



Instructions to the candidate:

- There are 5 Questions.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- You should download the question-and-answer booklet, take its print-out, attempt the questions and then scan the same using various mobile apps like Cam Scanner etc. on your mobile, Convert the file using these apps to PDF and upload.
- You will be able to upload the file from where you had downloaded the question-and-answer booklet.
- In case you face any difficulties, you can write to us at sleepy.classes@gmail.com.
- Those candidates who are not writing on the printed booklet are to leave margins on their answer sheet for comments.
- The above-said candidates are to then make their own evaluation sheet in the format stated below to be uploaded with the answer.
- Compulsory to name your PDF file in the following format (Student Complete Name_Test Number) e.g.: (Kriti Rathor_Mains Test-5)

Comments for the purpose of evaluation of Answer Writing:

Relevance to the question	
Structure of Answer	
Content	
Presentation (Neatness, charts, diagrams as required)	

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

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उम्मीदवारों को इस सत्रिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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1. What is Uniform Civil Code? Can it become a reality in India? If so, what Implications will it have on women & religious minorities?

Uniform Civil Code implies a Common framework of Civil Laws throughout the country, and across all religions or other distinct groups. UCC has been envisaged under Article 44 of the Constitution.

UCC: Potential of implementation

1. Various judgements of Courts and Statements of eminent person call ~~out~~ for a UCC, on the lines of goal.
2. However, potential is hindered ~~the~~ because of diversity of India, opposition from religious groups, and overturning of Court Judgements (eg-1985)

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3. In fact, even Law Commission has called for piecemeal/incremental changes, citing UCC as both unnecessary, & undesirable at this point.

So, UCC's reality cannot be envisaged atleast in the near future, although it cannot be negated.

Implications on Women/Religious Minorities (If Implemented)

Positives

1. Women/Religious Minorities often at disadvantage w.r.t established religious codes.
Eg. Triple Talaaq 'mehr' amount
So, UCC can uplift.
2. Equal status in society.

Negatives

1. Rise of Civil Religion (Robert Bellah) might result in loss of unique customs.
2. Greater secularization may result in violence against Minorities, Greater violence (like France)

~~As~~ UCC is a good step but should only be undertaken when social morality permits.

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2. Define the concept of 'Foster Families'. How is it different from Adoption? Has India truly accepted the concept?

'Foster Families' refers to the concept of establishing relationships, beyond the mould of consanguinity or affinity, and making somebody ~~one's~~ own, in certain cases, sharing a household.
Eg - Taking a child's responsibility of education, health etc, and becoming the child's foster parents while not delinking the child from biological parents.

It is different from Adoption, in the manner that adoption involves Complete rights Transfer of a child, while Foster parenting is becoming additional guardians to the child, providing for the child's needs etc. on a

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Case to case basis.

There are dispersed cases of Foster Parenting in India, and evidence of such concepts. However, issues remain →

1. Not legally codified (CARA deals with Adoption)
2. Instances of foster families backing out of obligations promised, because no legal backing.
3. Issues of socialisation — Primary Socialisation — Secondary Socialisation Dichotomy → child faces immense problems (eg - In placement with a rich family of a child with lower class background).

Therefore, such issues need to be addressed, and ~~not~~ Foster Parenting be made an alternative to Adoption for willing couples.

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3. How has the pandemic led to the increase in child sexual abuse online? What can be possible prevention strategies or measures that can help curb the menace?

The pandemic saw unprecedented rates of online usage because of both necessity (online classes) as well as boredom (social distancing norms), causing increase in child sexual abuse.

It took various forms →

- ① Online - Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Circulation.
- ② Inappropriate content being shown intentionally / accidentally.
- ③ Various Trends on social Networking Sites inappropriate for children.
- ④ Manipulating children to do ^{certain} things online, leading to abuse

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Possible Prevention Strategies

- ① Child locks and age-appropriate content — Social Networking sites as well as Entertainment sites (Netflix, Hotstar etc)
- ② Role of family — Teaching age appropriate sexual education, monitoring children.
- ③ Limiting screen time (PRAGYATA Guidelines issued by Ministry of Education).
- ④ Dark web be cleaned of CSAM, Child Pornography.

Therefore, Children must be saved from the vulnerabilities of the online world.

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4. Does social media still qualify as an agent of free speech? What impact does it continue to have on Democracy?

Twitter recently approached the Court in a suit against MeITy, questioning the scope and validity of Sec 79 of IT Act, through which MeITy has issued orders for content/account blocking of ⁱⁿ several cases. This puts the ^{role of} social media ^{as} agent of free speech under scrutiny.

Social Media - As agent of free speech

1. It has given everybody a voice.
2. Mobilize support ~~for~~ one's argument
3. Beyond Rural-Urban Divide
4. Does not judge on Caste, Tribe or Class background.

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Social Media - as hinderance to free speech

- 1) Rise of Multinationals as controllers of free speech - Eg.: Twitter Ban on Donald Trump. (highlighted by Heidi Sklar in her Sociology of Global order)
- 2) State as regulator - blocking content.
- 3) State as Panopticon - arresting for ^{perceived} hate speech etc. (Michael Foucault).

Impact on Democracy

- 1) Stifles free speech (the very basis of Democracy)
- 2) promotes minority Thinking.
- 3) social unrest
- 4) loss of trust in Democracy.

Therefore, Social Media ^{companies} and the Government must come together and establish a balance between Free speech and reasonable restrictions on it.

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5. While the constitution explicitly gives its citizens liberty to choose their religion, it's the states, today, that are changing course & making it harder to make that choice. Critically discuss the issue of anti-conversion laws in India.

The UP Anti Conversion Bill was followed subsequently by a slew of similar bills in Karnataka, Assam, Lakshadweep etc. This brings the liberty to choose religion (Art 25) guaranteed by the Constitution into conflict with such laws. In this context →

Need of such bills

- 1) Instances of forcible conversions.
- 2) Art 25 while protecting one's liberty to freely profess, practice and propagate one's religion, also prohibits forced

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Conversions.

- 3) Religious Revivalism — Putting Religion in the forefront, when Secularisation is desired.
- 4) Protecting minority.

Issues with such Bills

- 1) Colouring even legitimate conversions as forced by religious fundamentalists.
- 2) Hinders freedom to choose one's partner.
- 3) Fundamentalist groups revive.
- 4) Increasing religious consciousness.
- 5) Vilification of minority religion.

Perching and way forward

Such Bills should not stand in the way of liberty of an individual, and be equal to all religions in letter and spirit, if at all ~~are~~ legislated.