Syllabus Essentials

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English

**Weekly Compilation
[15th-20th September, 2025]**

Rangarajan Committee (2012-14)

Objectives
- Reassess India's poverty **measurement methodology.**
- Link **poverty estimates** with government entitlements.
- Examine if **poverty lines should consider only consumption** or broader criteria.

Methodology & Key Features
- **Separate poverty** line baskets for rural and urban areas.
- **Nutrition norms**: 2,155 kcal (rural), 2,090 kcal (urban); protein and fat intake included.
- Considered spending on **health, education, clothing, rent**, and **essential non-food** items.
- **Relied on NSSO consumption data**; rejected National Accounts Statistics due to mismatch.

Poverty Thresholds (2011–12)
- **Rural**: ₹32 daily per capita expenditure (₹972 monthly).
- **Urban**: ₹47 daily per capita expenditure (₹1,407 monthly).

Impact & Criticism
- Estimated 29.5% population below poverty line in 2011–12, higher than Tendulkar's 21.9%.
- Criticised for still underestimating real deprivation despite higher thresholds.
- Highlighted importance of multi-dimensional poverty measures beyond income and consumption.

Types of unemployment

Types

- **Cyclical Unemployment:** Occurs during economic downturns when demand for goods and services drops.
  - **Example:** Job losses during a recession.
- **Frictional Unemployment:** Temporary unemployment when people switch jobs or enter the workforce.
  - **Example:** A graduate looking for their first job.
- **Open Unemployment:** People are willing to work and actively seeking jobs but can't find any.
  - **Example:** Large numbers of jobless youth in urban areas.
- **Seasonal Unemployment:** Jobs available only during certain seasons.
  - **Example:** Farm workers unemployed between harvests.
- **Educated Unemployment:** Qualified individuals unable to find jobs matching their education.
  - **Example:** Engineers working in call centers.
- **Underemployment:** Workers employed below their skill level or part-time involuntarily.
  - **Example:** A trained teacher working as a clerk.
- **Compulsory Unemployment:** Forced joblessness due to layoffs, closures, or policy decisions.
  - **Example:** Workers losing jobs due to factory shutdowns.

Lucknow Session of Congress (1916)

Overview
- The Lucknow session was held in **December 1916** by both **major political parties.**
- **Congress and Muslim League** held their annual sessions simultaneously in **Lucknow.**

Lucknow Pact
- **Congress and Muslim League** agreed to cooperate on a common political programme.
- This agreement came to be known as the **Lucknow Pact or Congress-League Pact.**
- Both passed separate resolutions demanding **constitutional reforms** from the **British Government.**
- They jointly released 19 bulletins **to guide contemporary political developments positively.**

Key Personalities
- **Ambika Charan Mazumdar** was the Congress session's president in December 1916.
- **Annie Besant** and **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** helped reunite **Extremists with the Congress.**
- **Tilak and Jinnah** played key roles in forming th**e Congress-League Pact.**

Cloudbursts

Definition

- A cloudburst is an **extreme amount of precipitation** in a very short period of time.
- It is sometimes accompanied by **hail and thunder**, and it can create flood-like conditions.

How Do They Occur?

- A cloudburst occurs when there is **sudden condensation** of a huge amount of moisture along with **strong upward air currents**.
- These air currents hold the **condensing rainfall together in the air** for some time, leading to the **accumulation of large volumes of water**.
- This accumulated water eventually **falls due to gravity** over a **small area** within a short span of time.
- Cloudbursts occur mostly through the **orographic lifting of moisture-laden winds.**
- They may also occur when a **warm air parcel mixes with cooler air**, resulting in **sudden condensation**.

Constitutional Provision

Overview:
- **Article 72** empowers the President to grant pardons in cases where:
  a. Punishment is for an offence against a **Union law**.
  b. Punishment is by a **court martial** (military court).
  c. Sentence is a **death penalty**.
- Power is **executive**, independent of judiciary, but not a court of appeal.

Types of Pardoning Powers
- **Pardon** – Removes both conviction & sentence; absolves person fully.
- **Commutation** – Substitutes lighter punishment (e.g., death → life imprisonment).
- **Remission** – Reduces period of sentence without altering character.
- **Respite** – Lesser sentence due to special circumstances (e.g., pregnancy, disability).
- **Reprieve** – Temporary stay of execution, especially death sentence, to allow mercy plea.

Vice-President

Position
- It is the **second highest constitutional office**, next to the President in warrant of precedence.
- The office of the vice president is modeled on the US Vice-President.

Election Method
- Indirect election, not directly by people.
- Elected by an Electoral College consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.
- **System:** Proportional representation by single transferable vote, through secret ballot.

Difference from President's Electoral College
- It includes both **elected** and **nominated** members of Parliament.
- It excludes **State Legislative Assembly** members.

Reason for Difference (as explained by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar)
- **The President is the Head of State,** powers extend to Centre & States → needs state role.
- **Vice-President** is the primarily **Chairperson of Rajya Sabha and acts as** President only **temporarily.**
- Hence, no role of **State Legislatures in Vice-President's election.**

Stay Tuned!