

General Studies Full Length Test Test - 6 (GS - 2) Test Code - VR1052506	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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UPSC ROLL NO.: <u></u>	Submission Date: <u>7th Aug 2025</u>
MOBILE NO.: <u></u>	

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.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	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	/250

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

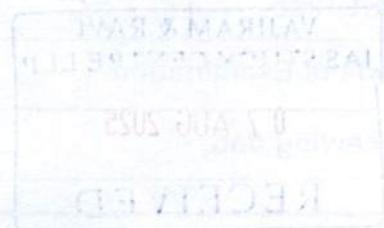
Start Time - <u>10:55</u>	End Time - <u></u>
Mode of Examination - <u>VAJIRAM & RAVI IAS STUDY CENTRE LLP</u>	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date - <u>07 AUG 2025</u>	Dispatch date - <u></u>

RECEIVED

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Understanding Demand of Question				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language and Handwriting				
No. of Questions Attempted				
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No				

Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍

(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)

Montesquieu in his 'Trias Politica' highlights the need of separation of power to ensure mutual checks & balances. However overlapping of power often becomes bone of contention.

Tussle between various organs

① Judicial appointments

↳ Tussle of role of executive in appointment of judges.

↳ Supreme Court in Anoop Baranwal case highlighted need of separation of power.

② Tribunalisation of Justice → P.L. Chandrak

Fumas - highlighted role of Highcourt

③ Rise of influence of Cabinet system in day to day functioning of legislature.

④ Removal / Impeachment of Judges - Recent issue in parliament

Need for checks & Balance

① "Power ought to be checked by power"

② It prevents tyranny of any single institution

③ Constitutional mandate (Article 50)

④ Ensures efficient & Responsible working of institutions

↳ Ram Jawaya Kapoor case → highlighted how separation of power prevents the logjam of institutions

⑤ Helps in Achieving parliamentary democracy where institution is given own responsibility

separation of power is not water-tight in India, It is flexible to ensure mutual relationship and rigid enough to function independently

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Marks:

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.

(10 marks, 150 words)

52nd Constitutional Amendment added 10th schedule, which aimed to prevent defections, under influence of power and money.

however, despite the law, Indian polity has witnessed many defections utilising the loopholes of the law.

Implications of Trend → I on Intraparty democracy

- ① Individual freedom of MP
↳ Curb the voice of MP from raising voice against party line
- ② Party bossism → devalues individual significance
- ③ Makes - Parliamentarian a representative of party than the people
- ④ Intra-party democracy → Tyranny of majority (leads over individual voices)

① On Federalism

① Shift towards centralisation tendency

↳ Declines the relevance of regional aspirations

② Issues of locals gets sidelined over national issues

③ Turns cooperation into conflict - due to less room for diverging views

④ Misinterpretation of dissent with defection

⑤ Focus on Party ideology rather than state interests

As recommended by NCRWC, Anti-defection law must be utilized, only when the defections threaten the stability of government and not when dissent is shown.

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Marks:

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)

Indian Constitution in Article 325, gives equal opportunity for every eligible citizens to take part in election.

Allowing candidate ~~not~~ to be elected violates

① The rule of law, which ensures the free and fair representation of the each individual.

② violates principle of - "subsidiarity with mandate" i.e. Webers - legal rational model

③ ~~cannot~~ give fair opportunity for others.

④ fair playing ground is necessary to ensure integrity of elections.

However, when no opposing candidate is present, Automatic election can be used as last resort

Automatic election hampers the Citizen rights because :-

- No choice of choosing the relevant candidate
 - No option to reject, but to accept the automatically elected candidate
 - Ensuring alternate candidates
 - Facilitating multi stakeholder election
 - Mandate of NOTA
- way forward

The 'Integrity of elections' define the fate of democracy. So, elections should not only be fair but seem to be fair.

Introduction

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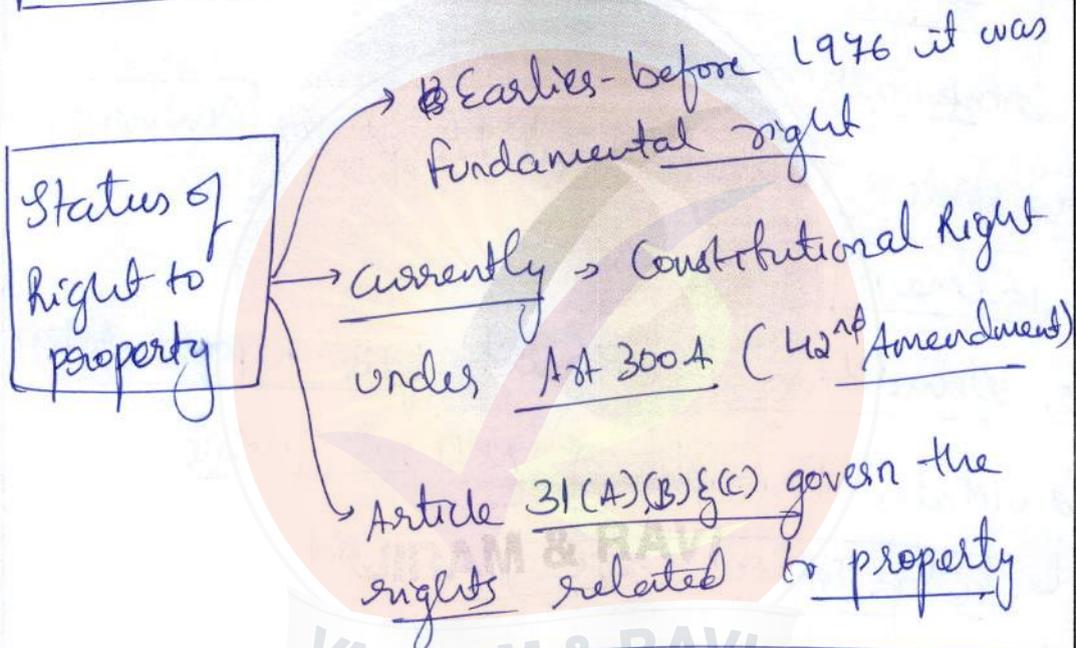
Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

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)

Supreme Court in Maharashtra Property owners association case ruled that, state cannot arbitrarily treat private property as "state wealth".



Deprivation must follow due process of law

① Under Article 39(b) & (c), state cannot deprive citizens of its private property.

② Supreme Court applied Doctrine of Public Trust → To verify the claims of states

③ The acquisition of property to implement DPSP must be backed by - scarcity of land, lack of alternative and fair compensation

④ States cannot treat land as Eminent Domain

⑤ Demolition without fair representation violates Principles of natural justice
↳ Olga Tellis case

So, demolitions, encroachment, seizures and any acquisitions must follow due process of law to ensure administrative action is carried out by Rule of Law and not rule by law.

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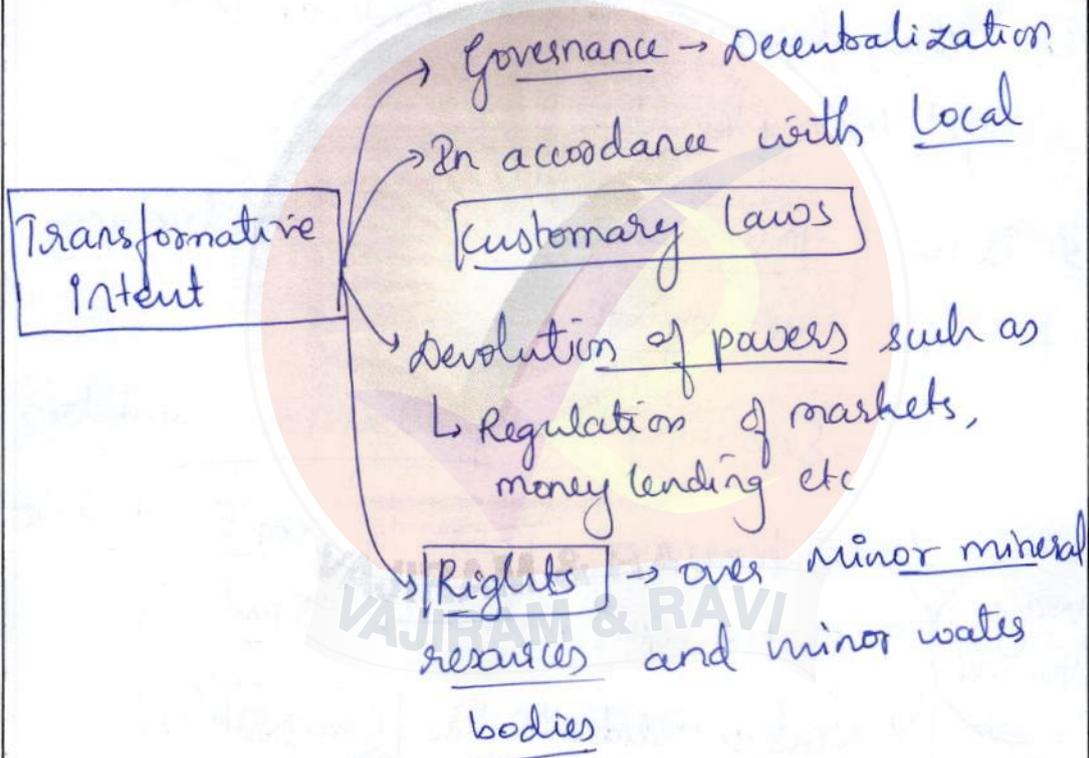
Presentation

Marks:

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)

PESA Act 1996 aimed to extend the local self governments to tribal areas under 5th schedule, which hitherto were excluded from 73rd Amendment.



Uneven & inconsistent implementation

- ① Improper devolution of powers
 - ↳ State governments reluctant to devolve functions enshrined in Act.

- ② financial dependence on states
↳ Hampers Autonomy
- ③ Corruption and misutilization of loopholes
(Ex) Maharaddi coal block case → over 10000 Tribal signatures were forged
- ④ Absence of PESA implementation
(Ex) Tribal dominant states such as Jharkhand yet to implement.

⑤ Issue of mineral resources → Reluctancy to hand over rights

Way forward

- Ensuring Compulsory implementation
- Extension of PESA to non 5th schedule states with Tribals (Ex) Tamilnadu
- NGOs → mediate the Gramsabha role & debates

Need to ~~develop~~ ensure fund devolution PESA, which finds in line with customary laws must be constructive tool to ensure localised governance.

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Marks:

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

Women are historically under-represented in Judicial & legal systems due to various socio-cultural factors in the society, which often leads to the compromisation of "Gender sensitivity".

Current Scenario

- Lack of women in Judiciary
(Ex) 3/33 Judges are women
- Total lawyers → <15% in the entire country
- Gender stereotypic laws & rules
- dominated by male in upper hierarchy

Measures to reconcile the gender sensitivity

① Breaking of Glass ceiling

↳ Promotions based on gender reservation in Judiciary

② Increasing participation of women in lower judiciary

③ Easing of Rules

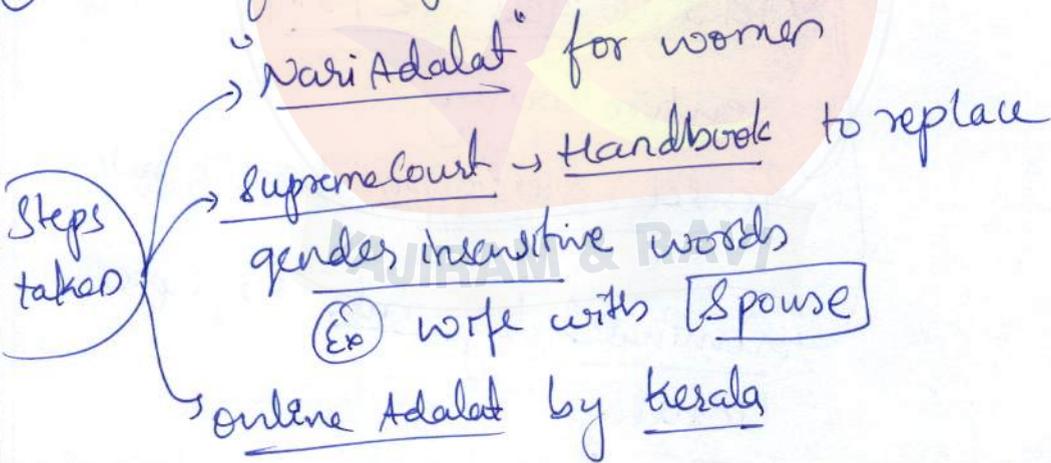
(Ex) To be a judge → There is need of continuous

7 years of practice & age of 35-45

↳ hampers the potential, due to provisional & gender based rooms

④ Stereotyping → must be eliminated from all the strata of hierarchy

⑤ women friendly workplace



Women's Gender neutrality in legal

system is precursor to achievement of SDG 5

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Marks:

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)

India is mosaic of multiple cultures, ethnicity, geographic diversity, which often corresponds to varying demands of governance. This ~~homog.~~ Heterogeneity requires Bottom-up approach.



Implications

- ① Decline of state level autonomy
↳ states don't find "policy space"
- ② Acceptability → often rejected due to mismatch between demands and benefits provided.

② Policy deadlock → states may hesitate to implement

④ Judicial intervention & further delay

of process:-

(Ex) States went to supreme court in opposition to 97th Amendment

⑤ Do not cater to local demands

(Ex) Hill Areas → Need Basic Health & Infra
Cities/Urban Areas → Waste management, -

⑥ Homogenous policy → ineffective allocation of funds

Steps taken → Cooperative federalism
(Ex) Niti Aayog
5th schedule & 6th schedule

→ Special Assistance to Hill Areas

→ Reduction of Centrally sponsored schemes from 100% to 75%

Bottom up approach represents the need of locals & make them active partners -

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Marks:	

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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)



(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)



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Marks:	

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)

BRICS is originally a group of 5 developing countries, has now expanded to countries such as Egypt, Saudi etc, which highlights its importance

Relevance in evolving world order

- Platform for developing countries
- An alternative for US dominated world order
- Platform for Russia, China & India
- Cooperation
- Represents Global South

Strategic significance

- ① For India
- ① Medium to cooperate with China & resolve bilateral disputes

- ② Strengthen South-South cooperation
 - ③ Acts as - Bargaining power against USA's Tariffs
 - ④ collective representation of interests for rule based world order
 - ⑤ Europe - Rupee based trade to internationalise rupee → to escape tariffs
 - ⑥ for Global South
 - ① Collective voice against USA & global west
 - ② Platform - to demand reform of the institutions
 - ③ dedollarization of economy → to diversify the global currency system
- However, the intra fruits of BRICS could only be realised, through intra-BRICS
- Convergence of interests and aspirations.

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

Recent crisis of Bangladesh has made significant changes in Bilateral Relations, which have been cause of concern in neighbourhood first policy.

Impact on India-Bangladesh relations

- ① Stained bilateral relations
- ② Suspension of "Transit facility" for Bangladesh
- ③ Enhanced partnership between China-Pak & Bangla.
↳ Security concerns
- ④ Impact on Northeast → Port access to India was under threat
- ⑤ Minority persecution → human rights violations
- ⑥ Trade → India is Bangladesh's largest

Trading partner in South Asia

↳ It may take hit

⑦ Illegal migrants → demographic shift

Impact on neighbourhood first policy

① 'First Responder' to the crisis → Rejected

by the Bangladesh

② Asylum to Prime Minister was seen as 'violation of rights'

③ Impact on bilateral relation.

④ May have spill over impact on other

neighbours

⑤ Pakistan

India & Bangladesh should resolve disputes bilaterally, independent

of 'Internal dynamics' to ensure

regional peace & integrity.

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Marks:

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)

Article 243K provides for office of State Election Commission (SEC), which has responsibility to conduct Panchayat and Urban local bodies election.

Constitution of SEC has not translated into real functional independence because

① Politicization of local governance
↳ Parties involving in Panchayat elections often leads to conflict & deadlocks

② Lack of Power Devolution
↳ As compared to the Central Election Commission, which has constitutional & judicial mandate

③ Frequent elections → Not happening due to involvement of state governments, delayed delimitations etc.

Impact

- ① Infrequent elections → Lack of effective democratic functioning
- ② Partial & rigged elections due to Lack of institutional oversight
- ③ Chandigarh Mayor elections
④ Urban administration
↳ Ineffective due to absence of mayor
or panchayat sarpanchs
- ④ Politicization of elections
↳ violates the constitutional rights of "Free & Fair elections"

⑤ Influence of executive
↳ Absence of ~~elections~~ elected heads
Creates the vacuum in governance

⑥ Public trust
↳ Erosion of public trust in the election machinery



"The strength of nation lies in integrity of it's institutions"
- Franklin D Roosevelt

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Marks:	

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)

Recently, French President resigned due to loss of "~~Confidence~~" "Confidence" in parliament.

Cohabitation Concept

- ① French polity follows semi-presidential system
- ② Real head → President
Nominal head → Prime minister.
- ③ President governs the important key matters such as foreigns, defence, economy.
- ④ Prime minister, mainly governs the day-to-day policy matters

Indian system structurally prevents because

① To ensure the cooperative parliamentary processes

② To prevent deadlock between two elected heads of the go. state & nominated head.

③ Indirect election of President
↳ so, Head of state

④ Direct election of prime minister
↳ Exerts control over day to day matters

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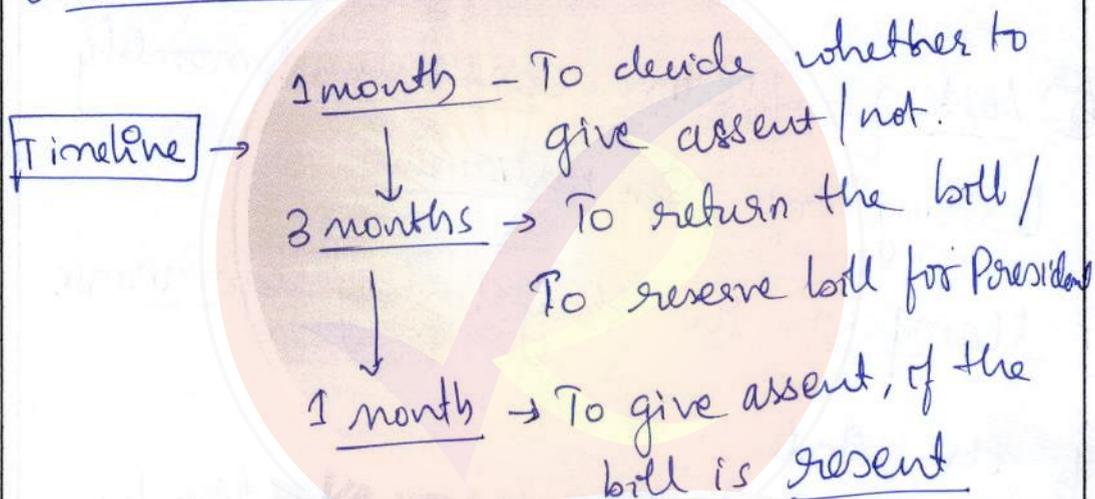


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13. "Absence of timelines for granting assent under Article 200 enables constitutional subversion." Do you agree? Justify your answer.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Supreme Court in State of Tamil Nadu (TN) vs Governor of TN ruled that, Governor should have the timeline for Assent, absence of which leads to unconstitutional discretions (Art 200)



Absence of Timeline enables constitutional subversion

- ① Amounts to unfettered use of discretionary powers.
- ② Compromises the "Mandate of elected government"

③ Discriminatory use of Pocket veto
↳ Supreme Court declared pocket veto as unconstitutional

④ Misuse of office of governor by the party in power in Centre

↳ undermines the federal principles

⑤ Lack of - effective constitutional morality leading to Partisanship

⑥ Hampered - the day to day governance of the State

(Ex) Tamil Nadu → Bills were pending for 11 months

However, the judgement of Supreme Court was again questioned by President under Article 143.

Implications of Absence of timeline

- ① Prevents hasty legislations by the state.
- ② Acts as "check" to the populist tendency of state, which might pose threat to federalism.
- ③ Retention of "Centralising Tendency"
↳ To ensure integrity of nation.
- ④ Constitutional mandate → So, governor is free to act.
- ⑤ President's role → helps to verify the legislations concerning the centre-state relations.

The actions of Governor should be guided by "interest of public" to ensure balance between fair use of discretion and "separation of powers"

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Marks:	

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)

Legal Service Authority aims to provide legal services to the general public in accordance with Article ~~39A~~ 39A

Role of LSA

- ① Free & Fair Justice System
- ② Provides Alternative Dispute Redressal mechanisms
 - ↳ Decentralised Justice System.
- ③ Vulnerable Section
 - ↳ Provides platform for dispute Resolution

④ Helps to reduce burden on Courts

⑤ Provides opportunity to resolve disputes before litigation

(Ex) Gram Nyayalayas, ~~to~~

⑥ Improve access to judiciary

(Ex) Permanent online Adalat of Kerala

⑦ Gender inclusivity (Ex) WOMEN Adalat

Key reforms

① ~~to~~ Generate Awareness

② Role of women in Higher Judiciary

③ Frequent & efficient functioning of the Adalats

④ Need for operation in local language

⑤ Gender sensitive & privacy reforms

⑥ Family courts

Thus, legal service authorities

ensure the constitutional ideal

of "Justice for all".

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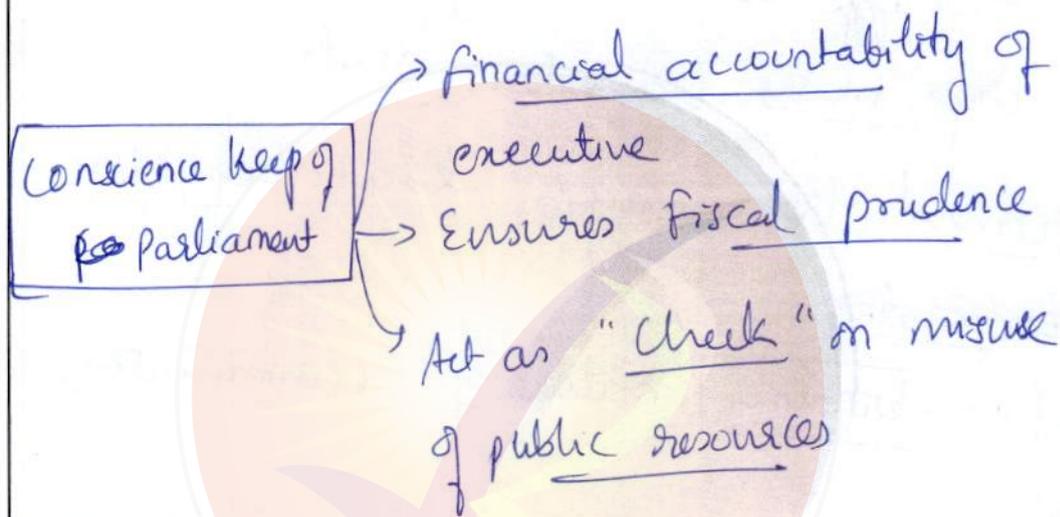
Conclusion

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Marks:

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)

Public Accounts Committee has the mandate to audit the public accounts i.e. consolidate funds, contingency fund of India.



Structural & political constraints

- ① Representation of members
 - ↳ Dominance of Lok Sabha over Rajyasabha
- ② Partisan role of speaker in appointments
- ③ Against the convention
 - ↳ Chairman is appointed from the ruled party

- ④ Lack of detailed debates & discussions
↳ Reduced effectiveness due to politicization of process
- ⑤ Post-mortem process
↳ verify accounts, only after the expenditures have been made
- ⑥ Cannot have say-in - Day to day policy operation
- ⑦ Non-binding nature of recommendations

Committees effectiveness in ensuring transparency & accountability

- ① Role of CAG
↳ Act as friend, philosopher & guide to ensure detailed audits of accounts
- ② Highlights the misappropriation of funds
(Ex) misallocation of funds under IPMAY in Madhya Pradesh.

③ Works beyond party lines → Independent opinions, devoid of colours

④ External advices

↳ Involves, specialist & expert opinions on policy matters

⑤ Financial accountability

↳ keeps executive expenditure on check

Way forward

→ Compulsory explanations by executive for non-implementation of recommendations

→ Extend [CAG] role to states & urban local bodies

→ wide-representations

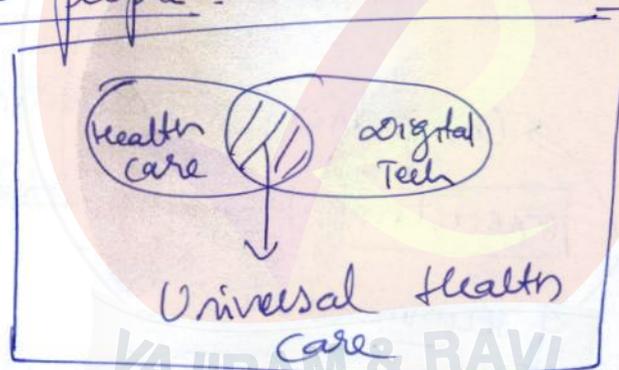
↳ Audit before the expenditures made.

[PAC], with [CAG], helps to ensure the effective fiscal oversight to manage & maintain fiscal prudence.

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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)

Penetration of Digital technology -ies have not only eased the work of Health administration but also improved the Accessibility and Affordability of Health care to people.



Role of Digital Health Care in strengthening Universal Health Coverage

① Affordability

↳ makes Health care affordable due to digital intervention

(Ex) e-Sanjeevani

- ② Accessibility
 - ↳ Helps ~~and~~ patients of remote areas to access health care
 - Ex) Satellite based Health counselling in Tribal Areas
- ③ Inclusivity
 - ↳ Issue of Digital Health card under ABDM helps in Inclusive health care
 - ↳ Improves Transparency
- ④ Right based approach
 - ↳ Digital awareness about the initiatives & benefits
- ⑤ Interoperability and data portability
 - ↳ Helps in Health governance
 - ↳ To track the public health care data
- ⑥ Effective insurance penetration through Health data.
 - ↳ Ayushman Bharat

- ⑦ Act as interface between public, government and health administration
- ⑧ Cowin portal during Covid-19

Concerns to be addressed

- ① Digital divide
↳ over more than 40% of rural population are digitally illiterate
- ② Infrastructure → Internet access,
Tech. equipments.
- ③ Personnels → Lack of Trained professionals
- ④ Data privacy → concerns
- ⑤ Misuse of data by insurance companies
may exploit public
- Digital Technology must be combined with effective health administration as emphasized during Alma Ata declaration

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Marks:

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

Lateral Entry in civil services means the appointment of experts & professionals at managerial level to ensure diversity of public administrative profession personnel. (Baswan Committee)

Lateral Entry striking balance between efficiency and accountability

- ① Diversified Human Resource
 - ↳ Professionals from the field experience
- ② Specialisation of Governance & functioning of executives
- ③ Expert opinions in policy making
- ④ Efficiency → Increases due to the diversity of inputs

④ Effective management of Government needs and industry needs

↳ Balancing of diverging opinions

⑤ Edge over Generalist approach

↳ Departure from traditional bureaucratic approach & red tapism

However, there are concerns over balance of Efficiency & Accountability

such as .

① Lack of administrative experience compared to Bureaucrats

② focus on efficiency, may overshadow the need of - policy administration

③ often leads to - Top-down approach

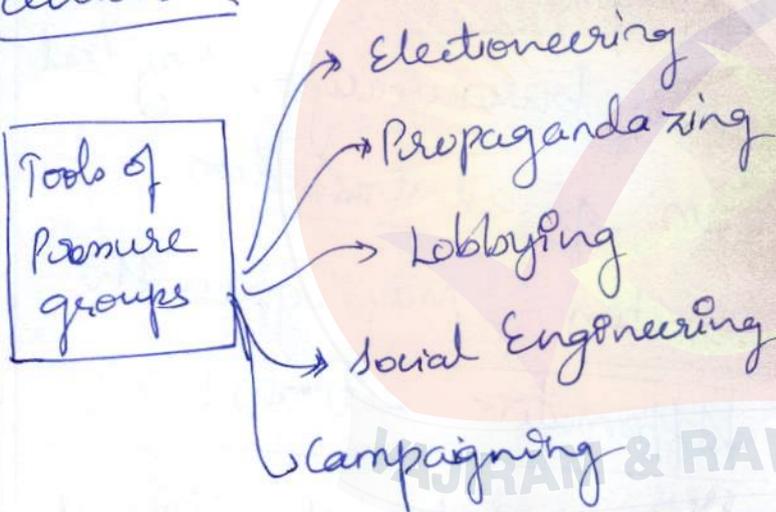
- ④ Scope for - Favarrism and neaus during appointments
 - ⑤ Short term appointments → ^{may} leads to overlook-ing of long term goals
 - ⑥ Lack of institutional oversight on the post-term employments
 - ⑦ Resistance from bureaucracy → May lead to logjam of administration
 - ⑧ Issue of Reservation → May bypass the benefits of Affirmative Actions
- There should be transparent, institutional based appointments to maintain non-partisanship. And also need to create conducive environment for cooperative environment.

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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)

Informal pressure groups, are the groups of people of common interests, who aim to achieve common goal by directly/indirectly influencing policy actions.



Informal pressure groups as Early warning system

① Focus on localised interests

② Farmers interest by Bhartiya Kisan Union.

② keeps government on Alert, which often focus on larger public interests than of any sections

③ Expression of Discontentments
↳ Through protests, strikes etc

④ Represents the needs of the people through campaigning

⑤ Influence the policy actions by pressurizing the policy ~~to~~ makes

Role in safeguarding interest

① Bridge between Public & Government

② Fills up the representative vacuum

Ex) Mazdoor Kisan Sabha → hole in

Right to Information Act

③ works for the rights of the people

Ex) NGO - Anandi → works for Forest rights of Tribals

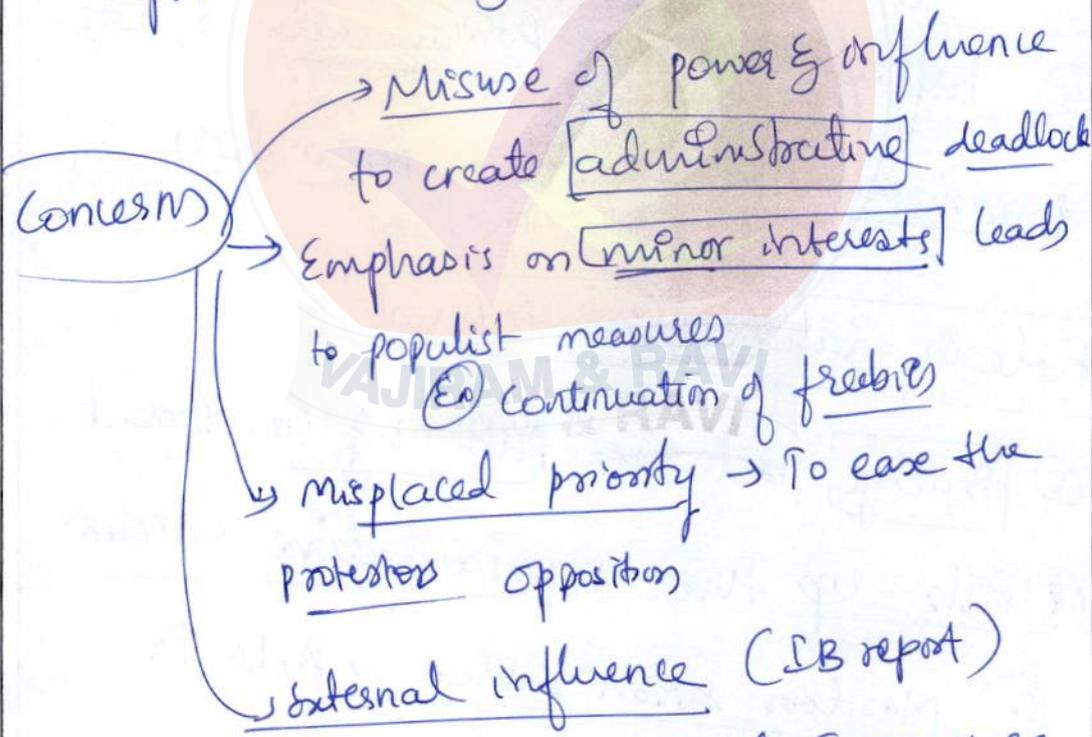
④ Policy inputs → Corresponding to the minor interests

⑤ Active citizenry

Emphasises the active role of citizens through awareness generation

⑥ Demand for reforms

↳ Expressed through protests



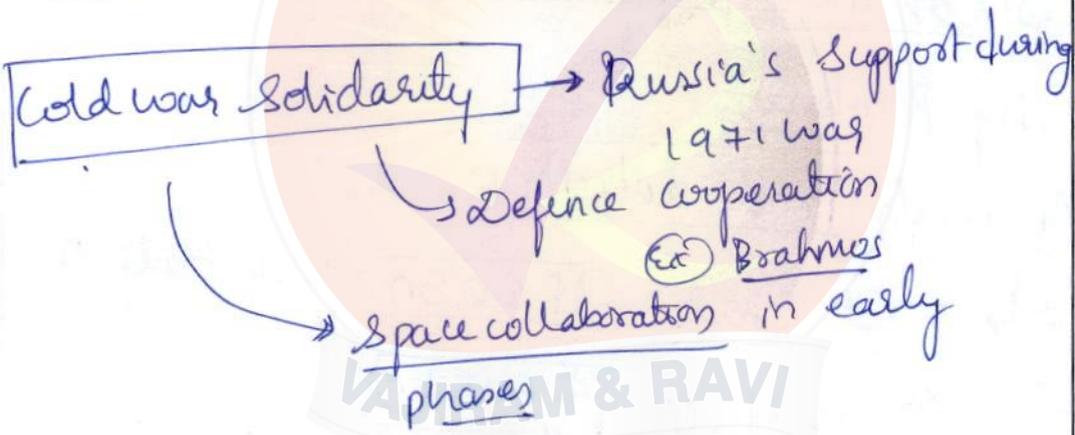
The relation between State & Pressure Groups must be of Cooperative conflict along with active citizen participation

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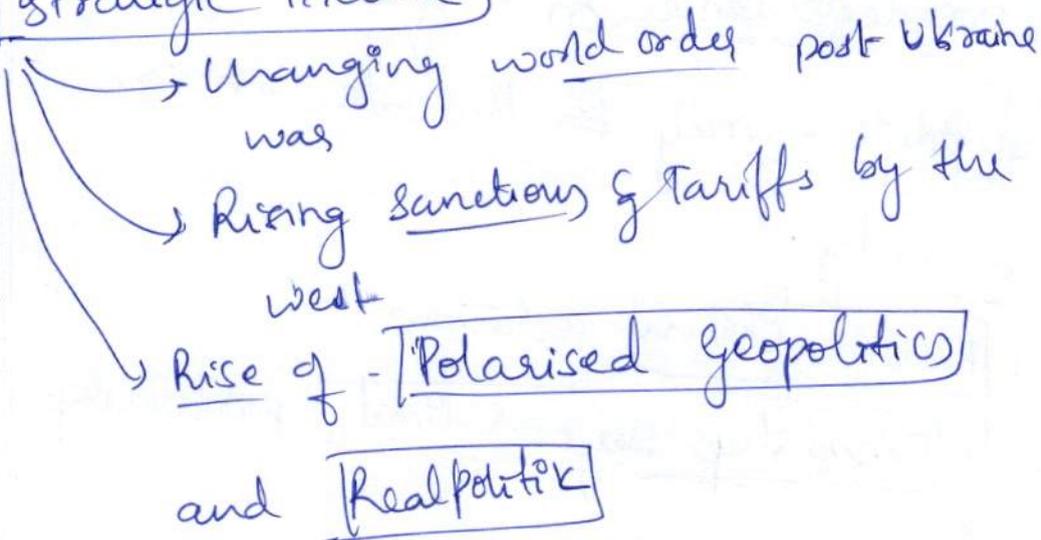
19. The India-Russia relationship is rooted in Cold War solidarity but faces strategic inertia in a fast-changing multipolar world. Examine whether this bilateral relationship needs a pragmatic reset. (15 marks, 250 words)

Dynamic world order has significantly changed the bilateral relations of the India Russia, influenced by Ukraine war, China's influence and USA's Tariff

~~threats~~ threats



Strategic inertia



Pragmatic Shift in Bilateral shift

Though, Bilateral ties are time tested, there is need of shift, because -

- ① Move ~~to~~ towards Multipolarity
- ② Need to diversify the geopolitical interests
- ③ Hopsided Trade relations, dominated by Petroleum
- ④ High Trade deficit
 - ↳ Total Trade → \$66 Bn but deficit is itself is \$61.5 Bn
- ⑤ overdependence on single Energy supplies → may ~~to~~ threaten energy security
- ⑥ Russia-China Relations
 - ↳ Friendship beyond limit partnership

⑦ Tariffs & Sanctions

↳ To protect domestic interests.

however, India need to ensure that:

① Strategic Autonomy in decision making & not influenced by west

② Russia as Reliable ally - As seen in the past

③ Domestic Interests

↳ Utilizing the cheap oil price

④ Maintaining - diplomatic relationship with all.

⑤ Respect for - Rules based world order

India's diplomatic influence should be used to drive the peaceful world

order, to resolve disputes of Russia-Ukraine,

which makes India - ~~the~~

Nishwagunee

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

③ Advancement of Technology
(Ex) Icebreakers ship vessels to navigate
in North sea route

④ Multilateral Engagement

① Engagement with Arctic Council countries
to ensure fair use of resources

② India is a observer country → Role
in effective international governance
of Arctic region

③ Deeper ties with Scandinavian countries
↳ Reap benefits of Trade engagements

④ India must play active role
in ensuring the prevention of exploitative
outlook of countries & aim to ensure the
fight against "climate change" to preserve
Arctic region.

Introduction

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Presentation

Marks:

Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

