

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT - 2025

General Studies Batch 3 (FLT-1) Test - 1 (GS - 1) Test Code - VR1051505	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:	ANITA	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.:	1788652	Email:
UPSC ROLL NO.:	1139938	Submission Date:
MOBILE NO.:		15-07-2025

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

QNo.	Marks	QNo.	Marks	QNo.	Marks
Q1	10	Q8	10	Q15	15
Q2	10	Q9	10	Q16	15
Q3	10	Q10	10	Q17	15
Q4	10	Q11	15	Q18	15
Q5	10	Q12	15	Q19	15
Q6	10	Q13	15	Q20	15
Q7	10	Q14	15	Total	1250

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only

Start Time -	9:00 AM	End Time -	12:00 AM
Mode of Examination	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Offline	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date -		Dispatch date -	

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



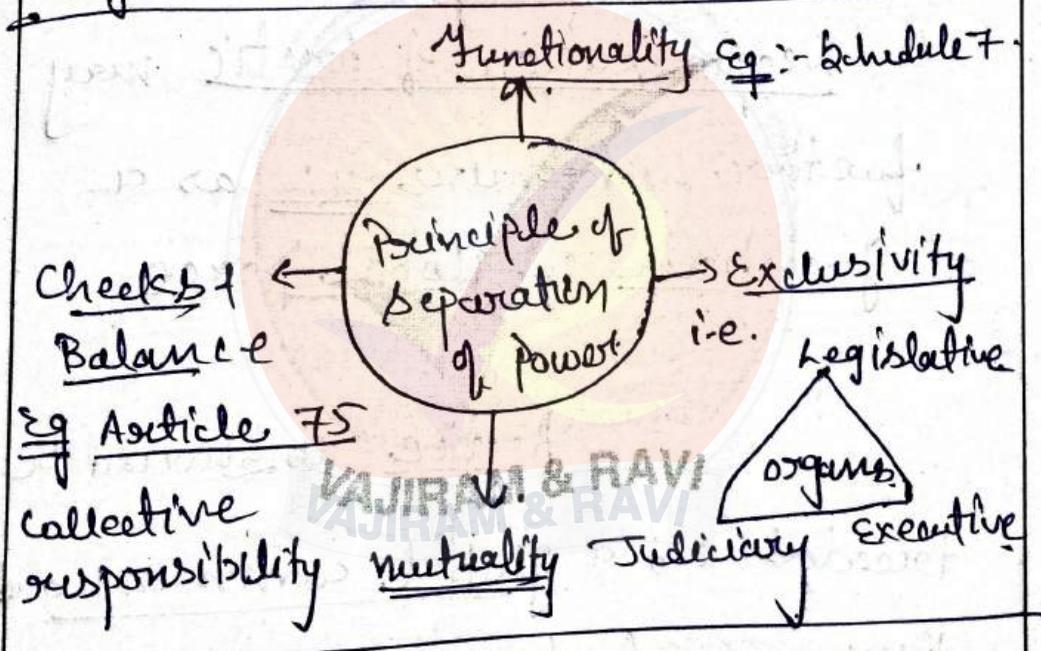
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(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Discuss how the tussle between various organs of the state reflects tensions between the doctrine of separation of powers and the need for checks and balances in Indian democracy. Illustrate with case laws. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans :- Article-50 of Indian Constitution provide for the separation of power as a guiding principle in governance.



Tussle between the various organs :-

↳ Judiciary vs Executive : ongoing tussle on judicial appointment, delay in recommendation of Collegium.

2) Judiciary vs legislature :-

Judiciary filling the legislative vacuum. Eg:- Anoop Barnwal case, court provided for Appointment committee to appoint election commission.

3) Executive vs legislature :-

Eg:- No-confidence motion, checks through question hour.

This reflect the tension between separation of power and checks & balances as.

i) Overlapping of functions

Eg ordinance making power of President (A-123).

ii) checks & balances creating conflict

Eg:- Power of Judicial review.

iii) undermine the constitutive harmony among the organs.

The organs of state cannot function in water-tight compartment, and

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2. "The anti-defection law was envisaged to curb unethical political defection but has ended up centralising power within party leadership". Examine the implications of this trend on federalism and intra-party democracy.

Ans:- (10 marks, 150 words)
 The 52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985, provides ~~the~~ for the defection as a ground for disqualification (Schedule 10).

Anti-defection law

↓
 To curb unethical Political defections

↓
 centralising Power within Party leadership

i) check horse trading in lure of positions.

i) Promote Party Bossism as provide for mandatory obligation by Party whip.

ii) Bring stability to the government.

ii) ↓ deliberative discussion in Parliament.

iii) check the "Aya Ram, Gayer Ram" (Haryana, 1967).

Implications on the federalism and Inter-Party democracy

i) Ruling party at centre overhauling the regional parties → resulting in 2/3rd merger (exception).

ii) Promote the dictatorship within the party.
eg:- Dynastic politics.

iii) Strengthen the chain of hierarchy in the party structure.
eg:- voting as per party decision.

iv) Checks the ideological indifference.
eg:- Resignation from party, a ground for disqualification.

v) Promote wholesale defection leading to party split. eg:- Shinde^{faction} split

Anti-defection is essential for stable government but needs to be reformed in line with recommendation

made of [NERWC] + Pinesh Goswami committee.

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3. Allowing a candidate to be declared automatically elected without facing a poll not only violates the principle of free and fair elections but also strikes at the root of the citizen's fundamental democratic right to support or reject a candidate. Argue.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans:- Originally, the constitution of India provides for nomination of members in Lok Sabha, Raj Sabha as well as in State Assemblies.

Need for Nominated members.

Provides expertise &
eg:- Nominations of APJ Kalam in Raj Sabha.

Space to Art, Literature & Social Services → Promotes diversity.

But it violates the principle of free and fair elections (Part of Basic Structure) and affect the democratic right (Art 324) to elect the representatives.

- as
- i) Against the popular sovereignty.
 - ii) Violates the fundamentals of.

Parliamentary democracy

iii) Frequently used to Park the leaders who are not able to win through direct elections

iv) Against the constitutional morality (ultimate power lies in People).

v) Discretion in appointment.

vi) Dominance of candidates from ruling party: Nominated by President on recommendation of Council of ministers.

vii) Undermine the one person - one vote - one value principle

viii) Reduces the efficiency of Rajyasabha (12 nominated members) as the council of states.

The provision for Nominating members should not be used as a political whim rather as way to ensure diverse representation

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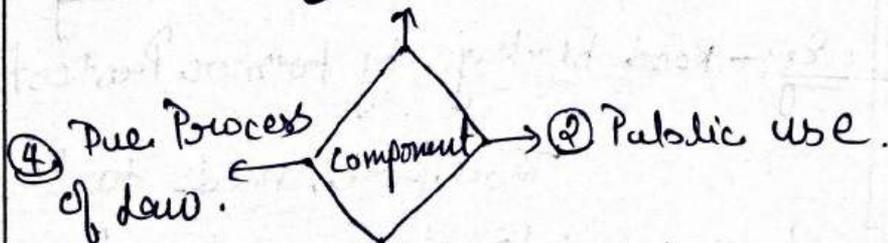
4. "The right to property, although not a fundamental right, its deprivation must still follow due process of law." Discuss the statement in light of the recent Supreme Court's directions on demolition protocols and the principles of natural justice.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans:- Originally, the constitution provided for right to property as fundamental right Art 31 and Art 19(1)(f). It was abolished by 44th amendment and made a legal right under Article 300A.

In the recent Supreme Court Judgement in Public owner Asso. Vs UOI case, SC reiterated the

▷ Doctrine of eminent domain

① Government Authority



Provides the above criteria, to deprive the private property for.

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Public use (Art. 39 (b))

ii) Doctrine of Public trust:- which considers State as a trustee of natural resources and citizen as a beneficiary.

iii) Therefore state must use the public resources responsibly.

iv) In the above case, SC underline that while acting as a welfare state to uphold Art. 39 (b) and (c), state should follow the due process of law.

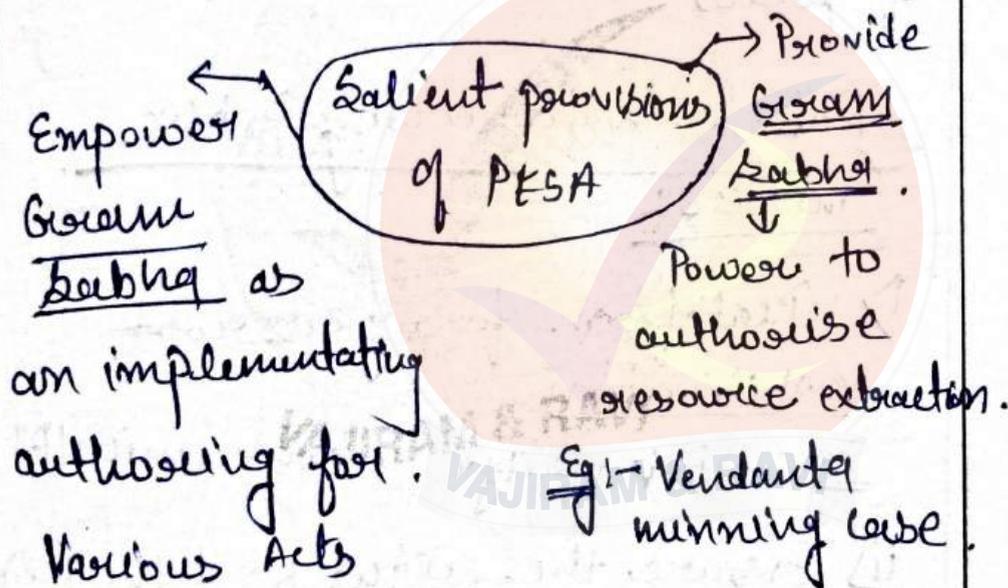
Thus, the judgement reaffirmed that although the right to property is not a fundamental right but executive can not take away this right Arbitrarily, needs to Act responsibly.

5. Despite its transformative intent, the implementation of the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) has remained uneven and inconsistent across states. Comment.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans:- The Panchayat (extension to the Scheduled Area) Act, 1996

provides for the implementation of provision of 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act to Vth schedule areas.



Eg:- Forest rights Act (2006)

However, it has remained uneven and inconsistent across state

↳ limited awareness and therefore low Jans Bhagisakari

i) Reluctance of states in timely formation of Gram Sabha

ii) Overlapping of powers of Gram Sabha with that of Tribal Advisory Council (Schedule 5).

iii) Varying Democratic Attitudes of states.

iv) Challenges of Naval affected areas
→ running the parallel government
eg:- Red corridor.

v) ↑ tribal displacement for the cause of development
eg:- 80% of displaced in the state of Andhra, MP & Chhattisgarh are tribes.

vi) Over Bureaucratization of local functionaries.

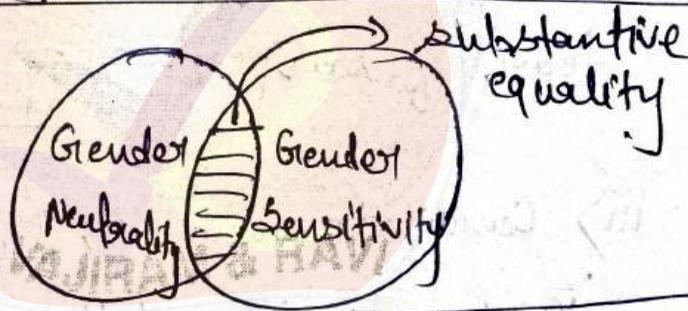
vii) Functions, without finances.

Tribal areas needs to be administered in line with tribal Panchshet

6. How can India reconcile the need for gender neutrality in its legal system to achieve true substantive equality with the demand for gender sensitivity?
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans:

The recent Subramaniam Judgement providing ~~for~~ women, the right to enter in subramaniam temple reflect Gender Neutrality while growing demand for paid menstrual leave reflect gender Sensitivity



- i) Implementation of uniform civil code to ensure women's rights as highlighted in Sarala Mudgal case → driven by gender sensitivity
- ii) Gender neutrality ~~see~~ in legal

System needs to ensure equitable rights.

eg:- Gender neutral definition of rape in Bharatiya Nyay Samhita.

~~iii) Indian legal system is conditionally -~~

iii) To reconcile the both, legal system should be -

① make the crimes gender neutral.

② Bringing the gender sensitivity in the implementation process

eg:- women-specific Juels, one room - one women, etc.

③ uplift the social conscience to perceive the law in its substantive meaning.

7. "The one-size-fits-all approach to policymaking often ignores India's regional heterogeneity". Discuss the implications of centralized governance on state-level autonomy and inclusive development.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans :- The recent efforts of NITI Aayog to review the centrally sponsored scheme and reduce them to 50, is a step towards moving away from "one-size-fits-all" approach.

In this context, there are varied implications of centralized governance on state-level autonomy and inclusive development.

1) Ignore the regional development needs eg:- Protest against three language policy under NEP (TN).

2) Federal supremacy → centrally sponsored schemes divert the state funds.

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- 3) Hampers the regional aspirations
Eg Centrally sponsored schemes in tribal states.
- 4) Reduces the scope for other social welfare schemes due to diversion of fund.
- 5) Violation of principle of subsidiary
- 6) Undermine, constitution separation of function (Art 246, Schedule 7).
- 7) Fq centre-state conflict due to state's denial to implement CSS.
- 8) undermine federalism (Basic structure).

The over-centralisation lead to blood pressure at the centre and anemia at the periphery as noted by Sarkaria Commission

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8. The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) seeks to integrate fragmented pension systems across sectors. Critically evaluate its potential to ensure inclusivity and social security.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans 1-

Unified Pension Scheme

(UPS), recently launched by central government incorporate

Best features of Old Pension scheme + New Pension scheme

Ensure fix minimum monthly pension 10000/- → Apply to all formal workers

→ flexibility to chose
contribution from both employee & government

Potential to ensure inclusivity and social security

→ Provide social security with minimum assured pension

ii) Government contribution to employee's pension.

iii) Apply across the sector.
→ Umbrella Pension Scheme.

iv) Pension depends on the contribution from employee and thus brings Incremental pension into being.

v) Pension to family after the death of employee.

Along with ensuring inclusivity, it also takes into account the burden on Exchequer.

i) Investment of employee contribution into market to earn Profit.
(takes from NPS).

Thus the UPS is mid path balancing the public finance in the best way to achieve Public welfare.

Section	
Pension	
Contribution	

9. The growing focus on multipolarity has kept BRICS relevant in an evolving world order. Examine the strategic significance of BRICS for India and the Global South.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans:

The recent BRICS Summit concluded in Rio (Brazil) emphasising of on Global South. It reflect the multipolarity of BRICS.

(Strategic significant for India)

- i) Support for UNSC reform.
- ii) In line with India's vision of South-South co-operation.
- iii) Complement the India's Voice of Global South Summit.
- iv) Align with the India's vision of multi-polar world.
- v) Address the concern of developing world.

Significant for Global South

i) Theme of 2025 summit was focused on "strengthening the Global South. ~"

ii) Capacity building through south-south co-operation

eg:- New Development Bank of BRICS

iii) Expanded to 9 representation of global south.

iv) Indonesia joined in 2025 as 11th member.

v) Countries like Uganda became partner countries.

vi) Represents the concern of global south eg:- Democratization of global institutions.

BRICS strengthen the

India's leadership as the of Global South

10. Analyze how the recent crisis in Bangladesh impacts India-Bangladesh relations and India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans: - The recent ousting of Shaikh Hasina and the coming of Muhammad Yunus into power impacted the India-Bangladesh relations.

Impact on relations

- i) 'India-out' campaign affecting Indian companies into Bangladesh
- ii) Anti-India sentiment over the issue of Extradition of Shaikh Hasina.
- iii) ↑ minority prosecution in Bangladesh changing Indian attitude.
- iv) Potential refugees or influx complicating North-east safety concern.

vi) Bangladesh's growing closeness to China

Eg:- Dhaka offered Aizhas to Beijing

vii) Bangladesh-Pakistan-China nexus and fear of three front war.

viii) Fear of drug trafficking.

Impacts on Neighbourhood first Policy

i) Bangladesh's hostile attitude towards India hampering ties

ii) Bangladesh reaches to China, neglect the India's efforts under NEP

iii) Thus, the changing ties reflects the need for reconciliating our neighbour diplomatically.

India-Bangladesh relations needs Diplomatic approach rather than hostile one.

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11. The constitutional status of State Election Commissions (SECs) has not translated into real functional independence. Discuss the impact of this institutional weakness on the functioning of local self-governments in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:-

Art 243 - Provides

for the constitution of State Election Commissions responsible for conducting the election in Panchayats and local urban bodies.

Constitutional status of SECs → Not translated into real functional independence as.

- i) removal of State Election Commission by President. → federal supremacy
- ii) Appointment by Executive (Governor) → conflict of interest.
- iii) No independent expertise provided.
- iv) consist of only one election commissioner (unlike ECTS).
- v) Limited power.

Impact on the local self-government

1) Lack of authority with SECs to check corrupt practices.

eg 1 - Prevalence of money & muscle power.

2) Proxy leaders due to lack of continuous accountability.

3) Dominance of identity politics,
→ Prevalence of caste politics.

4) Inability to conduct regular election

eg 1 - Bhopalgarh Panchayat of Rajasthan → without Sarpanch for last five years.

5) Fraudulent candidates as SECs ~~lack~~ lacks the power to regulate regional parties

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- 6) Exclusion and Inclusion occurs in electoral rolls due to poor, ~~skilled~~ logistical infrastructure.
- 7) Undermine the principle of subsidiarity as the local functionaries are overhauled by parallel bodies.
- 8) Jarivocritism to ruling party in state → abuse of power.
- 9) Lack of Inclusion as the people contesting for reserved seats are mere puppets.
Eg! - Sarpanch pati.
- 10) Polit Politics and due to it increasing incidences of violence against them.

As suggested by Grady's Committee, SCCs needs to be empowered to check the grassroot identity politics.

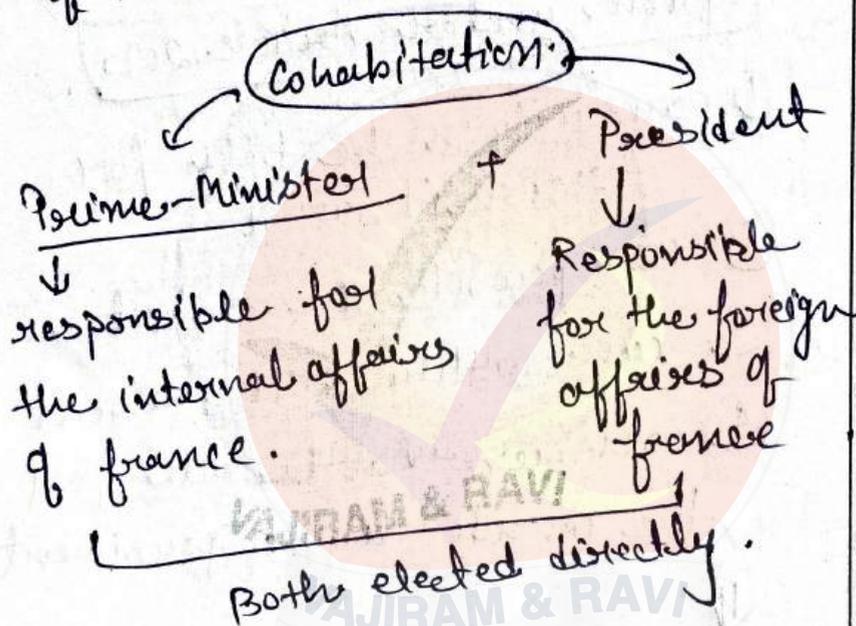
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12. Explain the concept of 'cohabitation' in the French semi-presidential system. Analyse why India's parliamentary system structurally prevents such an arrangement. What lessons, if any, can India draw from the French experience? (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- France Semi-Presidential system provides for both President and Prime-minister as the leaders of the state.



However, Indian parliament system provides for
↳ President as a Nominal head of state.

11) Prime-minister as the real executive power.

In India, the co-habitation in line with France, is not possible as.

I. Constitutional Limitations

1) India follows the British model of Parliamentary system.

2) President equivalent to British monarch.

3) Article 75: Principle of collective responsibility.

4) President as a symbolic head.

II. Contextual Limitations

1) multi-party system → Cohabitation would cause conflict between the both.

2) To maintain consistency in governance, in case of

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dissolution of council of ministers

However, there are lessons which India can draw from France
experience :-

i) Separating internal matter
from foreign diplomacy

ii) In the cohabitation, both heads can have different vision for the nation

Eg :- PM aiming of harmony while president aiming to fore global influence

iii) Mutuality in the separation of power

Thus, French Republic has many lesson to learn. India must wisely adapt what fits its vision of Sovereign Democratic Republic

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13. "Absence of timelines for granting assent under Article 200 enables constitutional subversion." Do you agree? Justify your answer, (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- Article 200 deals with the provision governing the assent of the governor on the bill passed by state legislature.

Options under Article 200

- ① can return the bill for reconsideration
- ② can provide the assent.
- ③ can withhold the assent.
- ④ can reserve the bill for the consideration of president.



Provides for No timelines and this was exploited by governors frequently.

Eg:- Government of Tamil Nadu v/s Governor of Tamil Nadu Case (2025)

Absence of timeline → enables constitutional subversion

Supreme court in above mentioned judgement highlighted.

- i) There is ~~no absolute~~ ^{unfettered} veto in the hands of the Governor.
- ii) using Pocket veto is unconstitutional
- iii) As it violate the popular sovereignty
- iv) Disrupts the constitutional functioning of the state government
- v) Creates fussle between centre and state.
- vi) Encourages combative federalism
- vii) undermine constitutionalism which poses limits on power of various organs.

Therefore, the SC provided the guideline to use Art 200.

- i) The re-enacted bill can't be reserved for presidential consideration
- ii) Governor must ~~give~~ act on the bill within 3 months.
- iii) If reserved for the assent of president → must act within 3 months.
- iv) If more time taken, give a written cause for delay.

In the Indian political structure, Governor plays dual role (i.e. head of the state & agent of state) and hence needs to ensure impartiality in line with recommendation of Sarkaria & Punchhi Commission.

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14. Evaluate the role of the Legal Services Authority in ensuring equal access to legal aid for underprivileged sections of society. What are the key reforms required to enhance its effectiveness? (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- The Legal Service Authority Act, 1987 provides for the free legal aid in line with Art. 39(A)

Role of Legal Services Authority

The Act provide for the various type of legal service authorities (LSAs)

eg:- SC LSAs, District LSAs etc.

Role in ensuring legal aid to underprivileged section

i) Expanded the justice to grassroots levels.

eg:- conducting Lok Adalats

ii) Ensure Right to remedies (Art 32) by spreading awareness.

iii) Strengthen the PIL mechanism

Eg:- Hushainara cartoon case
sought to speedy trial.

iv) Ensure cheaper legal remedy
as the SC trials are quite expensive denying right to justice

v) Improve resolution through Arbitration and Mediation.

vi) Involvement of social workers and civil society organisations in Lok Adalat.

However, there are various issues which limits their scale

i) Poor implementation of Act.
→ eg:- Many states reluctant to conduct Lok Adalat.

ii) Traditional justice delivery

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mechanism (eg. caste Panchayat)
↓ credibility of Lok Adalat.

ii) Low awareness hampers the delivery of Justice.

To Increase its effectiveness

i) need to integrate schemes like Nyaya Bandhu and Nyaya Mitra into Lok Adalat.

ii) Amendment to the Act to provide mandatory legal aid campaign.

iii) Digitise the free legal aid.
eg:- In line with e-govt.

iv) Strengthen APR mechanism through Tele-Justice.

¶ The reforms would shift the free legal aid in India from Vision to Mission mode.

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15. While the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is often seen as the conscience-keeper of Parliament, it faces structural and political constraints. Critically assess the committee's effectiveness in ensuring transparency and accountability in public financial management. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- ~~Pod~~ The Public Account Committee, which reviews the reports submitted by CAG on public expenditure, is the bulwark of public financial management.

Committee's effectiveness in ensuring transparency & accountability

i) PAC has the power to summon the ministers and question them while reviewing the report.

ii) By parliamentary convention, the leader of PAC is from opposition → & held government responsible for the expenditure.

iii) PAC looks into the appropriateness of finances.

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iv) Ministers, Not the members of PAC.
→ ensure independent working of the committee.

v) PAC present reports to the Parliament and strengthen the Parliament's responsibility to hold government accountable.

However, there are various constraints which limits its effectiveness

i) Post-mortem in the nature of functioning.

ii) No in-house expert team to help committees working.

iii) Political unwillingness to expose the government scandals.

iv) Mere recommendatory in nature.

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- v) No legislative backing
- vi) Lacks the power to hold government Accountable.

To improve the functioning of the committee, there are recommendation made by

Parliamentary standing committee

- i) There should be in-house expert team in line with UK.
- ii) Mandatory action taken report on the recommendation of PAC.
- iii) Enable PAC for continuous inspection of government expenditure.

The PAC, although act as a conscience keeper of Parliament. need to strengthen, to become the conscience guardian of public finances.

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16. Digital health is not just a technological solution but a governance imperative. In light of India's initiatives like Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and CoWIN, examine how digital infrastructure can strengthen universal health coverage. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:-

In the era of emerging technologies

- AI
- Blockchain.
- Big data.
- AR/VR.
- Robotics.

these can be leveraged to achieve the goal of Universal health coverage

Digital infra → universal health coverage

i) Provisioning of digital ABHA IDs under Ayushman Bharat digital mission to ensure universal coverage of health insurance.

ii) CoWIN governing the provisioning of vaccines during COVID enabled universal vaccination.

- iii) Reach to remote areas through the initiative like e-Sanjivani.
- iv) Home healthcare services for the elderlies through tele-medicine.
- v) Initiatives like PCT Apps to of institutional deliveries (~89%).
- vi) Digital monitoring of supplies under Anaemia Mukta Bharat.
- vii) To fill the vacuum created by low doctor: Patient ratio.
- viii) Promote Ayushman through digital awareness campaign.
- ix) Reach to tribal areas.
Eg: Platform for reg registration of Sickle cell anaemia.
- x) Bring Inclusivity eg - Transgender coverage under Ayushman Bharat.

- x) Promote medical tourism
Eg:- 1st robotic surgery by India.
- xii) Improved monitoring of Jan Aushadi Kendra & Mohalla clinic.

However, India needs to address various challenges.

i) Digital Apartheid → ~ 30% of Indian are digitally illiterate.

ii) Rural-urban gap due to poor internet connectivity in rural areas.

iii) Cyber-security threat to digital health infrastructure.

India needs to come up with a regulatory framework which enables the India's path to One Health through Digital services.

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17. Does the lateral entry reform in civil services strike the right balance between efficiency and accountability? Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans :- On the recommendation of I & II ARC, In 2017, India came up with the provision for lateral entry at the intermediate & senior level.

Lateral entry to ensure efficiency

i) to bring specialisation into services. Eg:- lateral entry in Tech. areas.

ii) To utilise the experiences from private co-operation into public services

Eg:- In improving quality of service delivery.

iii) To avoid mid-term specialisation of generalised civil servants

iv) holds the principle of meritocracy

With the recent, move over reservation into lateral entry, raised various accountability issues :-

i) Lack of understanding of Public Service as it does not aim at profitability (like in private sector)

ii) Temporary appointment → NO fear of suspension → Poor Accountability

iii) Candidates through lateral entry may not uphold the probity and dignity of the office.

iv) Lack of spirit of a public servant.

v) Violation of the constitutional right to equality (Art 14).

Reforms suggested

i) Some specialised need to be generalised and some generalised need to be specialised

(Hota committee)

ii) Create specialisation into civil servants through mid-term training.
(NITI Aayog)

iii) Reform in like the lateral entry process in UK.

iv) uphold the constitutional provision providing for affirmative action (Art 15(4))

The reforms are needed to strike the fine balance into efficiency and accountability to ensure rule based and rule based lateral entry.

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18. Informal pressure groups often act as early warning systems in democratic societies. Assess their role in safeguarding public interest. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- Informal pressure group refers to the group of people at the grassroot level, which are not registered but plays a vital role in mobilisation of locals.

Role in safeguarding public interest

▷ Platforms for grassroot mobilisation

eg:- Bahukalyan Kishan Union (BKU)

ii) Ensure the rights of the people
eg:- Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) → enactment of RTI

iii) Empower the Democratic Participation
eg:- ADR advocating political rights.

- iv) Raise Public concern through PIL to ensure justice.
Eg:- Common cause vs UOI case.
- v) Protect the vulnerable against social evils.
Eg:- Gulabi gang. protecting the victims of domestic violence.
- vi) Environmental concerns raised by Narmada Bachao Andolan
- vii) Protecting civil liberties.
Eg:- Bachchan Bachao Andolan.
- viii) Expanding the horizon of Justice
Eg:- Naz Foundation working for LGBTQ rights.
- ix) Policy influencing → withdrawal of three farm bill due to farmer protest led by BKU.

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X) Spread awareness about government welfare schemes.

Informal Association as an early warning system.

i) As they reflect the popular conscience of the people.

ii) Lead the people in case of violation of rights.

iii) Represents the unrest among the masses.

This can sometime result into Public unrest, leading to disruption of social harmony.

Eg:- Road blockage by farmer protest.

Therefore, needs to be brought into the regulatory framework balancing the democratic right to dissent with that of larger Public interest.

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19. The India-Russia relationship is rooted in Cold War solidarity but faces strategic inertia in a fast-changing multipolar world. Examine whether this bilateral relationship needs a pragmatic reset. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- In the context, ongoing geo-political tussle and India's efforts of balancing its national interest amid the changing relations impacted India relations with its age-old friend Russia.

India Russia relations rooted in the cold war solidarity

- i) Deepening of ties started with signing the friendship treaty 1971
- ii) Russia, was till very recent, the largest source of weapon import for India.
- iii) Interests converges in central Asia (Backyard of Russia)

iv) Factor deepened with the mutual aim of countering China in post-cold war era.

It faces inertia in the fast-changing multipolar world.

i) India asserting its strategic autonomy.

ii) India growing ties with West seen as team of US.

iii) Russia's growing bond with China.

eg 1 - Russia-China defence deal

iv) India diversifying its defence needs due to precarious supply chain.

eg 1 - INDUS (India-US defence initiative)

In the ongoing era of conflict, pragmatic reset is the need

i) Russia becoming an energy importer into India,

ii) Changing dynamics in central Asia due to
↳ Russia-Ukraine war
↳ Taliban in Afghanistan.

iii) Russia's transactional relation with China

iv) India co-operation with USA to counter China in Indo-Pacific

~~It is~~ ~~the~~ ~~aim~~ of relations need to ~~be~~ ~~from~~ ~~now~~.

The present foreign policy approach of both the countries seem to diverge, but converge fundamentally as both see each other as All weather friends

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20. The evolving "Great Game" in the Arctic has opened new frontiers of strategic competition. Discuss its implications for India's energy security, scientific diplomacy, and multilateral engagement. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans:- The growing co-operation of Russia-china in Arctic sea with the aim to construct North-sea route has opened new frontiers of strategic competition.

Implications on India's Energy Security

- i) Arctic is the sink of hydrocarbon and resource monopoly of china. may threaten future energy security.
- ii) China growing co-operation with Russia in Arctic reduce the influence of India in the ~~sea~~ region.
- iii) Advance chinese tech. have advantage over Indians tech.

Implication on Scientific Diplomacy

- i) China influence may compete with India's ongoing research in Arctic (Himadri)
- ii) Leveraging Russian long coastline China's scientific community has more avenues.

Implication on Multilateral Engagement

- i) Global Common → Just like Antarctica Arctic belongs to all.
- ii) Therefore, the dominance of few hamper the spirit of multilateralism.
- iii) Exploitation of Arctic resource can have lasting impact on global

climate as Arctic is part of Cryosphere

iii) US's influence in Northern Europe makes Arctic a region of geopolitics among Russia, China and the west

v) Weaponisation of Arctic may further undermine UN as a guardian of global peace.

Arctic should be treated as a global common and very crucial to achieve the target under Paris Agreement and Hence, countries should avoid any strategic ~~the~~ war in such a region

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