

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper 2- Polity- Electoral Reforms.**

**Guidelines for increasing Political inclusion of disabled**

India's Election Commission has issued guidelines urging political parties to use disability-friendly language and enhance inclusivity for persons with disabilities (PwDs). The 11 guidelines focus on disability-inclusive language, ensuring accessibility of information, and promoting inclusion within political parties.

**Guidelines for Political Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities:**

**1. Focus on Disability-Inclusive Language:**

- Political parties are advised to refrain from using derogatory and dehumanizing terms when referring to persons with disabilities.
- Examples of negative language, as highlighted by instances like the comparison made in Tamil Nadu in September 2023, are to be avoided.

**2. Ensure Accessibility of Information:**

- Political parties should make their websites accessible to PwDs.
- Events and activities organized by political parties should be held in locations that are accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities.

**3. Inclusion Within Political Parties:**

- Encouragement for the inclusion of persons with disabilities at all levels within political parties.
- Development of training modules on disability for party workers.
- Efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in various party roles and activities.

**Benefits of the Guidelines:**

**1. Encouraging Political Inclusion:**

- Aligning with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the guidelines aim to encourage the political inclusion of persons with disabilities.

**2. Promoting Inclusivity and Accessibility:**

- By urging accessibility for persons with disabilities in the political sphere, the guidelines contribute to a more inclusive and accessible political environment.

**Limitations of the Guidelines:**

**1. Advisory Nature:**

- The guidelines are not mandatory, creating variability in their application.
- Lack of clarity on whether violations may lead to actions under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act.

**2. Exclusion from Model Code of Conduct:**

- The guidelines are not part of the official Model Code of Conduct for elections, and consequences for violations are unclear.

**3. Ambiguity in Language:**

- Certain terms like "blind," "deaf," and "dumb" may be considered technical but could be viewed as derogatory in some languages.

**Recommendations for Improvement:**

**1. Consistent Approach:**

- A consistent approach should be applied across all guidelines for clarity and effectiveness.

**2. Inclusion in National Policy:**

- The draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities should include a dedicated chapter on political inclusion.

**3. Data Collection:**

- The Election Commission is encouraged to include disability information in nomination forms and affidavits to gather data on legislators with disabilities.

The implementation and improvement of these guidelines would contribute to fostering a more inclusive political environment in India.

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- International relation- Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate.**

**Relevance of international law- Why international law matters**

International law, despite its flaws and challenges in enforcement, plays a crucial role in establishing legal obligations between nations and governing a wide range of global issues. It covers areas such as human rights, disarmament, criminal activities, refugee concerns, and environmental sustainability, among others. The relevance of international law goes beyond mere compliance, influencing how national courts interpret their own laws and holding nations accountable for their actions.

**Relevance of International Law:**

**1. Beyond Compliance:**

- International law extends beyond mere compliance, impacting how national courts interpret their own laws. It shapes legal interpretations at the domestic level.

**2. Accountability:**

- It serves as a tool to hold nations accountable for their actions. Notably, South Africa's move to the International Court of Justice against Israel's actions in Gaza highlights the role of international law in challenging powerful nations.

**3. Maintaining Balance:**

- Crucial for maintaining balance in international relations, international law forces nations to justify their actions and works towards limiting power abuses.

**Concerns Related to International Law:**

**1. Ineffectiveness in Conflicts:**

- Recent conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine raise concerns about the effectiveness of international law in preventing or stopping conflicts.

**2. Structural Deficiencies:**

- The law suffers from structural issues rooted in imperial and colonial history.

**3. Lack of Enforcement Mechanism:**

- Unlike domestic law, international law lacks a global police force, making enforcement challenging.

**4. Selective Compliance:**

- Nations often choose when to comply with international law, leading to questions about its overall efficacy.

**5. Limited Accountability Measures:**

- While it aims to hold nations accountable, the actual process can be ineffective, particularly in bringing powerful countries to justice in international forums.

**Way Forward:**

**1. Broader Impact on National Courts and Global Norms:**

- The focus should shift from mere compliance to the broader impact of international law on national courts and global norms.

**2. Enhanced Accountability:**

- Strengthening international law's ability to hold powerful nations accountable is crucial. The example of South Africa's case against Israel showcases the potential of such accountability measures.

**3. Improving Effectiveness:**

- Efforts should be made to address structural deficiencies, enhance enforcement mechanisms, and promote a more comprehensive compliance framework.

**4. Global Cooperation:**

- International cooperation is vital for addressing global challenges. Enhancing cooperation among nations can contribute to the effectiveness of international law.

In conclusion, while international law faces challenges, its continued relevance and importance in holding nations accountable and shaping global norms cannot be understated. Strengthening its impact and addressing concerns are essential steps for a more effective international legal framework.