

## VAJIRAM &amp; RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2025

General Studies  
Full Length Test  
Test - 2 (GS - 2)  
Test Code - A21052502

Evaluator Code:  
Date of Assignment:  
CQ:

NAME:

PRADUMAN BIJALWAN

Time allowed: 3 Hours

STUDENT ID.:

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Email:

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UPSC ROLL NO.:

1401037

Submission  
Date:

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MOBILE NO.:

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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

VAJIRAM & RAVI  
Receiving date  
KAS STUDY CENTRE LLP

Dispatch date -

22 JUN 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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 5 JUL 2022  
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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)

Constitutional morality refers to the phenomena of sticking to the values and spirit of Constitution, and not just following it as a legal document.

Constitutional morality - need to be cultivated

- ① Following the rule of law (AV Dicey) as enshrined in Constitution. ~~Ex~~. Lily Thomas judgement establishing equality
- ② Assuring substantive rights. ~~Ex~~. Expanding scope of Article 21 to include rights like in Puttaswamy Judgement.
- ③ Providing Social Justice to the marginalised (Antyodaya) ~~Ex~~. Davinder Singh judgement - social justice to most marginalised
- ④ Assuring independence of judiciary Article 124: Supreme Court

- ⑤ Ensuring Economic Equality  
↳ Budgetary allocation to poor by the government.
- ⑥. Providing freedom of religion.  
Article 25-28.

## Constitutional morality as natural sentiment

- ① Civilizational legacy of India  
↳ Grama Sangh of ancient India
- ② impact of colonial struggle  
↳ Gandhian ideas in Directive principles.

Thus Constitutional morality is the 'north star' helping sail the ship of Constitution.

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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 the Indian Constitution talks about Right to Personal liberty subject to procedure established by law, but Maneka Gandhi (1978) judgement has changed this.

<u>Procedure Established by Law</u>	<u>Due Process of Law</u>
① Concept brought from <u>Japanese</u> constitution.	① Concept brought from <u>US</u> constitution.
② Originally written in <u>Indian</u> Constitution	② brought in by expansion under <u>Article 21</u> in <u>Maneka Gandhi</u> case
③ Ensures the <u>fairness</u> in procedure of law	③ Ensures that the basis law itself is fair.
④ Narrower concept	④ Broader concept
⑤ Necessary for justice during application of law.	⑤ Ensures fairness and justice during formation of law itself.

## Implications on Personal liberty:-

- ① "Procedure established by law" ensures illegal transgression of executive action does not take place.
- ② It protects from tyranny of executive
- ③ Ensures basic fundamental rights
- ④ "Due Process of law" ensures protection from illegal actions of legislature itself.
- ⑤ Ensures Constitutional morality is upheld.
- ⑥ Protects rights of individuals and gives them substantive justice

Both the concepts are crucial in upholding the Constitutional values and ensuring broad expanse of "Right to Personal Liberty" under Article 21.

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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 Power is a doctrine given by Montesquieu in his book "Spirit of laws" and is also ingrained in our constitution under Article 50.

Supreme Court's invocation of Article 142 to confer "deemed assent" to state bills

- ① Violating delicate balance of Separation between Executive and Judiciary.
- ② Use of an article which is an extraordinary power to use "Complete justice" can be detrimental.
- ③ can give executive a window to transgress judicial independence using similar justifications.
- ④ Questions can be raised about judicial performance (4.7 crore case backlogs) and need for executive intervention.
- ⑤ Violating Article 200 and 201 that give assent power to Constitutional heads.

Supreme Court judgement as providing justice

① Instead of looking at it as judicial overreach, it can be looked as Judicial activism.

② Supports Elected government and popular sovereignty which is the basis for democracy.

③ Promotes access to federal balance by ensuring state's independence

④ Ensures Constitution division of power under Schedule seven is maintained.

⑤ Allows for good governance and accountability for state legislatures.

Due to the judgement, a presidential reference has been forwarded to apex court, whose answer will provide the legal justification for the "deemed assent" doctrine.

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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)

Article 93 of the constitution provides for the office of Lok Sabha Speaker. He is the presiding officer of Lok Sabha and has several duties to maintain integrity of house.

Impartiality of Speaker central to integrity of Legislative Process

- ①. Ensuring Quorum of the house before any proceedings.
- ②. Preserving decorum during sittings, debates and passage.
- ③. Giving appropriate time to the members of ruling party as well as opposition in debates.
- ④. Admitting or rejecting key resolutions like Censure motion.
- ⑤. Assuring legislative impartiality during passage of bill.

- ⑥ Acting as impartial head during the counting of votes.
- ⑦ Ordering action against member violating decorum or guilty of misconduct.
- ⑧ Impartiality during Tenth Schedule disqualifications.

Issues → political nature of post  
→ not resigning from party membership (unlike in Britain)  
→ Partisan role in Tenth Schedule disqualifications  
→ not giving equal time to opposition during debates.

Way forward → 2nd ARC: establish independent tribunal for 10th schedule instead of Speaker  
→ Ensure equal time in debates to opposition

Speakers' impartial role will protect legislative dignity and accountability to electorate.

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

Sixth Schedule of the constitution provides for provisions for Tribal areas. This includes the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Sixth schedule balancing tribal autonomy with national integration

- ① Providing for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) empowering tribals for their governance.
- ② Autonomous Regional Councils for bigger areas.
- ③ Empowering Governor to restrict any Parliamentary / State law from application.
- ④ Ensuring reservation for tribals in State ministries.
- ⑤ Safeguarding local traditions, customs, etc.
- ⑥ Preventing displacement and land alienation.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

Success → Protected tribal rights on land  
→ ensured livelihood → TRIPED stores  
↳ Prevented state laws imposition  
↳ Provided autonomy to tribals

Limitations → Discretion to Governor in restricting laws  
↳ reduced authority of state government  
↳ similar demands rising from other States/UT/Ex. Ladakh  
↳ No study / social audit to assess the effectiveness  
↳ Real powers curtailed via AFSPA

In spite of limitations, it has played crucial role in ascertaining the tribal self governance, at the same time curtailing separatist demands, thus promoting national integration.

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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 was framed based on recommendations of BN Srikrishna Committee and provides considerable safeguards for privacy, but has some transparency issues.

## DPDP Act 2023 - Safeguarding Privacy

- ① Ensuring accountability of Data fiduciaries
- ② Providing for Data officer, mandatorily in such fiduciaries.
- ③ Application of Right to be forgotten of Data subjects by mandatory data deletion.
- ④ Limiting jurisdictions in which personal data can be stored outside country.
- ⑤ Fines and punishments for not following obligations under the Act.

## ⑥. Appeal provisions to Data Protection Authority of India

### Weakening transparency frameworks of RTI 2005

- ① State control over data officers like fines, penalties, etc.
- ② Exemptions to government agencies to store personal data.
- ③ Lack of public oversight.
- ④ Unclear rules and ambiguity over provisions under which state can get personal information.

Even though the act provides privacy safeguards, ambiguous exemptions and need to have independent data authority outside executive control is key for effectiveness of the act.

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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 (ADR) mechanisms are those which resolve a dispute outside of the traditional structure of judiciary (subordinate courts, High Courts, Supreme Court).

~~ADR as viable solution to overburdened judiciary:~~

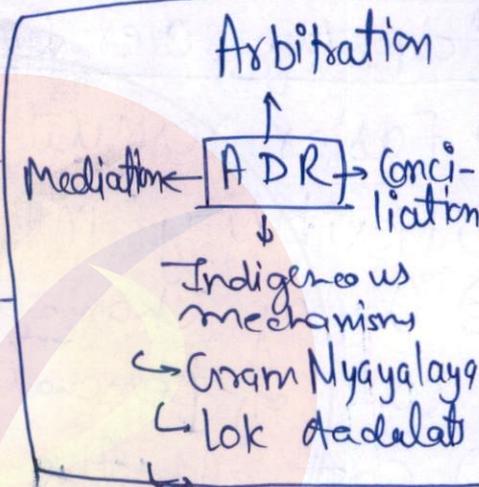
① Faster resolution

Types of ADR in India:

① Arbitration: solution in the presence of arbitrator to come at a binding award. Under arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1986

② Conciliation: coming at a compromise using neutral third party conciliator, not binding, under Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1986

③ mediation: coming at a common solution acceptable to both parties using the services of mediators.



④ Lok Adalats under Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 for petty civil and criminal cases, using services of para-legal experts.

⑤ Gram Nyayalayas under Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2007 to ensure faster resolution of village cases

## Advantages over conventional litigation

- ① Faster resolution
- ② Flexibility in procedures
- ③ Giving chance for reconciliation in case of personal disputes
- ④ Cost effective
- ⑤ Reduction in judiciary backlog
- ⑥ Protecting individuals from public harassment in case of formal litigation

ADRs can serve purpose of judiciary by reducing backlogs and supporting notion of "Justice delayed is justice denied".

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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 voluntary organisations like SHGs (Self Help Groups), which help in financial empowerment of their members.

## Promoting Responsive governance

- ① Ensures Accountability in governance as there is Community led oversight.
- ② Promotes transparency in procedure rules and decisions taken by such organisations.
- ③ Preventing misuse of funds for personal purposes.
- ④ Establishing SOPs (Standard operating procedures) for the governance.
- ⑤ Address members' issues and concerns by responding to real time needs.

Addressing structural inequalities, especially for women:-

- ①. Empowering women financially, thus giving gender justice.
- ②. Ensuring credit access in favourable terms for women.
- ③. Protecting from harassment or familial pressures by giving source of income.
- ④. Addressing deep rooted social causes of inequalities, like Patriarchy.
- ⑤. Preventing health and education asymmetries and ensuring capacity building.

SHGs are helpful in women-empowerment and examples like Kadambshree, Lijjat pabal are example of Community based institutions promoting justice.

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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's Charter is a vision and strategy document which involves the process ~~and~~ for service delivery by a public organization.

Citizen Charter - intended purpose

- ① Clarity in purpose of the institution
- ② Gives accountability to public via detailing processes of service delivery.
- ③ Transparency to the process by providing timelines and grievance redressal mechanism.
- ④ Empowers citizens via Right to information (Article 21)
- ⑤ Helps bridge trust deficit between government and governed.
- ⑥ Ensures public participation by inculcating feedback mechanisms.

## Challenges to transform in a Citizen-Centre Service System

- ①. No Statutory backing: many organizations do not issue citizen charter
- ②. Lack of Uniformity across institutions: confusing the citizens about service deliveries
- ③. Lack of awareness in public.
- ④. Timelines in the citizen charter not met.
- ⑤. Poor grievance redressals.
- ⑥. Opaque and ambiguous processes mentioned in citizen charters

Need is to ensure Universal application throughout government departments, adhering to service-delivery timelines and statutory recognition for effective implementation.

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 is island nation of Indian Ocean, a strategic partner for India, thus "Star and Key" to Indian Ocean for India.

### Geopolitical significance of Mauritius

- ① Key partner in FDI for India.
- ② strategic importance in Indian Ocean Commission
- ③ Partner in tackling pirates helping in "Net Security Provider" strategy.
- ④ Influencing the Indian Ocean discourse on Cooperation.
- ⑤ Key role in HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Resilience)
- ⑥ Support in UN ~~bodies~~ bodies.
- ⑦ Trade and commerce relations



- ⑧ Tackling China's "~~Necklace~~" String of Pearls' strategy.
- ⑨ Defence ties: joint exercises and Airbase construction.
- ⑩ Promoting cultural cooperation (Huge Indian Diaspora).

Pending issues → miniscule trade  
→ defence ties not mature  
→ poor ~~to~~ integration

India's role in Chagos Island dispute as well as invitation to Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth has emphasized on their geopolitical significance.

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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 has constitutional provisions under Article 102, while statutory provisions under Representation of People Act, 1951.

Constitutional provisions for MP disqualification

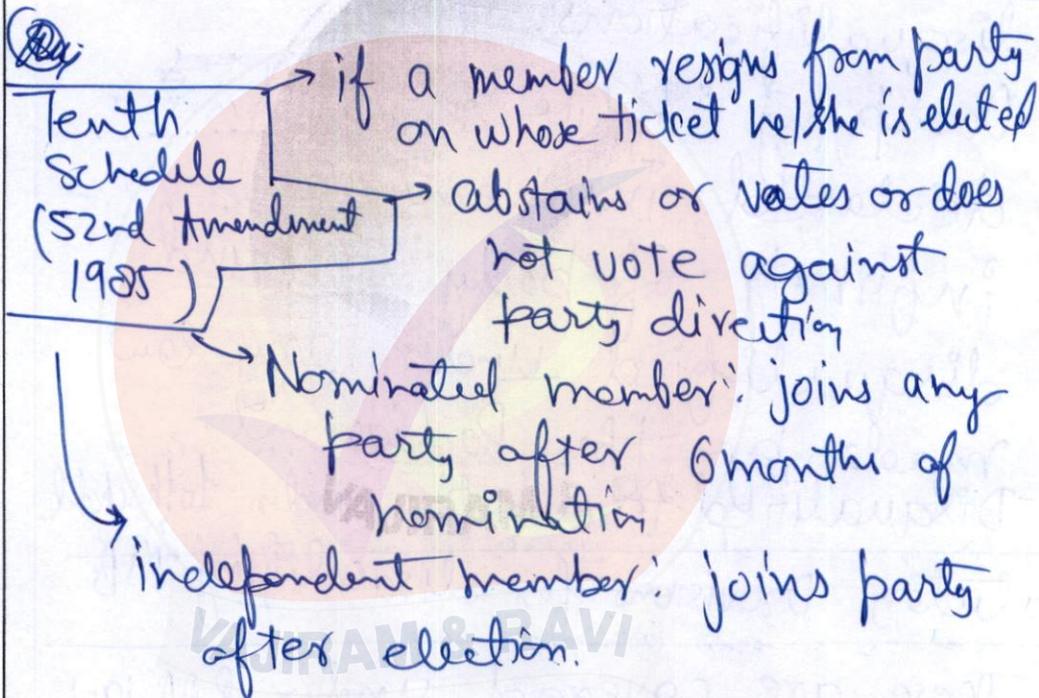
- ①. Article 102 talks about such disqualifications:—
- ②. Occupying "office of profit."
- ③. declared insolvent.
- ④. infirmity of body or mind
- ⑤. disqualified under any law made by the Parliament.
- ⑥. Disqualified for defection under 10th schedule.

Statutory provisions for disqualifying MPs

- These are covered under RPA, 1951 Section 8:—
- ①. Convicted of an offence for sentence of more than 2 years (immediate disqualification as per Lily Thomas case).
  - ②. failed to submit details of

election expenses within time.

- ③ Breaching a social ill like untouchability
- ④ practicing an electoral offence.
- ⑤ found guilty of misconduct
- ⑥ interested in government contract
- ⑦ has share in government owned entity.



Effectiveness in upholding integrity of legislatures

- ① Prevent horse trading → Aya Ram-Gaya Ram phenomenon
- ② Reduces muscle and money power

- ③ Ensures stability of government
- ④ Prevents mass defections
- ⑤. Protect from MP preaching hate crime
- ⑥. Prevent corruption by disqualifying in case of office of profit or if interested in government contracts

Issues → Speaker's non-partisan role in Tenth Schedule  
→ hate speech given in election campaigns but no disqualification  
→ Time taking litigation/ process for disqualifications

Way forward is to ensure impartial functioning of speaker and effective and transparent application 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 refers to promoting division of powers in case of finances and is dealt with various constitutional provisions, but issues exist with such fiscal federalism.

India's fiscal federalism :-

(A) Heavily Vertical :

- ① Finance Commission (Article 280) devolves finances between centre and states, but appointed by Centre only
- ② Limits on state borrowing, but not on Union borrowing.
- ③ CST Council (Article 279A) : Centre has  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd voting power, while states constitute  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd.
- ④ "Special Category States" to states given by Union based on various parameters
- ⑤ CAG audits state's accounts

(B) Transactional → Centrally sponsored <sup>schemes</sup>  
→ no ~~to~~ mutual taxation on each others' resources

(C) Tax → finance commission devolves tax  
centric → GST Council for Tax

## Benefits of institutionalizing "resource federalism"

- ①. Division of resources in equitable manner.
- ②. Provision of income from resource for states.
- ③. providing for cooperative federalism in resource management.
- ④. Reduction in state's reliance on Union.
- ⑤. Impact on overall federalism due to resource autonomy.
- ⑥. Raising resources for local bodies if states are empowered financially.
- ⑦. Enhance grassroots democracy.
- ⑧. Prevent Union-state conflict in financial matters.

Issues associated :-

- ①. No such constitutional provision for resource federalism.
- ②. Union's capability to raise resources will reduce.
- ③. May lead to higher fiscal deficits.
- ④. Reluctance of political parties to proceed with resource devolution.

Ensuring proper channels of communication via NITI Aayog, Interstate Councils and Zonal Councils as well as building consensus to secure resource federalism is key to future.

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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)

The recent report by Supreme Court for removal of Delhi HC Judge Yashwant Sinha in burnt cash case has raised interests about process of removal of judges.

## Indian approach

- ① Judicial security of tenure in a "written constitution"
- ② Judges Enquiry Act establishes thorough procedure
- ③ Report by judiciary can be only way to remove judge.
- ④ basis is "independence of judiciary"
- ⑤ Ensuring grounds as "incapacity or moral behavior"

## UK approach

- ① Judicial independence secured by laws under "unwritten constitution"
- ② focus on ministerial responsibility
- ③ Ministries can initiate the process
- ④ basis is "Rule of law"
- ⑤ can be number of different grounds

\*for maintaining judicial accountability:-

Indian approach

- ① less accountability as more independence
- ② difficult to pass the removal resolution (it has to be passed by special majority)
- ③ Ensures involvement of judiciary in the process
- ④ Removal by President after resolution passes through both houses
- ⑤ stresses more on judiciary's self-correcting mechanism

UK approach

- ① more accountability
- ② easy to pass the removal resolution.
- ③ Judicial involvement not warranted.
- ④ ministerial initiation and in house approval needed
- ⑤ focuses more on transparency and supremacy of Parliament.

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The differing approaches between India and UK are the result of differing political setups and constitutionalism in both the countries.



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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.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Uttarakhand became the latest state for implementing UCC, after Goa which has implemented it since formation, raising discussions about nationwide UCC.

Factors behind delay in UCC at national level

- ① Article 44 directs for UCC implementation throughout territory of India, but it is not justiciable. Thus, state free to decide the time.
- ② Law Commission (2010)'. UCC is neither necessary, nor desirable at this stage.
- ③ Lack of consensus between political parties for its implementation.
- ④ Administrative and logistical challenges in implementation.

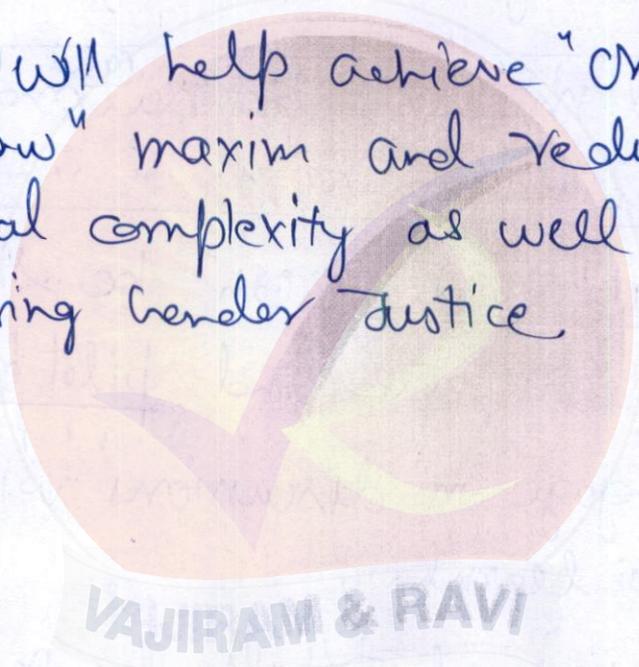
- ⑤ Issues of threat to minority culture and religion (Right to freedom under Article 25)
- ⑥ Opposition from Tribals as they constitute diverse group with variety of customs, traditions, etc.

Potential measures for national implementation

- ① Uttarakhand VCC can be studied as a template and pilot project, to engage in discussions with lessons learnt.
- ② Exclusion of tribals for initial implementation.
- ③ Inter-party consensus for VCC implementation
- ④ Provision for safeguards to minority culture <sup>which is</sup> non essential to VCC.

- ⑤ Ensure administrative capabilities are built before implementation
- ⑥ Provision of sociological and anthropological studies to assess potential impact before its implementation.

VCC will help achieve "one nation one law" maxim and reduce judicial complexity as well as ensuring gender justice.



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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)

In Davinder Singh vs UOI (2024) judgement, Supreme Court has recognised inter-caste inequality opening scope for new debates in affirmative action policies.

Challenges posed by this in social justice

- ① Risks diluting voices of Scheduled Caste by internally dividing them.
- ② Administrative challenges in recognition of inter-caste inequalities.
- ③ Legal issues as it opens gateway for counter-litigation.
- ④ Breaking the solidarity of movements like "Balit Panther" movements.

- ⑤ Politicisation of the sub-classification issue
- ⑥ Hindering equal implementation of affirmative policies

## Opportunities for social justice

- ① Will ensure social justice to most marginalized (Antyoelaya)
- ② reduce inequality between ~~S~~ Scheduled Caste, or Casteisation of Scheduled Castes.
- ③ Promote well being of most under privileged.
- ④ Eliminate exploitation of lower SCs by upper SCs
- ⑤ Enhance intra-caste equity
- ⑥ Realise the goal of equality not only between castes, but

among the castes itself.

⑦ In line with Ranganath Mishra Commission observing the same about OBCs

⑧ Can be combined with enhanced protection using data available from newly announced Caste Census

Need of the hour is to ensure inter-group as well as intra-group social justice to ensure an equitable social justice.

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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)

New Education Policy 2020 was brought in to replace earlier 1986 policy and align education with modern needs and opportunities.

Opportunities in integrating AI into India's education system

- ① Modernising the Education System.
- ② Skills inculcation for the 21st century.
- ③ Enhancing employability of Indian Students
- ④ Creating personalized learning using AI for the ~~people~~ students

- ⑤. Addressing accessibility issue.
- ⑥. integrating best practices from different countries into the education system
- ⑦. make the education system more responsive to today's needs.
- ⑧. Teacher training and performance audits using AI.

## Challenges associated

- ①. Privacy concerns for usage of data collected by AI.
- ②. Digital divide hindering AI adoption in rural India
- ③. Lack of human agency may result in non-empathetic education system.

- ④. High costs associated with AI adoption
- ⑤. Cyber security threats in Education infrastructure
- ⑥. propagation of biases due to echo-chambering and biased data trained AI

## Safeguards for safe deployment

- ① Enhance Privacy safeguards
- ② Ensure data trained is unbiased
- ③ Provide for ethical education too.
- ④ Bridge the digital divide for inclusive AI access.
- ⑤. Promote Cost-effective AI models
- ⑥ firm and robust cyber security.

AI is a double edged sword and safe and responsible application can democratisise and revolutionise Indian Education System.

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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 those who temporarily reside at one place and move from one to other for food, fodder or trade.  $\Rightarrow$  Banjara Communities

Role of targeted welfare schemes for nomadic communities in achieving inclusive development :-

- ①. Ensure income for such communities  $\Rightarrow$  MGNREGA
- ②. Provide health benefits  $\Rightarrow$  PDS scheme
- ③. Prevent harassment or crimes
- ④. Provide Educational facilities  $\Rightarrow$  Ekta Model Residential Schools.

⑤. focus on Holistic development

↳ PM JANMAN Scheme

⑥. Ensure cultural preservation

## Implementation bottlenecks

① Awareness ~~not~~ absent in nomadic communities

② Difficult to trace the implementation since nomadic communities on the move

③ Prevention of accessibility to remote areas

④ traditional livelihood practices

⑤ Corruption and bureaucratic apathy.

⑥ Poor social audit mechanisms

## Safeguards [Resolution of bottlenecks]

① Ensure awareness by educating and campaigning

- ② Prevent corruption
- ③ Ensure safe access to key amenities
- ④ Social audits for implementation
- ⑤ Cooperate with state governments for effective implementation
- ⑥ Integrate with Civil Society Organisations working for their welfare.

Effective implementation will ensure social justice, economic empowerment and improved quality of life.

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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 use of historical cultural and ethnic ties to forward the causes of traditional diplomacy and enhance goodwill.

Strengths of <sup>Diaspora-led</sup> Cultural Diplomacy

- ① Acts as a tool of soft power  
↳ Vishwa Hindi Diwas celebrated
- ② helps in lobbying for Indian interests. ↳ Indian origin MPs in USA [Samosa Caucus]
- ③ align with Indian display of strength.  
↳ "Howdy Modi" event in Houston during Trump 1-0.
- ④ Bridge the gaps in traditional diplomatic channels.

⑤. Promote Economic benefits

↳ Ex. \$100 billion remittances

⑥. Help in enhancing goodwill as diaspora are "cultural ambassadors"

## Limitations in advancing Indian interests

①. Transactional nature of diplomacy goes beyond culture

②. Pragmatic considerations more important like Economy, military, etc.

③. ~~Poor~~ Diversity of Indian culture limiting scope for very strong diplomacy.

④. Can sometimes be counterproductive as diaspora is not homogeneous entity but has differing views.

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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

Promoting cultural diplomacy is a facet of overall diplomatic outreach and thus only be used as supplement, and not a substitute to traditional ways of diplomacy.



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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)

Israel's "Operation Rising Lion" and Iran's retaliation to it has increased regional tension and affected West Asian stability.

Growing tensions affecting regional stability

- ① Disruption in Civil Aviation as Iran closed airspace.
- ② Activation of "Axis of Resistance" in retaliation to Israel.
- ③ Chances of involvement of powers like Russia and China.
- ④ Issues with Indian diaspora in Iran and Israel [Operation Sindhya to evacuate them]

- ⑤. Disruptions in petroleum products trade ~~TR~~ from threatens to close Hormuz strait
- ⑥. Chances of a spiralling war like that of Iraq war

Key Considerations of India's foreign policy to safeguard its interests

- ①. Prevent expansion of hostilities since India has friendly relations with both Israel and Iran.
- ②. Safeguarding trade routes and oil supplies.
- ③. Ensure safety of its citizens
- ④. Prevent chances of Russian or Chinese involvement
- ⑤. Protect assets like Chabahar port and Haifa port.

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⑥. Prevent oil prices surge in India due to conflict

India's statement of dialogue and diplomacy should be implemented with PM's statement of "This is not an era of war"



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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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)



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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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# Space for Rough Work



# Space for Rough Work

