

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:
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NAME:	SRINJAY KUMAR	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.:		Email:
UPSC ROLL NO.:	1 5 1 9 9 1 8	Submission Date:
MOBILE NO.:		3/8/25

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 - 2:40 PM	End Time - 5:40 PM
Mode of Examination ONLINE	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline
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



(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 inculcation of values enshrined in the constitution in day to day life i.e. equality, justice etc.

Not a natural sentiment in India

- ① against freedom of speech - banning of movies like Padmarat
- ② archaic religious practices - Sabarimala banning women
- ③ untouchability & caste based violence.
- ④ paternalistic notions - low FIFIT and lack of agency for women.

Need for cultivation of constitutional morality

- ① To ensure equality between genders -
↳ Vineeta Sharma, 2020 - provided for equal share to daughters in coparcenary property.

- ⑩ Providing for affirmative action - Articles 15(4) and 16(4) provide for reservation in jobs and educational institutions
- ⑪ Rule of law - An Mankata Gandhi, 1978 - elevated Article 21 to have 'due process of law' to argue for better protection of liberty
- ⑫ Freedom of speech and press - in Javed Ahmad, 2025 - Supreme Court clarified that dissent cannot be criminalized.
- ⑬ Upholding human rights of vulnerable sections - An Bandhu Mukti Morcha 201984 - bonded labour was held against Article 21.

Constitutional morality would help us achieve the ideals enshrined in the Preamble i.e. all justice - social, economic and political.

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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)

Procedure established by law is a narrower concept which stands for the correct application of an law; while due process of law calls into question the justifiability of the law itself.

Procedure established by law	due to process of law
<p>① British <u>concept</u> where Parliament is supreme</p> <p>② Supreme Court interpreted Article 21 in <u>Akshayan</u> vs Madras, (1951) to have the phrase</p> <p>③ Wards against arbitrary executive action</p>	<p>① American concept where <u>constitution</u> is <u>written</u>.</p> <p>② <u>Wider interpretation</u> given in <u>Maneka Gandhi</u>, 1978.</p> <p>③ Wards against both <u>arbitrary legislative</u> and <u>arbitrary executive</u> action</p>

Application on personal liberty in India

- ① The reinterpretation in Mandla Mandhi case has allowed the Supreme Court to have more expansive view of Article 21.
 - ② It has led to expansion of rights under the umbrella of A 21.
 - ↳ Right to be free from effects of climate change in UK Rajitsingh 2024
 - Right to privacy in KS Puttaswamy 2017
 - ③ Earlier, narrower interpretation was given in Ak Hopsalan case where the court upheld the law.
 - ④ Due process clause has been used to strike down laws like Section 66A of IT Act.
- The evolution to due process of law has provided Indian citizens with wider array of freedoms under the umbrella of Article 21.

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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 in Tamir Wade Governor case, 2025,
The Supreme Court questioned the delay
in assent and deemed assent to be granted
already due to the delay.

Deemed assent being an example of judicial activism, within separation of powers

- ① The delay amounts to pocket veto by the governor which is not mentioned in Article 200.
- ② The phrase 'as soon as possible' was not adhered to.
- ③ Supreme Court had earlier set similar timeline for the speaker in Keisham Meghachandra Singh, 2010.
- ④ Governor's delay amounts to lack of democracy as elected government could fulfill its agendas.

Deemed assent going against separation of powers

① Court providing a timeline for the Office of President to give assent to any bill.

Against separation of powers:

② Judiciary taking over the power of legislature by granting assent automatically

③ Providing for states to file a mandamus petition - equivalent to command to the President.

④ The Constitution does not provide any timeline for President to give assent to.

The Presidential reference case, 2020 regarding assent power would serve well for the 3 branches to renegotiate the separation of powers for harmonious functioning.

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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)

Speaker of the Lok Sabha is central to the integrity of the Lok Sabha due to his involvement in conduct of the house and certification of bills.

Impartiality being central to the integrity of the Lok Sabha

- ① Defining a bill as Money Bill - could be misperposed to pass a bill when the government lacks numbers in Upper House - Adhaar Bill & Tribunal Reform Bill.
- ② Division of time - to ensure fairness to the opposition.
- ③ Suppression of opposition members - done in 2021 - could impact the public perception of the role of the speaker.
- ④ Discretion in allocating broadcast TV coverage - could be biased against the

Opposition

- ① causing division of votes & whether required - during form law - opposition called for division but the speaker did not oblige
- ② Delay in anti-defection petition.

Way forward in the role of speaker

- ① Could follow British principle of once a speaker always a speaker.
- ② opposition only day for them to set agenda.
- ③ Anti defection petition to be given to President/Governor - SC in Karnataka Speaker Case, 2010.

Speaker is the main architect of an efficient House of People which holds the executive accountable. Any lapse on his part could lead to a decline in accountability of the executive.

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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 allows for the creation of Autonomous District Councils for tribals to preserve their own way of life.

Balancing tribal autonomy with national integration.

- ① Allow autonomy in customary affairs like marriage, minor forest produce
- ② Judicial powers to settle pecuniary disputes.
- ③ Help reign in secessionist tendencies of the tribals. 1- BTH formed after accord with the Bodos.
- ④ Provide for limited interference. ADUs can make their own regulation which would be separate from state government.

Success of 6th schedule -

- ① calming down of insurgencies in Assam and

Tripura.

- ① separate development funds being allocated by the state government
- ② Regular elections instill a spirit of democracy

Limitations of the 6th schedule

① Tribals even though in minority dominate proceedings - 9- Bodos only 24% population of BTR

② Violence against outsiders.

③ Limited investment due to lack of clarification of rules and regulations.

④ Corruption and money laundering. North Cachor APC under NTA investigation

6th schedule does well to balance tribal autonomy with national integration. Addressing the issues would lead to better developmental outcomes.

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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)

DPDP Act aims to provide a framework for ensuring privacy; managing informed consent and regulating the flow of data.

safeguarding privacy:-

- ① Responsibilities for data fiduciaries :- informing data principal if leaks within 48 hours
- ② Government to establish board for adjudicating disputes.
- ③ Limiting data transfer to certain countries like China and Pakistan.
- ④ Additional responsibilities for significant social media intermediaries.

weakening the transparency framework:-

- ① Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act prohibits private information of being shared. This ~~is~~ being read with Section 8(1)(j) of RTI

would lead to information being denied regarding public servants.

⑩ RTI was earlier used to bring out cases of disproportionate assets & and fake caste certificate. This would now change.

⑪ Reduces transparency as corrupt officials would now be more shielded from public scrutiny.

⑫ Against the spirit of RTI - which ensured that such information would be shared if public would benefit from it.

Section 44(3) of DPDP Act would limit the effectiveness of RTI by limiting access to information about public servants. Therefore it needs to be looked into by the legislature to ensure a balanced approach.

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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)

ADR mechanisms refer to procedures available for settlement of disputes which are separate from the ordinary court system,

Overburdened judiciary — 75 crore cases pending
2-5% annual increase in pendency

21 Judicial officers/million

USA - 105/million

Types of ADR mechanisms in India

- ① Mediation - regulated through the Mediation Act.
 - ② Arbitration
 - ③ Conciliation
- regulation through arbitration & conciliation Act.

Advantages over the conventional court system

- ① More flexible approach - not bound by the rules under Bharthiya Sakshya Adhiniam?

- ④ Leads to a middle path rather total victory or loss in case of conventional courts.
 - ④ Timely adjudication - ∴ it is why most investment treaties explicitly mention Singapore as an arbitration hub
 - ④ Better engagement of experts - ∴ mediators could change with nature like family, business etc.
 - ④ Would help reduce cost of litigation as conventional justice is expensive and out of reach for many.
- Arbitration mechanisms therefore ensure timely access to justice with engagement of more experts in a flexible manner.

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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 institutions help provide banking and other financial services like credit to a small set of people in the community itself.

Promoting responsive governance and help address structural inequalities

- ① Help improve agency of women through better availability of credit ← NABARD Bank - SHG linkage program
- ② Better provision of social capital
1- out of 12 million SHGs, 81% have only women members.
- ③ Provide easier credit facilities for business
1- Ijjat Kopal - success story of SNA transforming into a major business enterprise

- ④ Community based institutions would ensure better oversight and repayment.
↳ repayment rate of more than 96% for SLIs
 - ⑤ Help in mobilizing savings. - Grameen bank in Bangladesh by Mohammed Yunus
 - ⑥ easier implementation of government schemes. - majority Jan Dhan accounts with women; 68% MUDRA loans to women.
 - ⑦ Would ensure lower cost for withdrawal of DBT benefits. It would reduce loss of wage for getting payments.
- community based financial institutions serve a crucial way of ensuring financial inclusion in the country. They serve to ensure provision of easier & ~~and~~ availability of financial products..

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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 charters refer to a document of commitments made by an organisation towards its clients for meeting spatial and temporal entitlements.

Intended purpose

insuring public participation
accountability towards
citizens

getting value for public exchequer
redressal mechanism .

Citizen charters having fallen short in their intended purpose

① Merely being treated as a routine exercise departmental fomality

② Top down exercise - merely a drafted by the top without any input from the lower bureaucracy

③ Lack of Standardization - has led to

inconsistent rights made for consumers.

- ① no statutory backing of citizen charters.
- ② lack of awareness in the general population.
- ③ Lack of accountability with respect to non achieving of the stated goals mentioned in the charter.

Way forward -

- ① ARC II recommendations could be followed -
Develop standards; perform; monitor;
evaluate performance; improve upon the performance
- ② following the system standards.

citizen charters represent an agreement between the government and the taxpayer.

Its proper adoption would lead to deepening of trust and the social contract.

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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 a key archipelago situated in the southern Indian ocean.

India signed an economic agreement with Mauritius in 2021.



Star and Key to the Indian Ocean

- ① Close to the trade route with East Africa and the Red sea.
- ② Strategic location could be used to exert influence. 1. currently US Central command headquartered at Diego Garcia.
- ③ more than 60% population of Indian origin. (indentured labourers)

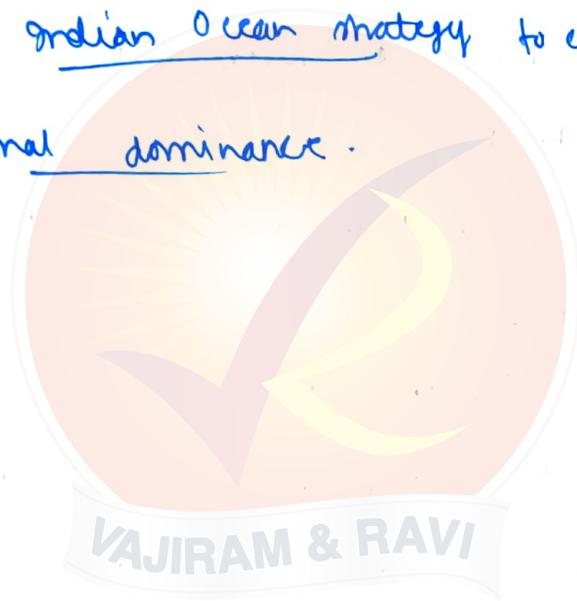
Geopolitical significance of Mauritius

- ① Counter balance China in the region.
- ② Tackle piracy due to its proximity to the pirate hub at Somalia. 1- airstrip at

Agalega island

- ① securing trade routes primarily for energy, as Mauritius is close to the route through the Cape of Good Hope.
- ② Help become Indian navy a blue water navy.

Mauritius remains a key partner of India in its Indian Ocean strategy to ensure regional dominance.



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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)

The 10th schedule to the constitution and the Representation of People Act, 1951 provide primarily for the provisions regarding disqualification of MPs in India.

Constitutional provisions

① Qualification - should not hold an office of profit

10th schedule - on defection, a legislator would lose his/her seat.

Statutory provisions

① Should not be convicted for any act for more than 2 years Section 62(3) of RPA, 1951

② Should not be ^{and convicted} accused of crimes like corruption, sate act, providing emity on the basis of caste, religion etc

③ Should not be accused of and convicted of

crimes under the Prevention of Crimes
against SC/ST Act 1989

- ① Should not engage in corrupt practices like influencing voters outside polling booth, distributary cash & liquor for votes.

Effectiveness in ensuring the integrity of
our legislature

- ① Criminalisation has increased - according to ADR, 46% MPs in the 16th Lok Sabha have criminal records
- ② Increased usage of money - elections in 2024 cost more than 1.2 lakh crores.
 - 1- cancellation of polling in Vellore, 2019
- ③ Communal targeting on social media
- ④ Caste still being a dominant mode of mobilisation despite the Abhiram's judgement.

① Decline in women representation .

13.6% in 18th from 14.7% in 17th

② Lack of bills being sent to committees .

from 75% in 15th to 21% in 17th Lok Sabha

Way forward to ensure legislature's integrity

① Fast track courts for prosecution of MPs and MLAs .

② Adhering to directions in PFI case 2020 .
Parties to explain reason behind giving tickets to tainted candidate .

③ Increased scrutiny by committees for better policy making .

Laws made in the legislature determine the day to day life of more than a billion people . Hence electoral and legislature reforms could not be done sooner .

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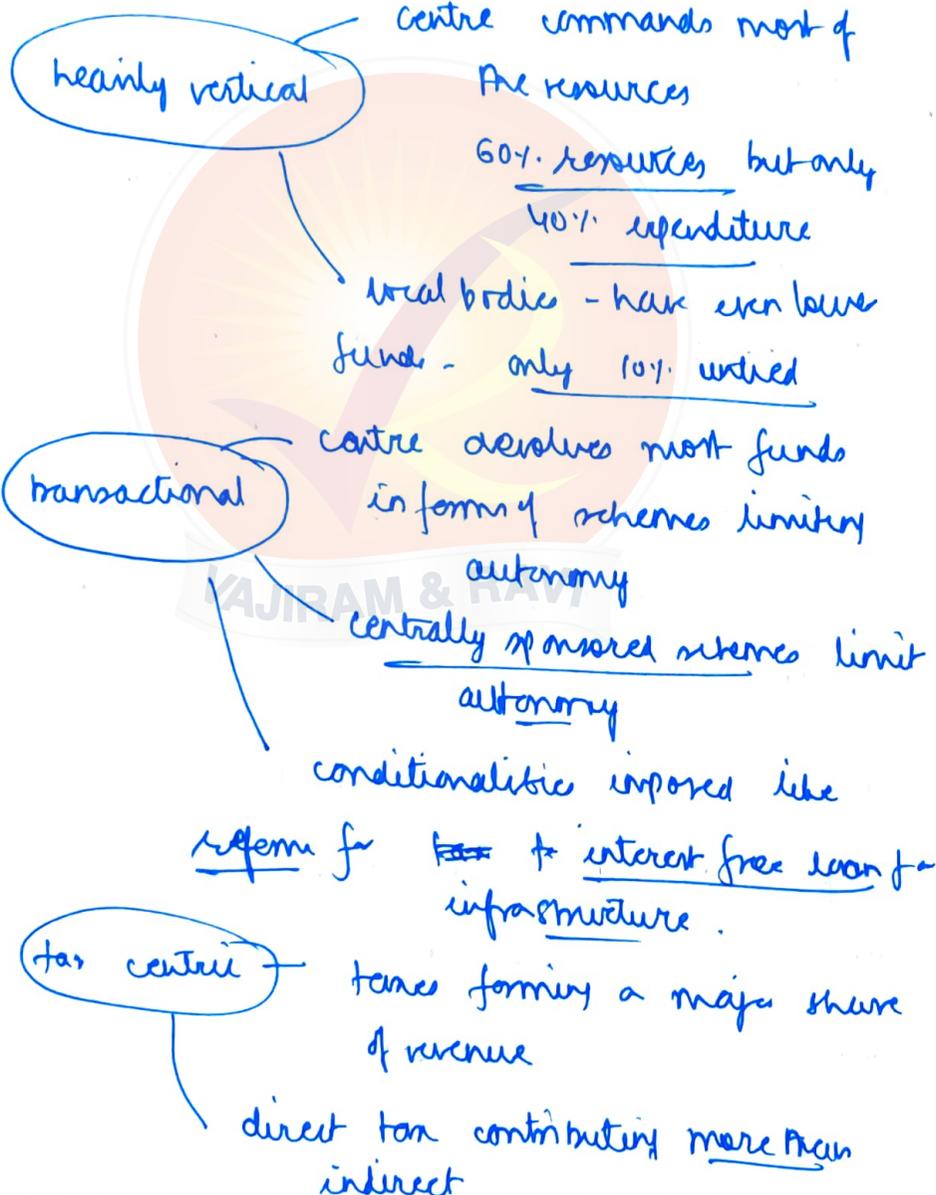
Marks:

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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)

In India, fiscal federalism is primarily governed by Article 261 which provides for a Finance Commission.

Fiscal federalism being -



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Case for institutionalizing resource federalism for more autonomy

- ① Would ensure that states get devolution as a matter of right.
- ② Would ensure freedom of expenditure as it had been ~~not~~ envisaged by the constitution.
- ③ States would be allowed to develop their own policies. 1- WB launching own health care scheme instead of Ayushman Bharat.
- ④ More avenues for local bodies taking initiatives if they would get more untied funds.
- ⑤ Would ensure better accountability due to principle of proximity.

Case against institutionalizing resource based federalism

- ① State using increased share from 14th & 15th Finance Commissions for populist programs.

eg - Punjab giving free electricity
Karnataka Pradesh - going back to OPC

① India is in a hostile neighbourhood &
Union needs more funds for defense.

② Better utility for infrastructure by the
Union infrastructure e.g. capex increased
to 11 lakh crore by the Union

Way forward

① Resource federalism could ^{be} ensured
with conditionalities to ensure better usage
of tax encheques

② States to devolve to local bodies.

Fiscal federalism is the glue that binds
the Union, state and the citizens. It needs
to be upheld for harmonious functions of
the social contract.

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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)

In India, the removal of judges is governed by the procedure outlined in the constitution and the Judge Inquiry Act of 1991.

- Rarely used - none of the judges have ever been removed through this procedure.

- Structured - in house mechanism for preliminary inquiry by the CJI

K. Venkateswami, 1991 - assent from the CJI for taking legal action against any judge.

Comparison with the approach in UK

<u>Removal in India</u>	<u>Removal in UK</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① More tougher. <u>Special majority</u> required in <u>Parliament</u> ② Follow <u>constitutional supremacy</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① could be removed by <u>simple majority</u> ② Follow <u>parliamentary supremacy</u>.

India	UK
<p>⑩ Judiciary is an <u>independent branch</u></p> <p>⑪ Judiciary is creation of the <u>constitution</u></p>	<p>⑩ Judiciary is a creation of the govt crown and hence part of <u>the government</u></p>

Evaluation of removal procedures

- ① In UK, the procedure is more flexible due to the principle of parliamentary supremacy being followed.
- ② House of lords and the Privy Council - both created by the Crown
- ③ Separation of power not being followed in the UK.
- ④ India - separation of powers - ensures judiciary to be separate
- ⑤ Principle of judicial review - necessitates

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That judiciary is not part of government in India.

The difference in procedure can be owed primarily to the different circumstances in which both countries evolved. UK's parliamentary supremacy provides for ministerial accountability while India's constitutional supremacy provides for separation of powers.

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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 the Indian Constitution exhorts the State to ensure a uniform civil code for its citizens.

UCC is already existent in the States of Goa and Uttarakhand.

Factors behind the delay and unrealisation of UCC at the national level

① Potential conflict with freedom of religion under Articles 25 and 26.

1. Ashutosh Mishra, 2022 - one of the judges argued hijab to be essential practice

② could be seen as imposition of majoritarian practice . 1. Uttarakhand's UCC for the

most part emulates the Hindu Marriage Succession etc Act

③ Not necessarily lead to gender equality -

2. <20% Indian women get divorce in

Undivided property.

- ⑫ Uniqueness of tribal practices - s. Uttarakhand too kept out tribals from the purview of UCC.
- ⑬ Lack of initiative for reform from the communities - would lead to UCC remaining merely on paper.

Necessity of UCC - against gender inequality in personal laws

1 - Polygamy in Shariat Act, 1925

ensure uniformity in personal laws

Supreme Court directives in Shah Bano, 1978, Sarla Mudgal, 1995

would ensure better cohesion among the population

Potential measures for national implementation

- ① 2nd law commission - to proceed with gradual implementation.

Target gender inequalities in the personal

laws to make them more equitable.

① Dialogue with communities to allay their apprehensions.

② Gradually moving towards Uniform Civil Code & keeping acts for marriage, succession, adoption separate.

③ Keeping unique practices of tribals in mint

Law Commission in 2018 had said that UCC at this stage is neither desirable nor achievable. Hence, we should gradually weed out the entrenched inequalities which would help us move forward a more equal society.

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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)

Supreme Court in the Dalinder Singh, 2025 case overturned the Chiranjit, 2005 to allow for subcategorization in the ~~caste~~ scheduled castes.

New debate in affirmative action

- ① Commissions like Sadashiva in Karnataka and Mukam Singh in UP have documented intra-caste inequality.
- ② Could lead to a similar demand for OBCs.
Nehru Commission - quarter of OBCs - 37% of all opportunities.
- ③ weaken the social justice coalition.

Opportunities it poses for social justice in India

- ① Better implementation of affirmative action policies
- ② would help address structural inequalities

within the SC community. 1- Madigan in Andhra Pradesh demanding ~~inter~~ sub-categorization from decades.

(iii) Achievement of constitutional aims i.e. social and political justice.

(iv) States have already partitioned OBC lists
↳ Bihar & - has OBCs and ABCs

Challenges for social justice

(i) Lack of availability of data - 1. caste census would be required to get granular data

(ii) SC reservation was never based on economic criteria. It dilutes the criteria of historical injustice.

(iii) Could lead to ensuring equality of outcome rather than equality of opportunities.

(iv) Further omification of caste identity. Antithetical to what Ambedkar had

said while proclaiming for annihilation of caste.

① Politicking based on quota for vote-bank politics.

Way forward ① sub categorization should be done based on clear data obtained.

① finer partitions to be avoided for fear of greater manipulation.

② least conditionalities in M Nagaraja case could be applied.

Daindeer Singh judgement provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the affirmative action policies pursued since the independence. It would help to make forward only with data based policy-making.

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

National Education Policy 2020 replaced NEP, 1986 and provides for more flexible learning in sync with needs of the time.

AI playing a transformative role in education

- ① Designing curriculum - AI can help design custom curriculum for students based on their strengths and weaknesses
- ② Evaluation - could free up teachers to focus on more creative tasks
- ③ Monitoring of students - could help ensure optimal performance.

opportunities for integrating AI in India's education system

- ① AI could help reduce need for rote learning. Would align well with need for creative learning in the NEP.

- ① Making Indian children ready for future jobs. As ^{talent} meritocracy could reach more than 20 million by end of this decade.
- ② Would help overcome learning deficiencies.
i. AT&T. less than 50% of class 8 can read class 11 books. AI can help by sharing global best practices.
- ③ Interactive learning - for students would generate more interest.
- ④ Quick translation would help with learning in mother tongue.

Challenges with integrating AI

- ① could lead to plagiarism leading to learning loss and loss of thinking ability.
- ② Lack of internet at schools - UNICEF - 66% of government schools do not have internet.
- ③ Lack of educated teachers who can teach students AI or integrate it.
- ④ Availability is primarily in Hindi/English.

① Data could be used for training leading to privacy concerns.

Safeguards for safe deployment

① Teaching cyber hygiene to both teachers and students. Would help avoid misuse.

② India to develop own foundational models. Would help limit data & privacy concerns.

③ Translation via Bhashini - for better access to students in mother tongue.

Artificial Intelligence could be used to supplement Indian education systems but not replace which would lead to enhancement of cyber gaps in the society.

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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 people without any fixed residence. They are primarily engaged in trading activities like the Banjaras in Rajasthan.

Role of targeted welfare schemes in achieving inclusive development

- ① Help achieve sustainable development goals - like SDG 1 (no poverty) ; SDG 2 (zero hunger)
- ② Help with documents to ensure access to various welfare schemes. Ex. PM JANMAN Yojana
- ③ Providing necessary medium of commerce to ensure their livelihood
- ④ Repealing acts like the Habitual Offenders Act which had led to their stigmatisation by the police and bureaucracy.

Implementation bottleneck

- ① Lack of fixed residence - limits data collection for beneficiary identification.
- ② Disputes between administration and nomadic communities - due to their involvement in crimes like drug trafficking.
- ③ ~~Living~~ living in remote locations limits accessibility.
- ④ Lack of incentives for the elected governments to work for their benefit.

Resolving the implementation bottleneck

- ① ensuring saturation of documents through mandatory registration
- ② sensitisation of local machinery.
- ③ capacity building of officials for unique ~~the~~ circumstances
- ④ generating awareness in the nomadic

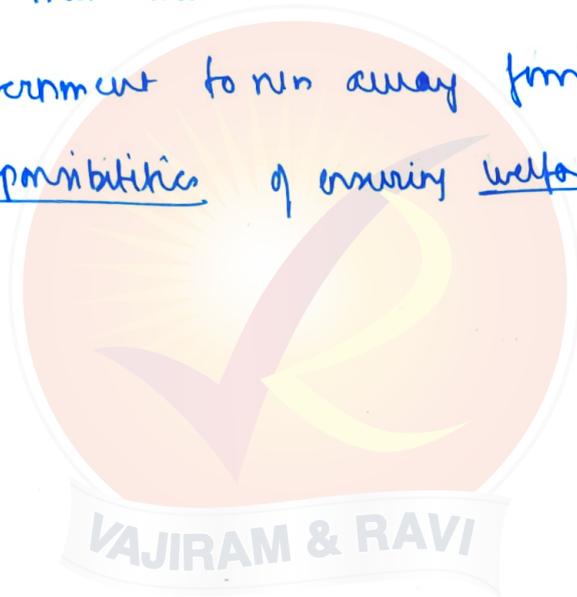
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communities regarding the benefits that are available.

Nomadic communities often living in remote areas are untouched by modern civilization. But this should not be a reason for the government to run away from its responsibilities of ensuring welfare.



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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 one of the largest diaspora in the world totaling more than 18 million around the world.

Cultural diplomacy through diaspora being a soft power tool

- ① Festival celebration - 1- Diwali being declared a holiday in the USA
- ② Indian architecture on display - 1- BAPS temples in the USA and UK.
- ③ Indian music - 1- musicians like Al Behman got Oscar for Mumukshu
- ④ Indian cuisine - has left its impression in the developed world.

Strengths of diaspora led cultural diplomacy

- ① Tool of soft power for the country - 1- Philosophers like Osho popularized Indian philosophy

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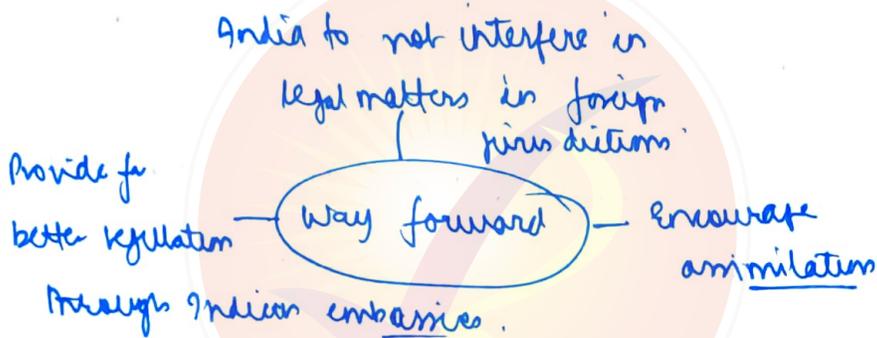
- (v) Boost demand for Indian cultural products -
1- Rising popularity of Yoga in the Western world
- (vi) Help diaspora to cling to their roots - 1-
Biggest ^{Temples} temple being outside India.
- (vii) Increase tourism for the home country
1- spiritual tourism from the developed world

Acculturation of diaspora led cultural diplomacy in advancing national interest

- (i) Could lead to pushback from the local population - 1- against Manuman statue in Dallas, USA
- (ii) Negative internalities - ~~Costs~~ incendiariness being used in Canada to popularize the idea of Khalistan.
- (iii) Illegal actions impact bilateral relations
1- Human rights abuse during temple construction in New Jersey.

④ Could carry forward discriminatory practices abroad. e. caste discrimination.

⑤ Limited upside in strategic relations with countries. 1- strategic issues with America persist even after 30 million Indians living there.



Cultural diplomacy through ~~diplomacy~~ diaspora has made the world more aware of Indian culture. Challenges in its pursuit should be overcome for everyone involved.

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Marks:

19. How have the growing tensions between the U.S., Israel, and Iran affected regional stability in West Asia? In this context, evaluate the key considerations for India's foreign policy to safeguard its interests in West Asia. (15 marks, 250 words)

The recent clashes between Israel and Iran and US bombing of Iran has deepened the crisis in the Middle East.

Growing tensions impacting stability in the Middle East

- (i) Iran could threaten oil supply - 1- Strait of Hormuz control more than 30% of global oil supply
- (ii) sectarian conflicts have reignited in Syria
(- Druze vs Sunnis)
- (iii) killing of Iranian leadership - could make the regime more alarmist in response.
- (iv) Iranian reactivation of proxies could cause chaos.
eg. Houthi in Yemen; Hezbollah depleted in Lebanon.
- (v) moving focus away from Gaza where famine

like conditions prevail.

- ④ other countries could make beeline for atomic bomb if Iran achieves it.

India's considerations in the present conflict

- ① safety of its diaspora - primarily in Qatar, UAE and Saudi
- ② Energy security - significant oil import from UAE, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
- ③ Protecting Indian investments in the region - Shahed Beheshti terminal at Chabahar port and Kaifa port in Israel.
- ④ Ensuring amicable relationships with both Iran and Israel. Iran is a strategic counterweight to Pakistan while Israel is an important defence equipment supplier
- ⑤ Security of trade - Kaukhis have earlier targeted Indian vessels passing through the Red sea.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(vi) Calling for peace - as any increase in oil prices would increase foreign output.

(vii) Influence of Russia & China would rise in Iran after the American attacks on the country.

ensure that there is ^{diversification of} no to externalities in the country Way forward - calling for mediation ^{energy sources}

Western Asia conflict can be traced back to the Sykes Picot agreement during the First World War. India would do well to stay away from taking sides and ~~having~~ having amicable relations with everyone involved.

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Marks:

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

BIMSTEC charter was recently adopted. The countries involved in ASEAN is also a major trade partner with more than 100 Billion of trade.

Overlapping geographical and strategic interests in the Indo Pacific

- ① Tackling China - ASEAN in the south China sea and India in the Indian Ocean
- ② Free and open Indo-Pacific to ensure freedom of trade and commerce.
- ③ Development interests - India's Act East policy could complement ASEAN in general and Myanmar, Thailand in particular.
- ④ Infrastructure projects - like the IMTT bilateral highway between India & Thailand
- ⑤ Disaster preparedness - from cyclones, earthquakes and humanities.

enhancing Indo Pacific ~~strategic~~ and resilience connectivity

- ① NADP operations - humanitarian aid during the Myanmar earthquake in 2025
- ② Forme export - f. Brahmaputra minerals to Phillipines.
- ③ Supply chain resilience initiatives to provide for resilient supply chains.
- ④ Taking advantage of China+1 would enhance economic resilience of the countries.

Challenges that impede this collaboration

Institutional - BIMSTEC charter adopted after more than 2 decades

- BT ASEAN countries consider China as more reliable. f. China building bullet train in Indonesia

- Huge trade deficit with ASEAN of more than 50 billion dollars.

- Diplomacy with Bangladesh after regime-change.

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Political - Myanmarese junta being control over the country which is hampering infra projects.

- change in policy related to India with change in government 1- Malaysia

external challenges - China influence. RFP

withdrawal due to fear of dumping.

- Impact of us tariffs on the relationship.
- conflict between Thailand and Cambodia.

ASEAN - BINSTEC collaboration could help

pan-the path for developed north

eastern part of the country. Challenges

though would need to be overcome.

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Marks: