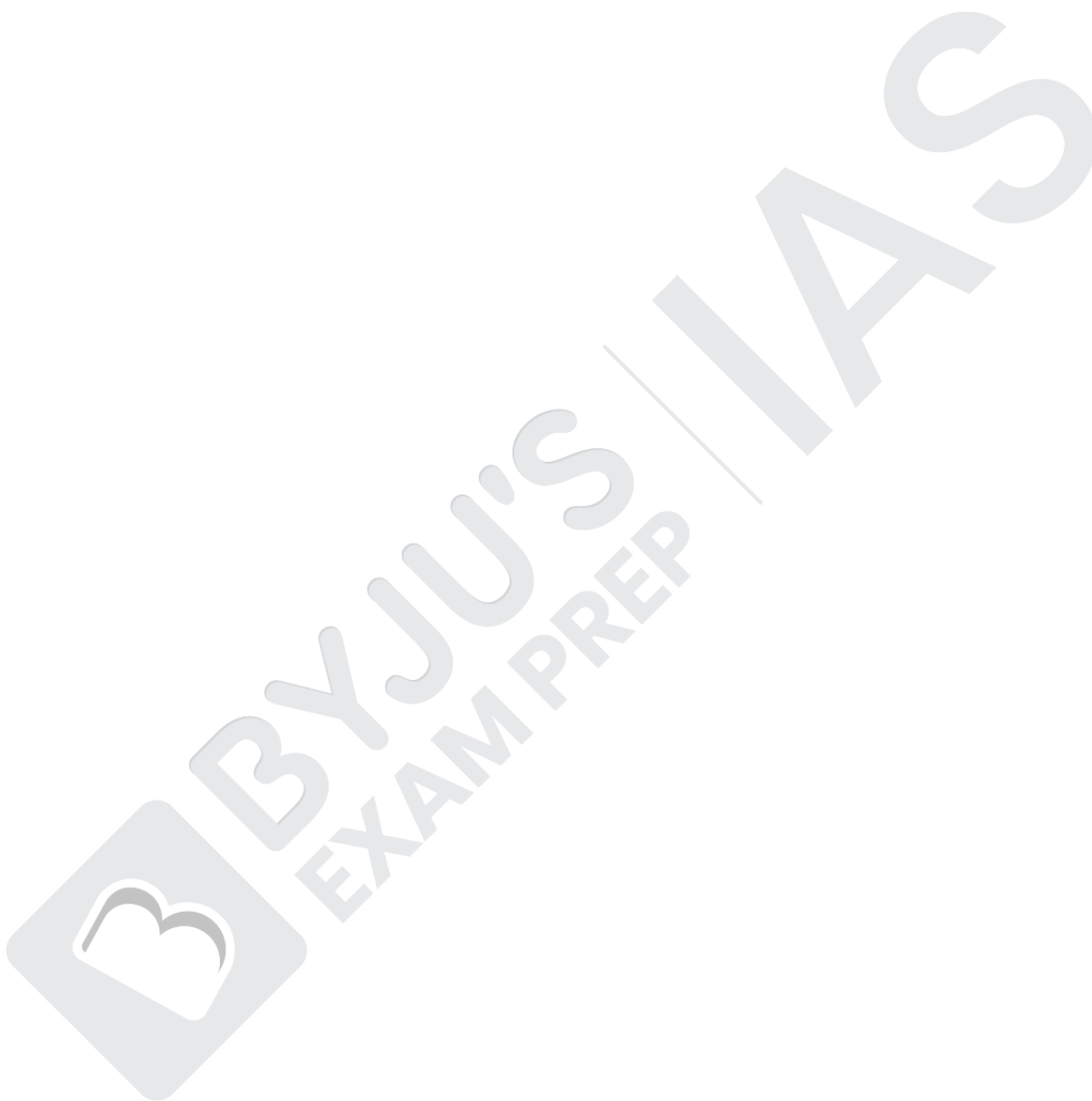
Outcome of the Summit

- Act East Policy
 - India praised the profound cultural, economic, and civilizational linkages that have existed between India and South East Asia since time immemorial, stating that the India-ASEAN partnership is a key component of India's ACT-EAST policy.
 - India reaffirmed its commitment to ASEAN's significance in the Indo-Pacific.
- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
 - ASEAN and India issued a joint statement announcing the expansion of their current Strategic Partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
 - It reaffirmed India's commitment to expanding India-ASEAN collaboration in a variety of areas, including marine activities, counter-terrorism, cyber security, digital economy, environment, science and technology, and tourism, among others.
 - It proposes hastening the revision of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) in order to make it more user-friendly, straightforward, and trade-friendly.

- Peace and Security
 - India - ASEAN reiterated the significance of preserving and supporting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation, and overflight in the Indo-Pacific area.
- Deepening Dialogue and Coordination
 - The two sides reaffirmed the importance of deepening dialogue and coordination through ASEAN-led mechanisms.

Prospective Question

1. Close cooperation with ASEAN has been the driver of India's Act East policy. Discuss.



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12

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62 out of
1228 vacancies

2014

82 out of
1364 vacancies

2015

162 out of
1164 vacancies

2016

215 out of
1209 vacancies

2017

236 out of
1058 vacancies

2018

183 out of
812 vacancies

2019

165 out of
829 vacancies

2020

281 out of
761 vacancies

2021

188 out of
685 vacancies

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