

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : M25GAT02

TEST NO. : 02

Name of Candidate: ANANYA RANA

Roll No.: CAVA25ECL1569 Start Time 2:13pm End Time 3:45pm

Date of Examination: 29th JUNE 2025 Mobile No

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
Total Marks : 50		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
6	15	
7	15	
8	15	
9	15	
10	15	
Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL - / 125

EVAL CODE: GRADED DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.

REMARKS:

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MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 2.50	3.00 - 3.50	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.00	4.00 - 5.50	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.'

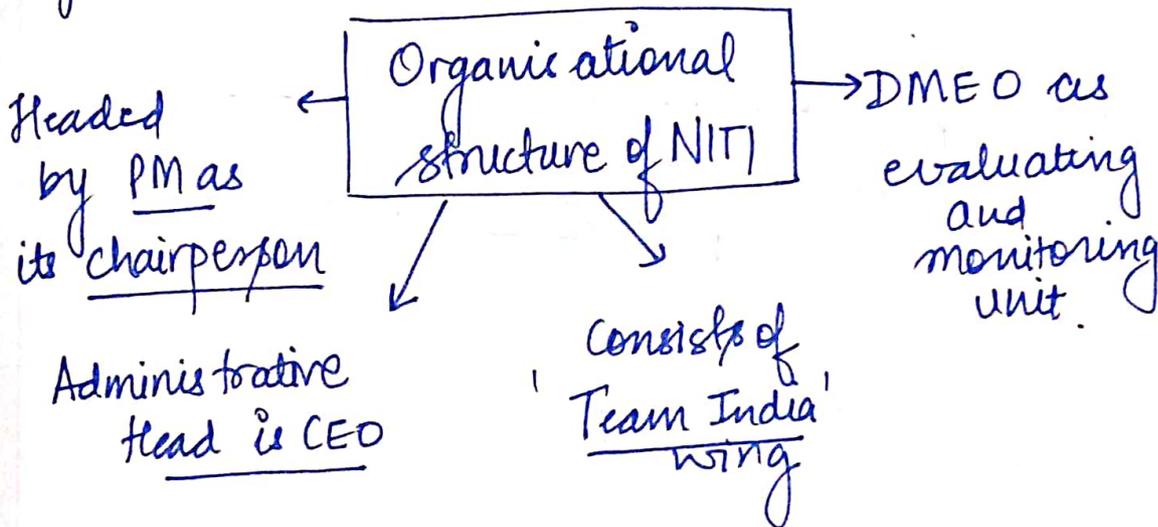
STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

1. "One of the mandates of NITI Aayog is to promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs." In this context, evaluate the role of NITI Aayog in strengthening cooperative federalism and encouraging innovation in policy making since 2015.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is a non-constitutional and non-statutory body established in 2015 by an executive order to act as a think tank and drive India's path to progress.



Role of NITI Aayog in strengthening cooperative federalism and innovation in policymaking

Achievements	Challenges
① <u>Synergy between Union and State</u> (eg) Implementation of <u>Ayushman Bharat Yojana</u>	① Only an <u>advisory body</u> with no <u>financial control</u>

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Candidates
write on this

Intro :	
Body :	2.
Conc. :	
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② Progressive stance
based on competition

eg) LEADS India Index

②. Not very successful
in bringing Centre and
states at same level

eg) Opposition ruled states

③. Expertise on
issues of national
development

eg) Green Energy
innovations

③. Allegations of
outsourcing of experts

eg) Frequent collaborations
with foreign players

④ Strategies for future

eg) India @ 75
Report

④. Lack of actionable
inputs to improve
parameters

⑤. Innovation driven
ecosystem

eg) AI for All

⑤. Inadequate results
obtained on ground

“Trust-based governance is key to development”
— Economic Survey (2024)

NITI Aayog can act as a
vehicle of inclusive development by
strengthening its role as institution
of trust and credibility.

2. Examine the structure and jurisdiction of courts in the United States and India. How do the contempt powers of courts differ in both countries? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Both United States and India lay significant importance to judicial independence, yet the structure and jurisdiction of courts vary in accordance with the unique conditions of the two nations.

Structure and jurisdiction of courts in United States and India

United States	India
① It has <u>dual judicial structure</u> - <u>Supreme Court at Federal level</u> and <u>Courts at State level</u>	① It has <u>integrated judiciary</u> with <u>Supreme Court at the top</u>
② <u>Jurisdiction of Supreme Court</u> - <u>Federal Issues, Constitutional amendment only</u>	② <u>Wider jurisdiction of SC of India</u> - <u>Protection of Fundamental rights, Civil Cases, Criminal cases etc.</u>

③ Judges to SC appointed by President of US. with confirmation by Congress.	③ Judges to SC and HC appointed by Collegium system with assent of President
④ Judges have no retirement age.	④ Judges in SC retire by the age of 65 years and HC at 62 years
⑤ Wider powers of judicial review because they follow 'due process of law'	⑤ Lesser powers of judicial review because we follow 'procedure established by law'.

Difference in contempt of courts power.

United States	India
① Liberal attitude towards contempt as they have <u>absolute freedom of speech and expression</u> .	① Both SC and HCs have power against contempt of court.
② President and SC often at loggerheads	② 2 types <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>civil</p> <p>↓</p> <p>wilful disobedience</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>criminal</p> <p>↓</p> <p>scandalising of court.</p> </div> </div>

While both nations differ significantly in many aspects of judicial structure, yet both give equal primacy to rule of law to protect the democratic setup.

3. "Universal basic services and targeted welfare are fiscally sound, but competitive populism may hinder productive investment." In this context, highlight the constitutional and legal perspectives on welfare provisioning and discuss the impacts of the rising freebie culture. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

In the backdrop of transforming nature of Indian politics, competitive populism has seen a rise which can have serious ramifications not just for economic management but also on informed decision making.

Universal Basic services
⊕
Targeted welfare are fiscally sound

① Calculated risk between welfare and financial obligations

② People act as mechanism of checks and balances

③ Keep in mind sustainability of actions

① No end to populism
② eg free electricity, free bus ride etc

Competitive populism may hinder productive investment

④ No focus on improvement on ground

⑤ Inefficient utilization of resources

⑥ private investment takes a back step

Constitutional and legal perspectives on welfare

① Preamble - socialist state

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- ② Part IV (DPSPs) - Art 38, 39, 42, 46 etc.
- ③ National Food security Act, 2013.
- ④ India - a party to ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)

Impacts of rising freebie culture.

- (1) Moral hazard - People are not looking for skillful employment.
- (2) Strain on economic resources of many states. (eg) Himachal Pradesh, Punjab etc
- (3) Uninformed decision making by voters causing disruption of democratic principle.
- (4) Instances of buying of votes leading to unethical electoral practices
- (5) No sunset clause leading to creation of burden on future generations.

It is often said, 'Where there is justice, there is no need for charity'. The need is to adopt the 'Madhyam Marga' by political parties and not cross the fine line between welfarism and maximalism

4. "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India."
Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Attorney General of India is a constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution mandated to provide legal advice to Government of India (GoI). His counter-part at state level is called Advocate General.

Attorney-General - chief legal adviser and lawyer of GoI.

- (1) Appointed by President of India
- (2) Remains in office till pleasure of President
- (3) According to conventions, s/he resigns after every Lok Sabha elections.
- (4) Advises GoI on all cases to which it is a party in Supreme Court.
- (5) Can represent GoI in High Courts, if directed by President.

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(6.) Is free to practice in personal capacity except : ① can't defend a criminal case without prior permission
② can't be an advisor to a party against GoI.

(7.) Is provided privileges under Article 105 to be present in Parliamentary debates, meetings of committees, to speak in them without any right to vote.

(8.) Do not provide legal advise to any Ministry unless direction given by Ministry of Law and Justice.

(9.) Is supported in its mandate by Solicitor General of India and Additional Solicitor General of India.

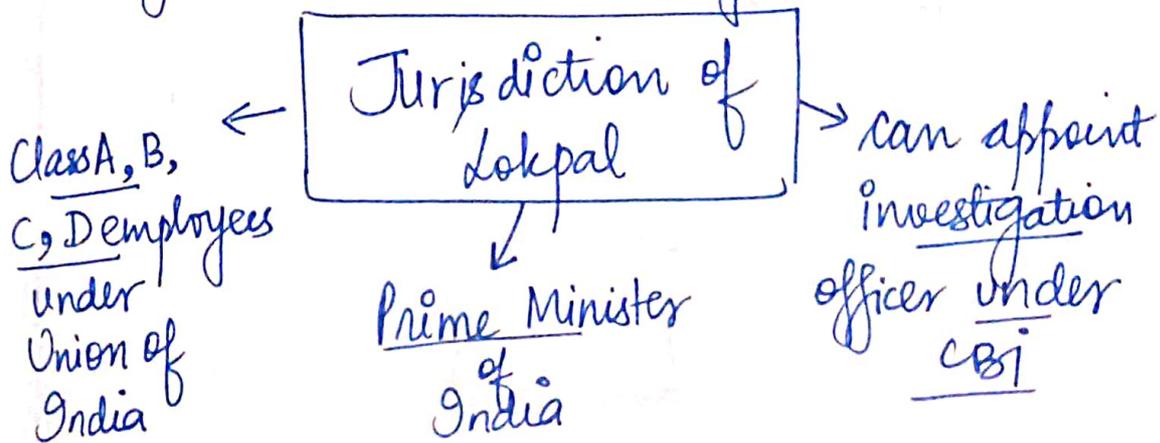
(10.) Paid remuneration as decided by President of India.

Attorney General of India is a significant office to manage legal aspects of GoI.

5.

"Lokpal is not a panacea, but a vital step towards ensuring accountability in public life." In this context, discuss the significance of the institution of Lokpal, along with the limitations it faces. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Lokpal is a statutory office established under Lokpal and Lokayukta Act to act as guardian of public service delivery and accountability in public life.



Significance of institution of Lokpal

- ① Bullwark of public accountability - can act on complaints against public servants.
- ② Power of a civil court - can summon witness, call for production of documents etc.
- ③ Authority to act independently - no CBI officer involved in

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inquiry referred to by lokpal can be transferred with letters' permission:

- ④ Coverage of even the highest political office - Prime Minister (except for some exceptions).

Limitations of institution of lokpal

- ① No power to initiate suo-motu case.
- ② Highly complex procedure to start investigation under office of PM.
- ③ Conflict of interest as appointing authority is executive.
- ④ No significant outcome till date.
- ⑤ Only an advisory body - can't cause punishment to erring officers.
- ⑥ Judiciary is not covered under it.

lokpal as an institution needs to evolve itself by expanding its expertise in dealing expeditiously against cases of public corruption.

6. "Municipal corporations are key to urban governance, yet states often show reluctance to empower them functionally and financially". In this context, examine the key challenges faced by municipal corporations and suggest measures for a paradigm shift in urban local governance. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Municipal Corporations are the constitutional bodies given protection under Article 243 P to 243ZG under Part IX-A by 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

① act as instruments of democratic decentralisation

Municipal Corporations - key to urban governance

② Powers in hands of people

③ from democratic governance to participative governance

Key challenges faced by municipal corporations

(1) Funding Inadequacy - states have not granted powers for tax collection etc.

(2) Functionally handicapped - not adequately guarded with functions mandated for them.

- (eg): sanitation, public park maintenance.
- (3) Creation of parallel bodies undermine their autonomy.
- (eg) Special Purpose Vehicle under Smart Cities Mission.
- (4) lack of adequate personnel training causing hicups to development.
- (5) Undemocrated behaviour by states — frequent stalling of elections and continued undermining of autonomy of municipalities.
- (6) Bureaucratic red tapism defeating its constitutional mandate.
- (7) Inefficiency in financial domain
- (eg) Only 25% of municipal corporations have been self-sufficient in India.
- (8) Non implementation of recommendations of State Finance Commission in devolving funds to them

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Intro :

Body :

Conc. :

Total :

① Innovative financing models
 eg) Brihanmumbai Corporation's Bond initiative.

② Penalties for states not fulfilling their mandate in devolving functions to Municipal Corporations

Measures needed for paradigm shift in urban local governance.

③ Requisite personnel training for effective outcomes

eg) Collaboration with private sector

④ Reducing red tapism and encouraging innovations

eg) Municipal Corporation Index

⑤ Following constitutional mandate of regular elections.

Municipal Corporations carry the aspirations of millions of urban dwellers and their working efficiency will aid the establishment of Viksit Bharat.

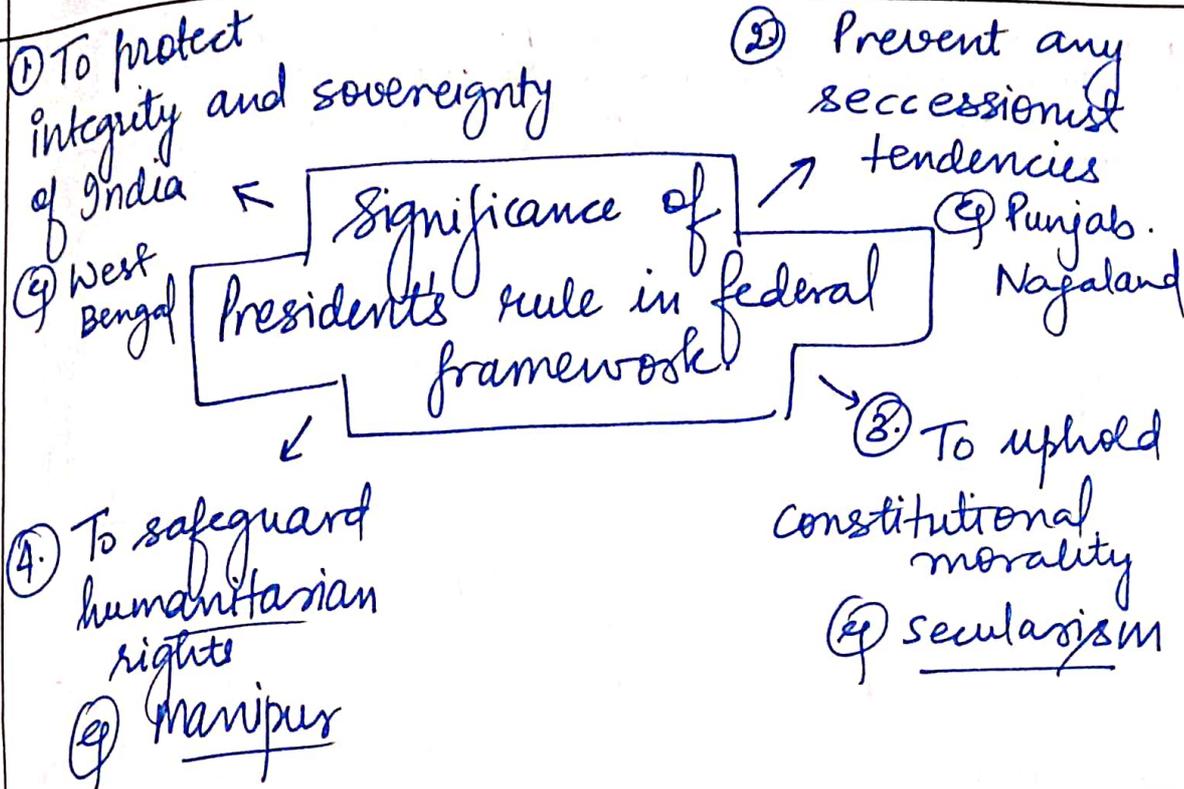
7.

Discuss the constitutional provisions governing the imposition of President's Rule in India and its significance within the federal framework. Examine the challenges and criticisms related to its misuse. Mention key Supreme Court observations that have shaped the constitutional understanding of President's Rule. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently, Manipur was put under President's Rule due to the rising instances of violence and ethnic strife.

Constitutional provisions governing imposition of President's Rule in India

- ① Article 356 - President can recommend president's rule when state can no longer be governed by the constitutional mandate.
- ② Article 365 - When President believes the situation has arisen when state has refused to follow the directions of Centre government within its domain.
- ③ Article 355 - Centre has an obligation to safeguard State against any internal or external aggression.



Challenges and criticisms related to its misuse

- ① Used as political tool to undermine state's autonomy ⊕ used frequently till 1960s.
- ② Reduces states as satellite of centre. obligated to follow latter even outside the constitutional mandate.
- ③ Undermines voice of people having regional aspirations
- ④ Transforms Constitution from federal to unitary without formal amendment.

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- ⑤ Violates the principle of federalism where states are equal partners in India's development and growth.

Key Supreme Court judgements regarding President's Rule

- ① S.R. Bommai Case, 1994 - SC upheld 'secularism' as basic structure and ground for imposing President Rule.
- ② LIC of India Case, 2010 - Reiterated that President's rule can be reviewed for its malafide intention.
- ③ Art 370 case, 2019 - SC upheld the imposition of President's Rule on account of national security.

④ President's Rule as an instrument to maintain integrity of India should be used very cautiously and must remain a 'dead letter' for majority of time unless absolutely necessary.

8. "Delay in disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law weakens governance and undermines democratic stability." Discuss the provisions of the Anti-Defection Law and the role of the Speaker in its implementation. How does the delay in disqualification affect governance? Suggest reforms needed to strengthen the law.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Anti-Defection Law was introduced by 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985 to prevent floor-crossing by legislators and protect the democratic spirit of India.

Provisions of Anti-Defection Law

- ① Under Schedule X of the Constitution
- ② Provides for provisions of disqualification under Article 102(2).
- ③ A person can be disqualified:
 - Ⓐ votes / abstains to vote against the direction given by party whip.
 - Ⓑ Nominated member joins any political party after 6 months of being nominated.

③ An independent member joins any political party after getting elected.

Accepts the proposal for removal

Role of Speaker in implementing Anti-defection law

Final decision maker on the proposal

Often acts biased due to party loyalty

No timeline set for his/her decision

Delay in disqualification affect governance

- ① Undemocratic functioning of House as the person doesn't represent true will of the constituency.
- ② Undermines role of Speaker as protector of dignity of House.
- ③ Promotes 'horse trading' with impunity.

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Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

④ Against the cardinal principle of representative democracy.

① Setting timelimits for speaker to decide on resolutions

② Active Judiciary taking up cases of malafide intention of Speaker
 (e) Manipur.

Reforms needed to strengthen law

④ Media as 4th pillar of Governance to persuade political leaders for amendment to law

③ Proactive citizenry acting for democratic principles to be followed

‘Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram’ tendency not only undermines the democratic spirit of elections but also creates credibility crises among institutions. These loopholes need to be fixed for creating inclusive and trust base institutions

9. Examine the key mechanisms available to the Indian Parliament to scrutinise the executive. What are the major gaps in these mechanisms, and how can they be strengthened to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to Article 75, Executive is collectively responsible to Parliament, in general and Lok Sabha in particular for all of its actions. This is to ensure transparency and accountability in the functioning of executive.

Key mechanisms available to Indian Parliament to scrutinise executive

- ① No-confidence motion available with Lok Sabha.
- ② Censure motion against an individual minister.
- ③ Adjournment motion with Lok Sabha.
- ④ Calling attention motion to bring attention to an issue of public importance.
- ⑤ Question hour to seek government's reply.

⑥ Parliamentary Standing Committees

→ Financial : Public Accounts
 Expenditure Estimates
 Public Accounts Undertaking

→ Scrutinize : Petitions, Privileges, Ethics
 etc.

⑦ Rejecting vote of thanks

⑧ Passing cut motions

Major gaps in these mechanisms

(1) Lack of adequate expertise of Legislature.
 especially in financial matters.

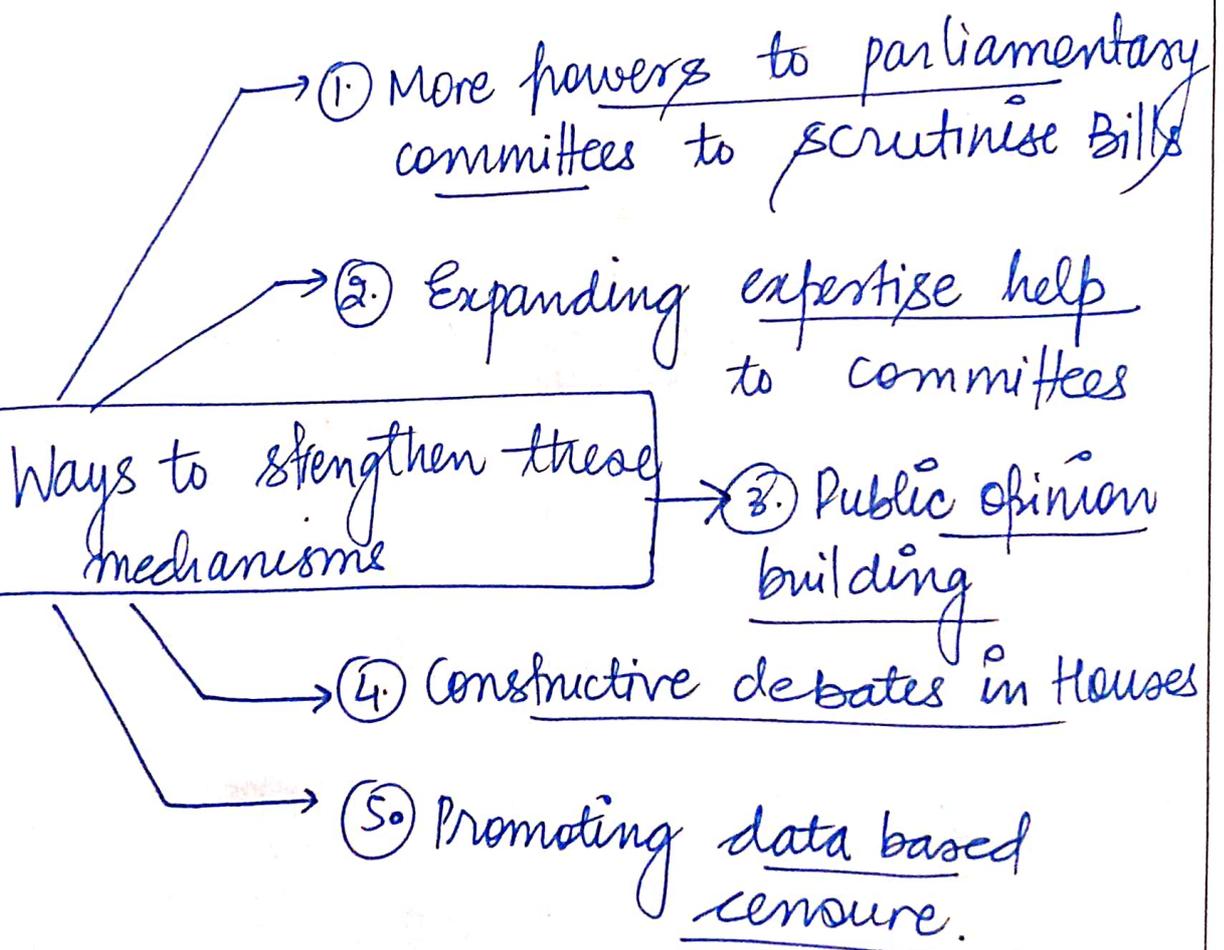
(2) Inadequate strength of opposition
 members. (eg) one party system till 1966.

(3) Bypassing Rajya Sabha by tagging
 bills as money bill.

(4) Parliamentary committees as post-facto
 mechanism when damage may
already had been done.

(5) Lack of unity among opposition parties on issues of national importance.

(6) Non-sending of bills to select committees
 (eg) Only 17% of bills sent in 17th L.S.



Indian democracy have shown resilience even in times of chaos due to its reliance on principles of transparency and accountability. These need to be strengthened further.

10. "The powers of the Governor, particularly with respect to state bills, have sparked recurring tensions between the Centre and the States." Discuss the constitutional powers of the Governor in this regard. Highlight the key concerns arising out of the Governor's role in the legislative process. What reforms can help address the Governor-State disputes? Refer to the case laws.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

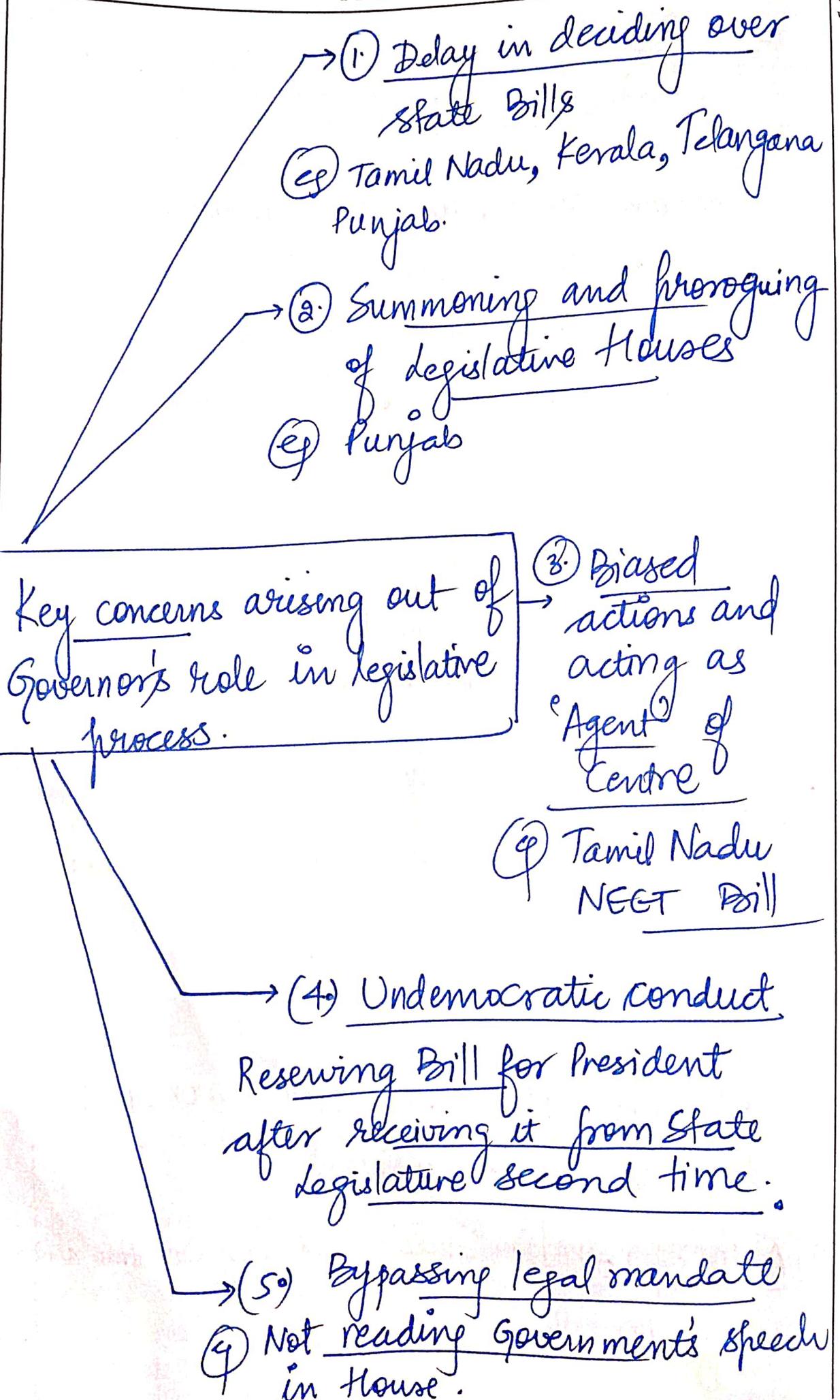
Supreme Court, recently, invoked Article 142 to do complete justice in a case involving pending bills with Governor of Tamil Nadu. This has sparked tensions between Centre and States.

Constitutional powers of Governor
with respect to State Bills

(1) Article 200 - When a Bill is presented to Governor/s/he has following choices:

- (a) give assent to Bill
- (b) reject the Bill
- (c) return the Bill (if not money Bill)
- (d) reserve for President.

(2) Article 201: State Bills for consideration
of President.



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Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

(1) Governor should act in true spirit of democratic conduct

eg) Following the Constitutional mandate without any ideological

(SC in Governor v/s State of Punjab, 2023)

Reforms needed to solve these State-Governor disputes

(2) State and Governor need to act as single body to fulfill needs of their people

(SC in Governor v/s State of T.N. Case, 2025)

(4) Governor should not act as agent of Centre
(D.C. Wadhwa Case)

(3) CM must be consulted before appointing Governor
(Punchhi Commission)

The office of Governor should act as a friend, guide and philosopher for the State. The 'Laxman Rekha' must not be crossed while upholding the aspirations of people s/he represents at State level.