

NEXT IAS

AIM

ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CSE 2025

Model Solutions

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WEEK 1

DAY-1

1. Provide a comparative account of the Government of India Act 1919 and 1935. Also, discuss the key provisions adopted from the Govt of India Act 1935 in the Indian constitution.

Introduction: The Government of India Act of 1919 and 1935 were brought in to bring in “responsible government” for Indians and increase their participation.

The Government Act of 1919 was based on the Mont-Ford Report that was supposedly made after taking into consideration the concerns of all the sections of polity. The Government of India Act 1935 was based on the reports of the Simon Commission on, the 3rd Round Table Conference and the White Paper of 1933.

Comparative Analysis:

Factor	GOI ACT 1919	GOI ACT 1935
Background	British policy of conciliation to get support of Indians in world war 1 by ensuring some reform in 1917 by Montagu.	The Government of India Act 1935 derived fabric from 4 key assets viz. Report of the Simon Commission, discussions on the Third Round Table Conference, the White Paper of 1933 and the reviews of the Joint choose committees.
AIM & OBJECTIVE	The overall aim of the 1919 Government of India Act was to provide Indians with a greater say in the governance of their country while maintaining British control. However, the Act fell short of Indian expectations, and many Indians continued to demand greater autonomy and eventual independence	The main aim of the Government of India Act 1935 was to provide for a greater degree of self-government for Indians while preserving British control, also establishing federal system
Provincial governance	It relaxed central control over province by demarcating central and provincial subject. However structure continued to be centralized and unitary	It Provided for the establishment of an all india federation consisting of provinces and princely states with residuary power with viceroy.
Provincial subject	It introduced the concept of dyarchy whereby the provincial subject were divided into transferred and reserved subjects transferred were to be governed by governor with aid of minister while reserved with aid of executive council of governor	It abolished dyarchy and introduced provincial autonomy in its place. Moreover the act introduced responsible government in provinces. It adopted dyarchy at centre.
Legislature	It introduced bicameral legislature, two houses, the upper and lower house were formed.	It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces.
Communal electorate	Expanded to sikhs ,indian christians, anglo indian and european	Expanded to women and labour
Public service commission	It provided for establishment of public service commission and thus it was setup in 1926 for recruiting civil servant	It provided for establishment of Federal public service commission

Key Provisions of the Gol Act of 1935 which were adopted in the Indian Constitution:

1. **Federalism:** The Gol Act of 1935 for the first time introduced a federal system of Government in India, however, it did not come into practice. It was adopted in the 1950 Constitution.

2. **Distribution of Subjects:** Subjects were classified into 3 lists, the main feature of Dyarchy at the centre was introduced in the GoI Act of 1935. Indian Constitution also provides for three lists under Schedule VII.
3. **Bicameralism at centre:** Today's Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are the successor of the Federal Assembly and Council of States.
4. **All-India Court:** For the first time, an all-India Court called the 'Federal Court of India' was set up, which was substituted by the Supreme Court of India in the Indian Constitution.
5. **Emergency Powers:** A degree of autonomy was given to the provinces but the British retained the right to suspend the responsible government, the genesis of Article 356.
6. **Office of Governor:** This office was adopted in our Constitution from GoI of Act 1935 post-independence.
7. **Public Service Commission:** The Act provided for the Public Service Commission (PSC) like Federal PSC. Indian Constitution also provides for PSC for the Union and States under Article 315.

Both the GoI Act 1919 as well as GoI Act 1935 are considered important milestones in Constitutional development in India. A Significant part of the Indian Constitution can be said to be a reproduction of the GoI Act of 1935 with other parts derived from many other constitutions.

2. What is a constitution? What are its basic functions? Is the Indian constitution a living document?

Introduction: A constitution is a body of fundamental principles according to which a state is constituted or governed. It is the rule book for a state. It describes the main institutions of the state and the relationship between these institutions. It places limits on the exercise of power and sets out the rights and duties of citizens.

Basic Function:

The constitution allows coordination and assurance: A constitution provides a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of society.

Specification of decision-making powers: A constitution specifies who has the power to make decisions in a society. It decides how the government will be constituted. For example, the Parliament of India gets to decide laws and policies.

Limitations on the powers of government: It sets some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that the government may never trespass on them. e.g. Certain fundamental rights that all of us possess as citizens.

Aspirations and Goals of a Society: It enables the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society. For example, India aspires to be a society that is free of caste discrimination.

The Constitution of India is considered to be a breathing document following factors have made our Constitution an evergreen document rather than a closed and static rulebook:

The Constitution of India is **not rigid and can be amended** through the proper constitutional process. Various amendments have been made to the Constitution to reflect changing circumstances, such as provisions related to the Right To Education, GST etc.

The Supreme Court of India has the **power to interpret the Constitution** and make decisions on issues that were not explicitly addressed by the Constitution's framers. This allows for the Constitution to evolve as new issues and challenges arise.

The Constitution of India is a **reflection of the values and aspirations** of the Indian people. It can change as societal norms and values change. For example The right to privacy, Section 377, Triple Talaq etc.

Conclusion: In the end, the Indian Constitution is indeed a living document. It must be flexible enough to be amended in certain parts and rigid in certain parts. This blend stops it from being misused and this amendment feature keeps the soul of the Constitution alive.

WEEK 5

DAY-1

Q.1 What were the major causes for decline of Mughals? Also elaborate Why Maratha could not fill the political vacuum created by fall of Mughals?

The Great Mughal period, starting in 1526 with Babur's reign and ending in 1707 with Aurangzeb's death, marked a significant era in Indian history. However, within fifty years after Aurangzeb's demise, the Mughal Empire disintegrated due to his weak successors, internal decay, and recurrent succession wars.

AUSES OF THE DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE:

- 1. Weak Successors:** The absence of a clear law of succession led to wars of succession among Mughal rulers, weakening the empire. The successors of Aurangzeb lacked leadership, were influenced by scheming nobles, and proved ineffective in handling revolts. The Mughal Empire suffered from an inefficient bureaucracy and a weak army.

E.G: Bahadur Shah I (Shah Alam I), Jahandar Shah, Farrukhsiyar, Muhammad Shah, Ahmad Shah Bahadur, Alamgir II, Shah Jahan II
- 2. Degeneration of the Mughal Nobility:** With the decline in the character of the later Mughal Emperors decline also set in the character of the nobility wealth and leisure which the foreign Muslims acquired in India fostered luxury and sloth and the presence of many women in their harems encouraged debauchery, which, in their turn, undermined their character and love of adventure.
- 3. Economic Bankruptcy:** The Mughal emperors, like Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, undertook costly construction projects and engaged in prolonged wars, such as Aurangzeb's campaigns in the Deccan. These actions drained the treasury and put immense pressure on the already struggling economy. The increased revenue demands on farmers led to a decline in agricultural production, resulting in financial bankruptcy.
- 4. Invasions:** Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 looted Delhi, taking the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond. Ahmad Shah Abdali's invasions also drained wealth.
- 5. Socio-religious Causes:** Aurangzeb's strict religious policies, particularly his imposition of the jizya tax on non-Muslims and his destruction of Hindu temples, alienated the Hindu population, including the Rajputs. The wars with the Sikhs, Marathas, Jats, and Rajputs created internal conflicts and drained the resources of the Mughal Empire.
- 6. Size and Regional Powers:** The vast empire became challenging to govern centrally. Independent states like the Marathas emerged, weakening the Mughal authority.
- 7. Aurangzeb's Deccan Policy:** Aurangzeb's prolonged and costly wars in the Deccan against Bijapur, Golconda, and the Marathas drained the empire's resources and undermined its prestige. The relentless pursuit to exterminate the Marathas forced them to fight in self-defense and encouraged them to take the offensive, crossing the Narmada River and invading the Mughal territories in Northern India.
- 8. Administrative Crisis:** The excessive number of jagirdars created a shortage of land and led to inefficiency within the administrative system. The emperor's authority weakened. However, during the later years of Aurangzeb's reign, the number of jagirdars increased significantly, leading to a shortage of paibaqi land (land earmarked to be given as jagirs)

The Maratha Empire was one of the largest and most powerful Indian empires of the 18th century, which emerged in the wake of the Mughal Empire's decline. Despite their military might, the Marathas could not fill the political vacuum created by the fall of the Mughals due to a number of reasons, which are discussed below:

Lack of Political Unity: The Maratha Empire was not a unified entity, but rather a confederation of semi-independent states that were bound together by a loose system of alliances. The lack of a strong central authority made it difficult for the Marathas to project their power and influence beyond their own territories.

E.g. Feud between Maratha confederation, The Maratha Confederacy was composed of several powerful chiefs who often had their own agendas and priorities

Economic Instability: The Maratha Empire was plagued by economic instability due to the constant warfare and plundering of their territories. This made it difficult for the Marathas to sustain their armies and maintain their infrastructure, which in turn hindered their ability to project their power and influence. As the Maratha lands fell in the rain-shadow area of the western ghats, the area was not very fertile. The Marathas made up for this lack of revenue by organising plundering raids on neighbours. This however was not sustainable in the long run and soon the empire experienced dearth of resources.

Internal Conflicts: The Maratha Empire was riven by internal conflicts and rivalries between various factions and clans, which often led to infighting and the weakening of the central authority. The most notable example of this was the succession struggle that followed the death of **Peshwa Baji Rao I**, which led to a civil war and the fragmentation of the empire. The infighting between the Maratha confederacies gave way for the British involvement in the Maratha affairs. (Treaty of Surat, 1775)

British Expansionism: The Maratha Empire was faced with the formidable challenge of British expansionism, which posed a serious threat to their territorial integrity and sovereignty. The British were able to exploit the weaknesses of the Marathas and gradually expand their influence and control over large parts of India.

Lack of Modernization: The Maratha Empire was slow to adopt modern military and administrative practices, which put them at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the British. The guerilla tactics developed by Shivaji Maharaj and Baji Rao could not be applied in the battles of the northern hinterland where pitched battles were fought.

While the Marathas were undoubtedly a formidable military power, they were unable to translate their military might into a sustained political and economic dominance.

Q.2 Write in brief on the political scenario of Indian subcontinent in the second half of 18th Century And how did the British manage to use the fragmented polity to its advantage?

The second half of the 18th century was a period of significant political upheaval in the Indian subcontinent. The decline of the Mughal Empire had created a power vacuum, and various regional powers were jostling for supremacy. In this advent of European changed the political scenarios of India in later half of 18th century

IMPORTANT TRANSITION WAS

1. Decline of Mughals and other regional power
2. Coming up of Britishers and their expansionist policy

POLITICAL SCENARIO OF INDIAN SUBCONTINENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF 18TH CENTURY:

1. **Decline of Mughals:** The first half of the eighteenth century witnessed the decline of the Mughal empire. By 1740, when the period of our study began, Nadir Shah had laid waste to Delhi. It was the Marathas, not the Mughals, who fought Abdali in 1761. By 1783 the Mughal emperor was a pensioner of the British.
2. **The Emergence of Regional Politics:** Broadly there were three kinds of
 - ♦ states which came into prominence:
 - ♦ the states which broke away from the Mughal empire,
 - ♦ the new states set up by the rebels against the Mughal, and the independent states.

Successor state: During the Mughal era, provincial governors in Hyderabad, Bengal, and Awadh established independent states. The regional picture was very varied. Punjab's economy was disrupted by foreign invasions but Awadh experienced economic growth. Safdar Jang, Nawab of Awadh, on his accession paid Rs. 3 crores to Nadir Shah. A stable polity developed in Awadh on the basis of economic prosperity while the states set up in Punjab collapsed.

HYDERABAD:

The death of Nizam-ul-Mulk in 1748 marked the closing of a glorious first chapter in the history of Hyderabad. It had started with the foundation of the state in 1724 by Nizam-ul-Mulk, a prominent noble at the time the Sayyids controlled the court at Delhi. He assisted Mohammed Shah in deposing the Sayyids and in return was given the office of Subadar of the Deccan.

But his death in 1748 exposed Hyderabad to the machinations of the Marathas and later the foreign companies: The Marathas invaded the state at will and imposed Chauth upon the helpless inhabitants. Nizam-ul-Mulk's son, Nasir Jang and grandson, Muzaffar Jang, entered into a bloody war of succession. The French under Dupleix used this opportunity to play off one group against the other and supported Muzaffar Jang, who gave them handsome monetary and territorial rewards.

BENGAL:

The rule of the Nawabs of Bengal was marked by practical independence while still acknowledging allegiance to the Mughal power in Delhi. Murshid Kuli Khan, Shuja-ud-din, and Alivardi Khan successively held power. The Bengal rulers did not discriminate on religious grounds and allowed Hindus to hold significant positions in the Civil Service and lucrative

zamindaris. They maintained strict control over foreign trading companies like the British East India Company. However, their weak army and underestimation of the British threat led to their defeat at the Battle of Plassey in 1757, signaling a new phase in British-Indian relations.

AWADH:

Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk gradually secured the independence of Awadh after his appointment as Governor in 1722. The main problem in Awadh was posed by the zamindars who not only refused to pay land revenue but behaved like autonomous chiefs with their forts and armies. Saadat Khan subdued them and introduced a new land settlement which provided protection to the peasants from the zamindars. The Jagirdari system was reformed and jagirdar is granted to the local gentry, who were also given positions in the administration and army. A "regional ruling group" emerged, consisting of Shaikhzadas, Afghans and sections of the Hindus.

THE NEW STATES

The second group of regional states were the 'new states' or 'insurgent states' set up by rebels against the Mughals-the Marathas, Sikhs, Jats and Afghans.

MARATHAS:

During the 18th century in India, the decline of the Mughal Empire and the rise of colonial rule were prominent themes. Concurrently, the Marathas emerged as a significant regional power, with Balaji Rao (Nana Saheb) as Peshwa from 1740 to 1761. Under his leadership, Maratha power reached its pinnacle, expanding beyond territories uncertainly held by the Mughals. They conquered vast regions, including Hyderabad, Bengal, Orissa, and parts of Central India, effectively integrating them into the Maratha empire.

INDEPENDENT STATE:

- **MYSORE:** The mid-18th century witnessed the emergence of Mysore as a significant power in South India. Haidar Ali laid the foundations of Mysore's power, which were consolidated by his able son an expansionist at heart, Haidar naturally clashed with other powers in the region, the Marathas, Hyderabad and the new entrants in the game, the British. In 1769 he inflicted a heavy defeat on British forces very close to Madras. With his death in 1782, his son Tipu became Sultan and extended his father's policies Further.
- **Kerala:** The three states of Cochin, Travancore and Calicut together comprised the present state of Kerala. The territories of a large number of chiefs and rajas had been incorporated into these states by 1763. But the expansion of Mysore proved destructive for the stability

THE BRITISH EFFECTIVELY USED THE FRAGMENTED POLITY OF INDIA TO THEIR ADVANTAGE BY IMPLEMENT-ING SEVERAL STRATEGIC POLICIES:

- **Divide and Rule:** The British exploited internal divisions among Indian rulers and regions to prevent unified resistance against their rule. They played one ruler against another, creating alliances with some and isolating others.
- **Doctrine of Lapse:** The British policy of "Doctrine of Lapse" allowed them to annex Indian states whose rulers died without a natural heir or adopted heir, even if the adoption was valid under Indian law. This policy led to the annexation of several princely states and increased British control over the Indian territories.
- **Subsidiary Alliances:** The British entered into subsidiary alliances with Indian princely states. Under this policy, the Indian rulers were forced to accept British military protection and cede control over their foreign affairs, effectively making them subordinate to the British.
- **Economic Policies:** The British introduced economic policies that served their interests. They exploited Indian resources, levied heavy taxes, and established monopolies, leading to the drain of wealth from India to Britain.
- **Modernization of Military:** The British developed a modern and powerful military force, equipped with advanced weaponry. This military superiority allowed them to easily defeat and subdue fragmented Indian states and expand their control.

Through these policies and strategies, the British took advantage of the political fragmentation in India, weakened local rulers, and gradually established their dominance over the Indian subcontinent.

WEEK 2

DAY-4

Q.1 Highlighting the importance of Arctic and Antarctic regions on global weather, Discuss the impact of climate change on these regions and the subsequent consequences.

The Arctic and Antarctic regions, though remote and harsh, wield significant influence on global weather patterns and climatic systems. Their impacts ripple far beyond their frozen landscapes, shaping weather phenomena and climate dynamics in various ways.

Importance of Arctic and Antarctic region:

Temperature Regulation:

- ♦ The polar regions act as Earth's thermostats, cooling the atmosphere and influencing the distribution of temperature gradients.
- ♦ Their extreme cold helps establish temperature contrasts that drive atmospheric circulation and wind patterns.

Oceanic Currents:

- ♦ The melting ice and freshwater input from melting glaciers influence ocean salinity and currents.
- ♦ Changes in the circulation of the North Atlantic Ocean driven by melting Arctic ice can impact regional and global climate patterns.

Jet Streams:

- ♦ Polar jet streams, high-altitude winds, are influenced by temperature differences between polar and lower-latitude regions.
- ♦ The position and strength of these jet streams impact weather patterns, storm tracks, and the movement of weather systems.

Sea Ice Albedo Effect:

- ♦ The reflective nature of ice-covered surfaces, known as albedo, affects the amount of solar energy absorbed by the Earth.
- ♦ Decreasing sea ice due to warming amplifies warming by reducing the albedo effect, leading to further ice melt.

Global Climate Oscillations: Changes in the polar regions can influence climate oscillations like the Arctic Oscillation and the Southern Annular Mode, impacting weather variability in mid-latitudes.

Rising Sea Levels:

- ♦ Melting ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland contribute to rising sea levels, influencing coastal regions globally.
- ♦ Rising sea levels can exacerbate storm surges and coastal flooding, affecting weather patterns in vulnerable areas.

Weather Extremes: Changes in the polar regions can lead to shifts in atmospheric pressure patterns that influence the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and cold spells.

Feedback Loops: Feedback mechanisms, such as the release of methane from thawing permafrost, can amplify global warming and contribute to climate change.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems: The Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems, though distinct, play roles in global biodiversity and oceanic food chains, which can influence climate through complex interactions.

Impact of Climate Change on Arctic and Antarctic Regions:

Climate change is disproportionately affecting the Arctic and Antarctic regions due to polar amplification, where temperature increases are more pronounced at higher latitudes.

Arctic Region:

- ♦ **Accelerated Warming:** The Arctic is warming at more than twice the global average rate. Rising temperatures lead to earlier ice melt and delayed freeze-up, disrupting traditional ways of life for indigenous communities.
- ♦ **Sea Ice Loss:** Declining sea ice cover affects albedo, amplifying warming by absorbing more sunlight. This leads to a positive feedback loop that accelerates ice melt.

- ♦ **Ocean Circulation Changes:** Melting Arctic ice contributes to freshwater input in the North Atlantic, affecting ocean circulation patterns like the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC).
- ♦ **Ecosystem Shifts:** As ice-dependent species struggle, new species move in, altering Arctic food webs and impacting subsistence hunting for local communities.
- ♦ **Permafrost Thaw:** Thawing permafrost releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which further amplifies global warming and contributes to climate change.

Antarctic Region:

- ♦ **Warming and Melting:** Some parts of Antarctica are warming, leading to ice melt and the destabilization of ice sheets and glaciers.
- ♦ **Ice Sheet Disintegration:** Rapid melting of ice sheets contributes to rising sea levels, posing threats to coastal communities globally.
- ♦ **Ecosystem Changes:** Warmer waters impact marine ecosystems, affecting krill populations and species that depend on them, including penguins and seals.
- ♦ **Sea Level Rise:** Antarctic ice loss is a major contributor to sea level rise, which poses risks to low-lying areas and coastal cities worldwide.
- ♦ **Ocean Acidification:** Meltwater from Antarctica can impact ocean salinity and circulation, influencing ocean acidification and marine life.

Consequences of Changes in Arctic and Antarctic Regions:

- ♦ **Sea Level Rise:** Accelerated melting from both polar regions is causing global sea levels to rise, increasing the risk of coastal flooding and erosion.
- ♦ **Weather Patterns:** Changes in the polar regions can influence jet streams and atmospheric circulation, leading to shifts in weather patterns and extreme events in other parts of the world.
- ♦ **Carbon Feedback:** As permafrost thaws and ice melts, stored carbon is released into the atmosphere, further intensifying climate change.
- ♦ **Biodiversity Loss:** Species that depend on polar environments are facing habitat loss and possible extinction due to changing conditions.
- ♦ **Global Climate Regulation:** The polar regions play a vital role in regulating the Earth's climate, and their rapid changes can disrupt this regulation, affecting the stability of global climate systems.
- ♦ **Impact on Indigenous Communities:** Indigenous communities in the Arctic, such as the Inuit, disrupt their way of life, affecting cultural practices, food security, and overall well-being.

Addressing the impacts of climate change on the Arctic and Antarctic regions is crucial not only for the well-being of local communities but also for the stability of the planet's climate and ecosystems as a whole. International cooperation and efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions are essential to slow down the rapid changes occurring in these critical regions.

Q.2 The Arctic region has assumed greater geopolitical significance in the present context. Discuss.

The Arctic region has recently assumed considerable strategic significance as it has been underlined by the policies enunciated by major powers. The interests and concerns of the Arctic states are vast and varied. India, being an observer in the Arctic Council, has legitimate interests in the region and has, of late, come out with its own Arctic policy. India's Arctic policy notified as a draft document in early January 2021 has come as a shot in the arm for the country's science diplomacy. The policy claims to concur with India's fast expanding scientific-technological power status.

Why does the Arctic Ocean attract political interest from a large number of states?

- ♦ Its geographical location in between three continents – America, Europe and Asia, offering short trade distances - destination as well as transit.
- ♦ Its assumed abundance of strategically important industrial resources and mineral deposits, in particular oil and gas, offers degrees of increasing economic and energy security to the parties taking part in regional resource extractions.
- ♦ Its sea lanes - inside and outside of the region - and its man-induced operational conditions.
- ♦ Its dwindling sea ice regime due to global warming and climate change, offering more easy access to resources and better exploitation conditions in the region.
- ♦ Its unique environmental fragility, vulnerability and eco-systemic interconnections with ecosystems in southern latitudes
- ♦ Its regulatory affinity to existing global ocean conventions, in particular the third Law of the Sea Convention of 1982 (UNCLOS III).

- ♦ The melting of Arctic sea ice due to climate change has opened up new opportunities for resource exploration, shipping routes, and access to previously inaccessible areas. As the ice recedes, it unveils vast reserves of oil, gas, minerals, and fish stocks.
- ♦ The Arctic region is highly vulnerable to climate change, and its impact extends beyond local populations. The potential for oil spills, increased shipping traffic, and other industrial activities raises environmental concerns and calls for international cooperation and governance.



Conclusion:

No doubt, the Arctic is rich in resources (with as much as 13% of the world's undiscovered oil and 30% of its undiscovered natural gas reserves). However, the Arctic has become so sensitive these years and the region is warming far more rapidly than anywhere else on the planet.