

**INDIAN CONSTITUTION—HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS, EVOLUTION, FEATURES, AMENDMENTS, SIGNIFICANT PROVISIONS AND BASIC STRUCTURE.[GS-II]**

**The Right to Property in India**

The article highlights the history of the right to property in post-colonial India and the power struggle between the judiciary and the legislature over this issue.

**Debates Surrounding Right To Property In India**

The right to property was a fundamental right protected under Article 19(1)(f) of the Constitution.

1) **Bela Banerjee case**– In this case the court focused on how to interpret Articles 19(1)(f) and 31(2) of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of India decided that in Article 31(2), the word “compensation” meant providing the owner with a fair equivalent for what they lost.

To change this interpretation, the 4th constitutional amendment was passed in 1955. This amendment explicitly stated that courts could not question the inadequacy of compensation.

2) **Kesavananda Bharati Case**– Parliament understood that the term “compensation” in Article 31(2) was causing problems. So, they replaced it with “amount” through the 25<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, 1971, which prevented the courts from interpreting it.

The Supreme Court in this judgement interpreted that while the adequacy of the amount paid was non-justiciable, the principles for determining such compensation were still open to judicial review.

3) **44<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment**– The Janata Party government passed the Constitution 44th Amendment Act in 1978, which deleted the right to property from the list of Fundamental Rights and placed it as a Constitutional Right under Article 300-A.

Article 31, which had caused a lot of debate about how compensation should be decided, was removed.

**Arguments Against The Deletion Of Article 31**

1) One of the dissenting judges in Kesavananda Bharati held that that the right to property should be considered a basic feature of the Constitution.

2) The power granted under Entry 42 of the Concurrent List allows for “acquisition,” not “confiscation,” and it’s stressed that compensation should still mean what was defined in the Bela Banerjee case.

**What are various Supreme court judgements after the deletion of Articles 19(1)(f) and 31?**

In the years following the deletion of Articles 19(1)(f) and 31, the Supreme Court has held that the right to property is not only a constitutional right but also a human right. In the **M.C. Mehta case**, the Court stated that a law depriving a person of property must be just, fair, and reasonable.

**B.K. Ravichandra case**– In this case, the Court observed that the phrasing of Article 300-A resembled Articles 21 and 265, and its guarantee could not be read down.

**The Kolkata Municipal Corporation Case** – The recent decision in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation case has fleshed out seven facets protected under Article 300-A, including the right to notice, the right to be heard etc.

The Court has affirmed that the obligation to provide compensation, which means the value of the property taken in monetary terms, as established in the Bela Banerjee case, has been restored.

**SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE’S ACT [GS-II]**

**Neglect of Children’s Issues in Elections**

The article highlights the lack of attention given to children’s interests by political parties in India, despite children constituting about 30% of the country’s population. It emphasizes the need for political parties to address issues related to children’s nutrition, education, and health in their election manifestos.

**What is the education related promises made by different political parties in India?**

1) **BJP**-

1. A) Promises to strengthen PM SHRI Schools, Ekalavya Schools, and other model schools.

2. B) BJP: Aims for 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) from pre-school to secondary level but lacks concrete steps to achieve this.

2) **Congress**:- Promises to amend the Right to Education Act (RTE) to make education from Class 1-8 compulsory and free. Congress and DMK: Promise financial support and economic opportunities to curb dropout rates.

3) **CPI(M)**: Promises to expand the RTE Act from 3 to 18 years.

**What are the nutrition and healthcare related promises made by various political parties?**

1) **BJP**: Focuses on eliminating malnutrition among tribal children.

2) **CPI(M)**: Commits to universalizing the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme to cover all children aged 0-6 years and provide nutritious meals. It assures complete coverage of basic services like immunization and regular health check-ups for all children

3) **Congress**: Promises to expand the midday meal programme up to Class 12, while DMK promises to expand the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme for children to aided schools (Class 1-5). It also promises to address nutritional deficiency among children and ensure full immunization of children within 5 years (currently at 76%).

4) **DMK**: Promises budgetary allocations to ensure complete healthcare during the first 1,000 days of a child’s development and mental health programmes in schools.

**What are some unaddressed areas in political manifestos regarding children’s welfare?**

Manifestos of various political parties have not addressed issues such as-

A) children’s participation in decision-making processes.

B) online safety for children, and initiatives to prevent child exploitation.

C) There is a lack of a “child-rights based approach” in the manifestos and the tendency to club children with ‘women’ or ‘youth’, thereby downplaying their specific needs.

D) There is a focus solely on a few cost-intensive model schools as opposed to bringing systemic changes to improve the public education system.

Political parties must prioritize education, child nutrition, and health in their manifestos, and voters need to assess the parties’ visions and seriousness in safeguarding the future of children.

### **INDIAN AGRICULTURE[GS-III]**

#### **Challenges Facing Indian Agriculture**

The article highlights the difficult journey and challenges that the Indian agriculture sector faces as the country moves towards the “Amrit Kaal” (Golden Era) It emphasizes that policymakers haven’t managed to secure decent incomes for farmers, and the sector is stuck in a tough situation that might not be easy to improve.

#### **Major Challenges Faced By Agriculture**

1) **Climate Change**-The irreversible effects of climate change are impacting crop production and livelihoods through erratic climatic events.

2) **World Trade Organization (WTO) Challenges**- There is unfairness within the WTO and deliberate actions are taken by the US to weaken the dispute-resolution mechanism. This creates obstacles for India in enforcing these rulings domestically.

3) **Small Landholdings**- Most of the cultivable land is made up of small holdings, accounting for approximately 85%. This situation poses challenges for primary producers in sustaining a satisfactory income from agriculture.

4) **Global Priority for Low Food Prices**-The global focus on keeping food prices low for consumers often leads to lowering farm-gate prices artificially. This makes farming financially unremunerative and harms the environment in the long run.

5) **Depleting Aquifers** -There is a continuous depletion of aquifers due to the large demand for water for agriculture use.

6) **Subsidies**– The skewed fertilizer subsidy leads to indiscriminate use of fertilizers, impacting health and the planet.

7) **Public Debt and Financial Flexibility**-Government debt, both nationally and locally, limits financial flexibility for long-term planning and restricts the ability to continuously provide subsidies. Many states are on the brink of being technically bankrupt, yet there is no process for states to declare bankruptcy like countries can.

8) **Governance and Accountability**– The ineffective leadership and absence of responsibility in the government departments overseeing agriculture, both at the national and state levels stem from the authoritative attitude of top officials.

#### **What should be the way forward?**

1) **Investment in Research and Extension Services**– The government needs to enhance investments in agricultural research and extension services, as every rupee invested in agricultural research yields economic returns upwards of 10 times over other investments.

2) **Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture**-The government’s attention should extend beyond enhancing agricultural productivity to ensuring the sustainability of these improvements. This should benefit all segments of society and foster inclusive growth.

3) **Policy Reforms**- The government should not only focus on incremental adjustments but rather on long-term policy reforms.

#### **GST Data and Private Consumption**

Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

The article highlights the strong performance of Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in India, with net collections outpacing nominal GDP growth in the previous financial year (FY24). The highest-ever monthly GST collection of ₹2.1 trillion in April 2024 shows how GST data can provide insight about private consumption trends.

#### **significance of GST data in providing insights into private consumption trends**

1) GST is a consumption-based tax, accruing to the state where goods are consumed, rather than where they are produced. Thus, state-level GST data can indicate sub-national private consumption trends, which is beneficial because high-frequency data on private consumption is lacking in India.

2) Analyzing GST data from different states reveals consumption nuances and economic trends. This provides valuable information for both policymakers and businesses.

3) GST data can become a more real-time measure of consumption expenditure and provide data-led insights into the economy at both national and state levels.

4) GST data can yield valuable insights into consumption patterns, import contributions, and consumption of climate-sensitive items across states. This will help in enhancing understanding about the economy.

5) GST compensation cess data that is imposed on luxury and harmful goods can help in understanding the consumption trends associated with these products. For ex- Kerala had the smallest amount of compensation cess collected per person, while Chhattisgarh had the largest, mainly because of the state’s significant use of tobacco and coal.

#### **correlation between GST data and private consumption**

1) There is a strong positive correlation between per capita GST collections and per capita incomes across states, indicating that richer states have a higher propensity to consume.

2) There is a positive relationship between the share of urban population and per capita GST collections, implying that urbanization propels private consumption.

**PRELIM FACT**

**1. Biocover**

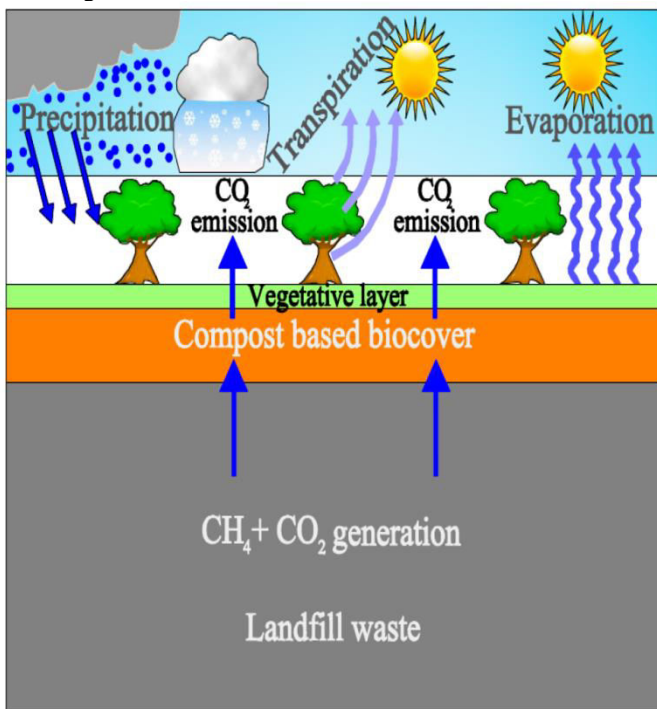
The use of microbial methane oxidation systems, specifically biocovers utilizing fine fractions from landfill mining, presents a promising model for methane control.

What is **Biocover**?

Biocovers are a type of methane oxidation system that utilizes the fine fraction material from landfill mining to effectively control methane emissions. These are porous material layers laid directly on top of a landfill which is then covered by an oxidizing layer of mature compost. It provides optimal conditions for methanotrophic (methane-utilizing) bacteria to thrive and act as biofilters, hence controlling methane emissions by converting methane to CO<sub>2</sub>.

The key points about biocovers are:

1. They reduce methane emissions from landfills and dumpsites.
2. The fine fraction material recovered from landfill mining is used to construct the biocover system. This fine fraction would otherwise be difficult to repurpose due to high contaminant levels.
3. By using the fine fraction in the biocover, it provides a sustainable solution for methane control, especially for smaller to medium-sized landfills and dumpsites.
4. This method shows promise for application in India's over 3,000 legacy dumpsites, which continuously generate methane and are prone to fires, making effective methane control critical for climate change mitigation.



**2. Sunkoshi River**

Under the PLEASE (Plastic Free Rivers and Seas of South Asia) program, a river cleanup campaign has successfully removed 24,575 kg of waste from the Sunkoshi River banks and waste hotspots.

**About Sunkoshi River**

Aspects	Description
About	1. It is also known as the “river of gold,” the Sunkoshi is located in Nepal and is part of the Koshi or Saptkoshi River system. 2. This river is among the longest and most rafted in Nepal.
Course	1. The Sunkoshi originates from the Zhangzangbo Glacier in Tibet. 2. It merges with the Saptkoshi River and eventually joins the Ganga (known as the Ganges) in the Katihar district of Bihar, India. 3. It drains into the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh.

**About Koshi River**

Aspects	Description
About	1. The Koshi River is a transboundary river that flows through China, Nepal, and India. 2. It serves as a prominent tributary of the Ganges. 3. The Kosi River has earned the nickname “the sorrow of Bihar” due to its history of flooding and frequent alterations in its course as it flows from Nepal to Bihar
Course	1. It originates from the Tibetan Plateau and crosses the Himalayas and flows through the

	<p>Mahabharat range and Siwalik hills.</p> <p>2. It reaches the plains of eastern Nepal and finally meets the Ganges in Bihar, India.</p> <p>3. The Kosi drains an area of 74,500 sq.km, with only 11,070 sq.km lying within Indian Territory. The Koshi River system drains about 45% of Nepal.</p> <p>4. The Kosi River valley is bounded by steep margins, disconnecting it from other rivers such as the Yarlung Zangbo River, Mahananda River, Gandaki, and Ganga.</p> <p>5. The Koshi River is known for its tendency to change course, often flowing westward. Over the last 200 years, it has shifted westwards by approximately 112 km, causing significant changes to agricultural land.</p>
<b>Tributaries</b>	The Koshi River has seven major tributaries: Sun Koshi, Tama Koshi (or Tamba Koshi), Dudh Koshi, Indravati, Likhu, Arun, and Tamore (or Tamar).

### **3. Doctrine of Merger**

The Supreme Court of India has noted that the unique powers granted under Article 142 of the Indian Constitution are exceptions to two established legal principles: the Doctrine of Merger and the Doctrine of Stare Decisis. This is done to ensure justice is comprehensively served in specific cases.

#### **About Doctrine of Merger**

- 1. Purpose:** The Doctrine of Merger aims to maintain decorum and orderliness in the judicial system.
- 2. Nature:** It is a judicially created doctrine aimed at instilling discipline across different levels of courts and authorities.
- 3. Principle:** When a higher court (appellate court) makes a ruling, the original ruling by the lower court is absorbed or “merged” into the higher court’s decision.
- 4. Rationale:** This ensures that only one final ruling exists on any given issue, avoiding confusion over which order should be followed.
- 5. Application:** This doctrine applies to decisions made by all levels of courts, ensuring that the ruling of a higher court supersedes and absorbs that of a lower court.

#### **About Doctrine of Stare Decisis**

1. Stare Decisis” is Latin for “to stand by things decided.” This doctrine mandates that courts follow the rulings made in earlier similar cases.
- 2. Importance of Precedents:** Past decisions serve as precedents, which are principles or rules that guide judicial decisions in future similar cases.
- 3. Role of Precedents:** These are used by judges as references for making decisions in current cases with similar legal questions.
- 4. Obligation:** Courts are obligated to consider these precedents in their rulings to maintain consistency and predictability in the law.
5. These doctrines collectively ensure that the legal system operates efficiently, maintaining consistency and hierarchy in judicial decisions.

### **4. India’s Gold Reserve**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently moved 100 metric tonnes of gold from the UK to domestic vaults, a significant shift reflecting geopolitical concerns and risk diversification strategies.

India’s total gold holdings stand at 822 metric tonnes, with a portion stored in foreign vaults for international trade facilitation and risk spreading (around 50% is stored locally in India). These reserves are primarily held in the Bank of England, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Switzerland, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. This move aims to mitigate risks associated with geopolitical tensions and ensure greater control over gold reserves for economic stability and inflation management.

#### **Why has RBI hoarded Gold in recent years?**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is accumulating gold as a counter-strategy against negative interest rates and geopolitical uncertainties. In times of inflation and economic stress, gold offers a good return compared to US government bonds. Additionally, gold provides a hedge against geopolitical uncertainty, especially amid conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions between the US and China. Diversifying forex reserves with gold adds security, liquidity, and value during crises. Gold’s historical significance in the economy includes its role as a reserve currency, intrinsic value, and its ability to boost a nation’s currency value. It can also serve as a substitute for government securities in central bank operations.

All banknotes issued by RBI are backed by assets such as gold, Government Securities and Foreign Currency Assets, as defined in Section 33 of the RBI Act, 1934.

### **5. Unified India Organic logo**

- FSSAI and APEDA have developed a new “Unified India Organic” logo to replace the existing India Organic and Jaivik Bharat logos.
- This move aims to bring uniformity in the implementation of organic regulations by NPOP and FSSAI. The new logo is expected to come into force in the near future, and certification bodies will be given a 3-month transition period for implementation. It will distinguish organic products from non-organic communicating adherence to the National Standards for Organic Production.



- Currently, the India Organic logo is used on organic products complying with the National Programme for Organic Products (NPOP), while Jaivik Bharat is used on organic products certified by FSSAI.

Regulator of Organic Products:

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) (under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) regulates the manufacture, distribution, sale or import of Organic products through the Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 (under FSSA 2006).

### ANSWER WRITING

**Q. Analyze the geopolitical implications of growing foreign influence in Bangladesh for India and suggest ways to safeguard Indian interests.**

The geopolitical landscape in South Asia is rapidly evolving, with Bangladesh emerging as a focal point of strategic competition between India and China. A recent incident highlighting this shift is the joint military exercise “China-Bangladesh Golden Friendship 2024,” which included anti-terrorism operations and hostage rescue scenarios. This event underscores China’s growing military and economic influence in Bangladesh, posing significant strategic challenges for India.

**Geopolitical Implications of Growing Foreign Influence in Bangladesh:**

- **Strategic and Security Concerns:**

- **Chinese Military Presence:** The increasing number of Chinese military exercises and the provision of **advanced military hardware** to Bangladesh, including **submarines** and **fighter jets**, heighten security concerns for India. These developments enhance China’s **strategic presence** in India’s immediate neighbourhood.
- **Submarine Base at Cox’s Bazar:** The establishment of a **Chinese-built submarine base** in Bangladesh at **Cox’s Bazar** poses a strategic threat to India by potentially enabling **Chinese naval operations** in the **Bay of Bengal**, thereby disrupting the regional balance of power.

- **Economic Competition:**

- **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** China’s substantial investments in **Bangladesh** under the BRI, totaling over **\$38 billion**, significantly overshadow India’s economic engagements. These investments span infrastructure, energy, and connectivity projects, potentially marginalising India’s influence and economic interests in **Bangladesh**.
- **Trade Imbalance:** The growing trade volume between China and Bangladesh, which reached **\$25 billion**, exacerbates the **trade imbalance** in favour of **China**, potentially **sidelining Indian exports** and economic influence in the region.

- **Political Influence:**

- **Diplomatic Relations:** China’s unwavering support for Bangladesh’s ruling party, the **Awami League**, and its **non-interference stance** in Bangladesh’s internal matters strengthen its political influence, challenging India’s historical ties and influence over Bangladesh.
- **Election Dynamics:** The geopolitical rivalry impacts Bangladesh’s elections, with both China and India vying for influence over the political landscape, affecting India’s ability to maintain **favourable relations** regardless of the ruling party.

**Ways to Safeguard Indian Interests:**

- **Strengthening Bilateral Relations:**

- **Enhanced Diplomatic Engagement:** India should intensify diplomatic efforts to reinforce its historical and cultural ties with Bangladesh. **For example: High-level visits** and **strategic dialogues** can help address mutual concerns and build trust.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Expanding economic cooperation through increased investments, trade agreements, and infrastructure projects can counterbalance Chinese economic influence. **For example: Initiatives like the India-Bangladesh Coastal Shipping Agreement** can enhance connectivity and trade.

- **Security and Defence Collaboration:**

- **Joint Military Exercises:** Increasing the frequency and scope of joint military exercises with Bangladesh can **bolster defence ties** and enhance **interoperability** between the two militaries. **For example: Counter-terrorism drills** and maritime security operations.
- **Defence Technology Transfers:** Providing advanced defence technologies and **training** to the **Bangladeshi military** can help maintain a **strategic edge** and deter Chinese military influence.

- **Multilateral Engagement:**

- **Regional Cooperation Frameworks:** Promoting regional cooperation through forums like **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** can foster collective security and economic development. **For example: Joint initiatives on disaster management, counter-terrorism, and maritime security.**
- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):** Leveraging partnerships within the **Quad (India, Japan, Australia, and the US)** can provide a counterbalance to Chinese influence and ensure regional stability. **For example: Joint initiatives on infrastructure development, cyber security, and maritime security** can be pivotal.

India must adopt a multi-faceted strategy to safeguard its interests in Bangladesh amidst growing Chinese influence. By strengthening bilateral relations, enhancing security cooperation, and engaging in regional multilateral frameworks, India can maintain its strategic foothold and ensure regional stability. Future efforts should focus on sustainable economic partnerships, strategic defence collaborations, and proactive diplomatic engagements to navigate the evolving geopolitical dynamics effectively.

**MCQS**

- Consider the following statements:
  - The Constitution of India states that no person shall be deprived of their property except by the authority of law.
  - The right to property is a Constitutional right as well as human right.
  - The fundamental right to property was removed by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
  - Only one
  - Only two**
  - All three
  - None
- Consider the following statements:
  - Rabies is a zoonotic disease.
  - Rabies is a bacterial infection that mainly affects the respiratory system.
  - Rabies can be prevented through vaccination.
 Which of the statements given above are correct?
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only**
  - 1, 2 and 3
- Which of the following has developed PraVaHa software, sometimes mentioned in news?
  - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
  - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
  - Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
  - Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
- Consider the following statements regarding sickle cell disease:
  - It is a group of inherited white blood cell disorders.
  - Hydroxyurea is an effective drug for treating patients of sickle cell disease
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only**
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements about 'Phenome India' Project:
  - The project was launched by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in the year 2023.
  - The objective of the project is to assess risk factors in non-communicable diseases within the Indian populace.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only**
- Both 1 and 2**  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Gilgit-Baltistan region is situated to the
  - East of Aksai Chin
  - East of Ladakh
  - North of Srinagar**
  - South of Nubra Valley
- Consider the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI):
  - UPI is a mobile application used for instant money transfers between bank accounts in India.
  - UPI requires users to enter full bank account details for each transaction.
  - UPI is only available for peer-to-peer transactions and cannot be used for online shopping.
 How many of the above statements is/are correct?
  - Only one**
  - Only two
  - All three
  - None
- Consider the following statements about Sunkoshi River
  - It is also known as the "river of gold," the Sunkoshi is located in Nepal and is part of the Koshi or Saptkoshi River system
  - It merges with the Saptkoshi River and eventually joins the Ganga (known as the Ganges) in the Katihar district of Bihar, India.
 Which of the above statements are correct?
  - Both 1 and 2**
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - None
- Which of the following is NOT a component of India's foreign exchange reserves?
  - Foreign currency assets (FCAs)
  - Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) held with the IMF
  - Government bonds denominated in rupees**
  - Gold reserves
- Biocover can refer to a few different things. Select the answer that best describes the use of biocover in landfills:
  - A plastic sheet placed on top of landfill waste to prevent rainwater from entering.
  - A layer of compost placed on top of a landfill to capture and neutralize methane gas emissions.**
  - A hydraulically applied cover made from wood fibers used as an alternative to daily soil cover.
  - A special type of plant-based fabric used for weed and erosion control in landscaping.