

VAJIRAM & 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:

PRAKHYA

Time allowed: 3 Hours

STUDENT ID.:

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Email:

UPSC ROLL NO.:

6 3 0 2 0 0 4

Submission
Date:

7 Aug 2025

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 - 1 PM	End Time - 4 PM.
Mode of Examination	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date -	Dispatch date -

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				

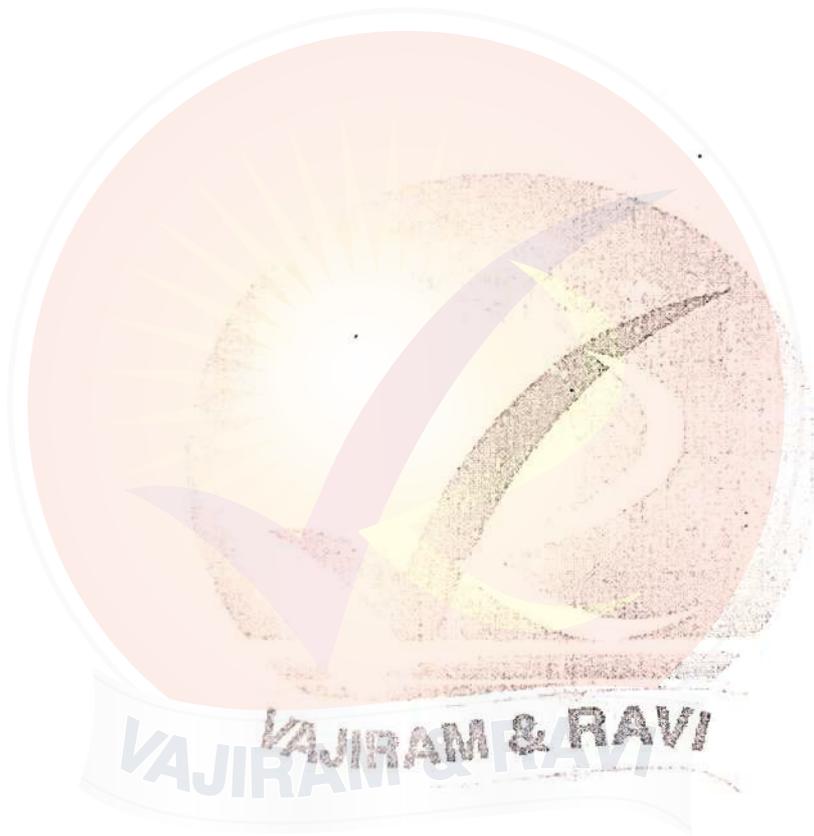
Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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(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)

Term 'Constitutional morality' was given by "George Grote" & Introduced by DR. BR Ambedkar into Indian parlance.

Constitutional morality not a natural sentiment. → has to be cultivated

- (i) Art 25 to 28 = Religious freedom promoting contextual Religious morality.
- (ii) Art 14 = Equal protection of law and equality before law & legal morality. Promoting.
- (iii) Apart from it strong social & traditional values in form of customary morality prevail.

Cultivation of ~~Customary~~ Morality Constitutional.

via:-

(i) Upholding Gender justice & equality
before customary morality
↳ promotes Constitutional morality.

↳ Sabrimata judgement (2018) of SC

(ii) Human dignity above biases guided
by constitutional values highlighted
by SC in NALSA judgement where
transgenders were given equal rights

(iii) Protecting Individual Autonomy via.
Tataswamy judgement, recognizing
right to privacy.

Yet it is not altogether
correct that it is not a natural
sentiment, time & again various
social reforms like Banning Sati,
Temple Entry Movements, banning
downy etc. shows, It is a natural
sentiment.

"Constitutional morality" acts
as compass guiding democratic governance
towards justice, liberty & equality.

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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 14 of Indian Constitution provides for Equality

Indian constitution provides for "procedure established by law" but various judicial interventions have developed "due process of law" to regulate legislative & executive actions

Compare & Contrast

features	Procedure Established by Law.	Due Process of Law
(i) Origin.	- British <u>Japanese</u> origin	British <u>American</u> origin.
(ii) Define.	Judges laws and actions based on presence or absence of law	Judges based on <u>rightness</u> of law itself.
(iii) Spectrum	Narrow Meaning	Broad Meaning
(iv) Scope.	Used in <u>A.K. Gopalan</u> case to highlight <u>liberty</u> <u>Right to freedom</u> in narrow/literal sense.	Used in <u>Mameta Gandhi</u> case to broaden scope of <u>Right</u> to <u>personal liberty</u>

Further it is explained as:-

(i) In A.K Gopalan Case SC highlighted that Right to liberty does not include other freedom within it based on Procedure established by law

(ii) But in Maneka Gandhi case, SC laid Principles of Natural justice along with procedure established by law to develop "Due Process of Law" & upheld broad scope of Right to liberty.

(iii) It also highlighted that mere presence of lawful procedure is not enough, law should be just and fair also.

Consequences - (i) Broadening scope of Personal liberty \Rightarrow Right to privacy (Puttaswami case)
(ii) More scope for Judicial review.

Thus, Due process of law goes beyond letter of law & upheld spirit of Constitution.

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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)

A study by IIM Ahmedabad have found that out of 1549 uses of 'Art 142', 40% have ambiguous usage, raising concerns about use of this power.

Use of Art 142 questioning separation of powers

(i) Leads to Judicial legislation as Art 142 in T.N. Governor Case for giving ~~assent~~ 'deemed assent' upon failure of Governor adhering to timeline.

(ii) Judicial activism turning into overreach. → interference in legislative functions.

(iii) Executive sidelined. by Judiciary → against separation of powers.

(iv) Sets wrong democratic precedence.

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Need for using Art (142) to uphold 'Separation of Powers'

- (i) Upholds federalism → as Governor's action leading to legislative paralysis in State.
- (ii) Executive Authoritarianism against legislature challenged.
- (iii) Gives scope for future disciplined use of powers by Governor. → giving.
[3 months timeline for assent.
↳ upholds Balance b/w Executive & Legislative powers.

Way forward

- (i) Clear guidelines for use of 'Art 142'
- (ii) Judicial oversight over use.
- (iii) Judicial restraint while using this exceptional tool.

In a democratic nation like India 'Art 142' ~~is~~ ~~not~~ should be used by judiciary with prudence to uphold democratic principles & parliamentary spirit.

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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)

'The Speaker should be a person of utmost integrity and impartiality for effective functioning of parliamentary system' - J. L. Nehru.

Impartiality of Speaker of Lok Sabha is central to integrity of legislative process.

(i) Upholds Rule of Law in Legislature
↳ by maintaining decorum.
⇒ Action against chaos

(ii) Gives Opposition due space for upholding Accountability of govt.
⇒ Clearing the floor for opposition discussion.

(iii) Upholds Parliamentary Spirit.
↳ Appointing committees for indepth scrutiny of laws.

(iv) Upholds financial integrity of legislature. ⇒ By carefully using Art 112 for declaring Money Bill.

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- But this Impartial Role is questioned due to:-
- (i) Bipartisan behavior against opposition \Rightarrow Expulsion of More than 50 members in 2024.
 - (ii) failure to take timely action on Anti-defection law. \Rightarrow Manipur Speaker took more than 3 years.
 - (iii) Rising parliamentary chaos & indiscipline.

Suggestions

- (i) Mandatory designation of Speaker from Party (UK Model)
- (ii) Anti-defection timelines adherence (Kishan Mehta Chandre Jaganath)
- (iii) Appointment of Speaker with opposition consultation. (IInd ARC + ecommendation)

Speaker should uphold the parliamentary Principles by balancing ~~interest~~ regulation and powers.

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Marks:

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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 Indian Constitution provides for special administrative functions and powers to uphold tribal autonomy.

Present in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram.

Sixth schedule provides for 'Autonomous District Councils'

Balancing Tribal Autonomy with National Integration

- (i) Autonomous District Councils (ADC) have majority tribal representatives
- (ii) ADC have powers to regulate market fees, dispute settlement etc. → providing regional autonomy.
- (iii) Governor will decide on modification or suitability of Central/State laws for such areas.
↳ Balancing Rule of law with Tribal context

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Success of 6th Schedule in Balancing
Autonomy & National integration.

- (i) Power devolved to 6th Schedule areas \Rightarrow Karbi Anglong Council
- (ii) Culturally competent development plans in Tribal areas.
- (iii) Long lasting Peace in tribal areas.

Limitations

(i) failure in providing meaningful funds & functionalities.
 \Rightarrow underdevelopment of Hill areas

(ii) Conflict b/w different areas still exist \Rightarrow Bodo military not curtailed despite various pacts.

Thus, for successful tribal autonomy & National integration, effective implementation of 6th Schedule is essential.

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Marks:

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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 (DPDPA) is based on recommendation of B.N. Shri Krishna Committee to safeguard India's digital rights.

DPDPA Act 2023 as safeguard for Privacy.

(i) Upholds rights of Data Principles - Right to informed consent, delete etc.

(ii) Duty of Data fiduciaries and Processors to protect privacy of principles

(iii) Fines and penalties for Privacy violation

(iv) Consent Managers to protect right to privacy & informed consent.

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(i) Data Protection Board for grievance redressal and appeals to uphold Privacy.

DPDR, Act 2003
Risks weakening transparency.
framework of RTI, 2005

(ii) Digital Privacy upheld at cost of transparency.

↳ Suo Moto disclosure prohibited for certain organizations

(iii) Duties of Data Fiduciaries (Public organizations) in conflict with:

duties under RTI.
↳ Secrecy v/s Transparency.

Way forward

- Remove frictions between both acts to increase synergy.
- Training of officials for better information management to uphold both.

RTI and DPDR should together uphold digital Rights and responsibility.

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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)
fulfills the Gandhian dream
of dispute resolution in India.

Types of ADR Mechanisms in
India.

- (i) Arbitration, Final & Binding decisions
under Arbitration
& Conciliation Act, 1996 for
dispute resolution by expert 3rd party.
- (ii) Mediation by Mediation Act of 2023
to promote fast and inexpensive
dispute resolution.
- (iii) Conciliation
Dispute resolution by bringing two
parties at own terms.
- (iv) Gram Nyayalays
↳ Established by state govt
and High court for fast
dispute redressal for civil
and criminal cases.
↳ Powers of civil court

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Advantages over conventional Litigation.

(i) fast and Time bound Dispute resolution

eg 120+60 days under Mediation Act.

(ii) Win-Win Situation for all parties.

(iii) follows principles of Natural justice. and gave final & binding decisions

(iv) ~~Greater~~ Inexpensive & cost friendly compared to litigation.

Yet, ADR is turning into another logged part of justice ~~due~~ due to frequent judicial intervention and lack of enforcement mechanisms, Thus,

ADR's effective implementation conveys a door of justice which is quick and responsive

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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 utilized by schemes like Lakshmi UID for women empowerment.

Community based financial institutions. Promoting Responsive Governance.

(i) Local context specific economic opportunities
eg Dairy & beekeeping
finance

(ii) Better access to financial credit.

(iii) Promotes greater financial inclusion → enhances DBT efficiency.

Addressing Structural inequalities for marginalized women

(i) Promotes Women Led opportunities.
eg Dhomedidi.

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(ii) flexible and local work opportunities for women.

⇒ Weaving.

(iii) Decrease stereotypes and taboos against women.

(iv) Promote women literacy & skill development (e) under National Rural Livelihood Mission Skill training to women.

Way forward

- Collaborate with local NGOs to promote participation.

- Enhance awareness among women beneficiaries.

- Use technology like e-SARAS for better market access.

It can help in achieving SDG-5 & goals of Gender Justice.

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Marks:

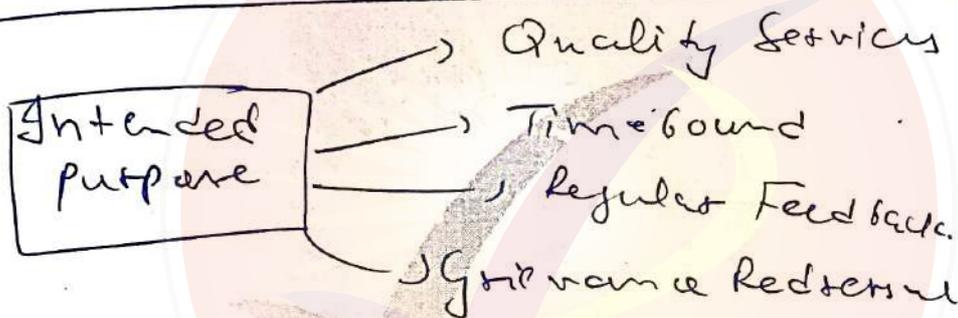
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anything in
this part)

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 document enforcing quality and time-bound service delivery.

Developed in India in 1997 by DRPH.



falling short in transforming administration into a citizen-centric service system.

- (i) Absence of Citizen's Charter in many organizations or Non-functional if present
- (ii) Red tapism and bureaucratic delays in implementation.

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- (iii) Absence of legal backing to charter decreases enforcement
- (iv) Low Awareness among public
- v) Verbal hurdles in form of English or non-local language charters.

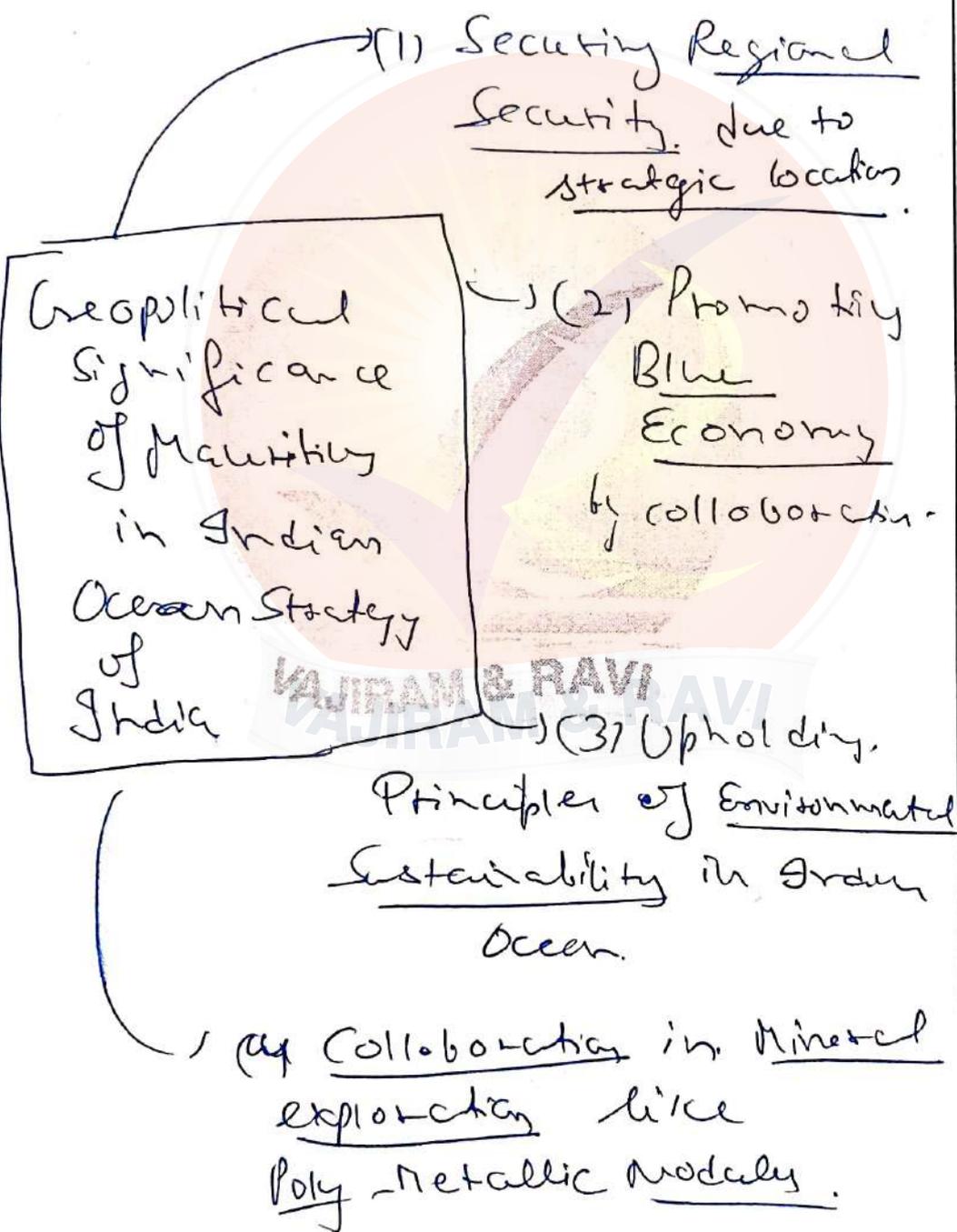
Yet some charters have served their purposes:

- (i) In Meghalaya & Karnataka.
legal backing to Citizen's charter.
- (ii) Delhi Jal-Board Time bound Service in 15-days
- (iii) Karnataka's Sakala Mission with effective Finance Redressal.

Citizen's charters effective implementation can turn governance into good governance for citizen welfare.

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 key Indian partner in Indian Ocean.



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Challenges

(i) Increasing influence of China in Indian ocean.

(ii) Limited capacity of India

(iii) Mauritius as drug trafficking hub.

(iv) Climate change challenges for Mauritius.

Way forward

→ Promote climate Justice in Bodies like UNFCCC.

→ Enhance Regional Security by Organization like JOC

Thus, Mauritius is trusted & reliable partner for SAGAR.

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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)

The rising number of legislators with criminal backgrounds (around 47% according to APR report) have raised the questions on effectiveness of disqualification procedures.

Constitutional & Statutory Provisions

(i) Art 192 provides for disqualification of people holding 'office of profit'.

(ii) Representation of People's Act, 1951

Sec 8, 8A, 9, 9A, 10, 10A provides

for disqualification due to corrupt practices & electoral offences.
↳ ECI + President decide along with courts.

(iii) Apart from it, Anti-defection Law also provides for disqualification based on Xth Schedule provisions

↳ Speaker / Chairperson final authority to decide

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Effectiveness in upholding the integrity of Parliament.

SUCCESS

- (i) ~~In 2020, President disqualified~~
- (i) Sets clear guidelines acting as a deterrence for corrupt practices.
- (ii) ECG action against hate speeches, booth capturing have promoted ethical behaviours among MP's.

Limitations

- (i) Rising Criminalisation of Parliament
 - ↳ Rule Breakers becoming Law Makers
 - (Highest Percentage in 18th L.S. - ADR Report 2024) than 17th L.S.
- (ii) Bypassing of Laws.
 - ↳ Appointment as Secretaries
 - ↳ upheld wrongful by SC!
- (iii) Failure of Speaker to take quick & impartial decision.

(iv) Slow decision making by Election Commission and President under RoPA, 1951.

Judicial Interventions

⇒ Under Lily Thomas Case SC have upheld that conviction for more than 2 years will leads to automatic disqualification despite appeal.

⇒ Timeline for Speaker to take prompt action. (Keisham Megachandra Case)

Way forward

(i) Expert oversight committee to take prompt action.

(ii) Automatic disqualifications like UK & Australia after conviction for more than 1 year.

(iii) Constitutional committee to take Anti-defection decisions (Halim Committee)

Rule Makers should be people of repute & should be held accountable for survival of democracy.

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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)

India's fiscal federalism is derived by recommendations of Finance Commission (Art 280) and aspirations of central government.

fiscal federalism heavily vertical,
transactional and tax-centric

- (i) States doing more than 60% of expenditure while generating around 38% revenue are dependent on centre (Vertical dependency)
- (ii) States with coalition partners and central government getting more funds under Discretionary grants eg Recent Special Package for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh (Transactional)
- (iii) Majority dependence on tax devolutions of GST. (Tax-centric)

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anything in
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Institutionalizing 'resource federalism'
for equitable and autonomous
state level development.

- (ii) Can create more equitable resource devolution.
- (iii) Better division of fiscal pool
for decreasing regional disparities
b/w states.
- (iii) Essential for establishing balance
between high revenue generating
and high funds receiving states
⇒ Tussle between states like
Maharashtra, Karnataka of not
getting funds as per contribution.
- (iv) Will strengthen fiscal federalism.
- (v) Promoting unity with diversity
in fiscal space.

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Challenges in Resource federalism

- (i) Clear cut division of powers and functions not possible in complex parliamentary system.
- (ii) May go against 'ONE Nation ONE Market' principle → necessary for economic growth.
- (iii) Challenges of suitable criteria for fund devolution will remain.

Way forward

- (i) Joint bodies like Inter-State Council to develop consensus.
- (ii) 'Special Needs' of States like North East, Tribal States should be kept in mind.

"Resource federalism" can be solution for India's fiscal tensions.

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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)

Indian Constitution provides for removal of judges for misbehaviour, incapacity etc. Judges Enquiry Act have detailed guidelines for it.

Comparison of Approaches of India & UK in maintaining Judicial Accountability.

(i) Procedure

In India it is done by 2/3rd Majority of Rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha on advice of 3 member Committee.

In UK in house mechanisms is there for removal of Judges.

(ii) ~~Defence~~ Defence

In India there is all or None procedure with no in between penalties or punishment apart from removal.

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↳ UK have strong detestation to availability of various tools to uphold judicial accountability.

(3) Success.

- (i) No judge impeached in India till date.
- (ii) UK have various successful removals and disciplinary actions.

Benefits of UK's Approach

- ↳ (i) Maintains Credibility of Judiciary by upholding accountability.
- (ii) Strong Parliamentary Control over Judiciary.

Negatives of UK's Approach

↳ It goes against Independence of Judiciary and Parliamentary sovereignty upheld above separation of powers.

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Positives of India's Approach

- (i) Separation of power upheld
- (ii) Judicial independence guaranteed.

Negatives of India's Approach

- (i) No successful impeachment so far.
- (ii) Resignation as a loophole against impeachment.
eg Justice Dinakaran resigned on day of impeachment.
- (iii) Culture of Secrecy & Non-accountability & freedly Misconduct
eg Recent Justice Verma Cash case allegations.

Way forward

- (i) Develop variety of disciplinary tools → fines & punishment apart from removal.
 - (ii) Close resignation loophole.
- ⇒ sunlight of accountability & transparency is must for judicial credibility.

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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)

- Article 44 of Indian Constitution provides for Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as part of Directive Principles (DPSP).

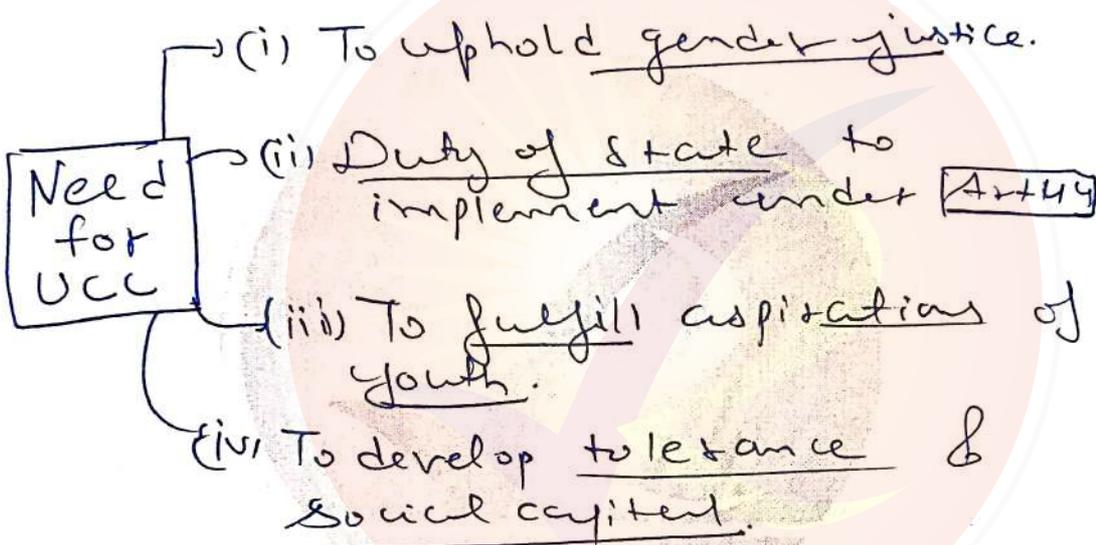
Factors behind delay of National Level implementation.

- (i) Lack of Consensus among major stakeholders. i.e. Union & State governments.
- (ii) Public distrust may be seen as Against Religious Freedom (Art 25-28).
- (iii) Fear of Minorities, as may go against some of cultural practices (eg) Recent outrage about Triple talac ban.
- (iv) Unity may go against diversity.

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(v) Tribal autonomy challenges as it may go against Tribal Panchayat principles.

(vi) Lack of awareness among public and large scale demand.



Measures for National Implementation of UCC

(i) Develop consensus among various stakeholders using Inter-State Council.

(ii) Develop awareness among public about benefits and need for UCC.

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(iii) Provide for safeguards for Tribals & Minorities => upholding.

Unity in Diversity

(iv) Use civil society, Media & Public Consultation as tool of developing acceptance among public.

(v) Use a gradual piecemeal approach.

(vi) Learn from Local solutions and challenges like Goa and Uttaranchal's UCC.

Thus, Uniform Civil Code is not only a constitutional imperative but need of.

Viksit Bharat.

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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)

Indian Constitution provides for various safeguards for Scheduled Castes (SC) under Article 15, 16 and 46. Reservation is one of them.

Judicial Recognition of Intra-caste inequality within SC

Supreme Court in Jarnail Singh judgment has upheld the principle of "creamy layer" for SC/STs, recognising intra-caste inequality & need for modified & more targeted affirmative action.

Challenges for Social Justice by this

- (i) Exclusion & Inclusion errors can have detrimental impact

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on already disadvantaged groups.
(ii) Addresses only 'class based' issue in economic terms, leaving caste-based disadvantages.

(iii) Economic welfare does not equate with social welfare.

eg) Untouchability still practised in 70% Rural households in different forms (OMKAR THORAT)

(iv) Will create frictions between have reservation have and have not's within SCs.

Opportunities for Social Justice

(i) Better targeting of schemes & government incentives for more vulnerable groups.

(ii) Overhaul of Reservations → as few groups getting most of the benefits of reservation (by highlighted Bihar's Caste Census)

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- (iii) changing notion of disadvantages by including class based vulnerabilities along with caste.
- (iv) Upholding judicial pronouncements.
- (v) Better utilisation of limited reservation space (50% limit by Jindal Swahney judgement)

Way forward

- (i) fair and accurate data collection is pre-requisite for classification.
- (ii) Caste and class based realities balanced in affirmative action.

Thus, Intra-caste inequality recognition by Supreme Court, need overhaul of affirmative action by legislature and administrators for truly just and equal society.

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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)

AI is the reality of today's world and its impact on education is highly transformational as per NAASCOM.

Opportunities by using AI in achieving goals of New Education Policy (NEP), 2020

(i) Future ready Skill force by providing future necessary skills to demographic dividend
⇒ AI engineers.

(ii) Experiential Learning goal of NEP can be fulfilled by AI.
⇒ AI trained lab teachers.

(iii) PARAKH Assessment - SA 360' assessment can be done using AI.

(iv) Students specific courses and course correction possible.

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anything in
this part)

(V) Affordable, Equitable & Inclusive
Education using AJ can blur
rural-urban and gender
divides.

Challenges in Integrating AJ
into India's Education System.

(i) Low Digital Literacy → Acc.
to Oxfam. Only 37% of Indian
households are digitally literate.

(ii) Infrastructure hurdles. will
prevent effective utilisation
of AJ.

(iii) Privacy & digital security
concerns by unmonitored
AJ use for children.

(iv) Teacher training. is already.
not at par.

(v) May fuel. Divides & biases.
↳ Grok praising Hitler.

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(vii) Incapacity of Public sector for bearing huge cost & fast adoption by Private sector may cause learning disparities.

Safeguards to ensure safe deployment of AG

(i) Training of Educational AG models with transparency, beneficence & special needs of children.

(ii) Develop equitable AG learning landscape via Public-Private partnership.

(iii) Proper Infrastructure development & teacher training with respect to AG complementarity.

(iv) Training of children & Parents.

AG can truly change the education sector for India and fulfill the goals of NEP 2020 for VIKSIT and SIKSHIT

Bharat (Developed & Educated India)

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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 although small in number but form a significant part of India's demographic landscape.

Role of targeted welfare schemes in achieving Inclusive development for Nomadic Communities

(i) Cultural context and competency along with economic opportunities
eg. Pashmina GI tag to Jammu and Kashmir Nomadic Communities.

(ii) Educational opportunities and skill development
Using tools like e-learning & livelihood skill programmes

(iii) ~~Access~~ Necessary Infrastructure development like Ropeways in mountainous region.

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(iv) Health benefits with community specific needs for all round development under PM-Ayushman Bharat

Implementation Bottlenecks

(i) Lack of necessary documentation and ID's like Aadhar.

(ii) Scattered populations ~~not~~ and One size fits all approach.

(iii) Low awareness and education among Nomadic's about govt schemes

(iv) Bureaucratic huddles & red tapism.

(v) Low indicators of development and cultural barriers as huddles in mainstream economic integration.

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Steps to Resolve Bottlenecks for Nomadic Welfare

- (i) Developing local capacities by providing funds & powers to local governments for Nomadic welfare.
- (ii) Use of technology for identification and integration.
- (iii) Collaborate with Civil Society to provide Context specific solutions.
- (iv) Proper documentation and GD's for Direct Benefit transfer and other benefits.
- (v) Financial Inclusion using Priority Sector Lending targets.

Nomadic communities are an important part of India's democratic mosaic and must develop along with India.

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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)

Indian diaspora is one of the largest in the world and spread among all major habitated continents and countries.



Strength of diaspora led cultural diplomacy in advancing India's National Interest

(i) Boost India's cultural power

→ Bollywood popularity in Africa and Central Asia.

(ii) Boost Exports by increasing demand for India's goods in new markets.

(iii) Promote diversification of ~~ex~~ export goods and markets

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(iv) Technological gains in form of diaspora knowledge utilized for National development
⇒ Schemes like SPARE for IT.

(v) Political Benefits in form of shaping host countries foreign policy in India's favour.
⇒ Civil Nuclear Deal b/w India and U.S.

Limitations of Using Diaspora for National Interest

(i) May lead to interference in strategic autonomy of other countries

⇒ LTTE issue with Sri Lanka.

(ii) Distrust in host country about loyalties of diaspora.

⇒ Racism & 'Go out Campaigns'

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(iii) May create threats for India's security and National Interest.

(c) India-Canada tussle over Khalistan issue.

Way forward

- (i) Prudent use of diaspora →
Promote culture with non-interference
- (ii) Increase People to People ties at larger level.
- (iii) Provide adequate incentives to diaspora for National interest.
- (iv) Cherish the shared values of Pravasi Bhakti Dives.
- (v) Collaboration and meaningful dialogue with host countries.

Diaspora as a Soft power tool is a double edged sword & should be used judiciously.

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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)

Recent strikes by U.S and Israel on Iran's nuclear establishments have raised security concerns for West Asia and rule based order at large.

Effects of U.S - Israel and Iran Tensions on regional stability of West Asia.

(i) Disturbed peace and security.
regular strikes and counterstrikes by Iran and Israel.

(ii) Economic and Human life loss on Both sides.

(iii) Threats of fuelling a Nuclear race in West Asia further disturbing stability.

(iv) Threats for Trade across Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea as regular attacks by Iran backed Houthi's.

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(v) Rule based order bypassed by unilateral action of U.S by threatening countries trading with Iran.

(vi) Nuclear risks due to recent attacks and violation of Addition Protocol of Geneva convention.

Key Considerations for India's foreign Policy. to safeguard its interests in West Asia.

(i) Collaborate with other responsible powers like EU for rule based order.

(ii) Diversify India's oil and LNG supplies. → simultaneously focus on Renewable Energy.

(iii) Dialogues with all 3 for a peaceful resolution. along with other regional players.

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(iv) Evacuation and other safeguards for Indian diaspora in region to ensure their safety.

(v) Provide Humanitarian aid, upholding principle of giving grants not guns in clashes

West Asian Crisis have larger implications for whole world, India must choose its partners and actions cautiously to safeguard own interest along with multilateral, rule based order.

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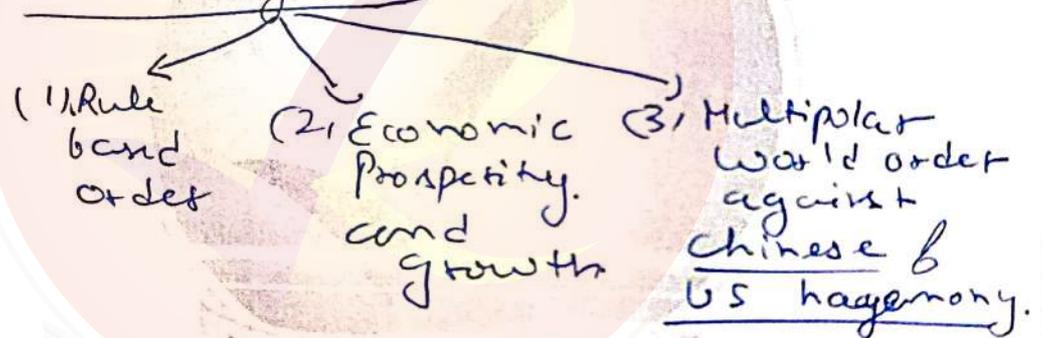
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20. With overlapping geographical and strategic interests, ASEAN-BIMSTEC cooperation can enhance Indo-Pacific connectivity and resilience. Analyze the institutional, political, and external challenges that impede this collaboration. (15 marks, 250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

ASEAN-BIMSTEC are two non western organizations of Asia that are vital for economic prosperity and growth of global south & Indo-Pacific.

Overlapping geographical and Strategic interests of both.



Cooperation of ASEAN-BIMSTEC can enhance connectivity and Resilience by:-

- (i) Promoting multilateral world order.
- (ii) Diversifying supply chains for economic resilience

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(iii) Enhance connectivity by initiatives like IMT and regional infrastructure via Indian Ocean and Pacific.

(iv) Economic resilience by shared economic growth. → regional FTAs and investments.

Institutional challenges to this collaboration

(i) Economic nature of ASEAN (COMMON Market) and multiple issue based nature of BIMSTEC does not go together.

(ii) Non-functional BIMSTEC due to regional clashes. → India-Bangladesh tussle.

Political and External challenges to collaboration

(i) ASEAN countries used for DUMPING goods by China bypassing Rules of origin.

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(ii) Different views about BRJ acceptance among members of both organizations
↳ In BIMSTEC India & Bhutan against it

(iii) Close relations of ASEAN with China. Prevent close cooperation

(iv) Varied challenges & economic development → ASEAN economies being more market based & open.

Way forward

- Issue based collaboration like regional security, disaster management.
- Shared Infrastructure development with World Bank, JMR etc projects
- Regional collaboration among BIMSTEC and ASEAN can have multiple benefits for both.

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Space for Rough Work

