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GENERAL STUDIES 2: POLITY

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TOPIC: DEMOCRACY

Emergence of a Democratic Nation

1. **Bharat transitioned from colonial rule to a fully-fledged democracy with universal adult franchise.**

After centuries of colonial domination, India gained independence in 1947 and adopted a democratic framework where all adults had voting rights, irrespective of caste, gender, or economic status.

2. **Despite violence and challenges, the nation embraced a Constitution asserting democratic identity.**

The partition and associated violence tested the nation's resolve, yet India successfully framed and adopted a Constitution reflecting its commitment to democracy, equality, and justice.

3. **India emerged resolute to succeed as an independent and equitable republic.**

With independence came not just sovereignty but also a strong determination to build a nation rooted in fairness, inclusivity, and progress.

Initial Skepticism of India's Democracy

1. **Many predicted the collapse of India's finely drafted Constitution, which guaranteed fundamental freedoms, equality, dignity, and fraternity.**

Critics doubted whether India's unique democratic experiment would endure, given its vast diversity, economic struggles, and social divisions.

2. **India's universal suffrage, rare even among Western democracies at the time, represented a commitment to inclusive governance.**

While many Western countries still had restrictions on voting rights, India adopted universal adult franchise, underscoring its inclusive democratic values.

3. **The Constitution also aimed to promote social justice and equitable distribution of resources.**

Beyond political equality, the Constitution envisioned reducing economic and social disparities by ensuring access to resources for all.

Achievements in 75 Years

1. **Life expectancy has increased from 32 to 75 years.**

Post-independence, advancements in healthcare, nutrition, and sanitation significantly boosted the average lifespan of Indians.



2. **India has become a top global producer of food grains, with literacy rates rising from 12% to 75%.**

Agricultural reforms and educational initiatives transformed India from a food-deficient country into a global agricultural powerhouse with significant improvements in literacy.

3. **Infrastructure development, technological advancements, and space exploration (e.g., Chandrayaan missions) have highlighted India's progress.**

India has achieved remarkable success in areas such as transportation, digital connectivity, and space technology, becoming a symbol of resilience and innovation.

4. **Politically and economically, India has demonstrated stability, contrasting with its neighbors and some older democracies.**

Unlike many countries facing frequent political upheavals, India has maintained democratic governance and steady economic growth.

Reflection on Challenges

1. **The Constitution's guarantees of dignity and fraternity remain unfulfilled for many marginalized groups.**

Despite legal assurances, marginalized communities often face systemic discrimination and exclusion.

2. **Stark inequalities persist in wealth and income distribution, with a minority holding a disproportionate share.**

A small section of society controls most of the nation's wealth, while a large population struggles with poverty and limited opportunities.

3. **Gender disparity and caste discrimination, including manual scavenging, continue to undermine social justice.**

Issues like unequal treatment of women, caste-based oppression, and inhumane practices such as manual scavenging highlight the gaps in achieving social equity.

4. **True dignity requires ensuring equality, eliminating discrimination, and recognizing every citizen's worth.**

Upholding the principle of dignity involves creating an environment where every individual feels valued and empowered.

Limitations in the Legal System

1. **The legal system faces significant challenges, including delays, understaffing, and an overwhelming case backlog.**

Court cases often take years to resolve due to insufficient resources, leading to a lack of timely justice.

2. **With a population of 1.4 billion, there are only 25,081 judges, and many courtrooms remain understaffed.**



The number of judges is inadequate to handle the enormous volume of cases in a country with such a large population.

3. **Judges handle massive caseloads, leaving limited time for effective legal resolution.**

Judges are overburdened, making it difficult to give adequate attention to each case, thereby compromising the quality of justice.

4. **There is an urgent need for systemic reforms to ensure affordable, timely justice and to enhance procedural efficiency.**

To address these issues, reforms such as increasing judicial resources and streamlining processes are crucial.

The Digital Revolution

1. **India is experiencing a significant digital transformation, impacting transactions, education, and access to services.**

Digital tools have revolutionized how people engage with banking, education, and government services.

2. **However, a “digital divide” persists, exacerbated by geographical disparities, low digital literacy, and limited infrastructure.**

Not all regions and populations have equal access to digital resources, leaving many excluded from its benefits.

3. **Efforts are needed to bridge this divide to ensure equitable access to rights, opportunities, and services.**

Policies focusing on expanding internet access, improving digital literacy, and building infrastructure are necessary to include marginalized communities.

Climate Change and Its Impact

1. **India faces severe climate challenges, including unpredictable rainfall, floods, and droughts, which threaten agriculture, public health, and safety.**

Climate changes are leading to extreme weather events that disrupt livelihoods and food security.

2. **These environmental issues disproportionately affect marginalized populations, exacerbating existing inequalities.**

Vulnerable communities bear the brunt of climate change due to limited resources to adapt or recover.

3. **Addressing these challenges is critical to ensuring sustainable development and national well-being.**

Mitigating climate impacts through sustainable practices and disaster management is vital for India's future.



Redefining Prosperity and Well-being

- 1. Prosperity cannot be measured solely by national wealth; the well-being of individuals is equally important.**
True progress lies in improving the quality of life for every citizen, not just increasing GDP.
- 2. Barriers such as inequality and social exclusion must be dismantled to achieve social, economic, and political justice.**
Structural changes are required to create a fairer society where everyone has equal opportunities.
- 3. True progress requires ensuring dignity, equality, and justice for all citizens, transcending narrow domestic divisions.**
Building unity and inclusion across social and regional divides is key to long-term progress.

The Supreme Court's Role

- 1. The Supreme Court must uphold the Constitution's spirit and address systemic issues in the justice delivery system.**
As the guardian of the Constitution, the judiciary must ensure that its principles are upheld in practice.
- 2. Judicial accountability, accessibility, and efficiency are vital to realizing the goals of inclusive justice.**
The judiciary needs to be transparent and responsive to public needs while ensuring timely resolution of cases.
- 3. Public dialogue and coordination with governance systems are essential to improving access to speedy justice.**
Collaborative efforts between the judiciary, government, and civil society can help resolve justice delivery challenges

The Way Forward

- 1. At its 75th anniversary, the Constitution remains a guiding light, but challenges persist in ensuring equity and dignity for all.**
While India has made significant progress, much work remains to fully achieve the ideals of the Constitution. **Sustainable solutions, systemic reforms, and collective efforts are necessary to uphold the values of justice, liberty, and fraternity.**
Addressing complex issues requires coordinated action by the government, judiciary, and society.
- 2. The nation must strive to fulfill the constitutional promise of equality and justice, ensuring dignity for every individual.**
The ultimate goal is to create a society where all citizens, regardless of their background, can live with dignity and equality.