

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURESHOT MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

GENERAL STUDIES Subjective Assessment Test - 2 (Polity - 2)

Time allowed: 90 minutes

Maximum Marks: 125

ADMIN. NO.: 1 6 0 0 0 0 8 3

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SUBMISSION DATE: 18/07/2024

**UPSE CSE 2025
AIR - 952**

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are TEN questions printed in ENGLISH. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q6	/15
Q2	/10	Q7	/15
Q3	/10	Q8	/15
Q4	/10	Q9	/15
Q5	/10	Q10	/15
Total		/125	

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 9717565805 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions





(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Discuss the role of the Department Related Standing Committee (DRSC) system in improving parliamentary effectiveness. (10 marks, 150 words)

Department Related Standing Committees (1993) are the committees of the Parliament which study budgets, reports, audits and provide valuable input. There are 24 DRSC with 31 members - 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 members from Rajya Sabha.

Role of DRSC -

- improve parliament functioning
The Standing Committee on External Affairs gave the input to improve infrastructure on Indo-China issue.
- specialized expertise
the members have adequate expertise on matters related to the government ministries.
- enhanced legislation
clarity and effectiveness. The Food and Consumer Affairs DRSC amended the Consumer Protection Act 2019.
- Cross party collaboration
- oversight on the government budget and grants.

Issues

- very few bills are referred to DRSCs
it was 71% in 15th Lok Sabha, decreased to 27% in 16th Lok Sabha.
- inadequate human resource
- politicization
- poor attendance of members

Way Forward

- best practices around the world should be adopted.

Specialist members
Australia, US, UK

Public consultation
Canada

- increase bill referral to the DPSCs.
- scrutiny and clarity.
- increase MP attendance.
- incentives, penalties, etc.

With the increase in the scrutiny and deliberations, the DPSCs can help in promoting the parliamentary system of government in India.

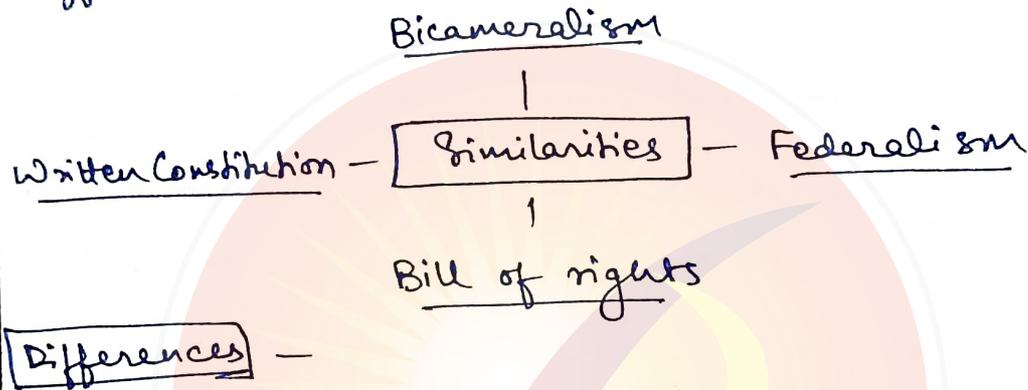
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2. 'Unique blend of flexibility and rigidity distinguish Indian constitution from that of the US constitution' Discuss (10 marks, 150 words)

The Indian and the US constitution have ~~been~~ developed evolved differently due to their socio-economic and historical differences.



Aspect	Indian Constitution	US Constitution .
• Federal Structure	states have limited autonomy. (Indestructible Union of destructible states)	states have significant autonomy. (Indestructible Union of indestructible states)
• Amendment procedure	simple majority, special majority, special majority with ratification of half the states .	rigid - two-thirds majority of both the houses and ratification by three-fourth of states .
• Separation of power	parliamentary - executive is part of legislature - quicker decision-making .	strict separation of executive and legislature - rigid slower decision-making

(Don't write anything in this part)

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• Judicial Review	system of checks and balances. SC - Judicial Review. to check constitutionality of a law.	Judicial review as part of Fundamental Rights. System of Judicial supremacy.
• Frequency of amendments	more frequent due to flexible process.	less frequent due to rigorous procedure.

The Indian constitution is a blend of flexibility and Rigidity whereas the US Constitution has highly rigid features, representing the varied philosophies of both the nations.

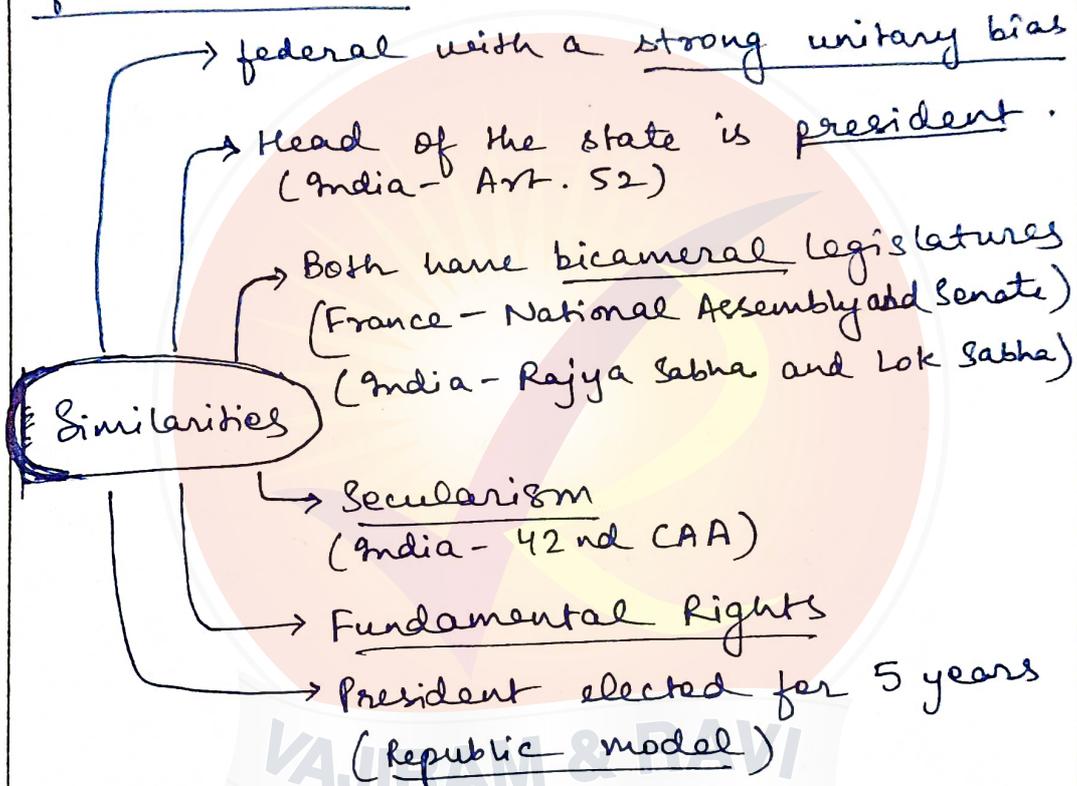
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3. Compare and contrast the features of the Indian constitution to that of the French constitution
(10 marks, 150 words)

Indian constitution became operative on January 26, 1950. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar proudly stated that the Indian constitution is the 'ransacking of all known constitutions of the world'.



Differences -

Aspect	India	France
• Form of government	Parliamentary form of government	Semi-presidential form of government
• Citizenship	Single citizenship (Art. 5-11)	Dual citizenship

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• Amending procedure	combination of both rigid and flexible.	rigid in nature (approved by both houses + refer referendum)
• Secularism	Positive secularism with equal respect for all religions.	strict separation of state from religion
• Presidential etc election	electoral college - elected members of both houses of Parliament and legislative assemblies (indirect election)	2 round election (if no candidate get 50% votes in first round - then 2nd round election).

The constitutions of both the countries ~~are~~ have evolved due to their different socio-economic and historical contexts. Indian constitution, however, is a living document, changing with the progressive aspirations of its people.

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4. Discuss the effectiveness of the state legislative councils in checking the powers delegated on the council of ministers. (10 marks, 150 words)

India has a bicameral system of legislature. Art. 169 specifies that States can have a legislative council if the legislative assembly of the state passes a resolution.

6/28 states have legislative councils - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Effectiveness -

- debates and discussion - forum for deliberations
Karnataka legislative council debate on Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Prevention of Cattle Bill, 2020.
- enhanced legislations - revising chamber
Maharashtra legislative council review on Lokayukta Bill, 2023.
- questioning accountability of ministers
- diverse representation - 1/6 th members
nominated by governor having special expertise.
- mechanism for checks and balances.

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Limitations -

- Limited ~~ex~~ legislative power - can delay a bill only for four months
- Limited role in budget formulation - cannot vote on demands for grants.
- political influence - backdoor entries
- lack of effective representation because not directly elected by people.

Way forward -

- 2nd ARC recommended for legislative council in every state elected by local governments.
- reduce political influence and enhance legislative role.

Legislative councils ~~can~~ ^{foster} ~~enhance~~ robust deliberations and thus, can enhance the democratic fabric of the country.

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5. 'Creation of parallel judicial hierarchy undermines the jurisdiction of high courts in India.' Examine.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Parallel Judicial hierarchy refers to establishment of tribunals under Art. 323 A (administrative tribunals) and Art. 323 B (other matters tribunals).

These address specific types of issues - taxation, environment, etc.

Undermining Jurisdiction of High courts -

- Bypassing the Appellate jurisdiction of high courts -
Eg. National Green Tribunal gives for direct appeal to Supreme court.
- Undermining original jurisdiction of high courts -
Armed Forces Tribunal - matters related to military dispute which were originally under high courts.
- Parallel structure leading to fragmentation
eg. Tax tribunals handle tax related cases leading to separate line of legal jurisdiction.

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Complementing Judicial system -

- Specialization and expertise

NCLT handles company law matters, allowing high courts to focus on other matters.

- Reducing backlogs of high courts

The specific service tribunals like CAT alleviate pressure ~~from~~ ^{on} high courts.

- tribunals function as extension of high courts.

Way forward -

In L Chandan Kumar case (1997), Supreme Court clarified that tribunals are subject to high court scrutiny.

There is a need to strengthen synergy between tribunals and courts for a strong and robust judicial system.

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6. "Supremacy of the constitution requires all ordinary laws to conform to the constitutional law." Discuss the statement with reference to judicial review in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Judicial Review ~~part~~ upholds the supremacy of the constitution by conforming to the constitutional ideals and morality (Article 13) ~~is~~.

Judicial review ensured the supremacy of constitutions by -

- Protector of Fundamental rights

In Maneka Gandhi case (1978) the scope of Art. 21 was expanded.

- Safeguarding the constitutional values

Shreya Singhal case (2015) - striking down of sec 66A of IT Act, thus preventing judicial overreach.

- Promotion of good governance enhancing transparency and accountability of the government.

- The independence of judiciary is reinforced.

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- setting Legal precedents thus, promoting legal consistency.
- In Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973 - certain fundamental features have been established as the Basic Structure of the Constitution and cannot be altered by amendments - secularism, federalism, etc.

Sometimes, Judicial review becomes Judicial Overreach -

- undermines democratic accountability.
- the judiciary oversteps its domain
Eg. Diwali Firecracker ban
- hampers separation of power
- courts do not have the required expertise for complex decisions. - the coal block allocation case.

Way Forward -

- enhancing independence of Judiciary - Advocates on Record Association & Anr. case, Supreme court reaffirmed independence of judiciary as part of basic structure.

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- expert committee can be formed for review of amendments and existing laws.
- public awareness and education

Judicial review upholds the democratic principles by ~~re~~ reinstating the supremacy of Constitution. It is essential for judiciary to exercise judicial restraint to prevent judicial review from becoming judicial overreach.

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7. Foreign funding received by NGOs have their own set of issues, but at the same time they are important because of a variety of reasons. Discuss. Also, enumerate the key provisions of FCRA Rules 2022 to streamline foreign funding in India.
(15 marks, 250 words)

According to the Home Ministry, a total of 13,520 NGOs have received approx. ₹56,000 crore as foreign funding between 2019-20 and 2021-22.

Issues —

- **Lack of transparency**
The GOI in 2015 cancelled the licenses of almost 9000 NGOs because of failure to submit audit reports.
- **Political interference**
Amnesty and Greenpeace have been accused of serving western interests.
- **Violation of FCRA, 2010**
CPR and Oxfam got their licence cancelled for accepting funds from prohibited sources.
- **Impact on National Development**
#TB report highlights that NGOs use 2-3% of their funds against developmental projects.
Eg. Greenpeace against coal-fired power station.

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Reasons for importance -

- Capacity building
foreign funds have been used by Doctors without Borders for training, research and development.
- Tackling global issues
Oxfam uses foreign funds to ~~finance~~ ^{address} poverty reduction, inequality and social justice.
- Supporting marginalized community
Amnesty International - ~~to~~ human rights initiatives.
- financial sustainability

FCRA Rules 2022 -

- Increased annual allowance to ₹ 10 lakhs from ₹ 1 lakh previously.
- extending reporting period from 30 days to 90 days
- Ban on fund transfer from one NGO to another.
- extended application timeframe from 30 to 45 days.

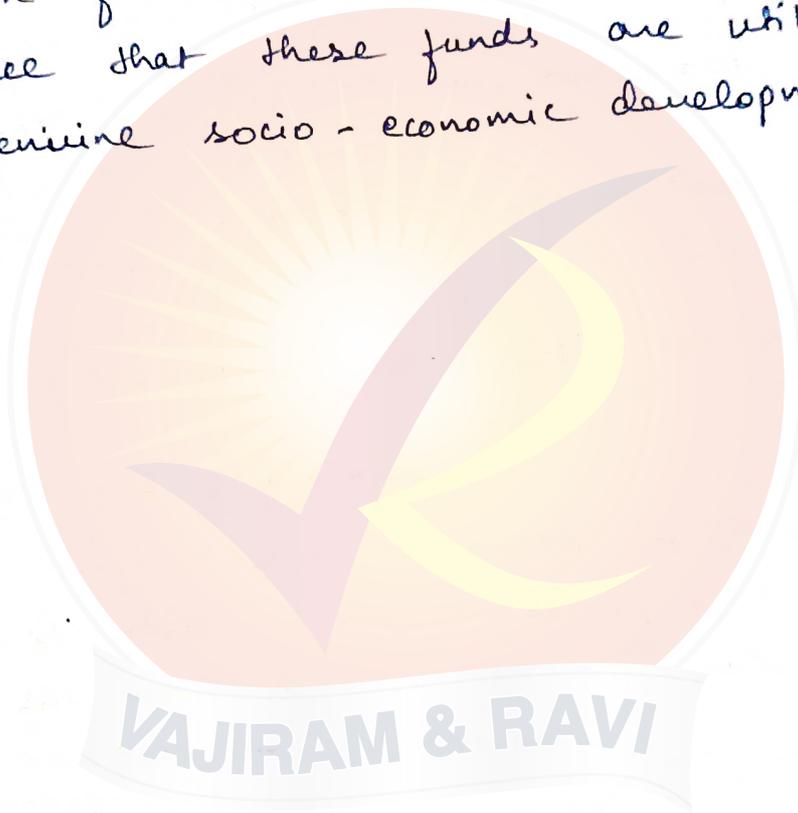
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- 20% limit ~~for~~^{on} administrative fund usage.

NGOs perform diverse functions and are supported by both local and foreign funds. It is however, essential to see that these funds are utilized for genuine socio-economic development.



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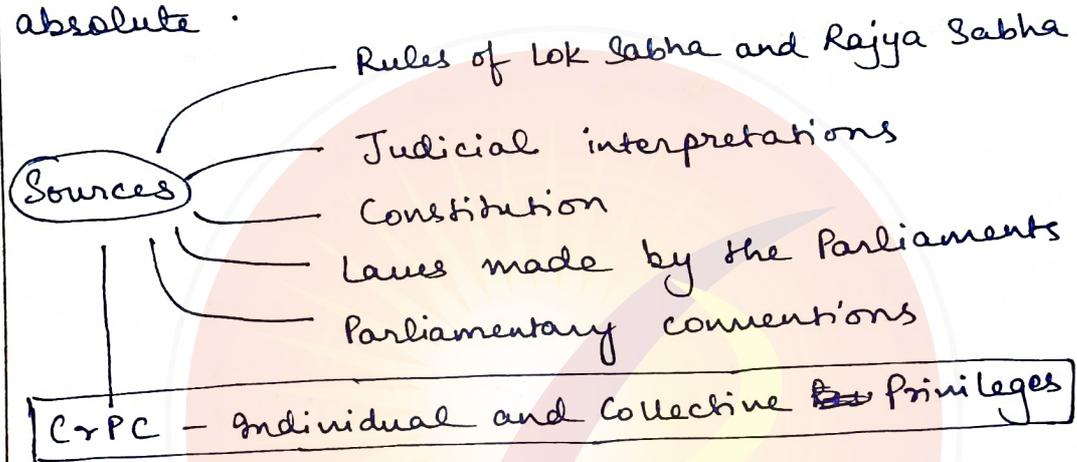
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8. What are the constitutional provisions related to parliamentary privileges? Also, discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Parliamentary privileges are the immunities enjoyed by the members of parliament in the discharge of their duties. It is not absolute.



• Constitutional provisions

① Article 105 wherein no member of parliament shall be liable to any proceeding in any court for anything said or any vote given by him in parliament.

Article 194 for state legislature.

② Article 122 the validity of any proceeding shall not be called in court for any irregularity. For state legislature -

Article 212.

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Need for Codification -

- Defined boundaries for clarity and reducing ambiguities. The Supreme court reiterated it in K. Anandan Nambiar case 1951.
- Conflict with constitutional provisions - equality before the law.
- Subject to scrutiny State of Kerala vs K. Ajith (2021)
- Prevent misuse - checks and balances.
- greater transparency.
- Legal consistency
- best practices regarding codification - Australia, New Zealand, can be adopted for greater accountability.
- An expert committee can be formed to see the need for codification.

Arguments against codification

- constitutional constraints limits judicials scrutiny over parliamentary procedure (Art. 122).

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- potential threat to legislative independence .
- loss of flexibility
- procedural complexity - lengthy judicial cases .

The legislators must use these privileges responsibly while respecting the rights of others as well , ensuring that the legislative process is transparent and accountable .

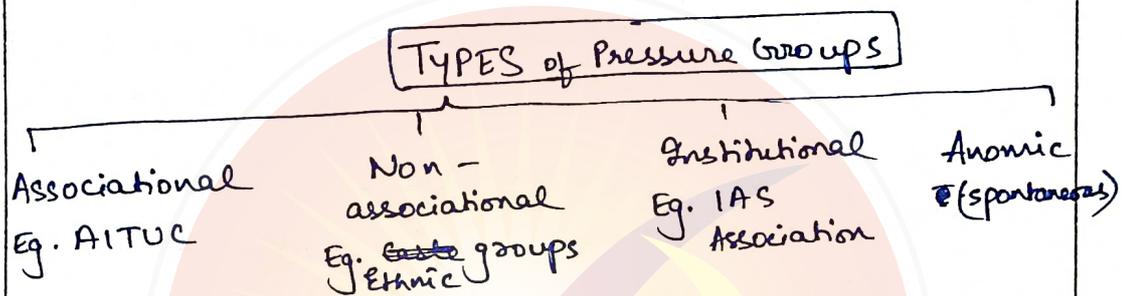
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9. Do you agree that pressure groups have emerged as a crucial factor in public policy formulation? Substantiate. Enumerate the different tools employed by them to influence the governance mechanisms. (15 marks, 250 words)

Pressure groups are associations or organisations of people who come together to satisfy their own interests by presenting their demands to the government.



Role of Pressure Groups -

- **Represent specific interests**
Eg. All India Farmers Association - represent the interest of farmers in India.
- **Lobbying**
Pressure groups present their interests and try to influence the government to fulfil these.
Eg. CII lobby for the industrial purpose.
- **Research**
Pressure groups have been formed for varied purposes. Environmental pressure groups work on research for environment.

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• Promoting democracy

MKSS - ~~to~~ protested for the Right to Information of the citizen.

Limitations -

• Role of money -

Pressure groups may influence the decisions in their favour using money power.

• Not ^{always} inclusive

Sometimes pressure groups may not be able to effectively represent the interests of all ~~group~~ people of the group.

• Violent tendencies

Some groups may adopt violent means to get their interest.

• Limited Transparency

eg. The Nira Radi Tapes highlighted the lack of transparency in lobbying in India.

The tools adopted -

• Lobbying

Pressure groups directly connect with the government.

• Propagandizing

Greenpeace India - awareness about environment.

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- **Electioneering**

Some groups may take part in ~~rallying~~ election rallies.

- **Demonstrations**

ABVP led student protests for reforms in education.

- **Letters and Petitions**

These groups may write petitions ~~on~~ to government for advocating their interests.

Pressure groups uphold the interests of people. They require self-regulation, transparency and accountability.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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10. Government departments working in silos results in duplication and poor governance. In this context, discuss how the recent efforts like PM Gati Shakti have reformed the government working pattern. (15 marks, 250 words)

The working of government requires all departments to cooperate effectively. When the government departments work in silos, that is the root cause of poor governance.

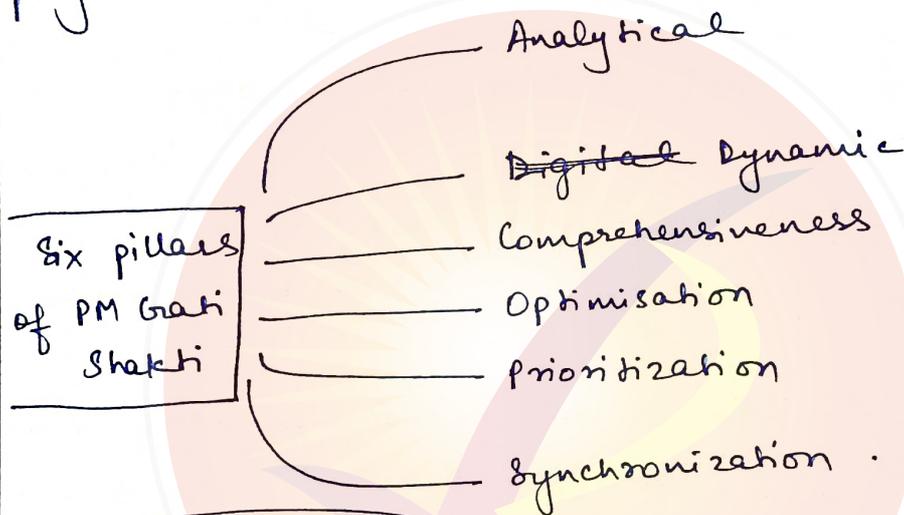
Impacts of working in silos -

- Poor communication
when departments do not communicate properly it leads to incidents like Mumbai Attack 2008.
- Effect on quality of work
the quality of work gets adversely affected. Eg. Delhi Air Quality.
- Inefficiency in cooperative work
In the Narmada case, the environmentalists were not properly discussed.
- Overlapping of functions
when departments of government do not clearly define duties, it leads to overlapping. Eg. MTNL and BSNL - resource wastage.

PM Gati Shakti is a multimodal scheme of government for connectivity. (2021)

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It links the infrastructural aspects of the government schemes like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, ports (dry/land), UDAN, etc. For the FY 24, ₹ 75000 crore budget has been prepared for almost 100 connectivity projects.



- Reforming working -
- Comprehensiveness -
all infrastructure projects can be integrated.
- Prioritization -
cross party collaboration among the various departments and ministries.
- Optimisation -
The government targets to reduce the logistics cost from 13% to 7.5% of GDP by 2028.

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- Synchronization

A digital and centralised Gati Shakti Digital platform with all updates regarding the 16 infrastructure ministries.

- Analytical

A data-driven, GIS spatial planning with 200+ layers, for greater efficiency.

- Dynamic

GIS platform for enhancing transparency and accountability.

The goal of India as a USD 35 trillion economy by 2047 can be fulfilled ~~only~~ when a scheme like PM Gati Shakti helps ~~working~~ in breaking down silos and enhancing trade and economic growth.

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