

## VAJIRAM &amp; RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT - 2025

<b>General Studies</b> <b>Full Length Test</b> <b>Test - 2 (GS - 2)</b> <b>Test Code - VR1052502</b>	<b>Evaluator Code:</b> <b>Date of Assignment:</b> <b>CQ:</b>
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NAME: <input type="text" value="BASAVARAJ M PATIL"/>	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.: <input type="text" value="19VR20895"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>
UPSC ROLL NO.: <input type="text"/>	Submission Date: <input type="text" value="05/07/25"/>
MOBILE NO.: <input type="text"/>	

**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 -	End Time -
Mode of Examination	Online                      Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

06 JUL 2025

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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)

The idea of "constitutional morality" not being natural sentiment was given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It highlights ~~that~~ the absence of constitutional morality among general public.

Constitutional Morality is not a natural sentiment, because:-

- ① Primacy towards - "customary morality"  
↳ many ideas & practices defined by customs than constitution

- ② still existing caste based discrimination among public

(Ex) Rajasthan → A <sup>Dalit</sup> youth was assaulted for riding on horse during marriage possession.

③ Gender based violence & discrimination  
↳ violates the idea of "Right to equality"

(Ex) Downy based violence

④ Traditional notions

↳ Patriarchy, purity-pollution etc still lead the socio-cultural practices

(Ex) Bar on Temple entry

However, there has been a rise in Constitutional sentiment -

① Through Judicial intervention

(Ex) Shabariwala case → Allowed women Entry.

② Modernisation & liberal thoughts

(Ex) Youth protest for Gender equality

③ Creates awareness about rights & duties.

To a larger extent, constitutional morality is not natural, but subsequent educative, legal & judicial measures would help in transformation -

Introduction

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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)

"Procedure established by law" and "due process of law" are the two approaches of Judicial intervention & towards interpretation of law.

Comparison & Contrast between both		
④ Factors	Procedure established by law	Due process of law
Origin →	British constitution	American constitution.
<del>and</del> Inclusion in Indian Constitution →	It was in existence since the inception of constitution.	Added through subsequent interpretations of laws
Inclusion →	Explicit	Implicit
Nature →	Negative strictly follows the legality & provision	It verifies the credibility & nature beyond just legality

Thus, the Due process of law has greater & wider implication than procedure ~~estab~~ established by law.

## Implications on Personal Liberty

① Earlier, in A K Gopalan case, Supreme Court held that, Indian Constitution follows "Procedura established by law"

↳ So, no Judicial review against "~~legis~~ legislative encroachment

② Later, in Maneka Gandhi v/s Union of India, Supreme Court recognised Due process of law.

(Ex) Art 21 → ~~Get~~ wider Interpretation. i.e. Right to move abroad.

Adoption of Due process of law helped courts to check whether law has been passed by competent and authority or not, thus widening scope of constitution.

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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)

Separation of powers is the division of rights & responsibility between various organs of the government.

Supreme Court recently gave verdict in T.N Governor v/s State of TN under Article 142 to ensure complete justice.

Invocation of Article 142 & Separation of Powers

- ① It was done to address the issue of - Inordinate delay of critical bills of state government by Governor
- ② Under Article 200, Governor is mandated to give assent, according to aid & advice of Council of Ministers.
- ③ SC held that, ~~not~~ delaying indefinitely

violated Article 200, thus declared Pocket veto as unconstitutional.

④ Though, constitution guarantees separation of powers, it is not watertight (SC in Ram Jawaya Kapoor case)

⑤ Invocation of Article 142 helps to ~~restore~~ restore the political & administrative deadlock.

however, there were concerns related to invocation of Art 142 - Because.

↳ ~~Co.~~ Action of Governor is - constitutional discretion

↳ Judicial encroachment into executive field.

"Power ought to check the power"  
- Montesquieu

Thus, there should be check & balance to ensure that there is no concentration of power & arbitrary use of power.

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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)

Speaker being head of the house holds multiple key responsibilities, which have potential to decide the fate of house as well as government.

Impartiality is central to integrity of legislative process because

① Acts as Quasi-Judicial body

↳ In decision regarding Anti-defection Law under schedule X.

(Ex) Issues of impartiality in Manipur → lead to disruption in government of the day.

② Key authority in deciding the both nature of BILL

↳ speaker decides whether a bill is money BILL or not

(Ex) Aadhaar Bill Issue → Allegations of passing it as money bill.

### ③ Independence of Parliamentary Committees

↳ He nominates members & chairman of Committees

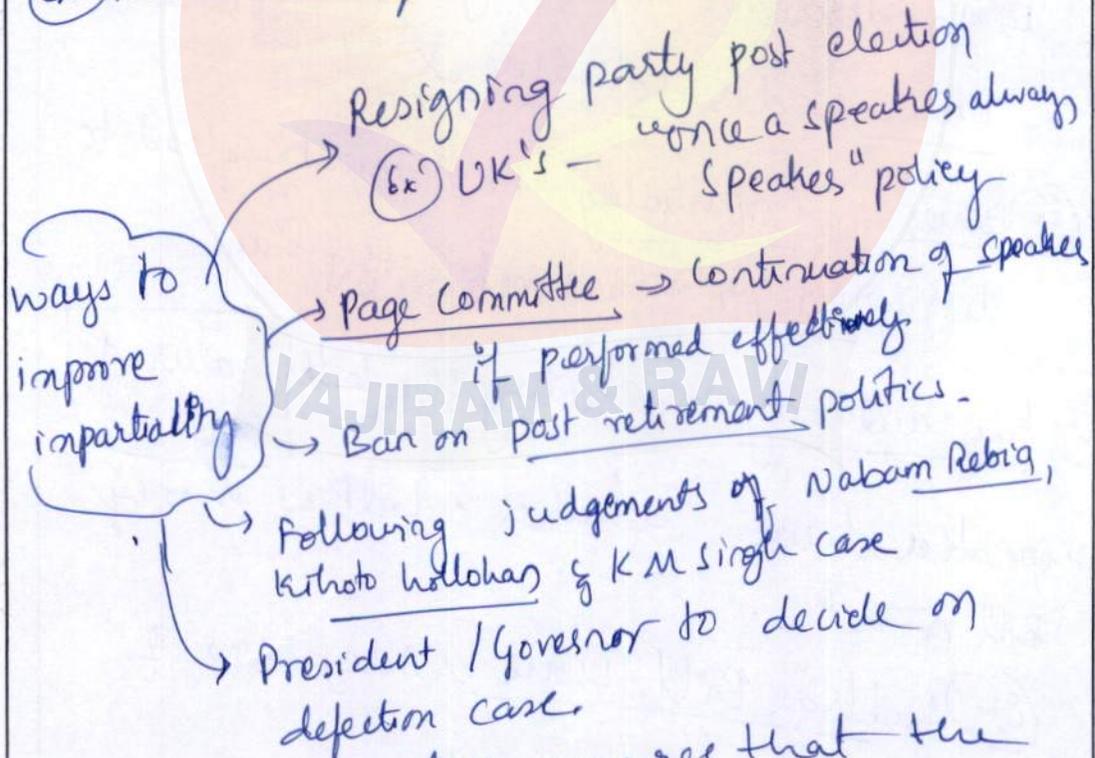
↳ Impartiality is in-qua-non for effective

functioning of Parliamentary Committees

### ④ Final authority of Rules, Procedure & under Article 118

↳ Impartiality ~~required~~ required for fair & equal treatment.

### (ex) Recent issues of suspension of MPs



Impartial speaker ensures that the day to day process is carried out effectively in parliament.

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Marks:	

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

Ladakh has been demanding status of Sixth Schedule, which ensures tribal autonomy as well as greater decentralization.

Article 244(2) provides for Sixth Schedule, which ensures decentralized local governance. Currently, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura & Mizoram are ~~not~~ in the schedule.

Sixth Schedule: Balance of Autonomy with Integration

### Successes

- ① Provision for greater local representation through Autonomous Regional Council & district Council.
- ② Ensuring platform for tribal organisations to voice their opinion.

③ Helps to preserve the Customary Laws

④ Regional Autonomy

↳ Greater control over the ~~market~~ <sup>implementation</sup> of laws → helps to ~~increase~~ curb regionalistic ideas.

## Limitations

① Focus more on customary laws than constitutional principles

(Ex) lack of provision for women ~~side~~ inclusion

② Lack of true devolution of power

③ Still ARE & ADC largely dependent on state government for finances

④ ~~It~~ Sixth schedule will get true meaning & achieves the desired objective if true devolution of power takes place -

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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 data protection aims to ensure robust Digital data governance in India.

Safeguard for privacy

① Data fiduciary responsibility

② Local data storage

↳ Helps in digital data protection

③

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Introduction	
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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)

Alternate Dispute Resolution  
are the mechanisms for resolution of disputes, which are in pre litigation stage, i.e. solved through out of the court settlement.

ADR as alternative solution

⊛ Decentralised nature

⊛ Ex) Gram Nyayalaya

⊛ Greater accessibility

⊛ Ex) Kerala's Permanent online Lok Adalat

⊛ Helps in greater communication between parties → Easier & quick resolution

⊛ Settlement through dialogue

⊛ Ex) Conciliation @ mediation.

## Types of ADR

### ① Arbitration

↳ Not bound by the strict laws

↳ Greater dialogue & easy solutions can be achieved

### ② Mediation

↳ Helps mediator to build rapport & listen to grievances

### ③ Lok Adalats

↳ Greater accessibility & ₹.

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Marks:

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

Community based financial institutions are the institutions, which involve people of same socio-economic background & who strive to achieve common objective

Community based institutions of governance

- ① Timely elections for Board members
- ② Ensures equal votes & ensures that grievances are heard
- ③ Pooled economic resources  
↳ Promotes responsibility

(Ex) steps

- ④ Helps to inculcate saving attitude
- ⑤ women get credit facility, who are generally out of Banking facility

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Introduction	
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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 charters are the systematic systematic efforts of organisations which highlight the responsibilities & services offered, along with exp duties expected from citizens.

Intended purpose

- ↳ Effective service delivery
- ↳ Rights based approaches from organisation
- ↳ Grievance redressal of citizens
- ↳ Responsibility of public officers towards citizens

However, there is short fall in intended purpose because -

- ⊗ Top-down approach
- ⊙ Lack of timely updation → made it obsolete
- ⊙ Lack of availability in local language
- ⊙ ~~lots~~ Ambiguity in sentences  
↳ difficult to understand
- ⊙ Lack of awareness among public

second ARC highlighted that effective charter is key for effective service delivery, highlighting its ~~but~~ centrality in public service delivery.

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~~ Mauritius is an island nation, the geographical location of it in Indian Ocean, makes it a key player in India's foreign policy.



Geopolitical significance

- ① Close to key transit routes of Indian ocean

⊛ Key base for India's military establishment

↳ Helps to Increase India's influence in Indian ocean

⊛ Necklace of Diamond strategy

↳ To counter China's pearl of diamond strategy of China

⊛ Peaceful Indo Pacific ocean

Thus, Mauritius is the key player in India's ~~force~~ maritime strategy.

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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)

Disqualification of members of Parliament is governed by various constitutional & statutory provisions that have been evolved since independence, such as - 52<sup>nd</sup> & 91<sup>st</sup> Amendment Acts, Representation of people Act & Article 102 of Constitution.

Provisions Governing Disqualification

① Constitutional provisions

① Article 102 - contains detailed provisions of disqualification of members. Such as -

- ~~He is~~ He/she is not a citizen of India
- Is of unsound mind & stands so by the court.
- Undischarged insolvent
- Convicted of punishment for more than 2 years
- Does not hold office of profit

## II Statutory measures

### ① Representations of Peoples Act 1951

→ contains ~~see~~ provisions to disqualify MP  
→ Section 123-129 → contains provisions such

as → Corrupt practices

↳ Insighting enemy between groups  
↳ practice of untouchability

↳ Not disclosing / false disclosure of criminal antecedents

### ② Anti-defection Law

↳ PRT prohibits defection of MPs from

shifting parties

↳ Independent MP → not allowed to join party

↳ Nominated member → 6 months time

↳ voting against / abstain from voting.

Effectiveness in upholding legis integrity  
of legislature

① These provisions have brought down the  
defections ~~by~~, by putting on checks  
through disqualification.

② The notion of "Aya Ram - Gaya Ram" is now seems to be less significant.

③ Comparative stability in the political system compared to pre-Amendment

Exce.

However there are concerns remaining

① Non-partisan role of speakers has been criticized.

② Inaction of speakers due to party allegiance.

③ Anti-defection law - failed to differentiate between dissent & defection

→ Enhance role of speakers, by following guidelines of - "K. M Singh judgement"  
↳ Timely Action

Way forward

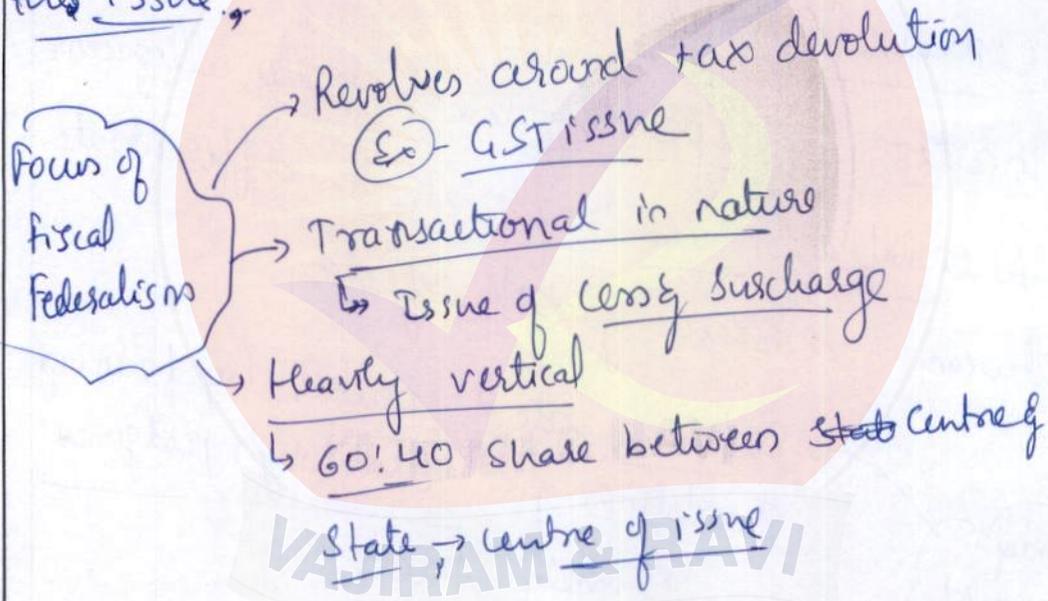
→ Page committee → Improve the non-partisan role of speakers

Speakers at the centre of process, must follow strict non-partisanship to ensure effectiveness of these provisions

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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)

Fiscal federalism in India, has always been bone of contention due to varying demands of each states, & though subsequent Finance Commissions have tried to address this issue,



Resource federalism is a concept wider than fiscal federalism. It states that, about distribution of power resources along with finances between various organs

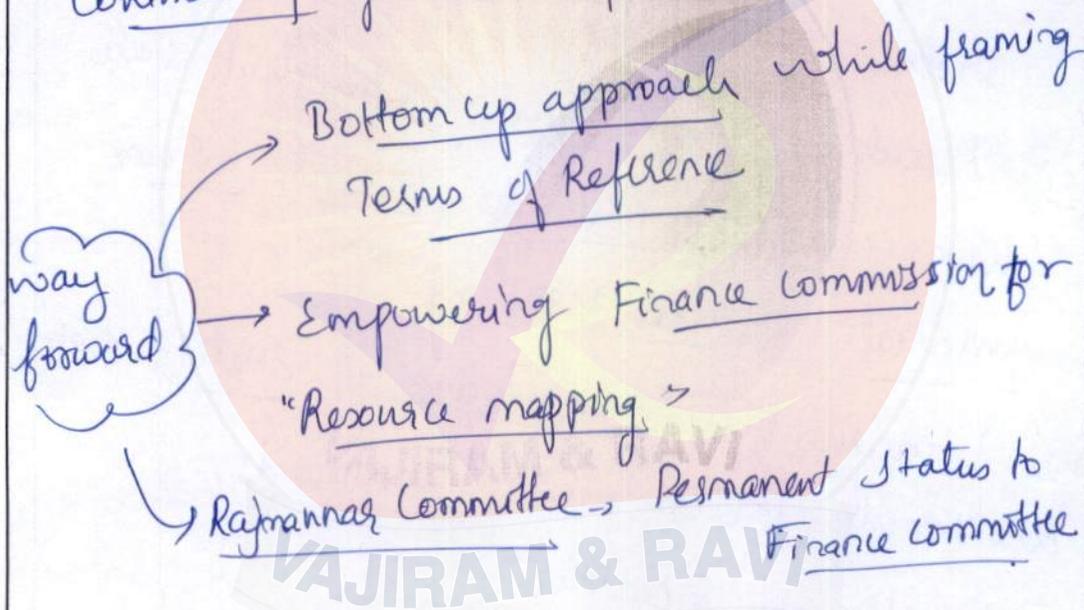
of the government

## Institutionalization of Resource federalism

- ① Institutionalization helps in organised distribution of power between Centre & States.
- ② It gives states, their fair share of resources.  
↳ Recently Supreme Court - rules that states have complete rights to tax on mineral in their territory.
- ③ It broadens the tax base of states, which are heavily under finance constraints.  
↳ Chattisgarh & Odisha.
- ④ Helps states to ensure control over the resources, especially finances to take up developmental activities.

## Concerns

- ① Difficult to arrive at consensus between States & Centre
- ② States with advanced economy may take hit.
- ③ Skill, demand of southern states may not get addressed, due to huge gap between contribution & devolution.



Be it be sole finance @ resource, the basic thread of federalism lies on the delicate balance between Equitable & Equal distribution of resources. It should be achieved with participation of all stakeholders

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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)

Both the constitutions - i.e. Indian & UK follow different approaches of judicial accountability. India follows a detailed process because of primacy to separation of power, UK follows slightly flexible approach.

## Comparison of approaches

### ① Appointment of Judges

↳ India → Appointed by President of India, among names recommended by Collegium.

↳ UK → Appointed by King/Queen from the names provided by Parliament.

### ② Removal of Judges

India → "Judges Appointment & Removal Act 1968"

↳ Submission of resolution to the

speakers, who may or may not accept the resolution

→ Then, if accepted, speaker forms the Committee of - SC judge, CJI & Law ministers

→ If found guilty → Then the resolution is voted.

→ It requires -  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of members present & voting & minimum of 50% of total membership (special majority)

→ If passed → Judge stands removed

UK

→ UK follows more flexible approach

→ Since, Judges are directly appointed by

the parliament, simple majority is sufficient for removal.

→

## Evaluation

① India → follows detailed process compared to UK.

② No judge in India, ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> ever been removed by parliament

③ India's - primary to separation of powers mandates that, the procedure be followed in detail

④ In UK → Judges of Independence of Judiciary mainly dependent on the words of Parliament.

In the aspect of Judiciary, India's approach is rigid than UK, but it is flexible compared to that of

USA's constitution

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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.

②

(15 marks, 250 words)

Article 44 of Part IV of Indian Consti-tution states that - state shall bring the Uniform civil code across the country. It ensures a common law governing civil matters beyond religion, culture & customs

Factors behind delay

① Lack of consensus -  
↳ various stakeholders have opposed the concept of UCC.

(Ex) Religious minorities.

② Constitutional hurdles  
↳ UCC finds itself at the loggerhead between Justifiability of fundamental rights (Right to freedom - Article 25-28) & non-justifiability

## of DPSP (Article 44)

### ③ Legal hurdles

↳ various judgements such as → Champakam

Dorairajan case, Kerala Education bill

case - have highlighted that

↓  
DPSPs - cannot override the Fundamental rights

### ④ Dilemma of Diversity vs Unity

↳ minority rights - gets compromised

↳ Tribal rights → Fear of homogeneity &  
Threat to customary laws

Despite these hurdles, various states are on the way of implementing UCC & such

as → Goa already have UCC

↳ Uttarakhand → Recently passed UCC

### Potential measures for national implementation

#### ① Consensus based approach

↳ It ensures that UCC does not come

at the cost of Diversity

② Law Commission's recommendation

↳ Having public opinion, by putting Bill for public feedback

③ Forum for UCC

↳ common platform of religious leaders, tribal leaders etc to ~~inter~~ converge at mutually agreed UCC.

④ Assistance from Judiciary

↳ Inputs of Constitutionalism, legal nuances helps in greater acceptability

for an eq just society devoid from exploitation of vulnerable section, UCC is a desired law. But care must be taken that, both Diversity - Uniformity, are balanced

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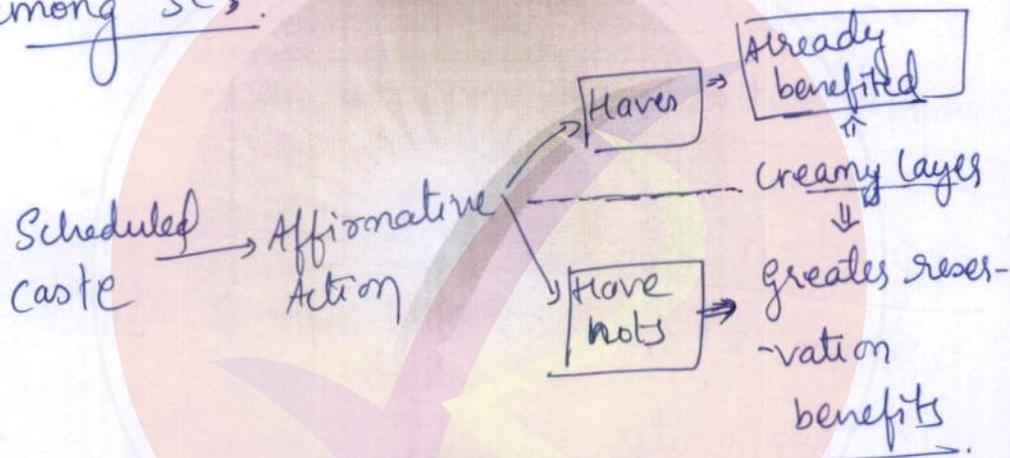
Conclusion

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)

Recently, Supreme Court opined that, about recognising intra-caste inequality among Scheduled Caste (SC) through Creamy Layer approach to ensure greater equality among SCs.



## Challenges for recognising intra-caste inequality

### ① Affirmative Action

- ↳ Is mainly to address social justice,
- ↳ Recognising - inequality → ~~is~~ need may make it as - Financial based reservation

② Discrimination is mainly based on caste rather than class, unlike in OBC.

↳ Ex Highes level officers → Too face caste based disoidal discrimination

③ Lack of sufficient data  
↳ Absence of caste census for decades, makes implementation ineffective

④ Opposition from Community  
↳ It is seen as attempt to divide the community.

⑤ Lack of awareness among community regarding reservations.

## Opportunities

① Helps to address the intra-caste inequality.

② Certain section of SCs, still in dire poverty

who are dependent on manual jobs

↳ Ex over 98% of manual scavengers are from SC community (Ministry of Social Justice)

### ③ Caste census

↳ Provides opportunity for a detailed survey of socio-economic status

### ④ Awareness

↳ Educative campaigns about the efforts of creamy layers helps in enhancing the acceptability

### ⑤ Creates social justice

↳ Equitable development

Supreme Court in recent Dhavinder Singh case allowed states to subcategorise the SCs. This can further be developed to implement creamy layers, which would help to ensure that - "No man/woman is left behind in developmental progress"

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Marks:

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)

National Education Policy (2020)  
is a transformative policy, which aimed at strengthening education system through technology integration, outcome oriented & inclusive education.

Integration of new age technology like AI helps to enhance effectiveness, as despite posing multiple challenges.

## Opportunities

① Helps in Immersive learning  
↳ AI based classrooms with integration of AR/VR, Metaverse etc.

② Creates internet penetration  
↳ India has 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mobile internet users.

↳ Potential for easy adaptation of technology

③ Multi-lingual curricula

↳ AI helps in translating the study material for students of vernacular language.

④ Global integration

↳ greater exposure to worldly developments, new information etc enhances learning outcome.

## Challenges

① Digital divide

↳ Internet penetration at rural areas is low - 28% (ODISE Data)

② Lack of content availability in remote areas.

③ Existing Intersectional inequality

↳ Girl child → Engaging in household chores → gets less time for learning

④ Under-investment in Education  
↳ Public expenditure is at 3.2% against desired 6% (NEP 2020).

⑤ Privacy & data concerns  
↳ ~~The~~ lack of digital literacy especially for children  
↳ Rises vulnerability

## Safeguards

① Indegenuity in AI development  
↳ Ensures localised content generation

② Digital Awareness  
↳ Both for Students & Teachers

③ Policy framework  
↳ To ensure safe & uniform AI deployment.

④ Secure data security  
↳ Strengthen role of regulatory bodies

Shift towards technology based learning, places Indian education system among global practices. The Shift & deployment must ensure equitable distribution

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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)

Nomadic communities are the ones who follow the practice of shifting from one place to another along with cattles, sheeps etc in search of resources & livelihoods. For example - Gaddi, Bakarwal etc.

## Role of Targeted welfare schemes

- ① PM-PVTG scheme
  - ↳ It helps in achieving overall development of communities
  - ↳ Assistance in shelter, livelihood, education.
- ② These schemes, helps them to be included in government records
  - ↳ Recognition of Beneficiaries.
- ③ PM-JANMAN scheme
  - ↳ Socio-economic development of community.
  - ↳ Assistance in - cattle insurance, disease

Surveillance etc

## ④ Entitlement to Services

↳ one nation - one Ration card

↳ Food grain availability beyond hometown

↳ Education

↳ En mother tongue in border countries

↳ Marathi medium schools in Karnataka for community

## Implementation Bottleneck

① Frequent mobility

↳ Results in Inclusion/ Exclusion error

② Lack of awareness about rights & service entitlements

③ Highly ~~sub~~ subsistence nature

↳ Risk of non-acceptability of the schemes.

④ Absence of comprehensive data  
↳ highlighted by Tribal ministry while implementing PVTG mission.

⑤ Bureaucratic hurdles  
↳ Lack of keenness in last mile delivery

## Measures to address bottlenecks

① Data through census  
↳ detailed data collection on the socio-economic status of community

② National mobility → Through effective inter-state cooperation

③ Last mile delivery of schemes  
↳ (Ex) PM-Awasz Yojana

④ Basic education through evening schools, to enhance literacy

The changing climate pattern has put the community at risk, disrupting their migratory pattern. There is need of all encompassing scheme to address these issues

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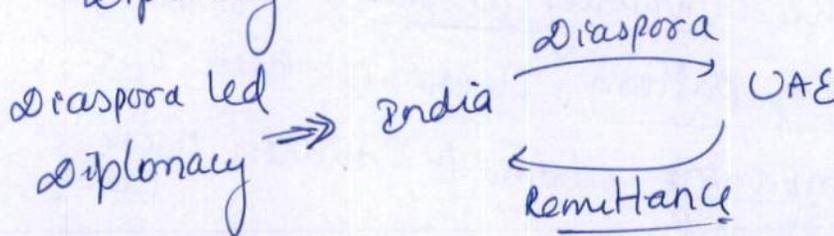
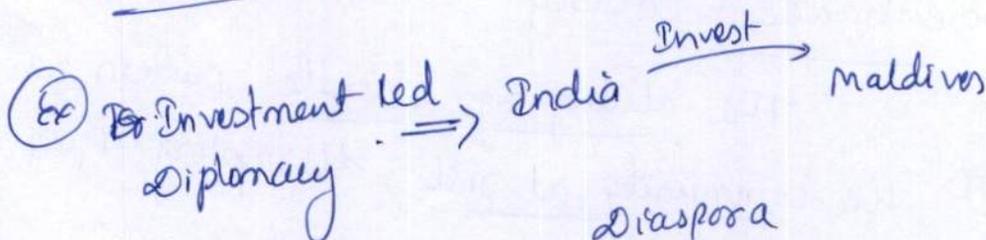
18. "Cultural diplomacy through diaspora outreach has emerged as a soft power tool in India's global engagement strategy." Evaluate the strengths and limitations of diaspora-led cultural diplomacy in advancing India's national interest.  
(15 marks, 250 words)

Cultural diplomacy is the tool of diplomacy in which various cultural commonness & other influences are used to in engagement with foreign countries.

India with largest diaspora has used this to ensure effective foreign policy & diplomatic engagements.

### Strengths

① Easy & Double way tool  
↳ Other tools of diplomacy need special investments, unlike diaspora led diplomacy



② Large presence of diaspora across globe.  
↳ Ex) Close to 8 million in diaspora in Gulf alone

③ Remittances  
↳ highest Remittance received → \$120Bn  
in 2023-24

④ Aids <sup>in</sup> Policy Influence

↳ Large diaspora → acts as large voter base.

↓  
Favourable negotiations

↳ Ex) USA

⑤ Helps in exerting favourable outcomes on various issues.

## Limitations

① Ideological differences among diaspora may also spread different narratives

② Limited impact  
↳ large presence of diaspora, may sometimes fail to exert influence.

↳ Ex) Trump's - 26% Tariffs

③ Depends on multiple factors

↳ Ex) Trade deals - go beyond just culture, focusing mainly on Economic Outcomes

④ Cultural Conflicts

↳ Cultural diplomacy → has risk of being seen as Alien culture / Imposition of culture

↳ Ex) Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh

⑤ Anti-India elements

↳ Tend to disrupt the relations

↳ Ex) India - Canada

Cultural diplomacy along with other soft power diplomacy has great potential to bring out favourable outcomes to ensure effective foreign policy.

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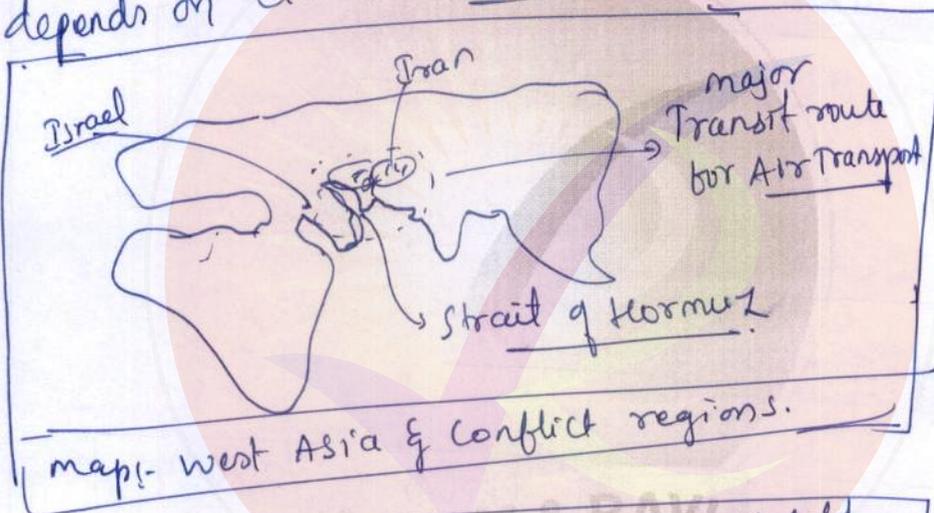
Presentation

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)

Ongoing tensions between Iran, USA & Israel have threatened the global geopolitical as well as economical stability, since majority of countries in one or the other way depends on either USA or West-Asia region.



Effect of Tensions on regional stability

- ① war between nuclear powers
  - ↳ Though Iran & Israel are not declared as nuclear nations, threat of nuclear weapon always present

## ② Blockade of Trade routes

↳ Iran's resolution on blocking strait of Hormuz

③ Threatens global energy market  
↳ Hormuz Strait is major sea-way for petroleum exports from Gulf.

## ④ Shia-Sunni Conflict

↳ Silence of other Gulf countries over Israel's attack

↳ Sunni countries may incline towards Israel

## ⑤ Shift of focus from Gaza

⑥ Key consideration of India's foreign policy

## ① Focus on de-escalation of war

↳ India - to mediate the conflict to ensure regional peace & stability.

## ② Energy Security

↳ Any blockade of choke points should not harm India's interest

## ③ Balanced foreign policy

↳ India has deeper interest in both Israel & Iran.

④ Care should be taken that, conflict does not escalate in neighbouring countries

⑤ Proximity to any Nuclear leaks  
↳ Ensure, the conflict is not a nuclear war.

## ⑥ Disaster

↳ Safety of Indian nationals, evacuation & timely travel advisories.

Disrupted global order is a fruit for none. India should play proactive role in multilateral institutions to restore the global peace & order.

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Marks:

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)

ASEAN & BIMSTEC are the regional cooperation institutions, which have played a crucial role in regional integration & providing a common platform to address various regional issues.



map :- Regions & countries of ASEAN & BIMSTEC.

ASEAN-BIMSTEC & Indo-Pacific region

① Common members → shared interests

(Ex) Thailand & Myanmar

② Helps in inter-institutional cooperation

- ③ Strategic routes & regional connectivity  
↳ Choke point such as Malacca → main route of trade for all the countries
- ④ Chinese - Expansionist policy  
↳ Galwan clash with India  
↳ South China sea clash Philippines, Indonesia -
- ⑤ Cooperation → helps to counter the Chinese hegemony in the region
- ⑥ Fight against climate change  
The region is experiencing frequent & intense Cyclones, Marine heatwaves etc  
→ Cooperation helps in climate resilience approach.

## Challenges for collaboration

- ① Institutional
  - (i) Lack of <sup>common</sup> interest in trade  
↳ RCEP → India exited from paet.
  - (ii) Regional cultural differences.

## II) Political challenges

(i) Instability ~~in~~ among nations

(Ex) Myanmar Coup.

(ii) Region is facing increasing insurgency, internal opposition.

~~(iii)~~

## III) External influence

(i) Common but powerful ~~is~~ threat i.e. China

(ii) High dependency on China → ~~leads~~ to hesitancy in overt opposition

(iii) Military threat from super powers.

To address the issue, the inter-regional institutions like QUAD, Indo-pacific economic framework must be strengthened & expanded, to achieve regional peace & open Indo-pacific region.

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Marks:

# Space for Rough Work



# Space for Rough Work

