UPSE CSE 2025

AIR – 82

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT - 2025

General Studies Full Length Test Test - 2 (GS - 2) Test Code - VR1052502	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:

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STUDENT. ID.: 2 5 V R 1 0 1 4 8 9

UPSC ROLL NO:.:

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Time allowed: 3 Hours

Email:

Submission Date:

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

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Instructions:–

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

For Student Only		
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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

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👍 ☺ All the Best ☺ 👍

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)

Constitutional morality refers to set of foundational principles and values that underly the Constitution whose adherence is prescribed.

Preamble, DPSP, FR outline certain core ideas expressing constitutional morality

Not a natural sentiment:

① Tendendency of concentration of power.
Eg 39th constitutional amendment

② Rule of law undermined
Eg Emergency horrors of 1975

③ Arbitrariness and overreaching constitutional limits
Eg Judicial overreach in liquor ban case

④ Political expediency
Eg Moneybill color to tachhaas bill

(5) Undermining of democracy due to emphasis on winnability

Cultivation

(1) By adhering to separation of power
(eg) Indira Gandhi v/s Raj Narain case

(2) Basic structure doctrine
(eg) Preserved core features like secularism, federalism (SR Bommai case)

(3) Judicial restraint and parliamentary wisdom driven by constitutionalism

(4) Reinforcing checks and balances

(5) Reinterpretation to changing times
(eg) J. Puttaswamy case

"Constitutionalism is not guarantee of Constitutionalism". It must be practised with constitutional morality to ensure constitutionalism

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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)

The two concepts are related to Art 21 of Indian constitution that acts as means of assessing validity of any executive and legislative action.

Procedure established by law	Due process of law
(1) Whether the law is created by competent authority	(1) All aspects of procedure established by law
(2) whether due procedure is followed	(2) Also checks for fairness of law whether it is reasoned, in good faith
(3) whether power to act is within law	(3) American concept
(4) It is British concept	
eg Validated Aadhaar Bill	eg Scrapping of Election bonds

Application in personal liberty

* Due process is broader than procedure
* widened scope of Art 21
  - ↳ Rt to food, shelter, clean air
  - ↳ Rt to privacy U/A 21
  - ↳ Right against climate change (Ranjith Singh Ca)
* Substantive justice over procedural justice
* True spirit of constitutionalism and rule of law is due process.
* It involves [principles of natural justice]

Therefore by [Maneka Gandhi Case] SC has infused true democratic spirit in upholding fundamental rights

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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)**

Recently Jagdeep Dhankar (V.P) called Art 142 as nuclear missile used by SC to attack the other organs autonomy.

Article 142 :→ Empowers SC to take action to ensure complete justice.

Invocation w.r.to state bills

① President :→ fixed timeline to act with reason for decision

② Governor → must act within 3 months and communicate reason.

↳ Cannot sit over bills for ever

③ If any of the above is not adhered such state bills (reserved) are considered to be gotten 'deemed assent'

Seperation of Power is violated:

① Judiciary dictating Executive (President) by fixing time line

② Undermines limited power doctrine

③ SC tend to act unilaterally and transgress into executive domain

④ Becomes judicial dictatorship

Seperation of power is not violated.

① President & Governor → inaction unduely affects constitutional duty and right of state legislature

② Executive undue pocket veto (perpetuate)
↳ amounts to arbitrariness and violation of constitutionalism

Way forward
- → Judicial restraint
- → Executive promptness
- → Sarkaria commission recommend to amend constitution → 3 months time line to decide once such bills.

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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)

Art 93 provides for office of Speaker who is envisaged to act impartially to ensure smooth functioning of the temple of democracy.

Centrality of impartiality

① Ensures decorum of house: where members conduct lawfully

② Ensures dignity of the parliament by using point of order etc

eg expulsion of MP for derogatory remark

③ Ensures quality debate and discussion

eg Adequate time to ~~DIB~~ over a bill or issue

④ Ensures ~~all~~ inclusivity → all members and parties are given adequate opportunity to express a particular

(5) Facilitates scrutiny of executive and legislative action

(eg) sets Agenda, committees

(6) Accountability of executive & legislature

(eg) Discretion over money bill certificate

(7) Fairness in disqualification disputes under Anti-defection law (A.105)

(eg) MH speaker over split of Shiv Sena

(8) Preserves democratic tradition

(eg) facilitate active questioning as in question hour & zero hour

However challenges remain due to party affiliation, partisanship and poor ethics

way forward: British model of 'once a speaker always a speaker'

Somnath chatterjee exemplified impartiality and in upholding parliamentary integrity

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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)**

Art 244 (2) provides for 6th schedule as a special arrangement of governance over tribal areas [in several north, eastern states]

Tribal autonomy:

(1) Regional councils, District councils → seperate legislative power for a community

(2) Powers include → village council, legislate over inheritance, family, marriage, divorce, market, water resource, school and healthcare

(3) Preserves cultural tradition (Xaxa committee)

National integration

(1) Spirit of federalism → respect for autonomy fosters unity and integrity

(2) Enabled mainstreaming of people

③ Politically unified ⇒ kept Nagaland within Indian Union

Success

① Preservation of culture among tribes like Kuki, Mizis, Ahom, Garos in Assam.

② DM-Division, Ministry of North Eastern Development have integrated psychologically

③ Successful elections since inception

Failures

① Poor implementation → infiltration of cross border refugees, outsiders etc dilluted culture

② External insurgency is not fully extinguished

③ Feeling of alienation exists

[Xa, Xg Committee] recommendation can help active state integration while respecting & preserving autonomy

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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 is enacted to preserve rights U/A 21.

Safeguards privacy

- Data consent
- Data fiduciary responsibility
- Data protection authority
- Right to erase
- Limits surveillance and usage for stated purpose only

Risks to transparency framework:

RTI envisages disclosure of data while DPDP Act envisages conceal data. This conflict has potential risks to transparency framework

(1) Right of consent → obstruct a

entity to share data

eg Aadhar related mass data for policy making

(2) Right to erase → clears records of a person

eg losing documents of evidence

(3) It hinders officials to share even shareable information due to fear of liability

Wayforward → Balance individual right to privacy with collective right to information

→ Domain deperation can help to identify the extent of privacy

The balance of right to privacy and right to information is essential for upholding the golden trinity of Art 14, 19 and 21

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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 mechanism refers to the mechanism that enable resolution outside court system like arbitration, mediation & conciliation.

A solution to overburdened judiciary

1. Out of court settlement
   ↳ less litigation
2. Inviable resolution
   ↳ less appeal
3. Less need of infrastructure
4. Provides domain expertise
5. Community orientation
   ↳ greater chance of resolution

Types

1. Arbitration → Through a professional arbitrator
   ↳ final & binding
2. Mediation → Facilitator enables mutual resolution
3. Conciliation → Third party active help to come at a solution

Advantages over conventional courts

1. Simple, Easy and cost effective
   eg lok adalats charge nominal fee
2. No burden of lawyer fee eg social activists in case of Gram Nyayalayas
3. No strict procedures of evidence etc
   eg follow principle of natural justice
4. Amicable → both party feels satisfied
5. Agency of disputing parties is respected
6. Quick resolution ensures substantive justice

ADRs are thus [panacea] for ensuring 'justice' but it must be strengthened with adequate institutional measures to check fraud and coercion.

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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 institution are those that are ~~infor~~ driven by a group linked by culture & any other community asset.

eg Caste based co-operative banks. (Teli Sauharda Sahakari Sangh)

It can be SHGs, informal chit funds and peer-lending institutions

Role in responsive governance

1. Greater participation in governance
   eg Kudumbashree
2. Awareness about schemes, policies
3. Participation in planning and auditing
   eg social audit of PDS booth
4. Strengthen financial literacy → enables questioning

(5) This is pressure group in holding the officials accountable

Addressing social inequalities [structural]

(1) Overcome patriarchal role.
eg self reliance

(2) Break economic participation barrier
eg Entrepreneurial activities due to microfinance → SEWA

(3) Political participation
eg Kudumbashree in panchayat

(4) Social cohesion → community solidarity

(5) Holistic empowerment of women

(6) Social security eg Insurance, small saving instruments

Community based financial institution are like microfinance institution that can address & cater women's need at grassroots.

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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 Charter is a document outlining the services available with quality standards, timelines, authority responsible, grievance redressal mechanism if not delivered.

Quality, Time, Response, Value, Charter, Service, Accountability, Standard

Fallen short

① Not implemented widely
(eg) Majority of offices lack charter

② Poor design of charter → top down, not consultative, one size fits all etc

③ Poor capacity of staff → overburdened and understaffed

④ Poor infrastructure → disables quality

⑤ Poor procedures → overlapping, time consuming, ambiguous

(6) Non responsive → apathy of public officials

(7) Poor grievance redressal mechanism

Measures to transform (II ARC)

(1) Tailored, bottom up approach

(2) Participatory design

(3) Capacity building of officials

(4) Streamline procedure & rationalisation

(5) Continuous monitoring and evaluation

(6) Robust feedback mechanism and grievance redressal.

Citizen charter and Grievance Redressal Bill (2011) can be way ahead.

It is foundation of good governance which enables citizen centricity.

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 and India have strong historical ties and converging geopolitical interests in Indian Ocean

[Geopolitical positioning]

Current status of relationship

① Major partner of Mauritius in trade. (FDI 2nd)
② South-South cooperation
③ Indias effort to induct African Union in G20
④ Part of IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association)

Geopolitical Significance

① Place in Indian ocean → postes Indo pacific centrality

② Lies on trajection of Middle East, Atlantic, pacific ocean w.r.to [Connectivity]

③ Act as gateway to Africa
(eg) South Africa, Tanzania

④ Key mineral resources → polymetallic nodules promise potential

⑤ South-South cooperation

⑥ Key partner in regional stability
(eg) check piracy by joint patrol

However challenges due to chinese interest, low trade and investment by India hamper strengthening of relation.

Way forward: Active engagement, diplomacy diaspora ties and regional multilateral forum like SAARC, BIMSTEC.

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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)**

Membership of parliament is subject to certain principles and provisions that are outlined as below.

Constitutional provisions

(1) Art 102 → Qualification if not met become disqualification

(i) citizenship loss

(ii) Breach of oath of allegiance to constitution

(iii) Holding office of profit.

(2) Art 105 → Anti defection law

(i) ~~If sitting~~ Voluntary giving up membership of party

(ii) Nominated member joining party after 6 months deadline

(iii) Independent candidate joining any party

③ Double membership
(i) Elected to both two seats, if not exercised for choice → vacates both

④ Speaker can expunge a member

Statutory provisions

① RPA 1951
→ Corrupt practices like booth capturing, money distribution etc
→ Electoral mal-practices like proxy voting; misuse of office etc
→ Inflammatory hate speech, communal speech

② SC/ST Act
→ Atrocities & practice of untouchability leads to disqualification

③ If convicted for criminal offence for over 2 yrs → sec. 8 RPA 1951 leads to automatic disqualification

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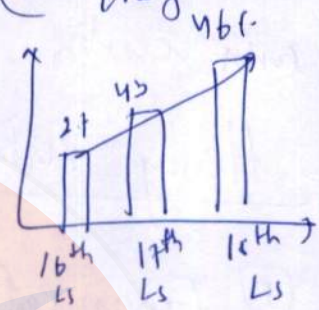
Effectiveness in upholding integrity

① Curbed hate speeches to an extent

② Promoted fielding good candidates

(MPs with criminal charges)



Ineffectiveness:

① Criminalisation of politics

② Political opportunism on rise

(Y) Maharashtra defection

③ Ambiguity of merger, split →

④ Poor action → no enough deterrence

⑤ Money & Muscle power remains dominant

(Y) ADR Say

⑥ Cash for query scam → highlights corruption

Intra party democracy and holistic electoral reforms with vigilant voters can enhance integrity of legislature

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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 autonomy and equity in fiscal matters for states with centre.

Heavy vertical, transactional, tax centric

(1) Financial commission (U/A 80) recommends devolution of tax proceeds and grants in aid.

(2) Tax ~~sharing mechanism~~ tools.

(i) levied, collected and appropriated by union

(ii) levied by union, collected and appropriated by states

(iii) levied by union & collected but appropriated by states

~~(iv) levied~~

(3) Taxation jurisprudence A-246 co terminates with subjects

(4) CAG → fiscal watchdog is limited to audit & examine financial aspects

Resource federalism: Need and potential

Resource federalism is broader than fiscal federalism encompassing [cooperation] in physical, natural and human resources.

(1) Water resources → are multi-state nature.

↳ Interlinking can be win-win as in Polavaram → development of Andhra

(2) Mineral resources :→ uneven distribution.

↳ Coordinated planning can assure supply-demand consistency

(e) Boosts balanced supply → SHAKTI for Coal

(3) Infrastructural resources :→ coordinated

↳ planning ensures optimum resource use,

↳ Capacity building, ↳ Ease of doing business and attract investment

(4) Forest resources → proper management can ensure sustainable development

(5) Human resource → Policy driven migration can ensure balancing talent needs and labour supply

(eg) North to south India.

(6) Balanced regional development is thus possible by resource federalism

Challenges
- Inter-state water disputes
- Border disputes
- Regionalism
- Poor state finances
- Centre-state frictions

Way forward → It is high time that India shift from fiscal to resource federalism by leveraging [NITI Ayog] as a platform to cooperate to realise vision of developed nation by 2047

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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)

Intro

Removal of judges is an accountability mechanism to hold judiciary accountable while ensuring seperation of powers with checks and balances.

Indian process

1. Initiation of motion to begin inquiry → to speaker, at least 50 members (1/4th) should concur ..
2. Speaker has discretion to admit or dismiss based on prima facie evidence
3. Once admitted → goes to inquiry committee → reports are tabled and voted → 2/3rd majority
4. Second house → also needs 2/3rd majority to pass.

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(5) Second house allows an opportunity for judge to represent their side.

(6) Once the resolution is passed in both houses the judge is deemed to be removed

Rarely used

(1) Poor - provative role in upholding judiciary accountable by the legislature

(2) Procedural hurdles
↳ Speaker discretion to admit can kill the motion at bud itself

(3) Majority (ruling) party dominance in passing resolution → renders parliamentary check at their mercy

[4] Justice Ramaswamy case

(4) Constitutional inhibition :→ If a judge resigns voluntarily → removal proceeding stop → [no effective accountability]
(Art 211) & (Art 121)

British process

① Jury process: where the parliament has a jury which decides by simple vote to remove.

② simple majority of votes to remove

Thus greater level of political accountability in British system.

Both the processes are [limited to their] [unique nature] where India emphasizes [separation of powers] and [judicial independence] while British emphasis on parliamentary supremacy.

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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)

Art-44 of directive principles provides for instituting a uniform civil code (UCC) for the citizens.

UCC refers to common law for all w.r.to marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption irrespective of cultural background, ethnicity, language religion etc

Simply, one nation - one law.

Factors behind delay:

(1) Social factors → diverse nature of Indian society with plural laws

(i) Multiple religion have different law

(eg) Sharia for muslim personal law

(ii) Cultural autonomy → resistance against homogenisation

(iii) Tribals have own customary laws rooted in tradition

(2) Institutional and legal challenges

(i) Constitution provides for secularism Art 25-28 and Art 29-30 inherently provides for autonomy

(ii) Schedule 6th areas have already recognised traditional customary laws

(iii) Existence of personal laws for various communities → that are legally sanctioned

(3) Political challenges

(i) Poor will to implement

(ii) Dwelling over political compulsions

Measures to implement

(1) Codification of all customary laws, testing them against constitutional morality to arrive at acceptable values (Law commission)

② Participatory and consultative approach.

↳ Build consensus by involving all stakeholders through debate & deliberation

③ Make constitutionalism a "jan andolan" over customary modality

④ Balancing preservation of culture and with rule of law, equity & inclusivity

⑤ Widespread awareness ~~Good~~ campaigns to clear misconceptions surrounding UCC

⑥ Pilotting :→ Case-by-case basis rather than implementation at one stroke

Eg Goa – a shining example of UCC

Unity and integrity w.r.to legal domain must accomodate diversity.

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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)**

Recently Supreme Court viewed that the scheduled castes have inter-caste inequality therefore applying creamy layer to SC category is logical.

Debates in affirmative action policies for SC

1. Ceiling limits for SC.
2. Creamy layer exclusion
3. Moving beyond 'caste' alone criterion to include 'economy' in SC
4. Sub categorisation of SC categories like OBC in various states based on relative backwardness within broader category

It poses various challenges due to breaking of 'social, historic importance' block as defining criteria for affirmative policies

Challenges to Social justice

① Caste discrimination is social not economic do even if the caste develop socio-economically, their status remain low (eg) Rohit Vemula case

② Historic injustice, exploitation has stripped of dignity so affirmative action must continue for all SCs.

③ May lead to infighting for greater benefits (eg) Competitive casteism to show backwardness

④ May lead to further fragmentation of society

⑤ May further reinforce caste psyche

Opportunities

① Substantive justice :→ to the real needy
↳ removes elite who cornered benefits

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(2) Prevent elite capture

(3) Promote faster inclusive development
↳ greater share to highly backward section

(4) Intergenerational change: → as creamy layer, subcategorisation may give higher opportunities to marginalised

(5) Targetted benefits → reach of housing, sanitation, food etc to real bottom
↳ rapid poverty alleviation

(6) Faster empowerment → by rural mobilisation → least advantaged and least benefited from policies

Affirmative action aims to ensure redistributive justice, to review and adjust the beneficiaries as imperative to ensure equity and inclusive development.

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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 future of world in this era of 4th industrial revolution. It is imperative and inevitable for us to integrate it into education system.

AI driven education : transformative role

(1) Quality of education :→ personalised learning, focus on choice of subjects and specific interests as in NEP 2020, flexible approach, vocationalisation

(2) Accessability → due to speed, virtual nature, cost effectiveness, it can make education accessible to remotest parts and most weakest section including specially abled children.

③ Affordability → at institutional level it is affordable due to economies of scale

eg SWAYAM MOOC can be AI-upgraded.

④ Availability → can be ensured by adequate infrastructural support like seamless internet and digital devices

eg Bharat Net can be leveraged to connect to village primary schools

⑤ Higher education → greater critical skills, research capability can be built

eg ChatGPT Sora for graphics design

Challenges

① Digital divide :→ Rural - 33% internet penetration

(2) Low digital literacy

(3) Algorithmic bias in AI can perpetuate social discrimination.

(4) Poor infrastructure in government schools delay integration.

(5) Inadequate indigenous models hinder faster and cheaper solutions.

Measures

(1) Digital awareness: literacy campaign

(2) Right to education → expanded to internet based education

(3) Infrastructural support and capacity building of teachers to adopt

(4) Vernacularise → mother tongue promotion

AI-driven education poses is double edged sword. [Ethical AI] is way forward.

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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 are often left out of welfare schemes due to their mobile nature.

Exclusion
- Education → children mobile
- Health → no domicile
- Ration (PDS) → residence I-card
- Housing issues
- Inadequate baseline data due to lack of proper survey.
- Excluded from residence based schemes

Role of targetted welfare schemes

① PM JANMAN, PM-AJAY, TRIFED are some initiatives that cater the needs of nomadic communities

② Promotes education of children → curb intergenerational poverty

eg Odisha migrant hostel scheme for children of nomads.

(3) Periodic basic services like healthcare sanitation → improves quality of life

(4) Social security schemes → like PM-Jeevan Jyoti Bhima Yojana provides cushion for family

(5) Tribal markets → provide opportunity to economic participation for nomadic tribes like Jenu Kurumba.

Implementation bottlenecks

(1) Poor baseline data about the communities

(2) Tracking and delivering the services

(3) Poor policy targeting without much emphasis on long term development

(4) Lax implementation due to bureaucratic hurdles

(5) Low literacy levels → poor awareness about schemes

Measures:

1. Improve awareness among nomads about schemes
2. Civil society partnership → to address specific needs
3. Infrastructure and capacity building of the local bodies for identifying and catering services to them
4. Comprehensive baseline survey
5. Strengthen implementation and feedback mechanism.

Sarvodaya goal can be achieved by leaving no one behind. Inclusive development of nomadic communities is imperative in this regard

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

India has about 2 crore strong diaspora residing across geographies

Eg: USA → 1.2 crore

Cultural diplomacy refers to diplomatic engagement through people to people connect using food, traditions, values, customs, cuisine, epics and entirety of culture ~~for~~ that matter.

Eg: leveraging Yoga to influence world → World Yoga Day

Strengths of cultural diplomacy

(1) People to people relationship:

strengthens organic bond beyond transactional relationship

Eg: USA white house celebrates Diwali

(2) It is one of the four major pillars of hegemon & powerful leadership.

(3) Leverage in economic interests :→

Eg Habe reforms in Gulf region.

(4) FDI inflow influenced by confidence and trust Eg Mauritius.

(5) Oil → energy security goal through soft power in middle east

Eg Large number of Indian immigrants working in oil refineries

(6) Technology :→ USA has cream of Indian brains that always has regard for motherland

Eg Sundar Pichai Google CEO

(7) Geopolitical interest :→ Suppression of Khalistani extremism

Eg Indians fought / protested in Britain & Canada

(8) Leader of South & regional power:
Diaspora in African nations, links with ASEAN provides leverage for strong leadership

Challenges:

(1) Economy and military stability are equally important

(2) Diaspora is fragmented and has limited political clout in foreign land

(3) Fragmented nature and lack of organisation often hinders active sol.

Wayforward: Integrate soft power with hard power. Soft power only works when there is hard power.

'Diaspora is informal ambassador', their role is crucial if supported with strong economic and strategic base.

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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)

The failure of nuclear peace deal between USA and Iran has led to regional instability.

Tensions between Iran and Israel have grown over past few months with targetted attacks:

Effect on regional stability

1. Disturbs the gains made as in Abraham Accords, I2U2
2. Energy crisis ⇒ affects global productivity and oil deals.
3. Widens the suspicion between the Israeli and Islamic countries
4. Spillover effect → to Yemen, Gaza Syria and Iraq.

(5) Tension between Saudi and Iran may rise

(6) Turkey-Iran tensions may increase

(7) Spillover to Pakistan and Afghanistan borders.

Key consideration for Indian foreign policy

(1) De hyphenation :→ engaging with all the parties independently

(2) Advocacy for peaceful resolution rather than escalation.

(3) Maintain strategic autonomy

eg INSTC project

(4) Balance USA's concern through diplomacy and reaffirming commitment to rules based order

(5) Diversify energy supply from other sources eg Russia

(6) Leverage multilateral forums like SCO to engage with Iran to facilitate reconciliation

(7) Leverage diaspora and historical linkage to assure India's neutrality and impartiality

(8) Using chair in G20, UN to further mutual and long term reconciliation

(9) Continued engagement at all levels and using back-channel diplomacy to cool off tensions and safeguard interests

Foreign policy of new India is driven by pragmatism where engagement is based on convergence of interests and management of conflicts.

(S. Jaishankar)

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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 multilateral forums that has certain common members who connect the two to create an extended forum

Overlapping geographic and strategic interest

(1) Both are part of South and South East Asia Thailand, Myanmar

(2) Both strive for regional stability and growth

(3) Both are interested in Indo-pacific content of free-and-open Indo-pacific

Role in enhancing Indo-Pacific connectivity and resilience

(1) Combined leverage of 2 Bn people and 30+ of world GDP.

(2) Cooperation can warded off external influence (eg) Chinese of debt line

(3) Trade complementarity ensures economic and supply chain resilience

Challenges

(1) Institutional

- Aim of both is conflicting (eg) Competition for textile market by Vietnam and India
- BIMSTEC is highly passive and poorly integrated while ASEAN is deeply integrated.
- BIMSTEC is virtually non functional
- Diverging political nature (democracy vs monarchy)

② Political
- → Conflicting boundaries
  (eg) Myanmar - Bangladesh
- → Difference values (democracy v/s communism)
- → Military coups (eg) Myanmar
- → Historical issues w.r.to diaspora.

③ External
- → Chinese influence in Vietnam Cambodia
- → US interest in Singapore philippines as counterweight China
- → Indo pacific → New Goldwar proxy battlefield

Wayforward
- → Selective constructive engagement
  (eg) Issue based cooperation
- → Broaden cooperation to strategic domain

21st century is Asian century. ASEAN - BIMSTEC can be leader of this era.

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Space for Rough Work

VAJIRAM & RAVI

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