



Political Science & International Relations

PSIR Crash Course- 2025

Test 2

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name	Minal Negi
Test Submission Date	14-07-2025
Email Address	
Test Start Time	5:30 pm
Test End Time	8:30 pm
UPSC Roll Number	1404231
Phone Number	

Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
4. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
6. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
7. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

Marks Table (To be filled by Evaluators):

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						

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Remarks by Evaluator:

1. Contextual understanding

2. Content

3. Structure & Flow

4. Introduction

5. Conclusion

6. Language

7. Presentation



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Student's Queries: -

Evaluator's Feedback: -

Q 4
(a)

The Basic structure doctrine is an innovation by Indian SC in Kesavanand Bharti case to protect the core principles of constitution from the overreach of Parliament's amending power.

Rise of an active judiciary after 1970s gave rise to pro-active role of judiciary in protecting constitutional morality. The inviolability of basic structure is a testament to this.

While the judiciary has left the doctrine as a voyage of discovery by making it open-ended and non codified, it has listed key philosophical principles like secularism

(Bommai case), Rule of law (Indira Gandhi vs Raj narain), Judicial review (I.R Coelho case) etc under basic structure.

However, the political spillover of judicial innovation has led to a bidirectional influence of basic structure on politics and political landscape on basic structure.

Efforts in 42nd amendment and 39th amendment to limit SC's powers of judicial review led to Rule of law and offices of President and Vice President become a part of basic structure similarly communal electoral politics led to Bommai Case (secularism) and misuse of speaker's power and governor's office which made federal structure as a part of basic structure.

While basic structure is often called judicial overreach, political leaders of the time had their own part to play in its formation.

(6). CAG (A.148) is the supreme
audit institution of India which
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar considers as the most
important structure institution in
upholding Indian constitution.

The role of CAG emerges
from its duty of efficient resource
allocation in a resource challenged
country.

Moreover, in an era of
centralising tendencies, CAG plays key
role in highlighting errors and misuse
of funds in the process of fiscal
federalism.

Also, the highly technical
nature of job and the duty to
uphold ISSAI standards increases the
importance of expertise in CAG.

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CAG has played a vital role in highlighting the misuse of funds in 2G spectrum case, Commonwealth games scam, Adarsh Housing Society scam and Coal scam. Moreover, it has used its power of propriety audit to flag inefficient use of funds in Swachh Vidyalaya abhiyan and establishment of INDU.

However, CAG's role is limited by the spoils system of appointment, redressive price audit (eg. Bofors case) and lack of data. ISSAI quoted that 50% CAG reports lack data.

Vinod Rai in his book "Not just an account" calls CAG as fifth pillar of democracy. Independent appointing system and giving lead of the institution to IA&AS instead of IAS can make its work more proficient.

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(C)

Indian constitution is a flexible constitution which allows its evolution to adapt to different times and circumstances.

~~Nearly~~ 106 amendments in a constitutional history of 75 years has made India an island of stable democracy among post colonial nature.

The first amendment act was one of the most radical in nature and effect amidst the challenges of a new-born nation. Provisions for affirmative action pushed India's journey of social revolution by adding A-15(4) and 16(4). Moreover, addition of 9th schedule supported government's idea of wealth redistribution in line with article 39(b) and 39(c)

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Further, in 1975, the 42nd amendment amidst the much criticised national emergency radically re-wrote the Indian constitution.

Increase in tenure of Lok Sabha from 5 to 6 years, made advice of Council of ministers binding in nature, limited judiciary's power of review in matters of emergency and declared primacy of all fundamental rights over directive principles among numerous changes.

However, the draconian anti democratic provisions were undone by 44th amendment and Mehaka Gandhi Case. Furthermore SC protected any such major rewriting by devising doctrine of basic structure.

The first and 42nd amendments rightly called mini constitutions were milestones in India's legal jurisprudence.

(d)

Having inherited a nation with shattered economy and fragmented society, the constitution makers directed state to make special provisions for marginalised sections under A-46 and A-39.

Affirmative action policies have come a full circle with special provisions for SC/ST, OBCs, EWS (103rd amendment) and finally women reservation (106th amendment)

However, reservation policies are often strategically placed around election years for political mobilisation. Moreover, state sponsored fragmentation (RC Guha) for votebank politics shows that reservation politics has influenced political dynamics along

with providing social justice.

The rise of regional parties based on social identities and demanding quota further shows imminent role of reservation in politics. Most prominent examples are BSP, DMK and Marathas.

Also, the rising demands of dominant caste reservations eg. Marathas, Jats and Gujjars shows the race to the bottom. It not only undermines meritocracy in the system but also creates a domino effect for quota demands.

Pratap Bhanu Mehta rightly highlights that reservation generates more heat than light.

However, reservation's role in electoral politics is saturating with ~~already~~ 49.5% reservation with 10% EWS quota. The shift from caste towards religion was evident in 2024 elections.

(e)

Justice DY Chandra chud calls Indian constitution as a feminist document for opening scope of special provisions for women empowerment.

A.15(3) in the constitution allows state to make provisions for improving the status of women. Moreover A.42 directs state to make provisions for maternity benefit and women participation in industries. Part III, A directs the citizens to make efforts to uphold women dignity.

The Indian Parliament has responded to the constitutional provisions with laws such as Domestic Violence Act, 2005; maternity benefit act 1971, POSH Act, POCSO, etc to promote financial empowerment of women.

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Moreover, parliament has devised social welfare schemes such as Ladli Behan yojana, Ujjawala Yojana, Done didi and Sabla yojana for substantive empowerment of women.

Furthermore, judiciary has played its own part by protecting women rights as was seen in Shayra bano case and Sabrimala case. The SC has gone to the extent of legislating from the bench to protect women rights eg Vishakha guidelines and RG Kar case guidelines for women protection at workplaces.

106th amendment has seen a convergence of all three organs to push for political representation of women for bringing them at par with male counterparts in policy making.

84
(a)

The SC has expanded the scope of A.21 by liberally interpreting it as was also done in the recent Ranjitsinh vs UoZ, 2024 pushing environmental constitutionalism.

SC began its journey of environmental jurisdiction in one Mehta Case series ~~case~~ declaring right to environment as an integral part of A.21. The court also devised public trust doctrine in the same case.

Moreover, the SC took to constructive innovation in Oleum Gas Leak case and devised doctrine of absolute liability. The Vellore citizen welfare association vs. Union of India saw the emergence

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Of well known polluter pays principle.

Hence PC has acted as the protector of India's international commitments in climate change conferences.

It has also directed citizens to take proactive steps to protect natural heritage under A. 51A (g).

However, environmentalists like RC Guha and Madhav Gadgil in their book, "The fissured land" argue that the corporate capture of state has failed the judicial precedents by neglecting ecological impact of projects such as that by ANIDCO in Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshwadeep transshipment port and Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand.

The ignorance towards proper EIA, neglect of public hearings and lack of project assessment reports

also shows laxity on the part of bureaucracy.

It may be attributed to judiciary's salutary role in protecting environment which breeds both resistance as well as laxity in the bureaucracy and legislators. The judicial interference in policy making instills contempt in the executive due to interference.

However, proactive role of Indian government towards climate change negotiations is evident on global platform. Push for LIFE in COP 26, International solar alliance, Global methane pledge and OSOWOG show complementarity of judiciary's role and legislative action.

Moreover, bureaucracy

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Joint beyond the mandate of duty for environmental service has attracted media headlines. IAS Parmeshwaran Iyer's efforts to like "Tere Mere Beach Mein" to clean Karnataka beaches, IAS Divya Devranjan's efforts to increase green cover in Chhattisgarh with community participation are some prominent examples.

IAS Chhavi Chawla has converted solar village of Rajasthan into a 100% solar village.

All things considered, judicial pronouncements with respect to environmental legislation may give rise to turf stripes with bureaucracy and corporations. Yet Tata and Infosys collaboration with Greenpeace and Vantara initiative of Reliance foundation show increasing corporate ethics and bureaucratic initiative for environment protection.

(6)

Agrarian movements of India have evolved from colonial oppressive practices and movements against them to being ~~at~~ driven by MSP demands and fair farm laws.

The colonial land revenue policies ~~and~~, oppression of sharecroppers forceful cultivation of indigo and coercive forest laws instigated revolts like Tebhaga movement, Kisan Sabha movement etc.

Post Colonial India sees a similar patter with evolved demands and reasons. The land reforms of 1950s and 60s were aimed at fair wealth distribution yet loopholes like oral tenancy, family ceilings and reluctance towards consolidation made them a sheer failure as noted by

economist Raj Krishna.

Moreover, pro capitalist policies of Nehru Mahalanobis model and focus on core industries instead of agriculture fuelled the failure of agrarian reforms, creating space for farmer discontent.

However, the agrarian crises of 1960, gave push to green revolution which brought prosperity to various regions. At the same time it led to what Atul Kohli calls as creative destruction.

Growing inequality and environmental degradation along with neglect of non-green revolution areas gave rise to protests by communist parties.

"The green revolution was the main cause of red revolution", notes Francine Frankel.

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Reforms in FCI, PDS and MSP offered some relief to farmers. However, low crop yield ~~was~~ and oppression by middlemen, continued.

Recent efforts by the government ~~and~~ in the form of farm laws saw major opposition due to lack of consensus with farmer community.

Reforms in MSP and push towards food processing industry can help in doubling farmer income as recommended by Dalwai committee.

Ashok Gulati recommends efforts towards technocratic revolution in agriculture precision farming, micro irrigation and climate smart agriculture.

A sector that comprises 46% Indian population yet contributes 10% of GDP highlights the need to revolutionary changes in agriculture.

(c)

Indian accommodative politics limits the scope of radical changes by the government especially in the periods of non surplus coalitions.

Francine Hankel rightly identifies the problem of fabricated consensus in Indian polity. Diverging interests of political parties at the centre and acomodative stance of central government towards ~~for~~ regional parties often leads to what Gunnar Myrdal refers to as soft state.

Revoking farm laws, delay in implementation of NEP, lack of pro-active approach towards interstate water dispute deters the executive from resolving these disputes, due to opposition from other parties.

2024 elections resulted in the formation of a non surplus government and strong opposition further leading to cold stances on the issues like market reforms, VCE, and Caste census.

However, in the past leaders of weak coalitions have taken strong steps due to personality factors. For instance, PV Narsimha Rao's LPG reforms and Look East policy shows charisma of accommodative politics with strong decision making power.

Similarly, Atal Bihari Vajpayee took radical steps like Agra summit, Lahore summit, resumption of India-Pakistan bus service and Kargil war. His preparation of nuclear test further testifies his strong personality.

While the accommodative stance of UPA 1 and UPA 2 largely saw minimum governance stance, it successfully took radical decisions like signing civil nuclear deal, 2005 with USA.

Budha Pai rightly notes, Indian multi party system results into shifting strategically between democratic accommodation and strong developmental politics. Even present NDA government has taken strong stance on sensitive issues like fishermen issue, Russia Ukraine war and Operation Sindoor inspite of being a non surplus government.

Hence, though Indian politics mandates an acomodative stance for electoral pragmatism, political leaders have often defied this stereotype.

Q.5
(a)

The opposition to Simon Commission of 1927 and resultant Burkenhead challenge for framing an Indian constitution led to the landmark Nehru report.

The Nehru report can be considered as the first substantial result of Indian constitutional demands which KM Panicker calls as principle of autochthony.

The provisions like legislative representation in proportional measures, demand for fundamental rights, fair taxation on salt etc. influenced the Indian constitution in post independence era. 1

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(b)

The constituent assembly recorded heated debates on the inclusion of DPSP in the constitution because of their non justiciable and advisory nature.

KT shah calls DPSPs as a fraud on the promises made during Indian national movement. While KC Wheare calls them as disordered accommoda-
tion of diverse principles of national leaders.

However, SC has led to re-imagination of DPSPs role by using them for creative constitutional interpretation from time to time. The recent Property welfare association vs UOI re-interpreted the phrase "property of common interest" to harmonise it with legal right to property.

Moreover, the social programs of government were protected from legal violability by interpreting them through the lens of DPSP. For instance, land reforms were upheld seeing them in concurrence with A-39(b) and 39(c).

Similarly, SC devised doctrines like polluter pays principle and public trust doctrine in line with A-48A. In various cases, ~~like~~ like Shayra Bano case, Sarla Mudgal case and Jose Paulo Cantinho case, SC have re-inforced the need of UCC.

~~Menaka G. Minerva~~
Mulla case resulted in principle of harmonious construction hyphenating rights and duties of citizens in line with Gandhian idea of duty centrality.

(C)

Indian preamble characterises India as a sovereign, secular, democratic republic highlighting India's status ~~as~~ of popular sovereignty.

A. 324 provides universal adult franchise highlighting equity in right to vote, the bedrock of an electoral democracy. The same is protected by an independent election commission under A. 326.

The provision for universal franchise highlights the ideology of political justice, equality and popular will in Indian electoral politics. The constitution also upholds political democracy by giving equal rights to all eligible citizens to fight elections.

However, As BR Ambedkar notes, political democracy is impossible in the absence of social and economic democracy. The Indian ~~ex~~ constitution secures the latter too.

Special provisions for SC / ST, minorities, women and OBCs under A. 15(5), A. 48, A. 29-30, A. 15(3), 15(6) respectively ensure social justice in Indian multiethnic society.

Similarly, fair wealth distribution and prevention of concentration of wealth is mandated by A. 39 which secures economic democracy in the country. These provisions gave way to steps towards good governance like digital India, Ayushman Bharat yojana, SVEEP by ECI and RTI.

Thus constitutional democracy in India is a living principle directing state towards a progressive society.

(01)

Indian constitution is a consensus document of a diverse constituent assembly.

Though scholars like Granville Austin and KC Wheare often criticise constituent assembly for being dominated by congress, being a hindu majoritarian body etc. yet the assembly saw experts and scholars from diverse ideological and social backgrounds.

liberals like Nehru and Ambedkar pushed for a parliamentary democracy, rule of law and universal adult franchise.

minority members like B Pocker ~~sh~~ sahib's efforts resulted in minority rights in part IV.

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Moreover, Gandhian Ideology represented by B. R. Ambedkar and K. T. Shah is inculcated in Part IV in the form of A. 43 (cottage industries), A. 48 (ban on liquor) and A. 40 (Panchayati Raj).

Hindu nationalists such as B. S. Moonje pushed for dominance of Sanskrit education in Part 16. Also, cow protection and Hindi in devnagri script as a ~~the~~ state language shows their influence on the constitution.

Marxist members pushed for equal wealth distribution under A. 39 and participation of workers in industrial management under A. 43A.

Thus though constituent assembly was not a directly elected body, it represented a mini India by accommodating members from diverse ideological backgrounds.

(c)

Constitutional morality refers to upholding the underlying philosophy of constitution in letter and spirit.

Indian politics has often been characterised by dominance of money and muscle power, criminalization and use of unfair means like booth capturing.

Though political parties follow constitutional and legal mandate in procedural terms, yet uncoded loopholes are often exploited for electoral benefits.

Ethics often takes a backseat during electoral campaigns.

Inaugurated by deepfakes, misinformation and false propaganda in recent times,

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makes the matter even more worrisome.

The constitution provides for universal adult franchise under A:324 but parties often use marginalised sections as tools of votebank mobilisation. Poor sections are often lured with freebies in return of voting for the party.

Similarly, right to equality in contesting the elections is marred with criminalisation of politics. Higher winnability of criminal candidates in 2024 elections (46% MPs) and increasing use of anonymous funds (₹1.35 lakh crore) show backsliding of constitutional morality. Social faultlines are often exploited for political gains.

Indian democracy needs to be revolutionised with better accountability mechanisms, electoral reforms and governance reforms.

Q6

(a)

India of 2047 shall be a Vishwaguru overcoming stigmas of the past and revival of India's vibrant economy, cultural heritage and global leadership. This vision of Vikset Bharat though ambitious, faces multiple ~~hind~~ hurdles to be overcome.

India's goal of becoming a \$25 trillion economy by 2047, a keystone in Indo-Pacific theatre and a leader of global south in multilateral institutions accommodates India's vision of being a developed country by 2047.

Yet among various other challenges, India's structural issues in economic transition is the most important. A non-productive agriculture sector with bleak development

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Of food processing industry and a less absorbent service sector combined with non-existent manufacturing sector (23% of GDP) might give rise to unemployment, middle income trap and low equilibrium.

Moreover, an increasingly fragmented society with communal and ethnic classes as seen in manipur and Haryana pose a serious challenge to collective effort towards a Viksit Bharat.

At the same time, India being a tropical nation with 11000 km coastline is extremely vulnerable to climate change. WB projected that by 2030 India's 4% GDP will be spent on mitigation and adaptation efforts.

A serious challenge is also posed by global geopolitical dynamics

which require a strategic stance to protect India's economic interests. Hostile neighbours resorting to pincer strategy against India has to be tackled with strategic alliances on global platforms.

Amartya Sen suggests skill development with industry academia linkage to tap the demographic dividend of India. Moreover, creation of labour intensive jobs by pushing manufacturing sector and providing employment linked incentive to ~~Amartya~~ corporate firms can help in solving unemployment issue.

Moreover, ironing out the social faultlines by constructive dialog as recommended by Seyla Benhabib can help India navigate

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its communal challenges.

In foreign policy, India needs to sign bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries to solve the refugee issue which is the main cause of ethnic conflicts.

Moreover, creating global consensus towards climate justice by implementing CBDR and exemption from climate based taxes such as CBAM can help India expand its export sector.

According to Pratap Bhanu Mehta, India of 2025 shall face the multifaceted challenge of demography, diaspora, terrorism, boundary disputes and internal security while it moves forward on its journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

Our fast paced highway of economic growth shall provide a safe pedestrian for marginalised sections.

(b)

Supreme court of India has not been a mere spectator but an active participant of India's social revolution.

The constitution makers envisaged the SC to be a protector of social, economic and political justice.

Hence an independent judiciary with federal powers and responsibility to protect fundamental rights (A.13, 32) was enshrined in the SC's role.

Not only has SC lived upto its ideals but gone beyond its mandate to uphold the ideals of justice in Indian society.

It has created a harmonious construction between citizens' rights and social justice as was

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evident in Menaka Gandhi case. The court has also prioritised ^{constitutional} ~~social~~ morality over ~~constitutional~~ social morality (Narain Singh Johar case and Sabrimata case) to ensure not only procedural but also substantive social justice.

Balancing affirmative action with meritocracy has been a significant achievement by declaring the creamy layer criteria and 50% ceiling on reservation.

Not only social, but SC has also stood as a flagbearer of economic democracy as was seen in recent property association of Indira vs UOI case, 2024 where it co-harmonised the Right to property with right of eminent domain of the state providing for fair wealth redistribution.

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Furthermore, the court's stance in MC Mehta case, Vellore citizen welfare case, Bhopal gas leak case and Ganga rejuvenation case has made it a sentinel on qui-vive of environmental justice.

Similarly the court has upheld political justice by ensuring fairness of electoral process in Liby Thomas case, Abhiram Singh case and recently by nullifying electoral rolls in ADR vs. UoI, 2023.

Hence, it can be said that SC has lived upto its mandate of protecting ideals of justice, though at times it is accused of being passive (eg ADM Jabalpur case) and committed judiciary (eg. emergency of 1975)

(C)

A-324 provided ECI with plenary powers to ensure free and fair elections in India. The CEC playing a major part in India's democratic electoral process must be free of external interference.

In Anoop Baranwal vs OoI 2023, SC framed guidelines for fair appointment procedure of CEC devoid of executive dominance. A committee comprising PM, Leader of opposition and Chief justice of India shall form the collegium to appoint CEC.

However, the government responded with CEC & ECs (Appointments, Conditions and Services) Act, 2023 which tweaked the proposed committee recommendations and established executive majority in the selection committee by

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Replacing CJI with a centrally chosen cabinet minister.

The act prima facie falls to stand true to the very purpose of removing executive interference in appointment process of CEC and ECs. The spoils system of appointment shall continue which hinders the ECI's powers to take strong electoral reforms.

Moreover, this system shall reduce ECI ~~to~~ to a caged parrot of the executive which might take selective actions against the opposition parties on political pressure.

At the same time, criminalisation of politics shall continue to increase in near future with toll of MPs facing criminal charges already standing at 46%. due to lack

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of accountability of legislators and inability of ECI to take disciplinary actions.

However, the act has institutionalised the selection process which opens the appointment process to judicial scrutiny on the grounds of malafide.

Moreover, fixed term of CEC and ECs and seniority criteria shall prevent politically charged appointments.

India's democracy rests on the fairness of electoral process. Independence of ECI by applying Dinesh Goswami and Indrajit Gupta recommendations shall be a way forward to uphold India's status as a mother of democracy.

Q7.
(9)

The Government of India act 1935 was based on the Simon commission report which saw widespread protests in 1927.

However, the present Indian constitution is a carbon copy of 1935 act as opined by KC wheare.

The office of governor has been borrowed from the act into A-52. The centrally appointed officer has been a contested yet useful and inevitable element of parliamentary democracy at the state level.

Moreover, the emergency provisions under A-352, 356 and 360 are the result of 1935 act.

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Use of A-356 162 Times in Indian post independence history reflects its colonial origins, and draconian effect.

Also, the three fold division of legislative powers in the seventh schedule has been borrowed from the act. The only difference is in the form of residuary powers which rested with governor general in the pre-independence era and now rest with the Indian parliament.

Similarly the office of speaker has been borrowed from the same act reflecting British tradition in westminster model. The speaker however now is a symbol of freedom and dignity of the house instead of colonial legacy.

However, Indian constitution is a synthesis of best practices from around the globe with judicial supremacy from US constitution, federal structure from Canadian constitution, DPSP from Irish constitution etc.

The high convergence of 1935 act and Indian constitution can be attributed to Indian experience with the British parliamentary system.

Moreover, Indian constitution is not a slavish imitation of 1935 act. The formation of 1935 act was a result of three round table conferences where Indians were a major chunk of representation.

Hence 1935 act already reflected core Indian demands through deliberations in the round table conferences.

As Gandhiji notes about the Indian constitution, it is a document which kept windows open for fresh air from around the globe yet the doors closed to prevent it from being swept away.

Also Ambedkar justifies constitution's huge inferences from different sources as it was formed so late in history that all it could do was to mould already existing provisions for its own needs.

(h)

A 200 empowers the governor to exercise his discretion in reserving a bill for presidential reference which opens scope for a gridlock like situation at the state level.

In this respect, the SC heard the State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor case in 2025. The SC clearly noted that the governor's discretion shall be used in rare cases.

Moreover, the governor cannot delay the bill without responding as the constitution does not provide any pocket veto to the governor.

Also, once the bill is returned by the governor and passed again ~~to~~ by the state legislature,

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the governor cannot reserve the bill
for presidential reference under A-200.

The wide misuse of
gubernatorial powers, not only in
Tamil Nadu but also in west bengal
shows the governor's use as an extended
arm of centre with velvet gloves to
paralyse the state government.

The turf stripes between
state governments led ~~to~~ by opposition
parties and the governor backslides the
federal spirit of Indian constitution.

The constitution
does not bind the governor with the
advice of state council of ministers. This
provision is widely exploited by the
governors. However, SC in Manipur
assembly case and Maharashtra governors
case limited governor's discretion to rare
cases of emergency.

The governor's position instead of being viewed as a central agent must be an independent constitutional body to act as a friend, philosopher and mentor for the state government.

Sarkaria Commission
recommendations of appointed a politically detached figure as a governor, appointment from a list prepared by ISC and non appointment of a figure from the central party. In case of different parties at the state and centre can ensure the independence of governor's office.

The governor is the executive head of state government. Its independence in sine qua non for the federal wheel of Indian democracy.

(c)

The union government has recently ordered a caste census which shall start from 2026 in Ladakh, and 2027 in rest of the country.

The last caste census was held in 1931 (published). While being constitutionally mandated, the political narrations around the issue has deterred subsequent governments from conducting the caste census. The SECE was conducted in 2011 yet its data was not published citing errors and mis calculations.

The caste census can revolutionise India's social program by facilitating data based affirmative action, evidence based target beneficiaries and targeted social welfare schemes.

However, caste census can prove to be a risky venture because of overlap between Indian electoral politics and ascriptive identities.

Political parties can misuse the caste data for mobilisation of voters on the pretext of social status.

Moreover, the caste data can create a domino effect in reservation politics of India. Demand for newer quotas can lead to creation of new social fault lines.

At the same time fragile data protection laws can lead to data leakage which can be used by various destabilising forces against Indian integrity.

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However, lack of data in a society like India where caste is rooted in sub conscious minds of Indians (MN Srinivas) is a major loophole in policy formulation.

Hence caste census is a progressive step to implement Rohini commission recommendations on sub-categorisation. However, it must be supplemented with proper training in AI and big data analytics, collaboration with state governments and standardised national caste directory.