



7 PM COMPILATION

20th - 26th January, 2020

Features of 7 PM compilation

- ❖ Comprehensive coverage of a given current topic
- ❖ Provide you all the information you need to frame a good answer
- ❖ Critical analysis, comparative analysis, legal/constitutional provisions, current issues and challenges and best practices around the world
- ❖ Written in lucid language and point format
- ❖ Wide use of charts, diagrams and info graphics
- ❖ Best-in class coverage, critically acclaimed by aspirants
- ❖ Out of the box thinking for value edition
- ❖ Best cost-benefit ratio according to successful aspirants

Is it The Right Time to Include Australia in Malabar Naval Exercise?

Topics: Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Subtopics: India – Australia Relations

Are the 3 Farm Ordinances '1991 Moment' For Agriculture?

Topics: Storage, Transport and Marketing of Agricultural Produce and Issues and Related Constraints

Subtopics: Indian Agriculture

Overcoming the Malaise of Defections

Topics: Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.

Subtopics: Anti Defection Law

Achieving Equality for Scheduled Castes

Topics: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the population by the Centre and States and the Performance of these Schemes

Subtopics: Scheduled Castes

Transforming Curriculum of Higher Education

Topics: Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

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Arguments for Presidential System of Government in India

Topics: Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive —Ministries and Departments of the Government

Subtopics: Presidential Form of Government

Is it The Right Time to Include Australia in Malabar Naval Exercise?Source: <https://www.thehindu.com>**Introduction:**

Discussions are ongoing regarding the inclusion of Australian navy in the annual trilateral Malabar exercise. Coming in the time of increased tensions along Line of Actual Control (LoAC), it is seen as India's response to Chinese aggressive maneuvers. If Australia is included this will be the first time since 2007, Quadrilateral countries (India, Japan, USA, Australia-QUAD) will come together militarily making Malabar a maritime Quadrilateral.

Malabar Naval exercise:

Started in 1992 as bilateral exercise between India and USA navies. It was later expanded to include Japan in 2015. Singapore and Australia participated as non-permanent participants in 2007. Australia has shown interest in being a participant since 2017. It is done annually in the Bay of Bengal or Arabian sea. But in some years, it was done in Pacific ocean in USA and Japanese territories.

Chinese objections to inclusion of Australia:

China views the maritime quadrilateral as a coalition of democracies and Asian NATO, to counter it. China views this as a threat not only in Indian ocean but also in Pacific ocean especially South China sea. Hence it opposed expansion of Malabar exercise. In 2007 when it was a 5 nation exercise, it sent demarches to India and Australia.

Indian position and arguments for inclusion of Australia:

India has maintained that Malabar exercise and also QUAD is not with the intention of containing any one country. India has emphasized freedom of navigation and overflight; rules based order as its intended outcomes. In pursuance of the same, to prevent wrong signals, India has not accepted Australian involvement in 2018 and 2019 exercises.

But experts point out Chinese aggressive postures need to be considered in changing Indian maritime policy. Following actions highlight these:

- Submarine visiting Colombo in 2014
- Chinese Warships visiting Male, Maldives in Aug 2017
- Chinese naval bases in Indian ocean include Djibouti and proposals in Gwadar, Maldives, Myanmar (Kyaukpyu, Cocos Island).

These actions make Chinese intentions suspect. Considering this possible encirclement of India (string of pearls), a proactive approach is proposed to counter gradual Chinese naval forays into Indian ocean.

For such a proactive strategy, including Australia in Malabar is seen as a right step. It sends signals that if Chinese continue to posture aggressively against India on land or sea then India is ready to increase the threshold. Considering the clashes in Galwan valley, it is opined that time is right for this step.

Arguments against inclusion of Australia right now:

- Inclusion may lead to Chinese apprehension and threaten negotiations for truce along LoAC.
- If China responds aggressively in Eastern Indian ocean, it can open a new front in the India-China conflict.

- Strategically, India desires increased technological capabilities to check Chinese threats(submarines, aircraft carriers etc) in Indian ocean. USA and Japan on the other hand have priority of rules based order in Indo-pacific. India is yet to obtain lethal technologies from USA like anti-submarine tech, despite talks of defense cooperation. Most cooperation is in non-lethal weapons like Surveillance Guardian drones. Without acquiring lethal technologies, Indian deterrence capabilities will not increase even with QUAD maritime cooperation
- Operationally, India and Australia have priority in maintaining balance in Indian ocean. USA and Japan have priority in the South China Sea and Pacific ocean. Hence escalating conflict in the south china sea may draw India into pacific ocean which is not its priority. In addition, USA and Japan's operations in indian ocean will be limited considering their priorities. Hence Quad maritime grouping may not yield desired results in Indian ocean region (IOR).
- Chinese activities till now have been limited to surveillance and limited. There has been no contestation with Indian navy or stopping of merchant ships Hence threat perception is not too high to look for a balancing coalition. It is opined that if maritime QUAD comes into picture, an avoidable naval arms race will be kickstarted in Indian ocean.

Conclusion:

Upgrading the trilateral Malabar to a quadrilateral, without acquiring the requisite combat and deterrence capability, could yield gains for India in the short term, but would prove ineffective in the long term. Instead India can provide intended signaling by including Australia as a non-permanent partner for one year.

This does not mean Australia must not be invited as a permanent participant at any time. Right time will be when India gains requisite strategic and operational benefits or when Chinese threat perception will increase beyond limits. This will ensure flexibility and strategic autonomy.

Mains Question:

Q.1) Should India include Australia in Malabar exercise? Critically analyze?

[15 marks, 250 words]

Are the 3 Farm Ordinances '1991 Moment' For Agriculture?Source: <https://indianexpress.com>**Introduction:**

COVID 19 pandemic has brought an economic crisis that needs to be addressed. To address the economic crisis in rural areas, the central government has promulgated three farm ordinances as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. These ordinances liberalize trade and marketing of agricultural produce and reduce stock limits. Further they enable contract farming which provides guaranteed price for farmers.

Agriculture is a state subject. But the centre can enact laws under entry 33 of the concurrent list which deals with trade and commerce of agricultural produce, including "foodstuffs", "cattle fodder" and "raw cotton". 3 farm ordinances are done under the same. These reforms are seen as a '1991 moment' for the agriculture sector.

Provisions of 3 farm ordinances:

Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020: Liberalizes marketing of produce.

- Allows trade of agricultural produce (includes, milk, eggs, fish etc) outside APMC's. Trade can be done at any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce.
- Any buyer of produce may engage in inter state and intra state trade.
- Electronic trading is allowed through online platforms. Central government will prescribe standards of operation for such portals in regards to quality, conduct, and payments.
- State governments cannot levy market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders and electronic trading platforms for any trade
- A dispute resolution mechanism with conciliation and settlement procedures.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020: Amends Essential Commodities act (ECA), 1955

- The Central government may regulate the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances. These include: (i) war (ii) famine (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.
- A stock limit may be imposed only if there is
 - 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce
 - 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items
- Any stock limit will not apply to a processor or value chain participant of agricultural produce if stock held by such person is less than the:
 - Overall ceiling of installed capacity of processing
 - Demand for export in case of an exporter
- Provisions of the Ordinance regarding the regulation of food items and the imposition of stock limits will not apply to any government order relating to the Public Distribution System (PDS) or the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020: To enable contract farming

- Farming agreements can be made before production between farmers and sponsors.
 - Agreement may provide for mutually agreed terms and conditions for supply, quality, standards and price of farming produce as well as terms related to supply of farm services.

- This agreement may be linked to insurance services.
- Agreement must mention prices to be paid for farming purchase. There must be a guaranteed price. In addition, bonus or premium may be included
- State government may establish a registration authority for registering farming agreements
- Farming agreements will be exempt from stock limits and state acts regulating sale and purchase of farming produce.
- Dispute settlement: Conciliation process is must through a conciliation board for all disputes. If unresolved after conciliation, a settlement process with Magistrate and appellate authority is available.

Long term benefits of reforms:

- Competition to APMCs: Allowing private trade(direct and electronic) provides competition to APMC's. This will lead to standardization and rationalization of mandi fee structure and limit the commission charged by traders on sale of farmers' produce. This increases farmers' incomes directly.
- Enables One nation, one market. This ensures fair price discovery.
- Private investments in agricultural storage, supply chains and technology as stock limits are removed and contract farming is enabled. This will increase exports and farmers incomes as well as reduce wastage.
- Diversification of crops will be enabled due to contract farming.

Case of ITC in Madhya Pradesh(MP):

ITC was allowed in trade and commerce of select commodities in MP. It has led to gain of farmers due to price competition with APMC's. In addition, APMC's upgraded themselves through electronic weighing and quick payments to remain competitive.

Critique of marketing and trading reforms in ordinances:

- Prices are already market driven: Shantakumar committee observed that only 6% of farmers get MSP – Minimum Support Prices and only 22 crops are procured under MSP. Hence a vast majority of farmers sell produce as per market prices. In such a scenario, ordinances will not bring much changes in marketing.
- Lack of APMCs is the problem and not APMC itself: India has about 7000 APMC mandis. These are grossly inadequate. In such a situation, more than 80% of small and marginal farmers are already selling their produce to unlicensed traders and aggregators. This leaves the farmers open to exploitation.

Also APMC has been part of the solution as it played a main part in PDS and food security.

- APMC acts are already being reformed by state governments. Uzhavar Sandhai in Tamil Nadu, the Rythu Bazaar in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Apni Mandi in Punjab, the Raitha Santhe in Karnataka and the Krushak Bazaar in Odisha are some such initiatives. But this may be decelerated as ordinance prohibits state governments to levy fees, cesses on trade which deprives them of revenue.
- Complete dismantling of APMCs will result in rural distress. The Bihar case below proves that.

Failure of APMC liberalization in Bihar:

Bihar has revoked APMC act in 2006 and dismantled APMC market infrastructure. This was done to attract private investments in the agricultural supply chain.

But studies have pointed out it resulted in proliferation of private unregulated

markets(run by traders and commission agents) which charge a market fee from traders as well as farmers, without any infrastructure for weighing, sorting, grading and storage. Large organizations have also bought produce from traders and aggregators rather than farmers.

- Other reforms are needed to enable freedom of marketing to farmers: Traders and commission agents provide credit to farmers during production, harvest and supply. Hence without addressing access to credit, inputs, storage, transport, and timely payments, farmers will continue to supply to these middlemen.
- Dispute settlement mechanisms will be disadvantageous for farmers due to greater economic power of traders and contract farming companies.

Hence there is still a need for state regulation and intervention to enable farmers realize better incomes. Other structural reforms must be undertaken to make farming economically and ecologically viable:

- 60% of subsidy(fertilizers, electricity etc) is cornered by 3 crops – Rice, wheat and sugarcane. This has led to depletion of groundwater and loss of biodiversity due to monoculture. In addition, excessive use of chemicals is threatening food chains and biodiversity. Liberalization will only exacerbate this phenomena. Government regulation must ensure that this is addressed.
- Investments in irrigation and ecological transition must be made. Good example is Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Farming model, which promotes agroecological principles with the use of locally-produced, ecologically-sustainable inputs focusing on soil health, instead of depending on chemical fertilisers. This increases resilience of agriculture against climate related risks.

Conclusion:

Reforms initiated can be the '1991 moment' depending on the nature of the implementation. Appropriate state intervention is needed and not complete deregulation (which is counter productive as seen in case of Bihar). State intervention must promote competition and strengthen the diversity, dynamism, enterprise, and resilience of India's agricultural markets. APMCs must be continued and infrastructurally upgraded. In addition, other structural reforms in irrigation, inputs, subsidies, MSP etc must be undertaken as per M.S.Swaminathan committee recommendations which addresses structural issues and benefit farmers. Only then can we realize the vision of 'Doubling farmers incomes' and reduce urban-rural income gap

Mains question:

Q.1) What are the provisions of Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020? Critically discuss whether it will lead to marketing freedom for farmers?
[15 marks, 250 words]

Overcoming The Malaise of Defections

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com>

Introduction:

Political developments in Rajasthan have brought focus on political defections and anti defection law. This should be seen in the broader context of political events in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur and other states, where legislators have changed parties.

Emergence of 'resort politics' where legislators are herded to protect them from defections shows that malaise of horse trading is alive in Indian political system. This is a constitutional sin which results in the public losing trust in the political system. This has continued despite anti defection law of 1985(10th Schedule of constitution) providing for disqualification of defectors.

Role of all stakeholders involved – Speaker, Governor, legislators, opposition party, ruling party- is suspect in upholding the spirit of the anti-defection law. They are using loopholes in the legal provisions to continue this moral hazard.

Provisions of 10th Schedule:

Disqualification:

- For a legislator elected on a party ticket, voluntarily giving up membership of party or defying party whip on a vote will result in disqualification. If such action is condoned by the party, then no disqualification will be done
- Independent legislators will be disqualified for joining any party
- Nominated legislators can join a political party till 6 months after nomination but not after. If done after 6 months they will be disqualified.

Exceptions:

- Merger where $\frac{2}{3}$ rd members of a party defect will not result in disqualification
- Speaker or chairman can switch parties if the post is demitted.
- Deciding authority: Presiding officer of the house whose decision is final

Circumventing the provision of 10th schedule:

Modus operandi to circumvent the legal provisions have evolved. These are:

- Partisan behavior of the speaker: If defection is to the ruling party, then the speaker (deciding authority) is seen delaying the anti-defection proceedings and judgments. The Supreme court (SC) has highlighted this in the Manipur case(2020) where the speaker's decision was pending since 2017. Such instances are seen in multiple states – Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh etc.
- Promising ministership to destabilize ruling government: To topple ruling government, engineered defections or resignations of legislators are used. Ministership is promised to defectors by the opposition party. 10th Schedule prohibits appointment as ministers for those who are disqualified until reelected. A parliamentary standing committee notes that this is made useless by
 - Defectors resigning from original parties and hence not coming under disqualification. Then they can be appointed as ministers for 6 months before they must be reelected in byelections. This was seen in Karnataka
 - Defectors can be nominated to Rajya Sabha and then be made a minister.
- No confidence motions against speakers: Defectors file such motions to stall proceedings of anti-defection law. In the Nabam Rebia case, SC cautioned speakers already facing prior and serious pending no-confidence motions from deciding disqualification issues against their accusers. This is being misinterpreted as prohibition on deciding cases rather than caution.

- Misuse of position of governor: Governor directing a floor test before anti defection proceedings are completed results in destabilizing government. This prevents the speaker from discharging his/her functions under 10th Schedule.

Plugging loopholes in 10th Schedule:

- Supreme court in Manipur case 2020 has suggested following which need to be implemented:
 - Replacing presiding officer as deciding authority with a tribunal or external mechanism to ensure impartiality
 - Decision in defection cases must generally be done in 3 months. SC can compel speaker in case of undue delays
- Abolishing exceptions present in 10th Schedule: Merging of parties (2/3rd members defect) should be removed as an exception. All anti party activities (inside and outside the house) should result in disqualification.
- Prohibiting appointment as minister: Anyone who resigns or is disqualified anti defection law must be prohibited from appointment as minister for 6 months or 1 year.
- Electing impartial speakers: Adopting British norm of unanimously selecting the speaker before elections by all major parties and not contesting against such pre-elected speaker. This improves the political and moral authority of speaker.
- Restricting the governor's role to prevent interference in affairs of the house.

Conclusion:

Defections as political tools of power must be prevented comprehensively. Legal changes must be brought in the 10th Schedule to plug the loopholes. This must be done expeditiously to protect the faith of the public in the constitutional democracy of India.

Mains Question:

Q.1) What are provisions of anti-defection law? Are they successful in preventing defections in India? Suggest measures needed to uproot the malaise of opportunistic defections in India? [15 marks, 250 words]

Achieving Equality for Scheduled CastesSource: <https://indianexpress.com>**Introduction:**

Indian constitution in its preamble has provided that India will uphold Justice, Equality and Fraternity. In pursuance of this, socio-economic empowerment of scheduled castes(dalits/SC) is promoted by various provisions. Reservations in education, public employment, legislatures (Articles 15,16, 330); National commission for Scheduled castes – NCSC(Article 338), Scheduled caste sub plans(SCP -15% of spending of ministries) in budget, are major ones. Discrimination against dalits is also punished through Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act or SC/ST act; Protection of civil rights act(PCRA). 1955.

To advance this vision of socio-economic empowerment and equality of dalits, new actions and ideas are needed. NCSC can be the catalyst for the same. It is one of the functions of NCSC to participate in socio-economic planning for SC welfare.

New actions to realize right to equality of dalits:Strengthening legal and judicial protection of dalits:

- Developing standard operating procedures(SOPs) for filing and investigation of cases under SC/ST act. These SOPs must be made available at all police stations in regional languages to improve information accessibility to victims.
- Rewarding prosecutors who obtain conviction in cases. This will provide incentive to improve low prosecution rates in cases under SC/ST act.
- Online reporting and tracking of crimes against dalits. This provides data on areas of high crime incidence which can be used for appropriate steps.
- Sensitization, training and capacity building of lawyers, judges and police.
- Internal committees within organizations to receive complaints of discrimination, to minimize criminal procedures. Internal complaints committee for sexual harassment can be a replicable blueprint.
- Researching and implementing new types of punishment other than imprisonment to prevent future crimes.

Improving outcomes of existing government efforts:

- Identification of 5 priorities(skill development, employment etc) across all schemes and using Scheduled Castes Sub plan(SCP) to improve these.
- Promoting collaboration and convergence in achieving outcomes efficiently. Steps like an empowered group of joint secretaries, pooling of resources, must be taken under this. Such collaboration must extend to states.
- Dashboard for tracking(monthly, quarterly etc) of outcomes of SCP. This can be used to reward departments which achieve best performance and rank states for their impact and efficiency.
- Success stories in advancing Dalit empowerment should be taught in training of higher civil services(IAS, IPS etc)

Jan andolan for the cause: Social change must be catalyzed with participatory approach

- Creating platform for engagement of civil society groups working on dalit issues.
- Participation of dalit legislators, dalit youth, women must be promoted. This will provide voice to dalit issues and promote resolution of the same.
- Targeted communication campaigns to reduce social practices which still segregate and discriminate against dalits. Students, teachers, companies, gram sabhas must be involved in this.

Promoting economic empowerment:

- Strengthening reservations in public procurement. This will facilitate entrepreneurship of dalits. Departments in which such targets of reservation are met, must be rewarded.
- Dalit alumni of IIT and IIM's can be roped in to promote equality in their organizations to advance socio economic empowerment of dalits.
- Skill training: Management training for SC entrepreneurs and skill training for service economy can be provided.
- Mentoring for small business development. This is to enable dalit enterprises compete in markets. Considering lack of land ownership, this hand holding is needed for integration with markets.

Promoting cultural advancement:

- Rewarding film and content makers(photographers, artists etc) for highlighting issues faced by dalits. Movies like 'Article 15' are examples.
- I&B ministry to fund TV programs highlighting dalit issues.
- Encouraging movies around different themes like the Mahar regiment of army.

Preparing for future challenges: Challenges due to climate change, gig economy and their impact on dalits must be studied. This will help in preparing for future challenges.

Conclusion:

Actions which promote equality of dalits will require sustained efforts. NCSC must innovate, collaborate and facilitate this socio economic advancement to achieve the vision of equality and fraternity.

Mains question:

Q.1) What are the functions of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)? How can NCSC facilitate socio-economic advancement of scheduled castes?

[15 marks, 250 words]

Transforming Curriculum of Higher EducationSource: <https://www.thehindu.com>**Introduction:**

COVID 19 pandemic has disrupted education at all levels. Lockdowns and restrictions on movement has resulted in closure of schools, colleges and universities. To adapt to this disruption, solutions are being analyzed to deliver inclusive and affordable home-based learning. Online classes (broadcast-based learning), WhatsApp based notes etc are some tools being adopted.

This disruption also presents an opportunity to initiate reforms for quality higher education in India.

Learning outcomes of higher education and failure in India:

Higher education serves as a bridge between formal education and employment. Broadly speaking it has 3 main learning outcomes:

- Imparting knowledge of relevant discipline to students
- Imparting skills needed for employment or research after higher education
- Imparting skills and values needed for students to play a constructive role in society

Following trends in India show poor learning outcomes in Indian higher education:

- India skills report (by People Strong, CII, UNDP, AICTE and AIU) says only 47% of Indian graduates are employable. Employability is declining in BTech, Engineering, MCA graduates, Technical & Computer-related courses.
- No Indian university in top 100 ranks of QS college and university rankings of 2020.
- Decreasing importance of liberal arts and life skills in curriculum.

Higher education has largely become a tool of acquiring a degree rather than learning. This is the case of the majority of institutes except few top institutes like IISc etc.

Gap between employable skills and higher education curricula is in particular important. It is well known that on the job training is more useful than years of higher education in learning job skills. Considering this, excessive focus on completing rigid syllabus in college wastes precious time during college. It also imposes additional economic costs as students need to be trained again during employment.

Hence there is a need to reimagine curriculum in higher education. COVID 19 pandemic presents such opportunity.

Bridging the employability skills gap in curriculum:

Following steps can bridge the gap:

- Re-evaluating curriculum periodically. This enables the syllabus to adapt to changing technologies and employment opportunities. Industry, teaching professionals and research institutions can partner to create a syllabus which is relevant and up-to-date.
- Industrial internships and vocational trainings should be increased as a proportion of curriculum. Classroom teaching must be confined to basic essential concepts.
- Current practice of overemphasis on exit exams must be transformed into continuous evaluation. Performance evaluation must be based on regular assignments and industrial internships, rated by both college and industry. To evaluate basic concepts, a light home-based proctored exam can be conducted.
- Development of life skills, values and social attitudes must be focused upon for a fulfilling life. Time saved due to reduced classroom-based pedagogy can be used for this purpose.

Conclusion:

High proportion of the working age population (more than 60%) presents India an opportunity for 'Demographic dividend' based growth. But to realize this higher education must be transformed effectively to provide jobs to youth entering the workforce. Else India will face 'demographic disaster' with large unemployable youth burdening the economy. Hence opportunity presented by the present crisis must not be missed in heralding bold reforms in higher education. Only then can we achieve the Sustainable Development Goal – 4 of 'Quality education'.

Mains question:

Q.1) Higher education in India has failed to achieve learning outcomes. Critically comment? What steps can be taken to improve learning outcomes in higher education?

[15 marks, 250 words]

Arguments For Presidential System of Government in IndiaSource: <https://indianexpress.com>**Introduction:**

Horse trading of legislators as alleged in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka has brought focus on declining values in politics and political parties in India. Limitations of parliamentary system in India is cited as the underlying reason for this phenomenon.

Parliamentary system's limitations in India:

Parliamentary system was devised in Britain whose population and diversity is low. Political traditions in Britain makes parliamentary democracy a workable system.

- Each party in Britain has a set of policies, preferences, ideals which differentiate it from other parties.
- Politicians prescribe to policies and ideals of a certain party. Moving between parties is seen negatively both by people and parties.
- Legislature is seen as vital to uphold government accountability rather than path to executive power.

Political trends in India show different traditions:

- Legislative power is seen as a bridge to executive power. Parliamentary system with the executive drawn from the legislature is aiding this.
- Focus on politics rather than governance: Governments with small majorities makes them prone to engineered political defections. This makes parties more focused on politics rather than governance.
- Multiplicity of political parties without any set ideals and only based on self-interests. In a coalition system this becomes a hindrance to decision making and destabilizes the government with changing coalitions.
- Due to lack of set ideals of parties, people vote for individuals. This is leading to the rise of populism and authoritarianism. Instead of evaluating individual candidates in constituencies, people are voting based on caste, religion and candidates for chief minister or prime minister.

In particular, focus on executive power as main goal of politics leads to following challenges:

- Horse trading and defections where ministership is offered to defectors.
- Legislation suffers as legislators become rubber stamps. Whips by parties with and voting on party lines limits legislators in upholding accountability of the executive to people.
- As voting occurs along party lines, outcome is predetermined. Hence parties view debates as useless and resort to disruptions. It can be seen in reduced time of debates on bills, in question hour and other avenues for discussions.

In addition, as the parliamentary system draws the executive from the legislature, it limits the choices for people to be appointed in executive. Executive positions are depending on who is electable and not who is able. Although Rajya Sabha has provision for experts, it is being used to elect full time politicians rather than experts.

Considering this, the Parliamentary system is seen by critics as a failure in Indian setting. Presidential system is suggested as an alternative to overcome the limitations in Indian political culture.

Presidential system – a solution and its counter points:

- A directly elected chief executive at all levels – Centre, state and local would provide security of tenure to them. This leads to focus on governance rather than political management
- Executive can be drawn from experts all over the country.
- Voters can differentiate between legislators and the executive. They can vote for a president and evaluate him/her based on their performance.

Counterpoints to presidential system in favour of parliamentary system are:

- Presidential system can result in authoritarian and dictatorial presidents.
- But in India's parliamentary system with centralized parties, prime ministerial dictatorship is possible as legislatures turn into rubber stamps.
- Further, powers of the president can be balanced by powers of directly elected state chief executives.
- Parliamentary system has enabled participation of Indians in the political process and kept the nation together.
- But this is due to democratic right of voting and participation rather than parliamentary system.

Considering this, the presidential system presents an alternative to the parliamentary system.

Conclusion:

Declining values of the political system is leading to loss of trust of people. We need to have a democracy which delivers governance and progress to people. Hence the solution of the presidential system in addressing issues must be carefully studied. If found suitable to India, political will must be shown to change the system.

Mains Question:

Q.1) What are the limitations of the parliamentary system in India? Can the presidential system be an alternative to overcome these limitations? Discuss. [15 marks, 250 words]