

VAJIRAM &amp; RAVI

AIR - 574

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT - 2025

<b>General Studies</b> <b>Full Length Test</b> <b>Test - 6 (GS - 2)</b> <b>Test Code - A21052506</b>	<b>Evaluator Code:</b> <b>Date of Assignment:</b> <b>CQ:</b>
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UPSC ROLL NO.: <u>0 8 3 9 7 6 5</u>	Submission Date: <u>16.08.2025</u>
MOBILE NO.: _____	

### 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>5:00</u>	End Time - <u>8:00</u>
Mode of Examination	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date -	Dispatch date -

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**

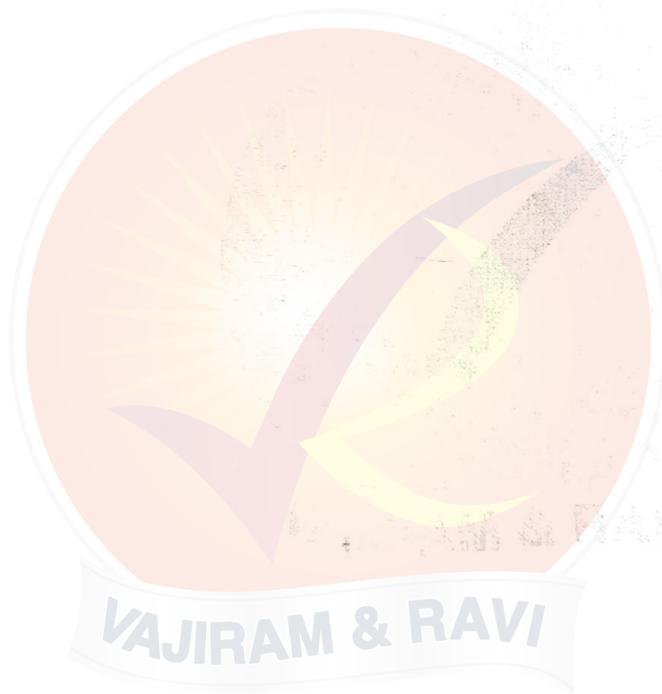
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**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



## Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(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)

KC Wheare held India as a sui generis case with balance of checks and balances.

(I) Tussle between executive and legislature.

① Members of executive part of legislature.

② Use of ordinance power [Art 123] by executive. DC Wadwa case - promotion - unconstitutional.

③ Issue of delegated legislation.

④ Impeachment of President by houses of Parliament.

⑤ Assent to bill by President - issue of veto.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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## (I) Judiciary

Role of Executive - Appointment of Judges (Art 124)

↳ NJAC & 99th CAA held unconstitutional

Role of legislature

↳ Removal of Judges ↳ Justice Verma Case

↳ CAA to overpower judicial pronouncement

↳ 42nd CAA - Mini Constitution.

Role of Judiciary - Issue of Judicial

overreach. ↳ Highway liquor policy.

- Forming of administrative policies

↳ Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

- formulation of laws ↳ Vishaka Guidelines.

Checks & Balances ↳ ensures no misuse by one authority

↳ keeps democracy

↳ ensures parliamentary sovereignty

↳ uphold constitutional supremacy

Supreme Court in SR Bommai Case has

held separation of power as basic feature of Constitution.

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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.

(10 marks, 150 words)

52nd CAA, 1985 incorporated schedule

X to Indian constitution dealing with

Anti-defection provisions

Aim - curb practice of Maya Ram, Maya Ram  
control unethical defection for bribery & political edge.

Issue - curb freedom of legislators  
dominance of few leaders of party.

Implications of Anti-defection law

(2) Federalism

① rigid party lines led to neglect of state level issues

② affect cooperative federalism severely.

③ results in tyranny of centre over smaller states

④ Rajya Sabha - Representation of States

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

- Role of Rajya Sabha reduces from symbol of federal principle to uniform policy making under directions

(II) Intra-Party Democracy

① Unsurped freedom of expression of legislators.

② Top down approach inside party.

③ Lack of respect for differential MP concerns.

④ Control in hands of few strong leaders  
- Centralising tendencies hampers intra-party transparency.

⑤ Anti defection law used as tool to shut independent voices

Positive → Stability of government - continuity of governance  
→ curb corruption.

Supreme court guidelines in Keshavn Meghaladam case (2024) for independent tribunal will help democratise law.

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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)

Election is the root of democracy.

Candidate - automatically elected

① Against free and fair elections as monopoly of 1 candidate.

② no choice for the citizens - imposed decision.

③ May lead to autocratic behavior and no accountability to public.

④ Against tenets of democracy - by the people, for the people, to the people.

⑤ Reflection of lack of public trust.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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If no candidate stands up for elections.

⑥ Loss of choice of citizen  
- against citizen empowerment.

⑦ leads to violation of wrong precedent.

⑧ Failure of constitutional bodies such as E-CI to promote free and fair election.

Constitutional morality reflects upon the spirit of constitution which is in people's mandate reflected through election.

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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)

Supreme Court in UP Madressa case has held that not all private property is a material resource. It has also ruled against bulldozer justice.

Right to property - deprivation to follow due process of law

① Art 300A - reflects upon right to property as a constitutional right.  
→ upholding due process of law - (Basic feature of constitution).

② Art 31A, 31B and 31C - reflects upon the spirit of property rights and cultivation rights & agriculture land.

③ Place procedural justice to ensure

non exploitation of weaker sections of society.

④ Bulldozer justice

Mandate to follow Principle of natural Justice - opportunity to be heard  
- chance to give representation against orders.

⑤ limits on executive power by means of due process of law [ Maneka Gandhi case ] instead of ~~the~~ procedure established by law.

⑥ the process facilitate scrutiny and justice for citizens.

Right to property has been most litigated right. Removal from Fundamental rights by 44th CAA still ~~ensures~~ ensures that

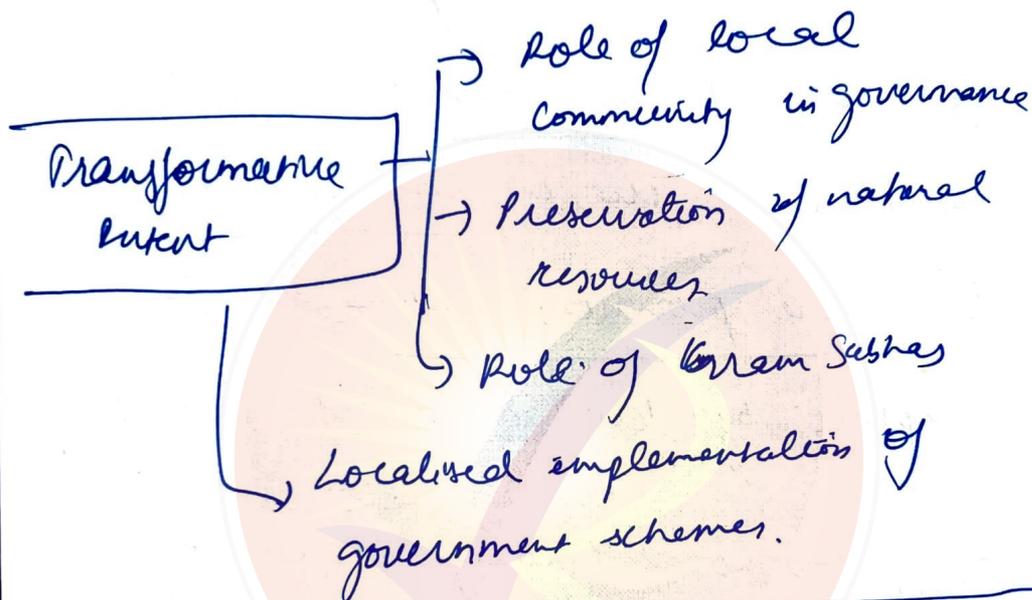
Principle of natural Justice are followed in its deprivation.

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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)

<sup>Act</sup>  
PESA, 1996 was designed to extend local self government to scheduled areas under section V.



Implementation of issues:-

① non formulation of rules and regulations by state governments to extend the provisions -

② Lack of citizen empowerment - superficial consultation of Gram Sabhas.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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- ③ continued exploitation of resources particularly in Central & Eastern Regions of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand.
- ④ Lack of decentralisation of power impact effective implementation.
- ⑤ Lack of awareness among tribal communities due to low literacy.
- ⑥ illiberal provisions extended - power capture by few dominant groups.

Way Ahead → local training for capacity building  
→ formulation of rules as necessary.

↳ Role of NGOs for awareness generation. (eg) The Kalaburiksha role in Chhattisgarh

↳ Proactive governance by state level organisations

PESA will lead to realisation of Gandhi's ideology of Ram Rajya through Gram Rajya.

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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)

Right to equality (Art 14) is a fundamental right yet WFP Global Gender Gap Report 2025 ranking of 119 for India show how we are far behind in gender equality.

Reconcile need for gender sensitivity with gender neutrality in legal system :-

① Redesigning of laws - inclusion of newer concerns and modern solutions.

eg Gender social media abuses in BNS and BNSs.

② Role of women policy makers

eg 13.7% women MPs, 45% - SCMPs.

③ Amendment of specific provisions to bring equitable norms.

eg Adultery - remove gender discrimination (Joseph Shine case)

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- ④ Ethical and sensitivity training of policy makers - to reflect upon ground realities.
- ⑤ Timely updation of legal system.  
eg) Sunset clauses in laws.
- ⑥ More women representation in judiciary for equitable and wider perspective designing.
- ⑦ Use of technology to incorporate new ideas  
eg) Mechanisms for public participation for reforms.

JL Nehru said, "When a woman moves, a family moves, a college moves, a nation moves".

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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 a diverse region with 7 major religions, 180 languages spoken, geographical diversity of coast, desert, mountain, island and ethnic diversity.

Implications of centralized governance

(2) State level autonomy.

(1) Impact centre - state relations weakly federalism.  Kulkarni report -

SSA funds not released for TN, WB.

(2) ill effect on cooperative federalism and rise of corporatism.

Kerala - NEP 2020 oppose.

(3) Interference on state subjects and financial restraints due to centrally sponsored scheme on such subject.  agricultural schemes.

## (1) Inclusive Development

① Ignorance of regional diversity - must include growth

② marginalisation of poorer sections

eg needs of tribals vary from Brahmins.

③ Regional disparity is grown. fuels regional movements. eg neglect of mineral rich regions

[Shakti, Chhattisgarh]

④ May result in rise of LWF, insurgency due to lack of growth prospects.

⑤ vulnerable section needs ignored.

eg Manual scavengers require specific approach rather than law.

## Sometimes necessary:-

① Common goal of sustainable development

② To uphold international treaties

③ For common good approach

④ Structural changes eg GST

Decentralised policy making promotes acceptability as well as give necessary results.

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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)

Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a hybrid model of last pay pensions and market based returns.

Potential to ensure inclusivity

- ① Balance gains for pensioners by dual model.
- ② Better understood as compared to New Pension Scheme (NPS) due to lack of market knowledge.
- ③ Assurance of pension amount boost social security as markets are very volatile.
- ④ Balanced choice due to liberty to exercise option between schemes.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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## Shortcomings :

- ① did not address fully the concerns of veterans.
- ② Lack of acceptability ~~as~~ witnessed by low enrollment.
- ③ Complexity of structure due to mix of two systems.
- ④ Inclusivity requires incorporation of informal sector.

UPS can be better designed to resolve concerns and can be better advertised to attract enrollment.

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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 has recently expanded its membership to include Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran.

## Strategic significance of BRICS

(I) For India

- ① Overcome stagnancy of global institutes such as WTO, SAARC.
- ② Forum to form and mend relations with neighbours.
- ③ Boost economic trade for India by expanding market access.
- ④ New Development Bank facilitate access to funds for green energy.

⑤ China-India relation boosting and resolving boundary issues

(II) For Global South

① collective demand for reformation of multilateral bodies. UNSC reform

② more representation for concerns specific to global south.

③ inter regional trade strengthen to avoid western sanctions

④ Act as peace mediators for conflict torn world.

⑤ voice against hegemony of powerful countries.

Recently, on Independence Day Eve, Prime Minister has announced for peace trade among BRICS nation highlighting relevance of body.

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

Bangladesh's democratic government has been toppled up and is witnessing internal crisis.

## Impact of Bangladesh crisis

(2) on India - Bangladesh relations

(1) Hampering trade relations

(eg) Bangladesh - is India's largest trade partner in South Asia.

(2) Issue of illegal migration and porous border.

(3) Diplomatic conflict due to ex-Bangladesh PM extradition request.

(4) Barrier to projects and measures already taken up.

(eg) Teesta River conflict not resolved.

(eg) Feni Bridge issue.

③ Impact - people to people visits  
- reduced foreign students and tourism potential of India.

④ India's neighbourhood first Policy

① More influence of China in neighbourhood.

Key Bangladesh - part of BRI.

② Linking up of bordering nations

Key Pakistan - Bangladesh relations

③ Members progress of multilateral projects Key Kaladan Project.

④ More iteration of Big Brother attitude of India.

India - Bangladesh have historic deep relations due to being one region.

Both need to cooperate and collaborate for regional progress.

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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)

73<sup>rd</sup> CAA, 1992 mandated for State Election Commissions (SECs) to conduct election for local bodies.

NOT translated into real functional independence:-

① PRS study :- only 15 states regularly appoints SECs

→ vacant positions.

② Politicisation of appointments - no uniform mandate, state wide disparity

③ Biased autonomy perception - delay into election conduct

## Impact of institutional weakness

- ① Delay in elections of local bodies  
- undemocratic step
- ② Impact on decentralisation -  
against principle of subsidiarity.
- ③ Local self government becomes tool  
of state government authority rather  
than real ground changes.
- ④ Lack of public empowerment due  
to weak local bodies.
- ⑤ Impact implementation of government  
schemes and policies (eg) issue of  
corruption due to weak social audits
- ⑥ Regional disparity in growth.  
(eg) Kerala - high on human development  
indicators  
due to strong local bodies.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

⑦ Dummy authorities rather than substantive power with local representatives. (eg) Dominance of prastatal bodies.

## Measures Required :-

- ① Mandatory elections appointment of SECs
- ② Constitutional Amendment - to give uniform qualification criteria.
- ③ Capacity building of community with help of NAOs to demand for elections.  
(eg) NAO Shakti - Maharashtra skill training to PRIs.
- ④ Formation of committees with HC Judge for SEC appointment.

SECs have essential role in deepening democracy in India and empower people.

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(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

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)

France has semi-presidential system.  
Cohabitation - existence of both Prime Minister and President with separate

power in different spheres.

→ No head is nominal, rather division of duties and responsibilities.

India's Parliamentary system - prevents such an arrangement

- ① Article 74 - there exists Council of Ministers to aid & advise President - Basis of Parliamentary system.
- ② President - nominal head of government, therefore less discretionary power.
- ③ Real power - Prime Minister and Council of Ministers [Choice of people]

- ④ To ensure stability and continuity of governance.
- ⑤ To avoid deadlock between two heads.
- ⑥ Resonates with direct election of MPs whereas indirect election of President.
- ⑦ Adaptation of Westminster type of structure - historical reasons and evolution from Government of India Acts (1909, 1919, 1939).

## Lessons from French Experience :-

- ① Adaptation of a system which is best suited to local diversity of nation.
- ② Division of power - keeps a check on tyranny of one.

India - can well define discretionary power of President and Governor to avoid clashes.

③ But excessive division may cause delays and disruption - harm to quality of governance and result is suffering for people.

④ Overlap of power may cause conflict & polarisation of issues

India's Parliamentary system is working good for India. Improving upon Parliamentary debates, reduce disruption in houses, strengthening Parliamentary committees will further strengthen roots of democracy.

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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 Pavuluri Radu Government v. BN Ravi, 2025 has given timeline for assent to state Bill by Governor.

Absence of timeline - constitutional subversion

- ① Undue delays for bills violates spirit of constitution: University Bill - Kerala Issue.
- ② Impact on quality of legislation and related impact on people.
- ③ Against the principle of Parliamentary form of government - Governor is De Nominal head.
- ④ Politicisation of every trivial matter

reduces trust between Centre-State  
- impact on Federal principles of  
Constitution.

⑤ No timeline for President [when  
Bill reserved for President's assent]  
- delay in critical reforms by state.  
- Economic impact due to delay economic  
reforms bill.

⑥ Use of Constitutional position as a  
tool of dominance.

Yet, absence of timelines :-

① Facilitate thorough inspection of  
bill details.

② Reduce chances of constitutionally  
void bills to be cleared.

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- ③ upholds precautionary principle of governance.
- ④ Reduce unsurping of authority of Centre.
- ⑤ necessary for contextual implementation instead of one size fit approach.
- ⑥ Structural reform bill require elaborate deliberation & consultation.

Supreme Court ruling on 143

Presidential Reference will further

clear the light on issue of timelines for bill assent.

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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)

Legal Services Authority is a statutory body formed under DPSP principle of Art. 39A to provide free and legal aid ..

## Role of Legal Services Authority

- (I) Promoting equal access
  - ① facilitate access to lawyers to fight case for poor sections.
  - ② Promotes alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms - reducing cost of litigation. (eg) Lok Adalats.
  - ③ Enable reach of justice to last mile. (eg) conduct Adalats at regional places (Villages).

- ④ Reduce litigation cost - preventing financial exploitation of poorer sections.
- ⑤ Promote social justice by ensuring access to legal mechanisms for most marginalized.  Free aid for transgenders with annual income up to 2 lakhs.

## (II) Shortcomings

- ① Regional disparity - conduct Lok Adalats in Southern and western regions - reflection of Eastern & NE Eastern region.
- ② Lack of access of ADR - if non binding judgement.
- ③ Lack of awareness among people.
- ④ Elite capture of services - most vulnerable remains vulnerable.
- ⑤ Lack of use of local language - affect accessibility.  Tribal language usage issue.
- ⑥ Irregular conduct of Lok Adalat.

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## Key reforms required:-

- ① Improve ADR in neglected regions by mandating Rajiv Legal Service Authority.
- ② Provision of adequate funds with Legal Service Authority - infrastructure improvement.
- ③ Litigant Awareness Campaign - use of social media, school campaigns.
- ④ Promote inclusivity with use of technology  
(eg) use of Bhashini platform for language barrier.
- ⑤ Pro-active role of Subordinate Courts to facilitate access to Legal Services  
→ Regular appointment of Nayayadharakis  
Permanent Lok Adalat Act, Anam  
Nayalaya Act 2008, Family Courts are  
measures towards ensuring Justice is neither delayed nor denied

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 (PAC) is 30 member committee - 22 from Lok Sabha & 8 from Rajya Sabha with 1 year tenure and scrutinizes CAG reports.

PACs - Conscience Keeper of Parliament

- ① Brings financial clarity in houses of Parliament by effective scrutiny.
- ② Facilitates parliamentary debates and deliberations on financial issues.  
eg CAG - friend & philosopher of PAC.
- ③ Brings transparency and accountability by questioning executives regarding fund expenditures.
- ④ Unearth corruption and frauds.  
eg 26 scam fund.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

⑤ Promote role of opposition leaders to question prudence of decisions on budget funds.

Lacks effectiveness - constraints

① Post mortem analysis of financial reports - impact quality of effect it puts.

② Short tenure of 1 year - able to analyse few reports rather than comprehensive assessment.

③ Politicisation of committee - approval by opponents, lack of unbiased selection.

④ Lack of capacity for impact analysis  
→ deficiency of MPs in expertise of subjects.  
→ low engagement of outside subject experts

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⑤ Cannot analyse routine working and functioning - hampers in functional role.

⑥ Overlapping functions of Parliamentary committees - blame game starts.

eg. DRSCs and PACs overlap.

Way ahead - ① longer tenure of committees

② Capacity training of MPs and active engagement of experts.

③ Merger of committees with overlapping functions.

④ Moral stand of legislators to facilitate effective scrutiny.

PACs have historically been the tool of check and balance on executive and maintain financial openness.

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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)

Digital health is a means to facilitate accessibility, affordability and availability of health services for far to reach people and places.

Role of digital infrastructure in strengthening Universal health coverage:-

① Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

→ creation of Health Stalls - uniform availability of digital health records

→ promotion of tele-medicine - reach to rural regions  
(eg) e-Sanjeevani

→ focus on mental health helpline

(eg) tele-MANAS in 22 languages

→ funds for digital health infrastructure  
- promote adaptation of health insurance

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under Ayushman Bharat scheme.

## ② COWIN

- Portal to facilitate vaccination access
- Promote preventive health approach
- eg) universal immunisation mission
- Data repository for citizens - reduce repetition of some tests
- eg) cost expenditure reduce if uniform standards of medical test.

## ③ Extend reach of healthcare facility to North Eastern region, Central India region.

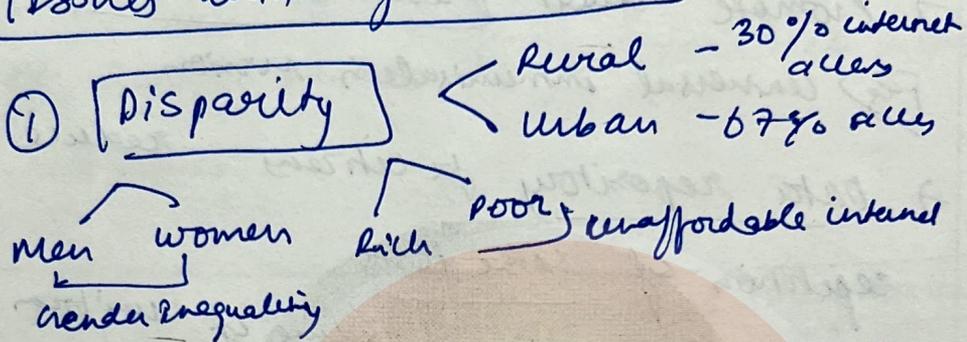
## ④ Improves capacity of Primary Health centres [PHCs] by e-Surgeons

eg) Attendance of local doctor from subject experts.

## ⑤ Facilitate channelisation of silver economy - boost geriatric care

⑥ Digital awareness campaigns - reduce burden of NCDs [62% annual deaths due to NCDs] eg Eat Right campaigns

## Issues with Digital Health



② Weak infrastructure leads to low quality services. eg border regions in Arunachal - tower deficiency

③ Lack of acceptance is absence of awareness.

④ Cybersecurity issues and privacy concerns - impact privacy Article 21

eg Aadhar data leakage eg AarogyaMitra attack

Boosting connectivity under Bharat Net, engaging NCDs, strengthening infrastructure [NIP, PM Hanishakti] will facilitate to reach goals of National Health Policy, 2012 & SDG 3 (Good Health)

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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)

Lateral entry reform is a step to include experts from private domains at secretary level in government sphere.

Right Balance between efficiency and accountability

① Brings better managerial skills from private sector experience.

② Improves technological infusion into government services.

eg) Adaptation of AI models for checks & balances.

③ Helps reform Evry Tower Syndrome and Status quoist attitude of civil servants.

④ Global best practices inclusion in public service delivery.

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⑤ Specialist led reforms rather than generalist outcomes.

⑥ work based assessment of lateral entrant rather than lobbying between services.

Issues with lateral entry

① Aims and objective differ between private and public sector.

Private - Profit maximisation.

Public - mandate of welfare state.

② Lack of experience with ground realities of lateral entrant.

② SDM, PM - local level interaction

③ May demonstrate selection by civil services examinations

④ Arrest of politicised appointment -

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hampers transparency  
- threat of coloured appointments.

⑤ Efficiency is not necessarily hampered due to generalist skills but due to systemic issues.

## Way forward

→ Mod career training for civil servants to boost efficiency. (see) <sup>mission</sup> Karamyogi

→ Independent board of selection for lateral entry.

→ Use of technology for accountability (see) PRAKATI.  
(see) CPURAMS.

→ Civil Services Reforms [TSR Subramaniam Committee & Hota Committee suggestions]  
- Civil services board - fixed tenure.

Sardar Patel held civil servants as steel frame of nation. To continue with the public welfare goals, reforms are necessary.

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(Don't write anything in this part)

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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 group of people with common goals and who act collectively to bring desired reforms.

Role in Safeguarding Public Interests

① Advocate for human rights and dignity of life.

eg Bandha Mukti Morcha group - for bonded labour welfare.

② Inputs for pro-people policy formulation. eg CSE - environment sustainability reforms.

③ Role in bringing electoral reforms regarding democracy.

eg PULL, ADR - combination records of MPs

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④ Facilitate policy implementation

by complementing government bodies

Ex) Mukesh Patra - Mid Day Meal Scheme

⑤ Vouch for ease of doing business

refers to ensure economic interest

of public Ex) NASSCOM, FICCI  
inputs for PII scheme.

⑥ Role in bringing historic legislation

boosting transparency and accountability.

Ex) MKSS - RTI Act.

⑦ Eyes and ears of society - uproot

social evils, empower marginalised.

Ex) Kundumbhale SHK - democratic decentralisation

Ex) Kisan Sabha - Law Law Protest

⑧ Action at time of emergency -

quilt access, service delivery, rehabilitation

Ex) Coonj - disaster management.

## Concerns :

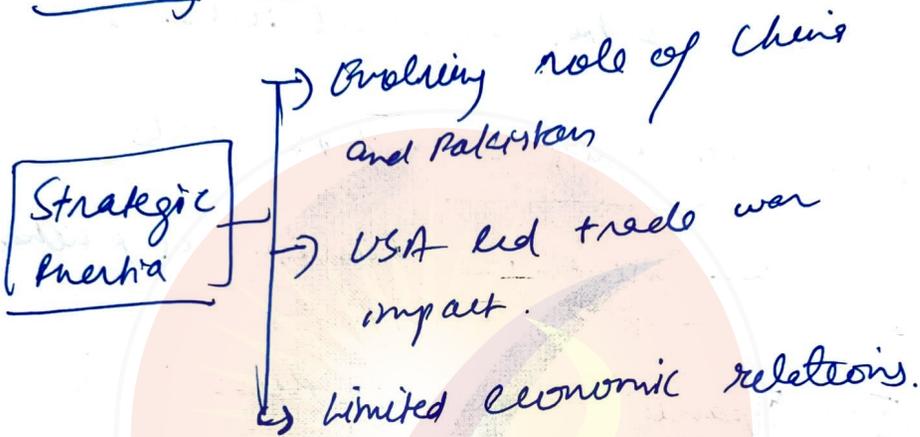
- ① parochial interest promotion by some groups.   
 eg) Money capitalism by business bodies copying.
- ② Elite capture of pressure groups.   
 eg) Kisan Sabhas - representation of large farmers (< 10% of farmers)
- ③ May hamper reforms and development.   
 eg) Crucial peace - ecoterrorism concerns.
- ④ Use of groups by state and non state actors to spread commercial interest.   
 eg) Ford Foundation - drivishke policies.
- ⑤ Regional concentration of pressure groups - lack of representation of neglected areas.

Pressure groups are means of people empowerment and strengthening democratic ideals.

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Marks:	

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)

India - Russia relationship is based on historic relations and have been a evolving sphere for both nations.



Need of pragmatic reset :-

- ① India expanding relation beyond historical setup.
- ② Stagnancy in terms of trade and services.
- ③ Changed Indo-Pacific scenarios mandate stronger India - Russia relations.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

eg) AUKUS formation-

eg) China's String of Pearls policy

④ USA's ~~deglobalization~~ degloboalization

actions and adhoc policy  
require better bilateral relations

eg) USA tariff on India's goods

↳ threat for Russian oil purchase.

⑤ Expanding role of Russia in  
Afghanistan, Pakistan

⑥ Regional bodies better utilization

with India - Russia bond

eg) SCO for anti terror stand-

eg) BRICS for connectivity, infrastructure  
boost.

⑦ Role of India as a peace

mediator between Russia & Ukraine

## Way forward :-

- ① Signing of free trade agreement to strengthen economic relation.
  - ② Expand Keyce flexible trade.
  - ③ Bilateral manufacturing of defence products on line of Brahmos.
  - ④ Trust building to counter China's aggressive policy stance.
  - ⑤ Formation of trilaterals with Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh.
- India - Russia relationship can play a geostrategic role in countering hegemony of China and spread peace in world.

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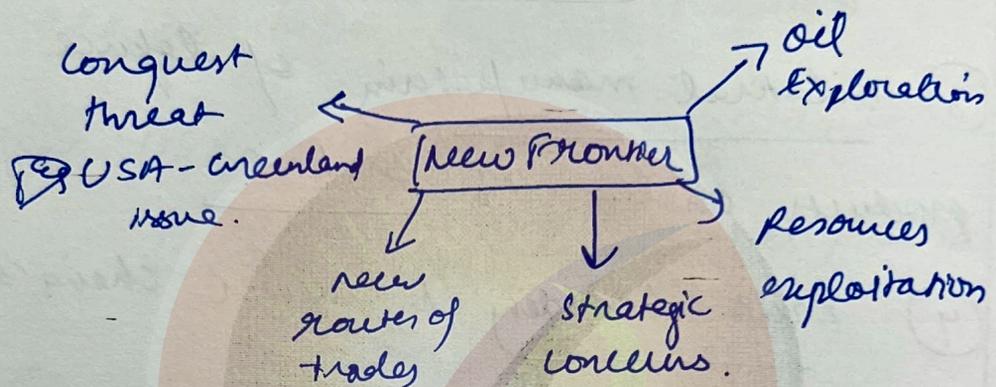
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20. The evolving "Great Game" in the Arctic has opened new frontiers of strategic competition. Discuss its implications for India's energy security, scientific diplomacy, and multilateral engagement.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Climate change led melting of Arctic region had led to increased interest in Arctic region.



## Implications for India

### (I) Energy Security

Positives

Negatives

① opportunity to access resources from different nations.

② Overcome Asian Premium issue from Asian economies.

① Geostrategic planning of trade - influence of USA, EU

② Increase role of China's relation with Russia.

## (I) Scientific Diplomacy

Positives	Negatives
<p>① Expand region of exploration</p> <p>② Strengthen research into polar climate - help boost Himalayan preservation</p> <p>③ Bilateral and multilateral groups for collaboration (eg) UK-India group</p>	<p>① Lack of technology sharing</p> <p>② Capture by developed nations.</p> <p>③ More prominence to Arctic Council members</p>

## (II) Multilateral Engagement.

Positives	Negatives
<p>① Boost relations with Scandinavian nations with cooperative research.</p> <p>② Utilization of India's expertise of <u>NPOP</u>.</p>	<p>① Lack of boundary issues with Arctic impact engagement.</p> <p>② Lack of deals with European nations hampers diplomacy</p>

(Don't write anything in this part)

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③ Increase demand for voice for global south in Arctic Council

③ Lack of representation in Permanent Council of UNSC

India's experience through Maitri, Bharati and other expeditions will help India play pro-active role in evolving Arctic

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