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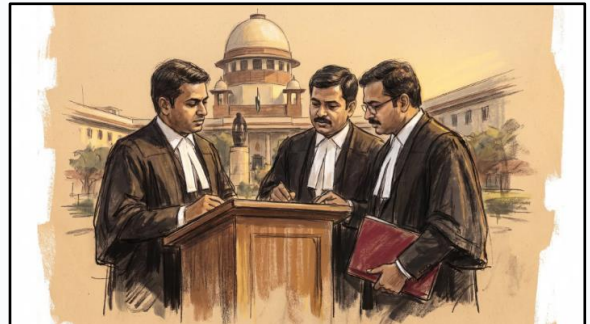
Prelims Test Series

1.1. POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1.1.1. REVIVING AN UNUSED CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

Context

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's observation has revived debate on the unused **"distinguished jurist"** route for Supreme Court appointments, raising concerns over **judicial diversity, the Collegium system, and the balance between legal scholarship and courtroom experience.**



Introduction

The Indian Constitution provides **three eligibility routes** for appointment to the Supreme Court: elevation of High Court judges, direct elevation of experienced advocates, and appointment of a **"distinguished jurist."**

Constitutional Framework for Supreme Court Appointments

1. **Article 124(3)(a)** provides eligibility for a person who has been a **judge of a High Court for at least five years.**
2. **Article 124(3)(b)** provides eligibility for a person who has been an **advocate of a High Court for at least ten years.**
3. **Article 124(3)(c)** provides a third route for a person who, in the **President's opinion, is a "distinguished jurist."**

Thus, the Constitution deliberately created a **broader talent pool** for the Supreme Court by recognising judicial experience, professional legal practice and exceptional legal scholarship as potentially relevant forms of expertise.

Relevant Constitutional Development

1. **The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, temporarily extended the distinguished-jurist concept to High Court appointments,** thereby recognising the possibility of using academic legal expertise beyond the Supreme Court.
2. **The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978, subsequently removed this provision for High Court appointments,** reflecting the continuing debate over the practical suitability of non-traditional candidates for judicial office.

This history demonstrates that the idea of academic participation in judicial appointments has constitutional precedent but has never become an established appointment practice.

Why Was the "Distinguished Jurist" Category Included?

1. Constitutional and Institutional Dimension

- **The provision was intended to widen the talent pool for the higher judiciary** by allowing eminent legal minds outside the conventional judge–advocate pipeline to become Supreme Court judges.

- **The Constituent Assembly recognised that judicial excellence need not arise exclusively from courtroom practice**, as exceptional contributions to jurisprudence and constitutional thought can also come from legal scholarship.

2. Intellectual Dimension

- **Distinguished jurists can contribute specialised knowledge of constitutional theory, jurisprudence, comparative constitutional law, human rights and public law**, which can enrich constitutional adjudication.
- **The growing complexity of modern litigation strengthens the case for specialised expertise**, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence, data protection, environmental law, technology regulation and international law.

3. Diversity Dimension

Opening the judicial appointment process to eminent academics could increase professional and intellectual diversity within the Supreme Court, which is presently dominated by judges and practising advocates.

4. Comparative Dimension

The elevation of Harvard Law professor Felix Frankfurter to the U.S. Supreme Court serves as an example of how distinguished legal scholarship can enrich constitutional adjudication.

Present Status of the Distinguished Jurist Provision

1. **The distinguished-jurist route under Article 124(3) has never been used for appointing a Supreme Court judge**, despite being constitutionally available since 1950.
2. **The higher judiciary has traditionally drawn its members predominantly from High Court judges**, while only a relatively smaller number of practising advocates have been directly elevated to the Supreme Court.
3. **The Constitution does not define the expression “distinguished jurist” or prescribe objective eligibility criteria**, creating uncertainty regarding who qualifies for this category.
4. **The evolution of the Collegium system has further reinforced the traditional judge–advocate appointment pipeline**, with legal academics generally remaining outside the mainstream process.

Arguments in Favour of Appointing Distinguished Jurists

1. Judicial Diversity

- Including distinguished jurists would diversify the professional composition of the Supreme Court beyond the traditional judge–advocate route.
- Greater professional diversity can introduce different approaches to constitutional interpretation, legal reasoning and policy-sensitive adjudication.

2. Constitutional Expertise

- Eminent constitutional scholars may bring deep expertise in constitutional structure, fundamental rights, separation of powers and comparative constitutional jurisprudence.
- Such expertise can be particularly valuable when the Supreme Court is dealing with complex constitutional questions involving emerging technologies, privacy, federalism and institutional accountability.

3. Research-Oriented Adjudication

Academic jurists may strengthen research-based judicial reasoning by bringing extensive experience in legal scholarship, comparative jurisprudence and interdisciplinary analysis.

4. Global Perspective

Exposure to comparative constitutional systems can help the Court evaluate international approaches while developing solutions suited to Indian constitutional conditions.

Concerns Regarding Academic Jurists

1. Lack of Courtroom Experience

A Supreme Court judge must understand procedural law, evidence, appellate practice, case management and litigation dynamics, which may not be adequately acquired through academic work alone.

2. Law in Theory vs Law in Practice

A scholar may possess exceptional theoretical knowledge but may have limited experience in applying legal principles to disputed facts and competing claims.

3. Judicial Effectiveness

Academic excellence by itself cannot automatically establish suitability for judicial office, because judicial competence also requires practical judgment, decisiveness and the ability to manage adversarial proceedings.

4. Risk of Excessive Theoreticalism

An excessively theoretical approach could potentially distance judicial reasoning from the practical realities faced by litigants and lower courts.

Way Forward

1. The Categorical definition

Transparent and broad-based criteria should be developed to identify a "distinguished jurist," while avoiding an excessively rigid definition that defeats the purpose of Article 124(3)(c).

2. Broaden the Talent Pool

The judicial appointment process should actively consider exceptional legal scholars, constitutional experts and specialists in emerging fields of law where their expertise can contribute to constitutional adjudication.

3. Ensure Practical Competence

Academic distinction should be assessed alongside practical exposure to litigation, adjudication, public institutions, law reform or other relevant legal processes.

4. Strengthen Academia–Judiciary Linkages

Greater institutional interaction between courts, universities and legal research institutions can facilitate judicial research, constitutional scholarship and evidence-based adjudication.

5. Improve Collegium Transparency

The identification and consideration of distinguished jurists should follow transparent and reasoned procedures while preserving the independence of the judiciary.

Conclusion

- The **“distinguished jurist” provision under Article 124(3)** represents an important but unused constitutional avenue for diversifying the Supreme Court. Its activation need not imply replacing experienced judges or advocates; rather, it can **complement existing expertise with specialised legal scholarship**.
- The larger objective should be to create a judicial appointment system that combines **merit, independence, diversity, constitutional vision and professional competence**.

Q. Why has the “distinguished jurist” provision under Article 124(3) remained unused? Discuss its significance for judicial appointments. **10 marks**

1.2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1.2.1. INDIA’S CENTRAL ASIA OUTREACH

Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s **August 29–September 1, 2026 visit to Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic** comes at a time when Central Asia is emerging as a critical arena of **India-China strategic competition, connectivity politics, energy security and post-Afghanistan regional security**.

Introduction

Central Asia is India’s **extended neighbourhood** and a strategic bridge between South Asia, Russia, China and Europe. India’s engagement seeks to combine **security, connectivity, energy, economic interests and civilisational diplomacy** while maintaining strategic autonomy.



Evolution of India–Central Asia Relations

- **Post-1991 (Initial Engagement):**
 - India promptly recognized the independence of all five Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) following the Soviet dissolution.
 - Early diplomatic efforts centered on establishing missions, conducting goodwill visits, offering technical assistance, and fostering cultural ties.
- **The 2000s (Phase of Limited Engagement):**
 - Bilateral relations stagnated due to geographical barriers, weak regional connectivity, and low economic engagement.
 - India’s strategic focus was diverted toward South Asia, major global powers (US, Russia, EU), and implementing domestic economic reforms.
- **2012 (The Strategic Pivot):**
 - India launched the **“Connect Central Asia Policy”**.
 - This framework aimed to comprehensively deepen political, economic, security, and cultural cooperation.

- **2015 (Assertive Outreach):**
 - India initiated a highly assertive diplomatic phase, undertaking comprehensive outreach to all five Central Asian nations to signal a renewed and stronger political prioritization.
- **2019 & 2022 (Institutionalization):**
 - Relations were officially institutionalized with the launch of the **India–Central Asia Dialogue** in 2019.
 - The relationship reached a strategic peak with the first **India–Central Asia Summit** in 2022, creating a structured, high-level platform dedicated to advancing regional connectivity, security, and trade.

Significance of Central Asian Region for India

1. **Geostrategic significance:** Central Asia comprising **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** occupies a pivotal location between Russia, China, Afghanistan, Iran and the Caspian region, making it vital for India's continental strategy.
2. **Extended neighbourhood:** India considers Central Asia its "**extended neighbourhood**", complementing its maritime engagement in the Indo-Pacific with a stronger continental presence.
3. **Strategic competition:** The region has emerged as an arena of competition among **China, Russia, Türkiye, Iran, the EU and India**, making sustained Indian engagement important for preserving strategic space.
4. **Countering excessive Chinese influence:** China's expanding **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** presence makes deeper Indian engagement necessary to prevent excessive dependence of Central Asian states on a single external power.
5. **Strategic autonomy:** India's objective should not be limited to countering China but should involve offering Central Asian countries credible alternatives in **connectivity, technology, healthcare, education and capacity building**, consistent with India's policy of strategic autonomy.
6. **Afghanistan and regional security:** Instability in Afghanistan creates risks of **terrorism, radicalisation, narcotics trafficking and cross-border extremism**, making Central Asia important for India's security interests.
7. **Counter-terrorism cooperation:** Cooperation with Central Asian states can strengthen intelligence-sharing and collective action against **ISIS-K and other extremist networks** threatening the wider region.
8. **Critical minerals and uranium:** Central Asia possesses significant **uranium and strategic mineral resources**, particularly Kazakhstan, making the region relevant to India's **energy security and critical-mineral strategy**.
9. **INSTC:** The **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** can connect India with Iran, the Caspian region, Russia and Central Asia, thereby strengthening India's Eurasian connectivity.
10. **Chabahar–INSTC integration:** Greater integration of Chabahar with the INSTC can reduce transportation barriers and improve the commercial viability of India's engagement with Central Asia.
11. **Ashgabat Agreement:** India's participation in the **Ashgabat Agreement** provides another framework for developing multimodal transport connectivity with Central Asian countries.

Importance of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

1. **Institutional platform:** India became a full member of the **SCO in 2017**, providing an institutional mechanism to engage Central Asia, Russia and China simultaneously.
2. **Central Asian outreach:** The SCO provides India with an important multilateral platform for sustained engagement with the **Central Asian republics**, complementing bilateral diplomacy.
3. **Counter-terrorism:** The organisation provides a platform for cooperation against **terrorism, separatism and extremism**, which is particularly important in the context of Afghanistan and extremist networks.
4. **Afghanistan:** The SCO enables India to participate in regional discussions on **Afghanistan's security situation**, particularly its implications for terrorism, radicalisation and regional stability.
5. **Engagement with Russia and China:** The organisation allows India to engage both **Russia and China within the same institutional framework**, supporting dialogue while managing strategic competition.
6. **Strategic autonomy:** Participation in the SCO strengthens India's **multi-alignment and strategic autonomy** by preventing its Eurasian engagement from becoming dependent on any single major power.
7. **Connectivity:** The SCO provides a platform for discussing **regional connectivity and economic cooperation**, complementing India's bilateral initiatives such as Chabahar and the INSTC.
8. **2026 Bishkek Summit:** Prime Minister Modi's participation in the **26th SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek** reinforces India's renewed engagement with Central Asia and the wider Eurasian region.
9. **SCO+ format:** The expanding **SCO+ format** provides India an opportunity to engage a broader group of Eurasian and regional actors and strengthen its multilateral diplomacy.
10. **Managing geopolitical competition:** The SCO allows India to maintain dialogue with China and Russia even amid geopolitical differences, thereby supporting **conflict management and diplomatic engagement**.

Major Challenges for India

1. **Connectivity deficit**
 - The absence of direct land connectivity through Pakistan remains the biggest obstacle to expanding India-Central Asia trade.
2. **Chinese economic dominance**
 - China has greater geographical proximity, financial resources and infrastructure presence, making it difficult for India to compete purely through large-scale infrastructure investment.
3. **Limited economic scale**
 - Despite political goodwill, India's trade with Central Asian states remains below its potential because of **high transportation costs, limited connectivity and inadequate private-sector penetration**.
4. **Russia's continuing influence**
 - Russia retains substantial historical, military and economic influence in Central Asia.
 - India must therefore deepen engagement without being perceived as attempting to displace Moscow.

5. Regional instability

- Afghanistan, terrorism, extremism, border disputes, water disputes and political instability can affect the region's economic integration.

Way Forward

1. Make connectivity commercially viable

- India should accelerate the integration of **Chabahar–INSTC–Central Asian transport networks** and focus on reducing logistics costs rather than merely announcing corridors.

2. Move from diplomacy to economic delivery

- High-level visits should translate into **business-to-business partnerships, investment projects, banking mechanisms and easier trade procedures**.

3. Build critical-mineral partnerships

- India should establish long-term supply chains for **uranium and critical minerals** through investment, technology partnerships and processing cooperation.

4. Strengthen digital diplomacy

- India can offer Central Asian countries cooperation in **UPI-like payment systems, digital identity, fintech, e-governance and digital public infrastructure**.

5. Expand security cooperation

- Intelligence-sharing, counter-terrorism training, cyber-security cooperation and joint exercises should be strengthened to address threats emanating from Afghanistan.

6. Leverage civilisational soft power

- India should expand **Buddhist, Sufi, educational, cultural and tourism diplomacy** to build deeper societal connections.

9. Use SCO strategically

- India should utilise the SCO to promote a **rules-based, terror-free and economically connected Eurasian region**, while resisting attempts to turn the organisation into an instrument of bloc politics.

10. Institutionalise Central Asian engagement

- India should move from episodic summit diplomacy towards **regular India-Central Asia institutional mechanisms**, with measurable targets for trade, connectivity, investment, education and security.

Conclusion

India's Central Asian strategy must evolve from **high-level diplomatic outreach to sustained economic and strategic delivery**. By combining connectivity, critical-mineral partnerships, counter-terrorism, digital cooperation and civilisational diplomacy, India can secure its interests while respecting Central Asia's strategic autonomy.

Q. Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs), highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. **15 Marks**

1.3. SOCIAL JUSTICE

1.3.1. DECODING THE CREAMY LAYER CONUNDRUM

Context

The **Supreme Court** is reviewing the Centre's plea regarding the March 11 judgment on the **OBC creamy layer exclusion criteria**. The Centre argues that retrospective implementation of the **income/wealth test** from 2012 is extremely difficult and will cause a severe **cascading effect** across all civil service allocations, including the **Unreserved category**.



Introduction

The **creamy layer** concept emerged from the 1992 **Indra Sawhney** judgment to exclude privileged OBCs from reservation benefits. Recent judicial scrutiny highlights arbitrary interpretations by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, emphasizing the urgent need for equitable policy application between government and private/PSU employees to uphold the right to equal opportunity.

About Creamy Layer of OBC

The Creamy Layer refers to the **wealthier and better-educated segment** within the OBC category. These individuals are considered **socially advanced** and are subsequently excluded from reservation benefits in public jobs, education, and government welfare schemes meant for socially and educationally backward classes.

Eligibility Criteria for Creamy Layer (As of 2026)

- **Income Limit:** Annual family income exceeds **₹8 lakh**.
- **Categories Included:** Individuals holding **constitutional posts**, **Group A/Class I** and **Group B/Class II** government officers, **PSU employees**, professionals, businesspersons, and property owners.
- **Service-Based Criteria:** Children of Group A officers or those promoted to Group A before the age of 40. Similarly, if both parents are Group B direct recruits, their children are excluded.
- **Armed Forces Personnel:** Officers holding ranks above **Lieutenant Colonel** are classified under the creamy layer.

Non-Creamy Layer of OBC

The Non-Creamy Layer refers to the **economically and socially backward segment** of OBCs. This specific group genuinely qualifies for affirmative action and reservation benefits in education, employment, and targeted government schemes.

Eligibility Criteria for Non-Creamy Layer:

- **Income Limit:** Annual family income is strictly **less than ₹8 lakh**.
- **Employment Status:** Parents are not employed in **senior government posts** or high-earning private positions.

- **Certification Requirement:** Must officially obtain a **Non-Creamy Layer Certificate** to avail of reservation quotas.

Difference Between Creamy Layer and Non-Creamy Layer of OBC

The classification ensures an equitable distribution of reservation benefits. While SC/ST categories do not have a creamy layer restriction, OBCs are distinctly divided.

Aspect	Creamy Layer of OBC	Non-Creamy Layer of OBC
Eligibility for Reservation	Not eligible	Eligible
Annual Income Limit	Above ₹8 lakh	Below ₹8 lakh
Social Status	Economically and socially advanced	Economically and socially backward
Government Job Criteria	Parents in Group A/Group B jobs	Parents in lower categories or unemployed
Purpose of Classification	To exclude affluent OBCs from benefits	To provide benefits to the truly backward
Proof Required	No certificate needed	Must obtain a Non-Creamy Layer Certificate

Significance of the Supreme Court Ruling on the Income Test

1. Rectifies Hostile Discrimination

- Eliminates arbitrary treatment by ensuring OBC candidates with parents in **PSUs or the private sector** are not evaluated differently from those in government services.

2. Clarifies the 'Residual Filter' Concept

- Validates the **1993 Office Memorandum (OM)**, establishing that the **income/wealth test** must strictly act as a residual filter, explicitly leaving out salaries and agricultural income.

3. Protects Deserving Aspirants

- Prevents the unjust denial of reservation benefits to eligible candidates based solely on **gross parental income**, securing the rights of at least 50 candidates wrongfully excluded since 2015.

4. Upholds Constitutional Equality

- Ensures that similarly placed individuals are evaluated using **uniform metrics**, preventing equals from being treated unequally under the law.

5. Resolves Policy Ambiguities

- Invalidates the conflicting interpretations arising from the **2004 DoPT letter**, restoring the original intent of the exclusion criteria and standardizing non-government employment evaluations.

Challenges in Implementing the Supreme Court Directives

1. Retrospective Administrative Burden

- Revising settled **Civil Services Examinations (CSE)** allocations back to 2012 poses severe logistical nightmares and disrupts established bureaucratic frameworks.

2. The "Cascading Effect" on Seniority

- Adjusting existing service strengths by creating **supernumerary posts** will alter **seniority lists** and negatively impact promotional avenues for all candidates, including the **Unreserved category**.

3. Risk of Elite Capture

- The Centre argues that ignoring salary income entirely might allow highly affluent OBC candidates (e.g., parents earning up to **₹1 crore**) to exploit non-creamy layer status.

4. Disruption of Ongoing Recruitment

- Over **950 recommended candidates** for **CSE 2025** face immediate uncertainty, as their Foundation Course allocations were based on the older income test interpretation.

5. Surge in Judicial Litigation

- The March 11 judgment has triggered **22 new court orders** and **12 fresh cases** from previously unrepresented candidates, complicating final allocations and increasing the judicial burden.

6. Absence of Post Equivalence Data

- The foundational delay in establishing equivalence between **Central/State PSUs** and regular government services leaves the DoPT without a concrete metric to evaluate non-government dependents.

Way Forward

1. Establish Post Equivalence Urgently

- The government must immediately finalize the **equivalence of posts** between PSUs, the private sector, and government services to remove the core ambiguity in the income test.

2. Explore Prospective Application

- To protect the settled seniority of past civil service batches, the Judiciary and Executive should consider applying the ruling **prospectively** to safeguard existing administrative structures.

3. Revise Income Criteria Comprehensively

- Formulate a nuanced **wealth test** that balances the exclusion of basic salaries while introducing caps to prevent **elite capture** by extremely high earners.

4. Enhance Inter-Ministerial Coordination

- Establish synergy between the **DoPT** and the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to formulate a unified, discrimination-free policy on reservations as per the Allocation of Business Rules.

5. Formulate a Clear Judicial Roadmap

- The newly constituted **Supreme Court Bench** must provide a precise, **step-by-step implementation guide** to aid the DoPT in navigating the current administrative gridlock.

6. Conduct Stakeholder Consultations

- Engage legal and administrative experts to systematically address the grievances of newly filing candidates without collapsing the **unreserved category** structure.

7. Fast-Track Redressal for Excluded Candidates

- Develop a dedicated, time-bound committee to review the claims of the 50 petitioners and the 12 new applicants to ensure rapid, targeted relief without disrupting the broader service grid.

Conclusion

Balancing **constitutional equality** with **administrative stability** remains paramount. A pragmatic policy resolution is essential to ensure that affirmative action reaches the truly marginalized **OBC segments** without destabilizing the foundational hierarchy of India's civil services.

Q. "The Supreme Court's mandate on the **OBC creamy layer income test** attempts to rectify '**hostile discrimination**,' yet poses severe administrative challenges. Analyze the complexities and suggest measures to balance **constitutional equality** with **administrative feasibility**." 15 Marks

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Prelims Test Series

2.1. ECONOMY

2.1.1. THE GDP PARADOX: STATISTICAL INTEGRITY AND THE QUEST FOR JOB-LED GROWTH

Context

The government reported a strong 7.8% GDP growth for the first quarter. A controversy started when it was claimed this growth was artificially boosted by mixing data from the old base year (2011-12) with the new one (2022-23). However, this claim is mathematically incorrect.



Introduction

A transparent statistical system is the bedrock of effective policymaking. While updating the GDP base year is a routine and necessary step to capture true economic realities, such transitions must be methodologically clear. For India, ensuring the integrity of national data is crucial not just for good governance and maintaining global trust, but also for diagnosing and addressing core developmental challenges like jobless growth.

Why there is a Change in Base Year?

A base year sets a fixed price level to help measure *real* economic growth without the distraction of inflation. Globally, base years are updated every five years to include new businesses (like the digital economy) and changing consumer habits. Shifting to the 2022-23 base year was a much-needed step to keep India's GDP estimates accurate and relevant.

Why the Data Manipulation Claim is Wrong

The claim that actual growth was just 2.6% is mathematically flawed.

1. **Wrong Comparison:** It divides new data (2022-23 base) by old data (2011-12 base). Since the two series use completely different data sources, they cannot be compared.
2. **Timeline Proof:** The government lowered the baseline estimates months before the Q1 results were even calculated, proving the numbers were not reverse-engineered to look good.

The Core Issue: Lack of Clear Data Breakdown

While there was no data manipulation, the shift to the new base year created genuine confusion that needs to be addressed:

1. **Unexplained Drop in Value:** The shift to the 2022-23 base year suddenly wiped out roughly Rs 11 lakh crore from previous nominal GDP estimates.
2. **Missing 'Reconciliation Bridge':** The government has not provided a detailed, rupee-by-rupee breakdown explaining *why* this massive drop happened.
3. **Unclear Reasons:** It remains unknown if this reduction is due to newly added data sources, revised tax accounting, or completely new calculation methods.
4. **Broken Data Chain:** The old data series was stopped abruptly. Without a proper overlap, economists are struggling to compare current growth accurately with past years.

Why Accurate GDP Data Matters

1. **Better Policy Making:** Accurate data helps the RBI set the right interest rates and the government plan its budget effectively.
2. **Reflecting the Real Economy:** It brings the informal sector and new-age digital businesses into the official accounting system.
3. **Global Trust & Investment:** Transparent numbers build confidence among foreign investors and rating agencies, boosting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
4. **Fair Resource Sharing:** The Finance Commission relies on accurate national and state income data to distribute taxes fairly among states.
5. **Measuring True Health:** It separates true production growth from fake growth caused purely by rising prices (inflation).

Challenges in Measuring India's GDP

1. **Missing Informal Sector Data:** A massive part of India's economy is unorganized. Their output is often guessed using outdated proxies instead of actual, real-time tracking.
2. **Flawed Calculation Methods:** Older methods sometimes artificially boost manufacturing growth on paper when raw material prices fall, painting an inaccurate picture.
3. **No Historical Comparison:** The new base year was launched without a matched "back-series" (older data recalculated to the new base), making it impossible to compare current growth with past decades.
4. **Politicization of Data:** Economic statistics are often used for political point-scoring, which overshadows real technical and economic discussions.
5. **The Jobless Growth Reality:** High GDP numbers hide a harsh truth—the economy is growing, but it is not creating enough formal jobs for the youth.

Way Forward

1. **Provide Clear Explanations:** The government must release a detailed breakdown explaining the recent downward revisions to build trust among economists.
2. **Release Past Data (Back-Series):** A fully recalculated historical back-series must be published immediately so researchers can analyze long-term trends.
3. **Track the Informal Economy:** Link government surveys with live GST and MSME (Udyam) portals to accurately count the output of small businesses.
4. **Upgrade Calculation Methods:** Shift entirely to advanced methods (double deflation) to prevent the artificial inflation of manufacturing numbers.
5. **Ensure Institutional Freedom:** Give the National Statistical Commission (NSC) the freedom to work independently and stick to fixed, predictable data release dates.
6. **Focus on Jobs, Not Just Output:** Economic policies must shift focus from simply increasing GDP to promoting labor-intensive manufacturing and creating quality jobs.

Conclusion

A credible and independent statistical system is essential for India's developmental goals. While updating the GDP base year is a welcome reform, full transparency is required to resolve methodological doubts and prevent unnecessary controversies. Ultimately, true economic success is

measured not merely by high GDP growth percentages, but by translating those numbers into quality jobs and inclusive development for citizens.

Q. Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015. 10 Marks

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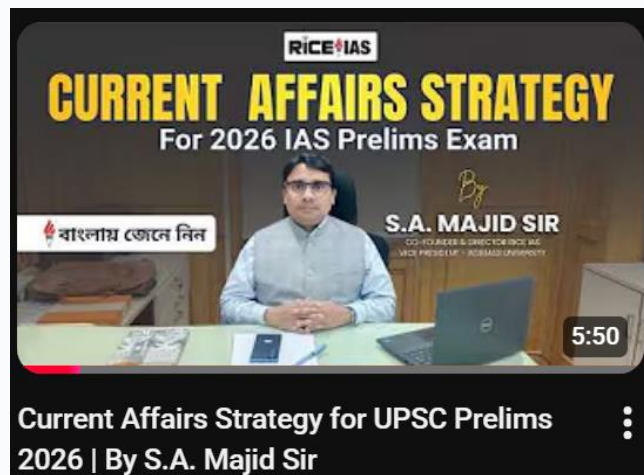
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