

## GS Foundation Program 2024 | D6 | Benchmark Assignment #141

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### Subjective Questions:

**Q.1)** Joint family system which has been a prominent feature of Indian society has seen a considerable decline. Trace reasons for such decline.

**Q.2)** Analyse the objectives of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for China. What are India's concerns about BRI?

### Objective Questions:

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements with reference to the Committee on Ethics in Parliament:

1. It prepares a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.
2. It is currently constituted in the Lok Sabha only.
3. It examines the cases of breach of privileges of the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.2)** With reference to special powers of the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. It can authorize the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List.
2. It can authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements:

1. A 'resolution' can be introduced by private members only to draw the attention of the Parliament on a matter of Public Interest.
2. A 'motion' is a self-contained independent proposal that is necessarily put to vote after discussion in the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.4)** With reference to double membership in Parliament, consider the following statements: 1. If a person is elected to two seats in a House, he can remain on both the seats for a period of 6 months.

2. If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his seat in the first House automatically becomes vacant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.5)** Under which of the following criteria(s) can a person be disqualified from being elected as a member of Parliament:

1. If he/she holds any Office of Profit under the Union Government.
2. If he/she is in detention under a preventive detention law.
3. If he/she is an undischarged insolvent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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### Subjective Questions:

**Q.1) Joint family system which has been a prominent feature of Indian society has seen a considerable decline. Trace reasons for such decline.**

#### APPROACH:

1. Introduction
2. Discuss briefly the Joint family system.
3. Mention reasons for decline in joint family system.
4. Conclusion

**Answer:** The family, in Indian society, is an **institution by itself and a typical symbol of the collectivist culture** of India right from the ancient times. The joint family system or an extended family has been an important feature of Indian culture, till a blend of urbanization and western influence, began to affect in home and heart. This is especially true of urban areas, where nuclear families have become the order of the day. This transformation can be attributed to a myriad of socio-economic factors.

#### Joint family system:

1. India has a rich family structure with a **patrilineal background**, which help the family members to sustain a life with kinship groupings.
2. Earlier, mostly joint families were found where family members live together under one roof. They **all mutually work, eat, worship and co-operate** each other in one or the other way.
3. This also helps the family to **get strong mentally, physically and economically**, the children also get to know about the values and traditions of the society from their grandparents and elders.
4. The family system has given a lot of importance in India and has worked more often to make the bonding among families stronger.

#### Reasons for decline in joint family system:

##### Socio-economic changes:

1. **Urbanization:** Migration to cities for education and job opportunities often separates families geographically, making it difficult to maintain a joint living arrangement.
2. **Increased economic independence:** With better education and employment opportunities, young adults achieve financial independence sooner, reducing their dependence on the family unit.
3. **Nuclearization of workplaces:** Modern workplaces are often structured for individual employees, unlike traditional agricultural or family businesses that involved the whole family.

### Shifting values and preferences:

1. **Individualism vs. collectivism:** Modern societies prioritize individual autonomy and privacy, which often clash with the communal expectations of a joint family.
2. **Changing gender roles:** Women are increasingly participating in the workforce, seeking personal and professional fulfilment beyond traditional family roles.
3. **Desire for privacy and autonomy:** Young couples prefer nuclear families for greater freedom in decision-making and raising children according to their own values.

### Other factors:

1. **Western cultural influence:** Exposure to Western culture, through media and education promote the idea of the nuclear family as the ideal model.
2. **Change in Age of marriage:** There is a gradual upward trend of increase in the average age at marriage. Postponement of marriage among females has resulted in the postponement of childbearing with a reduction in family size.

However, as time progresses, a family may **transition from a joint arrangement to a nuclear structure and subsequently revert to a joint setting**. For example, adult children might start their own nuclear families, while their parent's age and potentially require more support. This can lead to a reintegration of sorts, with younger generations providing care for their elders. The decline of the joint family system is not necessarily a negative development. Nuclear families offer advantages like privacy, autonomy, and flexibility. However, the loss of the support system and shared responsibilities that joint families provide can be detrimental, especially for vulnerable members like children and the elderly.

### Q.2) Analyse the objectives of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for China. What are India's concerns about BRI?

#### APPROACH:

1. Introduction
2. Discuss multiple objectives of BRI for China.
3. Explain India's concerns about BRI.
4. Conclusion

China proposed the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013** to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. Sometimes referred to as the **New Silk Road**, it is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived.

The BRI comprises a **Silk Road Economic Belt – a trans-continental passage** that links China with Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Russia and Europe by land – and a 21st century **Maritime Silk Road, a sea route** connecting China's coastal regions with southeast and south Asia, the South Pacific, the Middle East and Eastern Africa, all the way to Europe.

### Objectives of BRI for China:

1. China has both **geopolitical and economic motivations** behind the initiative. Current Chinese government has promoted a vision of a more assertive China. Country's leadership is trying to open new markets for export of its goods.

2. **To increase trade and investment:** It will improve the bilateral and multilateral co-operation mechanisms especially through policy communication, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation and capital flow.
3. **To enhance financial co-operation in the region to fund infrastructure:** China aims to strengthen co-operation with international organizations including international financial organizations and institutions, work actively to promote the development of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank, put the Silk Road Fund to effective use, and attract international capital for the creation of a financial co-operation platform.
4. **To gain access to natural resources:** BRI will help China gain international co-operation on energy and resources and production chains and increase local processing and conversion.
5. **To strengthen transport infrastructure:** It will develop multi-modal transportation that integrates expressways, railways, waterways, and airways, build international logistics thoroughfares, and strengthen infrastructure development along major routes and at major ports of entry.
6. **To deepen cultural exchanges in the region:** China with the help of BRI can conduct extensive international co-operation in the areas of education, science, technology, culture, sports, tourism, environmental protection, health care, and traditional Chinese medicine.
7. While infrastructure investment is a key aspect of the BRI, China states that it is **much broader in its objectives**, encompassing all aspects of the sustainable growth for itself and including **more balanced regional growth, the upgrading of its industry and greener economic growth** at home.

#### China's Belt & Road Initiative



#### India's concerns about BRI

1. India has **security concerns regarding "String of Pearls" geo-economic strategy** whereby China creates unsustainable debt burdens for its Indian Ocean neighbours in order to seize control of regional choke points.



2. India has also opposed BRI because a key component – the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** – **passes through PoK raising concerns regarding the violation of India's territorial integrity and sovereignty**. This corridor further attempts to connect China's Xinjiang autonomous region with Pakistan's Balochistan Province.
3. Ministry of External Affairs from time to time has expressed serious concerns about the **possibility of BRI resulting in unsustainable debt burdens**. For example, in some recipient **countries like Sri Lanka** the increasing Chinese debt is a cause of concern not just for the country but has implications for the region.
4. BRI is **not based on principles such as good governance, rule of law and transparency**. Connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms, openness and equality, and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity.
5. Through BRI, China will **gain an advantage over India in the neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood** and India has to play a secondary role to China, thus with some suggesting India will have no alternative but to prefer a **US-orientated world order**.

Although, India has decided not be part of BRI, but it **needs to response and evolve strategies** to BRI. Some of its response and strategies such as being part of the **quadrilateral grouping QUAD** and **Necklace of Diamond and India-middle east-Europe economic corridor recently launched in G20** is a welcome move and many other such strategies should be explored.

### Objective Questions:

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements with reference to the Committee on Ethics in Parliament:

1. It prepares a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.
2. It is currently constituted in the Lok Sabha only.
3. It examines the cases of breach of privileges of the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**

Committee on Ethics enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action. Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.

**Statement 1 is correct. Committee on Ethics prepares a Code of Conduct for members** and suggests amendments or additions to the Code from time to time in the form of reports to the Council.

**Statement 2 is incorrect. Ethics Committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000.**

**Statement 3 is incorrect. Committee of Privileges (not Committee on Ethics)** examines the cases of breach of privileges of the House and its members.

**Q.2)** With reference to special powers of the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. It can authorize the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List.
2. It can authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct.** The Rajya Sabha can authorize the Parliament to **make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List** (Article 249) by passing a resolution supported by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The Rajya Sabha can authorize the Parliament to create **new All-India Services** common to both the Centre and states (Article 312). The Rajya Sabha alone can **initiate a move for the removal of the vice-president**. Resolution for this must be passed by a **majority of all the then members of the council** and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements:

1. A 'resolution' can be introduced by private members only to draw the attention of the Parliament on a matter of Public Interest.
2. A 'motion' is a self-contained independent proposal that is necessarily put to vote after discussion in the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** A resolution come in the category of substantive motions. The discussion on a resolution is strictly relevant to and within the scope of the resolution. Resolutions can be introduced by **private member or a minister to draw the attention of the House** on a matter of general public interest.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** A motion is a **self-contained independent proposal** and all **motions are not necessarily put to vote in the house**; however, all the resolutions are required to be voted upon.

**Q.4)** With reference to double membership in Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. If a person is elected to two seats in a House, he can remain on both the seats for a period of 6 months.
2. If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his seat in the first House automatically becomes vacant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans) b**

**Exp) Option b is correct**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** If a person is elected to two seats in a House, he should exercise his option for one. Otherwise, both seats become vacant. Under Sec 33(7) of RPA, 1951, an individual can contest from two parliamentary constituencies but, if elected from both, he has to resign one seat within 14 days of the declaration of the result, failing which both his seats shall fall vacant.

**Statement 2 is correct.** If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his seat in the first House becomes vacant. For example, if a sitting Rajya Sabha member contests and wins a Lok Sabha election, his seat in the Upper House becomes automatically vacant on the date he is declared elected to Lok Sabha. The same applies to a Lok Sabha member who contests an election to Rajya Sabha. [Sec 69 read with Sec 67A, RPA 1951]

**Q.5)** Under which of the following criteria(s) can a person be disqualified from being elected as a member of Parliament:

1. If he/she holds any Office of Profit under the Union Government.
2. If he/she is in detention under a preventive detention law.
3. If he/she is an undischarged insolvent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct.** Under the Constitution, a person shall be disqualified for being elected as a member of Parliament, **if he/she holds any office of profit under the Union or state government** (except that of a minister or any other office exempted by Parliament).

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Under the RPA (1951), a person is disqualified if he/she has been convicted for any offence resulting in imprisonment for two or more years. **But, the detention of a person under a preventive detention law does not lead to disqualification.**

**Statement 3 is correct.** Under the **constitution**, a person is disqualified if he/she is an **undischarged insolvent.**