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SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2025

<p>General Studies Full Length Test Test - 2 (GS - 2) Test Code - A21052502</p>	<p>Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:</p>
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NAME: Time allowed: 3 Hours

STUDENT ID.: Email:

UPSC ROLL NO.: Submission Date:

MOBILE NO.:

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

There are **TWENTY** 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	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only	
Start Time - <input type="text" value="10.00 AM"/>	End Time - <input type="text" value="1.00 PM"/>
Mode of Examination <input type="text" value="online"/>	<input type="text" value="Online"/> <input type="text" value="Offline"/>
Receiving date - <input type="text"/>	Dispatch date - <input type="text"/>

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Understanding Demand of Question				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language and Handwriting				
No. of Questions Attempted				
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No				

Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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. 'Constitutional morality' is not a natural sentiment in India but has to be cultivated. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer with relevant examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Dr Ambedkar defines Constitutional Morality as strict adherence to ideals and principles of Constitution.

Constitutional Morality is ~~not~~ a natural sentiment in India:

Not a Natural sentiment: Has to be cultivated

A Natural Sentiment.

① Prevalence of sovereign morality over constitutional morality

② Caste based discrimination.

③ Prevalence of Corruption, feudalism

④ Transparency International Report on Judicial Corruption

① Concept of Dharma in Indian Philosophy endorses Rajdharma

② The bandhan idea of Non Violence, sovereign equality endorses constitutional morality.

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③ Prevalence of Crimes against women goes against Fundamental Duties & Constitutional morality.

③ The ideals of Buddhism (Asteya, Aparigraha) endures for just social order (Article 38).

④ Misuse of Discretionary Power by Speaker and Chairman
④ Misuse of Article 354

④ Idea of Sarva Dharma Sammukha endures secular society.

Ways to ensure constitutional morality

① Includes ideals of Constitution in the curriculum at all levels.

② Legal education via Law students.

③ Developing respect for Constitutional values via Seminars / Workshop / outreach

④ Wide dissemination of Supreme Court judgements.

The Narby Singh Johar case highlight the importance of enduring Constitutional morality in India.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

2. Compare and contrast 'procedure established by law' and 'due process of law' with reference to their implications on personal liberty in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Article 21 of Indian Constitution provides for procedure established by law in India.

Similarities in Procedure Established by Law & Due Process of Law

- ① Both require adherence to law.
- ② Personal liberty can't be curtailed without infringement of law.
- ③ Both establish idea of law overriding societal / moral considerations.

(Differences)

Due process of law	Procedure Established by Law
① It requires that laws needs to be fair, just	① It upholds the rightness of law without questioning

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and reasonable.

its intent/fairness

① It can be used by Court to question law if law unfairly violates personal liberty.

② Mandeka Gounder Case.

① The Court can't question law itself. They have to presume its constitutionality.

② AD N Jobalpur Case.

③ It widens the scope of Judicial Review of Constitutional Law.

③ It curtails the Judicial Review powers of Court.

(Present Position in India)

① In India there is Procedure established by law.

② However Supreme Court in various judgements pronounced that 'Due process of law' is inherent in Procedure established by law.

Thus to uphold the personal liberty, courts can invoke the due process of law in Article 21.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

3. The Supreme Court's recent invocation of Article 142 to confer 'deemed assent' to state bills raises critical questions about the separation of powers. Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

Recently in State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor Tamil Nadu
Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to confer deemed assent to State Bills. Article 142 gives power of doing complete justice to Supreme Court.

Article 142: way to do complete justice

- ① It gives power to declare law for complete justice in absence of legal provisions.
- ② It helps in directing the executive to uphold their constitutional duty.
- ③ Using Article 142, Supreme Court ensures protection of Fundamental Rights and ideals of Constitution.

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(However it violates the separation of power as)

- ① Violates Article 50 that separates Judiciary and Executive.
- ② Undermine the dignity of Executive office (Governor, President) by interfering in their domain.
- ③ It violates spirit of constitution that argue for separation of power.
- ④ Article 142 in junction may lead to Judicial Overreach.

(Wayhead)

- ① Supreme Court should follow the Judicial restraint principle.
- ② Adhere to Delhi Bar Association Case Article 142 is to supplement the law and not supplant the law.

Also as argued in Devi Nandan Agarwal Case, Article 142 should be used in right faith, objective manner.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

4. The impartiality of the Speaker of Lok Sabha is central to the integrity of the legislative process. Explain with relevant examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Article 93 of Indian Constitution provides for office of Speaker in Lok Sabha. Speaker's impartiality is bedrock of Parliamentary democracy.

Significance of Speaker's impartiality and integrity

- ① Helps in maintaining Rule of Law
 - ⊙ Right interpretation of rules provisions in Parliament.
- ② Gives fair chance to all by avoiding allegations of partisanship
 - ⊙ Recent suspension of 148 opposition MP's led to allegations of partisanship
- ③ It helps in maintaining decorum of House:
 - ⊙ Loss of 40% time

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In disruptions in 17th Lok Sabha due to differences between Opposition and Speaker/Ruling Party.

- ④ Proper Adjudication under 10th schedule
 - ① Taking up Antidefection case timely.

Issues prevailing

- ① Alleged partisanship of Speaker.
- ② Allegations of speaker not allocating equal time to all parties.

Way ahead

- ① Follow Page Committee Recommendation to adopt British model of speaker's office.
- ② 2nd ARC & NERA recommend to transfer 10th schedule Powers to some independent body.

Also selecting person with utmost integrity & responsibility will do justice to high office of speaker.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

5. How does the Sixth Schedule balance tribal autonomy with national integration?
Evaluate its success and limitations. (10 marks, 150 words)

The 6th Schedule of Constitution provides for special powers to Tribal Areas in 4 states of Assam, Mizoram, Mizoram, Tripura.

6th Schedule: Means of Tribal
Autonomy with National Integration

- ① Provides for Autonomous District (ADC) Council and Regional Council (RC) for Tribal Autonomy
- ② The (ADC) and (RC) provides for local representation to Tribal members
- ③ ADC and Regional Council decides on important issues:
 - Ⓐ Customary laws
 - Ⓑ Markets.

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- ① Local education
- ② Minor forest produce.
- ③ Adjudication of laws etc.
- ④ It ensures Tribal development along their own genius as per Tribal Panchsheel (Nehru).

(Importance of 6th schedule)

Success	Limitations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① It gave autonomy to Tribals for <u>Self governance</u>. ② Ensured socio-economic development & <u>preservation of own culture</u>. ③ Made Tribals owner of their resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Poor capacity building component in the 6th schedule. ② Low <u>funds</u> & resource allocation hampers its implementation. ③ Non cooperation of state bureau cracy leads to low outcomes.

Thus there is need to follow Xoxo committee recommendation to achieve the ideal of Tribal development via 6th schedule for full integration.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

6. Explain how Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, while aiming to safeguard privacy, risks weakening the transparency framework established by the Right to Information Act, 2005.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 aims at protecting the Right to Privacy of Individuals under (Article 21). Though it hampered RTI Act 2005.

DPDP Act 2023: Protection of Privacy Right

- ① It classifies the data into Sensitive Personal Data, Personal Data & General Data.
- ② Provides for enhanced safeguards for Sensitive Personal Data.

- ② Fixes responsibility over Data feeds
- ④ Ensure data localisation in India.

Risk of weakening transparency under RTI Act

- ① Fear of misuse of provisions of DPDP Act to expand exemptions under Section 8 of RTI Act 2005.
- ② Weakens position of Personal Information Officers under RTI to get information.

(Way ahead)

- ① Bring clarity in the DPDP Act provisions.
- ② Write down the exemptions in objective manner to reduce the discretion.

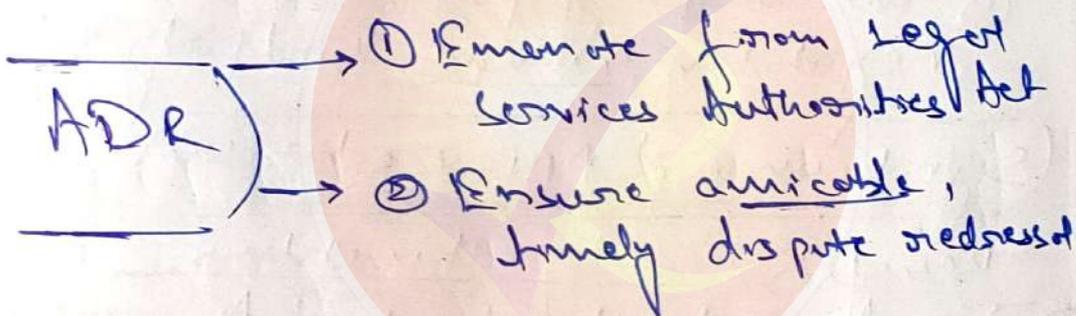
This proper safeguard is needed to balance privacy right with right to information.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

7. Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms offer a viable solution to India's overburdened judiciary. Enumerate the types of ADR mechanisms in India and analyze their advantages over conventional litigation.

(10 marks, 150 words)

As per National Judicial Data Grid, more than 5 crore cases are pending in Indian Judiciary. ADR mechanism can help resolve this issue of overburdened judiciary.



Types of ADR mechanisms in India

① Arbitration

- ① In this independent Arbitrators hear the case between parties.
- ② Arbitrators gives the decree that is acceptable and binding to parties.
- ③ Both the parties select the Arbitrators by consent.

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ⓑ Mediation

- ① The third party act as independent mediator to reach out solution.
- ② The decree of mediator is not binding and requires mutual consent.

Ⓒ Conciliation

- ① A conciliator mostly third party helps in reaching agreeable terms

Ⓓ Negotiation

- ① The disputing parties reach the negotiation without third party role.

(Significance of ADR mechanism)

Benefits	Limitations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① <u>Timely</u> and cost effective dispute resolution. ② Resolution of dispute in amicable manner. ③ Reduce burden on Judiciary. ④ Can fuel economy by 2% of GDP (Economic Survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Lack of Awareness about <u>ADR</u> ② The <u>decree</u> of <u>ADR</u> mostly go for appeal by parties so add layer of litigation

Thus there is need of awareness generation along with Lok Adalats to make ADR success in India.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

8. Examine how Community-based financial institutions promote responsive governance and address structural inequalities, especially for marginalized women.
(10 marks, 150 words)

The community based financial institutions like Milwa Finance Institutions and SHGs helps in ensuring financial inclusion and responsive governance for inclusive growth.

Community based financial institutions
Significance

① Responsive governance

It ensures fulfilling of local demands for funds of Community based / owned savings group.

② Address structural inequalities

Helps in credit access to those who lacks collateral of landless agricultural farmers.

③ Ensures women empowerment
via their role in governance of MFI's → credit access.

④ Promoting Women SHGs

⑨ Jeevika of Bihar promoting women SHGs via community based financing.

⑤ Foster Women Enterprises

⑨ Kudumbashree model in Kerala

Limitations of Community based financing Institutions

- ① Lack of capacity building in financing and management.
- ② Poor adoption of Technology.
- ③ Poor record keeping.
- ④ Very high interest rate @ as high as 20%.
- ⑤ Short term of credit hinders long term investment.

Way ahead

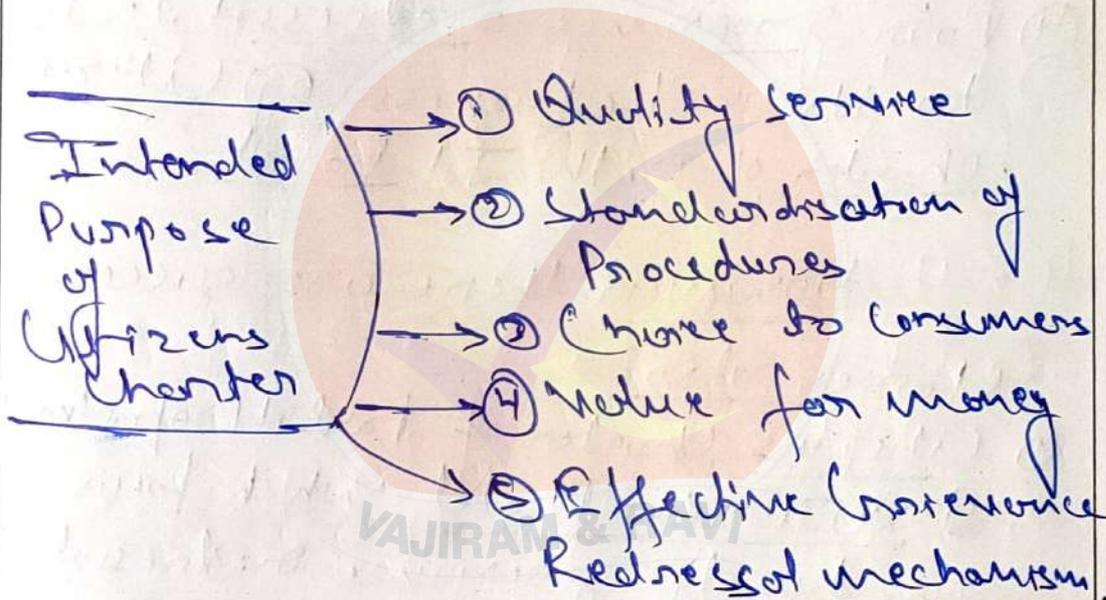
- ① Capacity building of women.
- ② Incentivise technology adoption.

Further recommendations of N.H. Molegaon Committee for micro finance be followed to make community based financing viable for all

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

9. Despite their intended purpose, Citizen's Charters in India have fallen short in transforming administration into a citizen-centric service system. Do you agree? Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words)

Citizen's Charter is the statement of commitment by public body for quality service delivery along with grievance redressal mechanism (2nd ARC)



Limitations of Citizen's Charter in Indian forming administration

- ① Poor design of Citizen's Charter i.e. either too lax or too tight goals, hindering realisation of targets.

- ② Lack of consultation from all stakeholders making Citizen's Charter less effective (eg) Poor adoption of UPSRTC Citizen's Charter
- ③ Lack of timely review and feedback making it segment 1 outdated (eg) Citizen's Charter of NDMC.
- ④ Poor grievance redressal leads to its ineffectiveness (eg) Citizen's Charter of Delhi Jal Board.

However there are success stories also!

- ① Citizen's Charter of Postal Department SENO TTAM Model which focus on timely grievance redressal.

(Wayahead)

- ① Ensure wide consultation for Citizen's Charter forming.
- ② Ensure effective grievance redressal Further proper awareness generation of Charter and training of all stakeholders is need for its success

10. Mauritius remains the 'Star and Key' to the Indian Ocean for India. Analyze the geopolitical significance of Mauritius in India's Indian Ocean strategy.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Mauritius location at the strategic point in Indian Ocean makes it India's natural partner in MAHASAKAR doctrine

(Geopolitical significance of Mauritius for India)

- ① Key to India's goal of net security provided in Indian Ocean
- ② Partner with India to tackle issues of piracy, smuggling and to secure sea lines of communication
- ③ Realising Blue Economy via MAHASAKAR Policy.
- ④ Fostering Maritime Domain Awareness via Information Fusion Centre (Burgos) and

Sharing of Intelligence.

⑤ Countering China's string of Pearls

⑥ India's developing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

⑥ Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief Partnership

⑦ Operation Vanilla in Madagascar.

⑦ Partners in Colombo Security Conclave, IORA, COMS.

(Challenges)

① Chinese BRI and debt trap diplomacy.

② Slow pace of project development.

(Way ahead)

① India should capitalise on its diaspora (~ 70% of Mauritian population) for long term relations

Along with this more high level visits and partnership over joint projects will take ties to new high.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

11. Discuss the constitutional and statutory provisions governing the disqualification of Members of Parliament in India. How effective are they in upholding the integrity of the legislature? (15 marks, 250 words)

Article 102 of Constitution provides for disqualification provisions for members of Parliament (MPs).

Constitutional Provisions for Disqualification

- ① Article 102: A member is disqualified if:
 - Ⓐ He/she is holding the office of profit.
 - Ⓑ He/she is being convicted under law for more than 2 years term.
 - Ⓒ Remain absent from House for more than 60 days without leave.
- ② 10th schedule: Disqualification if a MP is found guilty of

Defection

(Statutory Provisions)

- ① Violation of Statutory laws like Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.
- ② Violation of Electoral laws and found guilty of corrupt practices in election.

Effectiveness of these in upholding electoral integrity

Effective

Less effective.

① The Constitutional and legal provision creates scale of law for disqualification.

② 10th schedule creates deterrence for Anti-defection.

① Almost 46% of MP's in 10th Lok Sabha do have pending criminal cases.

② Judicial delays leads to less effectiveness of law.

③ The violation
of laws / rules
led to disqualifi-
cation of members
for Office of Profit
(Jaya Bachchan case)

④ It ensures
Corruption free
Parliament.

③ Lack of clarity
in law leads to
poor conviction
of exemptions in
Office of Profit law

④ Partisan role of
Speaker under
10th Schedule makes
these provisions
ineffective.

(Magazine)

① Constitute Fast Track Courts to
resolve political cases timely as
said by 11th Finance Commission

② Reform laws to weed out loopholes.

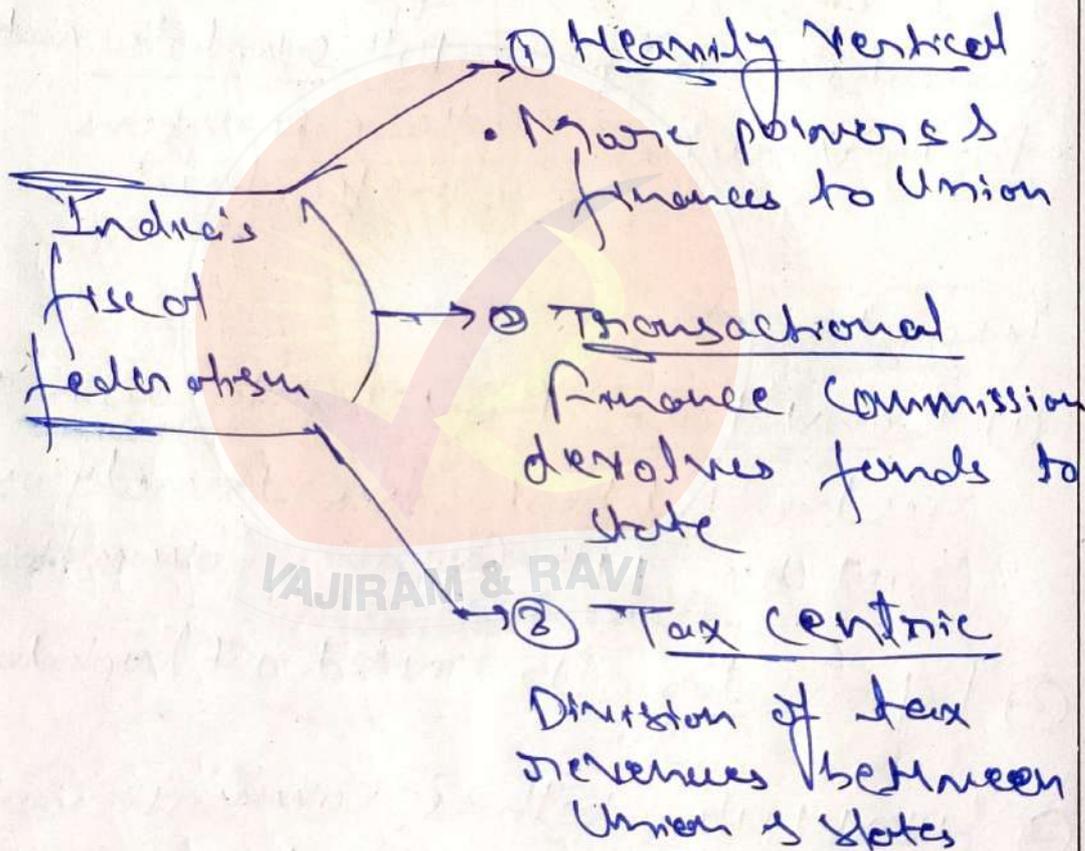
③ Constitute 12th Commissioner
for each house of Parliament.

Along with this the
Code of Ethics for Parliamentarians
will help in integrity of Parliament
functionaries.

12. India's fiscal federalism is heavily vertical, transactional, and tax-centric. In light of this, critically examine the case for institutionalizing "resource federalism" to ensure more equitable and autonomous state-level economic development. (15 marks, 250 words)

Article 269 to 285 in

Indian Constitution provides for fiscal federalism in India.



Case for Resource federalism in India

① Resource federalism means augmenting, utilising, enhancing

and sharing resources to achieve
comprehensive economic power
by centre and states.

(Its significance)

Benefits

① More equitable
sharing of resources

② Joint manage-
ment of government
assets to get
maximum output
for Centre & state.

③ Ensures autonomous
state level
Economic development

It will help in
bottom up planning
with involvement
of local bodies in
fiscal federalism.

Challenges

① Union government
needs more
control over
fiscal matters to
ensure fiscal
discipline.

② Union
government
wants to handle
important matters
like defence
that requires
more say in
finances.

③ Resource
federalism is
time taking and

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③ Ensures the monitorisation of Assets.

Understand some, so needs & more resources to implement.

④ Will help in proper augmentation of resources by understanding sea base

④ Lack of development of formalised economy under its adoption.

⑤ Will remove issue of less surcharge.

(overhead)

① Promote the idea on the pilot basis.

② Capacity building of stakeholders to implement the idea.

③ Take steps to formalise economy and do adequate reforms before implementing the idea.

Thus with proper planning and capacity building at all levels it can strengthen India's federalism.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

13. While India has a structured but rarely used process for the removal of judges, the UK emphasizes ministerial responsibility and in house mechanisms. Compare and evaluate these approaches in maintaining judicial accountability.
(15 marks, 250 words)

Article 124 provides for removal of Judges of Supreme Court for violation of Constitution. Judges Inquiry Act 1968 do provide the procedure. However no judge of Constitutional Court is removed so far in India.

Difference between the UK and Indian methods to remove judges

India UK

- ① Judges Inquiry Act provides for.
- ② A motion signed by 100 MP's in Lok Sabha or 50 in Rajya Sabha to be given to Chair

- ① Judges are being responsible to the Council of Ministers
- ② The Council of Ministers

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- ⑧ Chair constitute 3 member committee to investigate case. brings resolution to remove the judges.
- ① If found guilty, the Houses one by one passes resolution by special Majority in same session.
- ② If resolution finds assent by the House the judge is being removed
- ③ Finally with President's assent the Judge is removed.

(Evolution)

① Indian method / procedure is more better than in UK or:

- ① It upholds the Principle of Natural Justice by having preliminary inquiry by independent Committee
- ② It gives adequate protection

to judges & ensuring judicial independence

② It maintains separation of powers (Article 50) by insulating Judiciary from Executive interference unlike in UK.

However Indian model needs reforms like:

① Timely Constitution of Enquiry Committee to dispose off case in time.

② Reform the method to make resolution get passed even if both houses pass it in separate sessions.

Also we need Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill so that cases of Judicial misconduct do not come at first hand itself.

14. Despite being part of the Directive Principles, the Uniform Civil Code remains unrealised at the national level. Examine the factors behind the delay and suggest potential measure for its national implementation.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Article 44 of Indian Constitution provides for Uniform Civil Code. Despite being part of DPSP and repeated Judicial Injunctions (Sarda Mudgal case) it remains unrealised at national level.

Factors for delay in bringing UCC

- ① Huge Diversity of India
India's huge linguistic, racial, ethnic diversity makes it difficult to attain common ground on UCC.
- ② Lack of consensus in society
Article 44 demands state to

build consensus over UCC,
however it is missing at
present.

③ Apprehensions among minorities
about cultural homogenisation
by UCC.

④ Challenge to reconcile UCC
with Fundamental Right to
Freedom of Religion (Article 25)

⑤ Difficulties in integrating the
tribals of UCC leads to
uniformity in laws, personal
laws, customary rights.

Potential measures for its
implementation at National level

① Adopt a peaceful approach
as suggested by Law Commission
headed by B. I. Chaudhary.

- ① Firstly reform the Personal Laws from within to make them gender neutral.
- ② Take judicial route to move towards UCC (eg Abolition of Triple Talak - Shayra Bano case)
- ③ Inculcate idea of Constitutional morality via judicial injunctions (eg Navtej Singh Johar case).
- ④ Depoliticise the issue of UCC
- ⑤ Bring social consensus via education, social influence and persuasion.

Thus with building of consensus, UCC can see the light of day to achieve idea of cosmopolitan Indian society.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

15. Judicial recognition of intra-caste inequality within Scheduled Castes opens new debates in affirmative action policies. Examine the challenges and opportunities this poses for social justice in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

The recognition of intra caste inequalities within SC's and correcting it via sub-categorisation for affirmative action has led to several judicial injunctions and challenges.

Judicial recognition of intra caste inequalities within Scheduled Castes

- ① E.N Chinnich vs state of Andhra Pradesh (2004): Supreme Court argued that scheduled caste form the homogeneous group and can't be subcategorised.
- ② Jarnail Singh case: Supreme Court argued that creamy layer can be identified within SC's.

② State of Punjab vs Devender Singh 2024
Supreme Court held that state can go for subcategorisation of SC's within Article 312 List.

This has opened a debate on Substantive Justice with both challenges and opportunities lying ahead:

<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Challenges</u>
① It will lead to <u>Substantive Justice</u> with equitable distribution of reservation benefits among SC's	① The <u>reservation</u> itself do not address marginalisation as it needs capacity building.
② It will help in intergenerational <u>mobility</u> and <u>poverty</u> reduction	② It may induce <u>race to bottom</u> for reservation benefits.

by helping most
marginalised among
SC's.

② It may help in
creating idea of
demographic
diversity by helping
the least
marginalised.

③ It may
further fuel
the caste &
identity politics

④ May lead to
further
entrenchment
of caste in policy
matters

Way ahead

① Building the consensus among
the scheduled castes for the
subcategorisation.

② Forming independent panel
for studying the deprivation
among scheduled castes.

③ Design objective criterion for
subcategorisation.

Thus with transparent
and objective criterion subcategorisation
will lead to substantive justice in India.

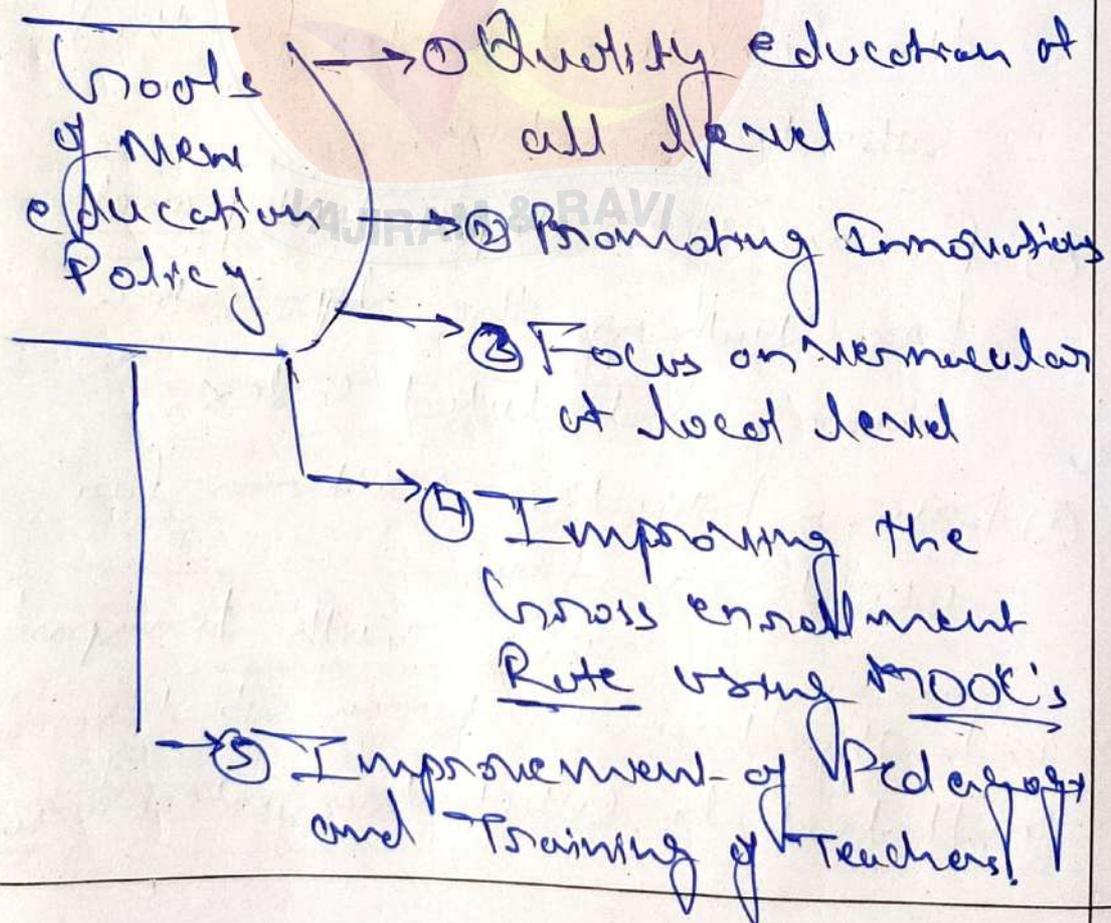
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16. AI-driven education can play a transformative role in achieving the goals of New Education Policy 2020. Discuss the opportunities and challenges in integrating Artificial Intelligence into India's education system. What safeguards are needed to ensure its safe deployment? (15 marks, 250 words)

Artificial Intelligence

AI is a machine learning technology that can perform simulated tasks intelligently.

It can revolutionise India's education sector.



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AI role in adoption of NIEP 2020 goals

- ① Ensuring Personalised Learning via AI for better learning outcomes
- ② Improved Pedagogy via AI driven learning tools & Audio Visual stories.
- ③ Improving the reach of education to out of reach regions like Hilly, Tribals etc. via AI powered MOOC's
- ④ Promoting Vernacular Learning via Language Translation AI
- ⑤ Improved Curriculum design via AI.

Opportunities & Challenges in integrating AI

Opportunities	Challenges
① AI will make education cost effective for all	① It may lead to widening of gap between

① Will improve the skill set via simulated models.

② Improved learning outcomes via AI driven MOOC's

④ Improved evaluations via AI bots.

Wayhead

① Proper evaluation of AI models to root out biases if any.

② Ensuring equitable adoption of AI for all at all levels

③ Ensuring proper safeguards for proper use of AI

Thus with proper safeguards AI can revolutionise India's education via faster adoption of NIP

digital moves & digital have not.

② Lack of digital infra with proper cybersecurity may hamper its adoption.

③ Ethical issues with respect to biased models may hamper value based education.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

17. Discuss the role of targeted welfare schemes for nomadic communities in achieving inclusive development. What are the implementation bottlenecks and how can they be resolved? (15 marks, 250 words)

The nomadic communities:
tribes like Gypsies, Borkarwade, Gaddis etc practice transhumance.
It requires tailored schemes to ensure their welfare for inclusive development.

Role of Targeted Welfare Schemes for Nomadic Communities

- ① Ensuring access to welfare schemes
 - ⊙ Access to foodgrains under PDS by specialised PDS shops.
- ② Facilitating Education via Model / Moke shift schools for Nomadic tribes.
- ③ Soft loans to promote the livelihood by adoption of skills.
 - ⊙ Special skilling program for

Nomadic under SKILL Indra
Mission.

- ④ Market Assistance to Nomadic tribes by TRIFED for sell of their products.
- ⑤ Financial Inclusion via mobile banks and Banking Correspondents.

(Implementation bottlenecks)

- ① Inclusion / exclusion errors due to mobile nature of nomadic tribes.
- ② Lack of Cooperation by the officials with the Nomadic tribes (attitudinal issues).
- ③ Poor Quality of Infrastructure in remote areas / schools for children: Hampers learning outcomes.
- ④ Low financial inclusion due to

Join financial literacy.

⑤ Nonmedics lacks access to all the welfare schemes due to lack of awareness.

Wayhead

① Digital solutions for ensuring access to all welfare schemes
⊙ e-PDS cards for PDS ration.

② Improve digital connectivity & digital inclusion for Direct Benefit Transfer of benefits.

③ Improve literacy and skilling for integration into government programs ⊙ Tribal states by TRIPED.

④ Better reach to Nonmedics by accessing language translators
Further Civil society outreach and Public private engagement may help in welfare of Nonmedics.

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18. "Cultural diplomacy through diaspora outreach has emerged as a soft power tool in India's global engagement strategy." Evaluate the strengths and limitations of diaspora-led cultural diplomacy in advancing India's national interest. (15 marks, 250 words)

India has a strong diaspora of 36 Million. Indian diaspora is India's informal embassadors to further India's soft power. (PM Modi)

Cultural diplomacy: Soft power tool

- ① It promotes India's traditions
 - ⊙ Diaspora Act in USA.
- ② It fosters sense of belonging among diaspora
 - ⊙ Shriyati Modi event in USA.
- ③ Promotes India's values (culture)
 - ⊙ International Yoga Day.
- ④ Popularise India's clothing/cuisine
 - ⊙ Butter chicken famous in

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London

- ① Promote Indian soft power via cinema @ Bollywood famous in Central Asia.

Diaspora engagement: Strength and Limitations in advancing India's National Interest

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Limitations</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">① <u>Public diplomacy</u> via diaspora fosters goodwill for <u>India</u>.② <u>It promotes</u> India's business interest by popularising Indian <u>products</u> @ <u>Chikankari</u> of <u>Lucknow</u>.③ <u>Helps in</u> furthering India's <u>strategy</u>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">① <u>It may</u> hamper relations with host country @ <u>Kashmir</u> issue with <u>Canada</u>.② <u>Difficulty</u> in connect with diaspora due to low diplomatic presence in <u>Africa</u>, <u>Latin America</u>.

Interest

- ④ Indo-USA Civil nuclear deal.
- ④ Remittances via diaspora promote Investment in India.
- ⑤ Brings sense of pride in own culture
- ④ International Hindi Day
- ③ Under staffed Public/Diaspora engagement cell hampers viable connect with Diaspora.
- ④ Issue of racism in countries like Australia hampers diaspora engagement.

(bodyhead)

- ① Popularise B Proverb: Shaktiya Dimas.
- ① Strengthen the Diaspora division of MEA.
- ② Formulate Curated programs for diaspora engagement.
Also with ICT cord benefits, engagement with diaspora will enhance India's soft power.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

19. How have the growing tensions between the U.S., Israel, and Iran affected regional stability in West Asia? In this context, evaluate the key considerations for India's foreign policy to safeguard its interests in West Asia.

(15 marks, 250 words)

The recent Iran-Israel 12 day war that culminated with Operation Midnight Hammer by USA on Iran has jeopardised the stability of whole West Asia region.

(Impact on regional stability)

- ① Threat of regional war with Iran's Axis of Resistance fighting against USA's allies
- ② Hampered energy security with attacks on each other's Oil refineries.
- ③ Threat of non conventional war with threats of Nuclear weapons use of Israel.

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① Hampering of Global Shipping lanes by instability in Hormuz Strait.

② Threat to diaspora in the region.

Key considerations for India to safeguard its interests

① Diaspora Safety: More than 10 million Indians in West Asia.

② Energy Security: 40-50% of India's energy needs are fulfilled by West Asia.

③ Securing Maritime Trade: More than 40% of India's trade via Gulf routes of Hormuz & Red Sea & Manila.

④ Securing India's Investments
⑤ Chabahar Port in Iran.

⑤ Maintaining Strategic autonomy
ie maintaining ties with both Israel & Iran (India obtained from anti Israel resolution at SCO).

Wayhead / steps by India

- ① Diversify its energy basket and infant industries.
- ② Focus on IMEC project and INSTC to reduce the chokepoints dilemma.
- ③ Partnership with the like minded countries for peaceful resolution of disputes in West Asia.

Also there is need to strengthen UN reforms push by BRIC, SCO to ensure rule based secure world order to secure India's National Interest

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Representation	
Remarks:	

20. With overlapping geographical and strategic interests, ASEAN-BIMSTEC cooperation can enhance Indo-Pacific connectivity and resilience. Analyze the institutional, political, and external challenges that impede this collaboration. (15 marks, 250 words)

BIMSTEC formed in 1997 is a regional grouping of 7 Bay of Bengal countries. It is natural bridge between South Asia and ASEAN.

ASEAN-BIMSTEC Cooperation Significance

- ① Ensuring Safe Open Inclusive Indo Pacific: Both have similar goal on safety and security of Indo Pacific.
- ② Securing sea lanes of communication: BIMSTEC and ASEAN discuss the safety of seas on East Asia Summit.

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③ Realising goal of Net Security Provider in the region
BIMSTEC and ASEAN can extend this goal to Indo Pacific

④ Realising Blue economy potential
① BIMSTEC & ASEAN can extend India's MAHASAGAR goal to Indo Pacific.

⑤ Development of connectivity
② IMT Toluca at Highway & Katadan Multimodal project

Challenges in collaboration

(Institutional)

① Low summit level meetings

③ BIMSTEC had only 6 meetings in last 28 years.

② Weak secretariat of BIMSTEC hinders cooperation with diverse partners.

② Political Challenges

① BIMSTEC focus on Bay of Bengal while ASEAN focus on Indo-Pacific

② ASEAN has open regionalism focus while BIMSTEC is closed regionalism.

③ China's increased unilateralism in region under cooperation of String of Pearls & BRIC.

③ External Challenges

① growing divergence between USA and China over QUAD.

② The rising tensions in the region due to China's unilateral role in South China Sea.

India needs to focus on convergence of BIMSTEC-ASEAN and fast-track its connectivity projects to ensure future engagement in region.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

