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## Water Shortage and Public Health

Water shortage occurs when there is insufficient clean water available for people in a region. This scarcity can lead to serious health problems because lack of clean water affects drinking, hygiene, and sanitation. Contaminated or unclean water can cause diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and other infections.

In many villages, natural water sources like streams and tanks dry up due to drought, overuse, or pollution. As a result, villagers often have to carry water from distant places, which is physically exhausting and time-consuming. This situation severely impacts daily life and health.

**Causes of Water Shortage:**

- Drought or low rainfall
- High water usage
- Pollution of water sources
- Climate change effects

### Consequences:

- Spread of waterborne diseases
- Health problems due to poor hygiene
- Increased burden on women and children who collect water

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** What are the main causes of water shortage in villages?

**Answer:** The main causes include drought, overuse of water, pollution, and climate change.

**Q2:** How does water shortage affect public health?

**Answer:** Water shortage leads to consumption of unclean water, causing diseases like diarrhea and cholera, and affects hygiene, leading to health problems.

## Health Crisis in Patalpuram District

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Patalpuram district is facing a severe health crisis due to limited water supply. People receive water only once every three days, leading to poor hygiene and outbreaks of diseases such as acute diarrhea, especially among children. The district hospital is overwhelmed with patients suffering from this condition.

## Understanding Acute Diarrhea:

- It is a sudden onset of frequent, loose, or watery stools lasting a few days.
- Caused by infections from bacteria, viruses, or parasites.
- Leads to dehydration due to loss of fluids and electrolytes.
- Treatment involves oral rehydration solutions (ORS) to restore fluids and salts.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** What causes acute diarrhea and why is it dangerous?

**Answer:** Acute diarrhea is caused by infections from harmful microorganisms in contaminated water. It is dangerous because it causes dehydration, especially in children.

**Q2:** Why is the hospital in Patalpuram overcrowded?

**Answer:** The hospital is overcrowded due to many patients, especially children, suffering from acute diarrhea caused by poor water supply and hygiene.

## Public Response and Political Involvement

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The health crisis in Patalpuram has led to public concern and political action. People have protested, demanding that the government take responsibility and address the water shortage and health issues. Political leaders, including opposition members, have raised the issue to urge immediate government action.

This situation shows how public health problems can lead to political debates and demands for accountability from elected representatives.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** How did the public respond to the health crisis in Patalpuram?

**Answer:** The public organized protests and demanded that the government take responsibility and act to solve the water shortage and health problems.

**Q2:** What role do political leaders play during such crises?

**Answer:** Political leaders raise awareness, question government actions, and push for immediate measures to address the crisis.

## Members of the Legislative Assembly and State Government

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Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected representatives from different constituencies within a state. Each state in India has a Legislative Assembly where MLAs meet to discuss and decide on state matters.

The political party with more than half the MLAs forms the ruling party, and its leader becomes the Chief Minister. Other parties form the opposition. MLAs can also be appointed as ministers to head various government departments.

### Key Points:

- Each state is divided into constituencies; each elects one MLA.
- The ruling party has the majority of MLAs.
- The Chief Minister leads the state government.
- Ministers are appointed from among MLAs to manage departments.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** What is the role of an MLA?

**Answer:** An MLA represents the people of their constituency in the Legislative Assembly and participates in making laws and decisions for the state.

**Q2:** How is the Chief Minister chosen?

**Answer:** The Chief Minister is chosen by the ruling party MLAs after winning the majority in the Legislative Assembly.

## Political Map and Assembly Elections of Himachal Pradesh

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The state of Himachal Pradesh is divided into 68 assembly constituencies. In the 2017 Assembly Elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 44 seats, Indian National Congress (INC) won 21, Communist Party of India (Marxist) won 1, and 2 seats were won by independent candidates.

The party with the majority, BJP in this case, formed the government with Shri Jairam Thakur as the Chief Minister. The opposition parties hold the remaining seats.

### Exam Questions

**Q1:** How many constituencies are there in Himachal Pradesh?

**Answer:** There are 68 assembly constituencies in Himachal Pradesh.

**Q2:** Which party formed the government in Himachal Pradesh in 2017?

**Answer:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) formed the government by winning 44 seats.

# Legislative Assembly Debate on Health Issues

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MLAs in the Legislative Assembly debate important issues such as health crises. They ask questions, express opinions, and suggest actions. Ministers respond and assure the Assembly about the steps being taken.

During debates, MLAs from both ruling and opposition parties discuss problems like hospital conditions, water shortages, and disease outbreaks. This process ensures government accountability and decision-making.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** What is the purpose of debates in the Legislative Assembly?

**Answer:** Debates allow MLAs to discuss issues, question the government, and suggest solutions, ensuring transparency and accountability.

**Q2:** How do ministers participate in the Assembly?

**Answer:** Ministers answer questions, explain government actions, and seek approval for decisions.

## Press Conference and Government Response

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Governments use press conferences to communicate with the public through the media. Officials explain the steps taken to address issues, answer questions, and provide updates.

In response to the health crisis, the Chief Minister and Health Minister visited affected areas, announced compensation for families, and promised funds for sanitation and

water supply improvements.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** What is the purpose of a press conference?

**Answer:** To inform the public about government actions and respond to media questions.

**Q2:** What measures did the government take to control diarrhea in Patalpuram?

**Answer:** Supplying water through tankers, starting awareness campaigns, and improving sanitation.

## People Expressing Views in Democracy

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In a democracy, citizens have the right to express their opinions and protest against the government. Public meetings and protests are ways to voice concerns and demand action.

Freedom of assembly allows people to gather peacefully to influence government decisions and promote dialogue.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** Why are protests important in a democracy?

**Answer:** Protests show the government the issues people care about and encourage change.

**Q2:** What rights do citizens have to express their views?

**Answer:** Citizens have the right to meet, speak, and demonstrate peacefully.

## Government Departments and Their Functions

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| Name of Department      | Examples of Their Work  |
|-------------------------|---|
| School Education        | Managing schools, creating curricula, hiring teachers, organizing exams             |
| Public Works Department | Building and maintaining roads, bridges, government buildings, water supply systems |
| Agriculture             | Supporting farmers, providing seeds and fertilizers, irrigation, pest control       |

### Exam Questions

**Q1:** What is the role of the Public Works Department?

**Answer:** It builds and maintains public infrastructure like roads and water supply systems.

**Q2:** How does the Agriculture Department help farmers?

**Answer:** By providing seeds, fertilizers, technical assistance, and irrigation support.

## Collaborative Learning through Wallpaper Projects

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Wallpaper projects involve students working in groups to research, discuss, and present information on a topic. This method promotes teamwork, critical thinking, creativity, and

communication skills.

Students collect materials, write observations, create stories or poems, and present their work to the class, receiving feedback to improve their understanding.

## Exam Questions

**Q1:** What skills do students develop through wallpaper projects?

**Answer:** Teamwork, critical thinking, creativity, communication, and presentation skills.

**Q2:** Why is feedback important after presentations?

**Answer:** Feedback helps students improve their work and learn from others.

## Glossary

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**Constituency:** A specific area whose voters elect a representative, such as an MLA.

**Majority:** When more than half the members support a decision or party.

**Opposition:** Elected representatives not in the ruling party who question and challenge government decisions.

**Press Conference:** A meeting where government officials provide information and answer questions from the media.

# Practice Set

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## Easy

- What is an MLA?
- Define majority in the context of legislative assemblies.

## Moderate

- Explain the role of the Chief Minister in a state government.
- Describe two causes and two effects of water shortage.

## Challenging

- Discuss how public protests can influence government action in a democracy.
- Explain the process of forming a state government after assembly elections.

## Solved Examples

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**Example 1:** If a state has 100 assembly constituencies, how many seats must a party win to have a majority?

**Solution:** More than half the seats are needed for a majority. Half of 100 is 50, so the party must win at least 51 seats.

**Example 2:** Why is clean water important for public health?

**Solution:** Clean water prevents waterborne diseases, supports hygiene, and reduces health risks like diarrhea and cholera.

# Answer Key

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## Practice Set Answers:

- MLA is a Member of the Legislative Assembly elected by voters in a constituency.
- Majority means having more than half the members supporting a party or decision.
- The Chief Minister leads the state government and makes executive decisions.
- Causes of water shortage: drought, pollution; Effects: diseases, difficulty in daily life.
- Public protests raise awareness and pressure governments to act.
- After elections, the party with majority MLAs forms the government and selects the Chief Minister.

## Quick Reference

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- **MLA:** Elected representative from a constituency.
- **Legislative Assembly:** State-level law-making body.
- **Chief Minister:** Leader of the state government.
- **Majority:** More than half the seats in the assembly.
- **Opposition:** Parties not in power, holding the government accountable.
- **Press Conference:** Government communication with media.
- **Water Shortage:** Insufficient clean water supply.
- **Acute Diarrhea:** Sudden, severe diarrhea caused by infection.