

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
SURE SHOT MAINS REHEARSAL 2025

<b>General Studies</b> <b>FULL LENGTH TEST</b> <b>(GS - 2)</b> <b>Test Code - VR1052510</b>	<b>Evaluator Code:</b> <b>Date of Assignment:</b> <b>CQ:</b>
--	--

<b>NAME:</b>	RESHMA NIVETHA R	<b>Time allowed: 3 Hours</b>
<b>STUDENT ID.:</b>	2 2 V R 6 1 3 9 4	<b>Email:</b>
<b>UPSC ROLL NO.:</b>	5 6 0 0 6 4 1	<b>Submission Date:</b>
<b>MOBILE NO.:</b>		09-08-2025

**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.

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	<b>Total</b>	<b>/250</b>

**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	
<b>Start Time -</b>	<b>End Time -</b>
<b>Mode of Examination</b>	<b>Online</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Offline</b> <input 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**

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions

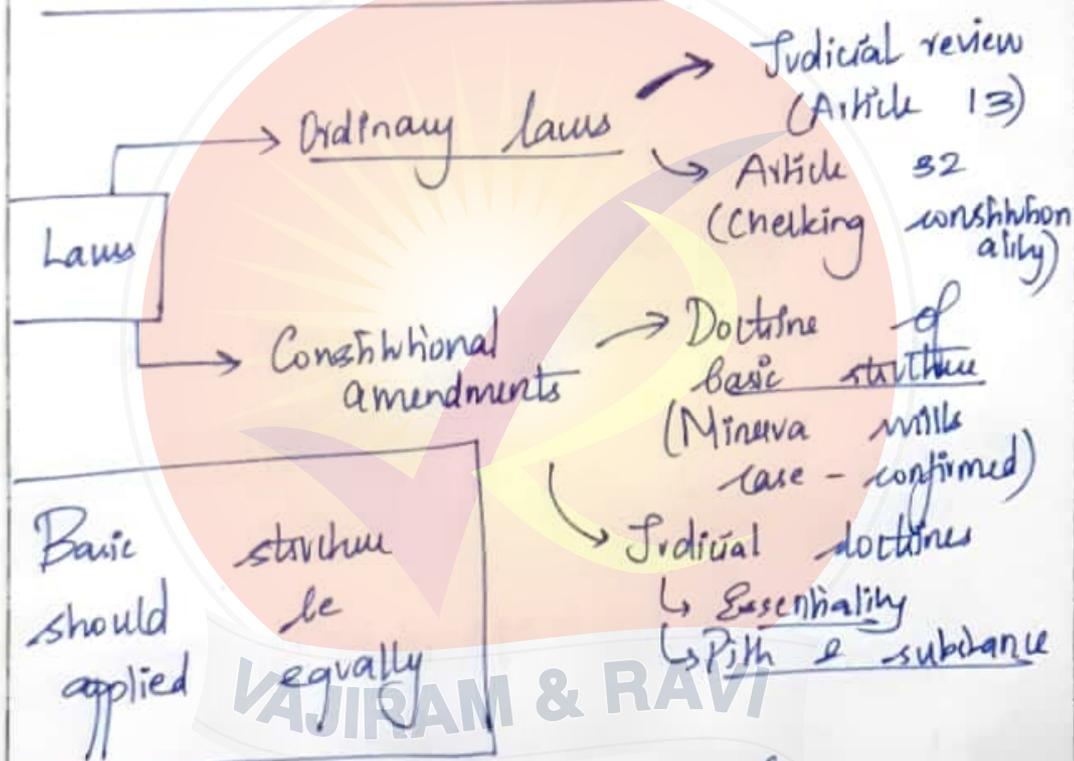


👍👍 All the Best 👍👍

(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. Ordinary laws and constitutional amendments are subject to different tests of judicial validity. In light of this distinction, examine, whether the Basic Structure doctrine should be applied uniformly to both. (10 marks, 150 words)

Doctrine of Basic structure is a judicial invention stemming from Kesavananda Bhaurati Case.



① Enures laws abide by constitutional morality

Eg. NJAC Act vs constitutional amendment Act

② Balances powers of legislature

with judicial review

↳ 39 CAA struck down due to intervention in free & fair elections

③ Protects rights of citizens uniformly  
↳ Privacy part of ordinary laws as well as CAA

Should be applied separately

① Non codification of Basic structure can meet increasing case loads

② Supreme court has confined it to CAA (Now 4 crore + cases (NDG))

③ Increase tension between legislature and executive & judiciary

Solution → ① Clarity over what constitutes Basic structure

↳ ② Judicial + executive committee to codify

Hence, maintaining fine balance is necessary

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

2. Politicisation of the Vice President's role as Rajya Sabha chair raises concerns over impartiality. Elucidate its implications for parliamentary democracy.

(10 marks, 150 words)

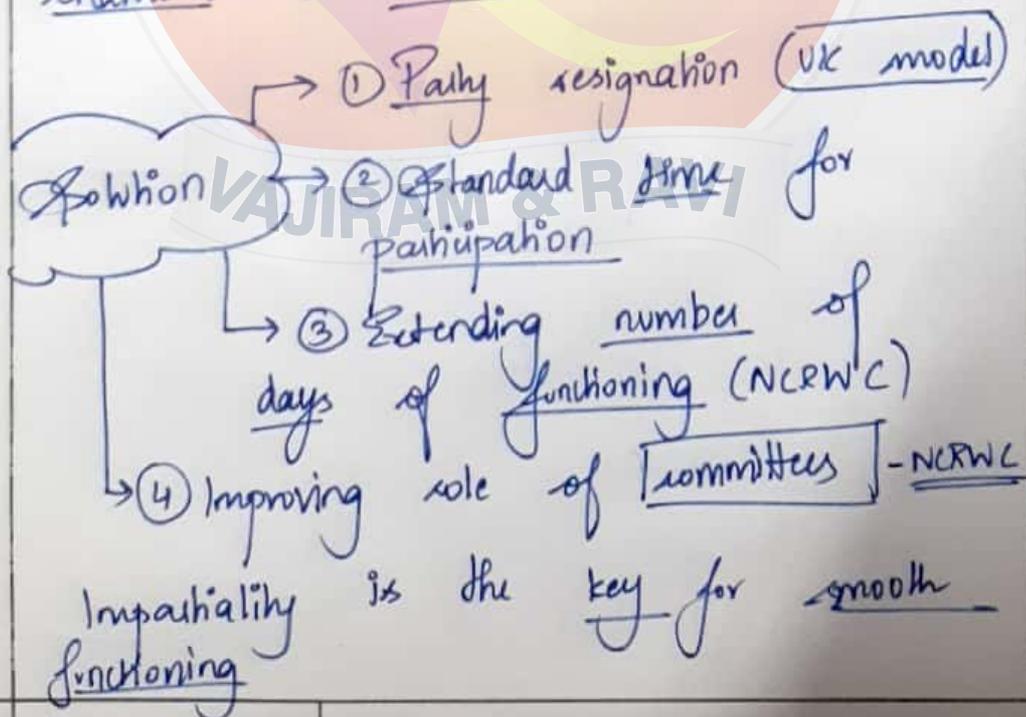
The Vice President acts as the chairman of Rajya Sabha, similarly with Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Politicisation raises concerns over impartiality

- ① Selective targeting of opposition  
↳ Suspension of MPs
- ② Unequal application of anti-defection laws  
↳ Delays in decision favouring ruling party
- ③ outright support to ruling party policies in house
- ④ Reduced discussion over bills
- ⑤ Non allowance of opposition party resolutions & motions  
↳ Discussion on Manipal issue.

## Implications on parliamentary democracy

- ① Threaten role of multiparty rule
- ② Authoritarianism of single party
- ③ Opposition becomes a rubber stamp with no real role
- ④ Declining trust in legal actions  
 eg) farm law protest
- ⑤ Reduced scrutiny of bills ~~are~~  
dilutes role as a secondary chamber ⇒ checks & balances



Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

3. Regulating religious endowments without undermining the right to manage religious affairs poses a dilemma. Discuss how regulatory oversight can be balanced with the protection of religious rights. (10 marks, 150 words)

Art 25-30 protects the right to religion, providing powers to religious endowments to function effectively.

The dilemma in regulation vs right to manage :-

- ① To protect the freedom of religion of citizens from coercion to convert
- ② Reduce caste hierarchy in religious institution
- ③ Ensure egalitarian access to religious places  $\rightarrow$  Sabarimala case
- ④ Prevent misuse of funds collected

Balancing regulatory oversight with protection of religious rights

- ① Legalise actions against corruptive

## conventions

② Maintain secularism in actions

↳ SR Bommai case - secularism  
part of base structure

③ Regulate only secular ~~religious~~ activities  
and not religious rituals

↳ Collection of fees for entry

④ Intervention of Judiciary as neutral  
arbitrator in cases of justice

↳ Ram Janoomi case

⑤ Follow rule of law in actions

↳ Acquisition of property should  
be accompanied by compensation ⇒

Property owners acquisition case

Maintaining balance ensures India  
becomes the example for positive  
secularism in the world.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

4. The New Criminal Laws marks a shift from colonial control to contemporary justice. Discuss how these reforms reflect India's constitutional vision and societal needs in the 21st century. (10 marks, 150 words)

The New Criminal laws replaced the colonial era IPC, CrPc and Indian evidence Act.

Shift from colonial control to contemporary justice

- ① Provision of reformatory justice
- ② Avoidance of sedition which created chilling effect
- ③ Creation of gender neutral laws
- ④ Streamlined investigation

Reforms reflect constitutional vision

- ① Right to equality is ensured through gender neutralisation  
eg Rape laws
- ② Protection of child rights → Article 24

③ Freedom of speech and expression (Akhilesh) → dropping of sedition

④ Right to speedy trial (Ramachandra Rao case)  
↳ Zero fir

⑤ Protection of privacy of victims  
↳ Juvenile identity protection

Reflect societal needs

① Reduction in case disposal time

② Reformative justice to provide opportunity to change

③ Rising equality between women & men → to prevent stereotyping victimization

④ Inclusion of technology to maintain fair trial  
↳ Videotapping investigation

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

5. Urban local bodies have become dependent on grants rather than being fiscally autonomous. Examine the challenges in the fiscal empowerment of ULBs and its impact on urban governance. (10 marks, 150 words)

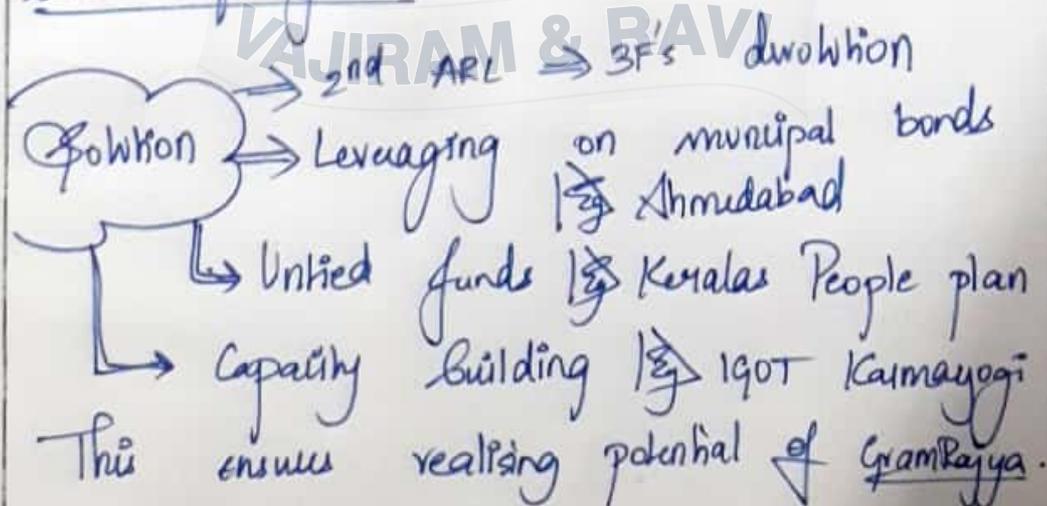
Urban local bodies are formed through 74 CAA, as a platform for grassroot governance.

Urban bodies dependency on grants-  
Challenges in fiscal empowerment

- ① Low devolution of funds  
powers to collect funds
- ② Poor capacity building of functionary to use funds effectively
- ③ Reluctance to tax locals
- ④ Property tax collection disrupted due to pending cases in courts
- ⑤ Low technology integration to track fund flow
- ⑥ Delay in formation of state financial commission (Article 243I)

## Impact on urban governance

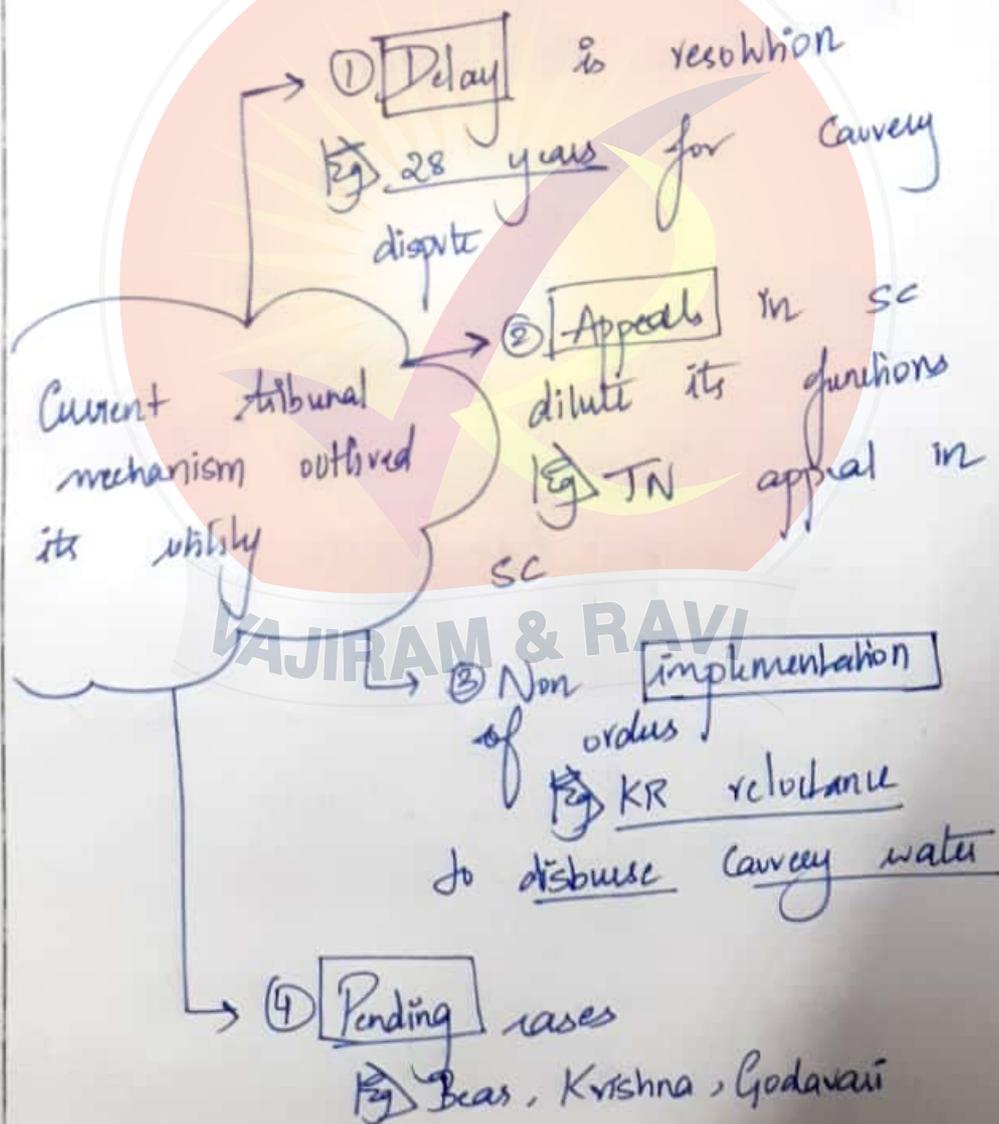
- ① Tied nature of fund prevent localised decision making
- ② Dependency syndrome prevents individual actions
- ③ Non realization of local participation
- ④ Inefficient urban planning due to top down flow of policies  
 ↳ Causes urban sprawl
- ⑤ Poor urban management of resources  
 ↳ Irregular drain cleaning due to lack of funds

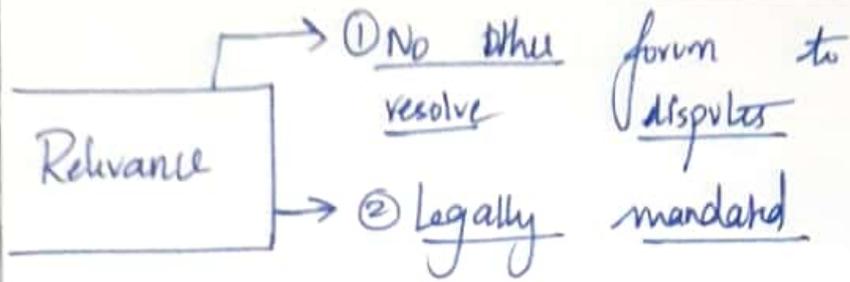


Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

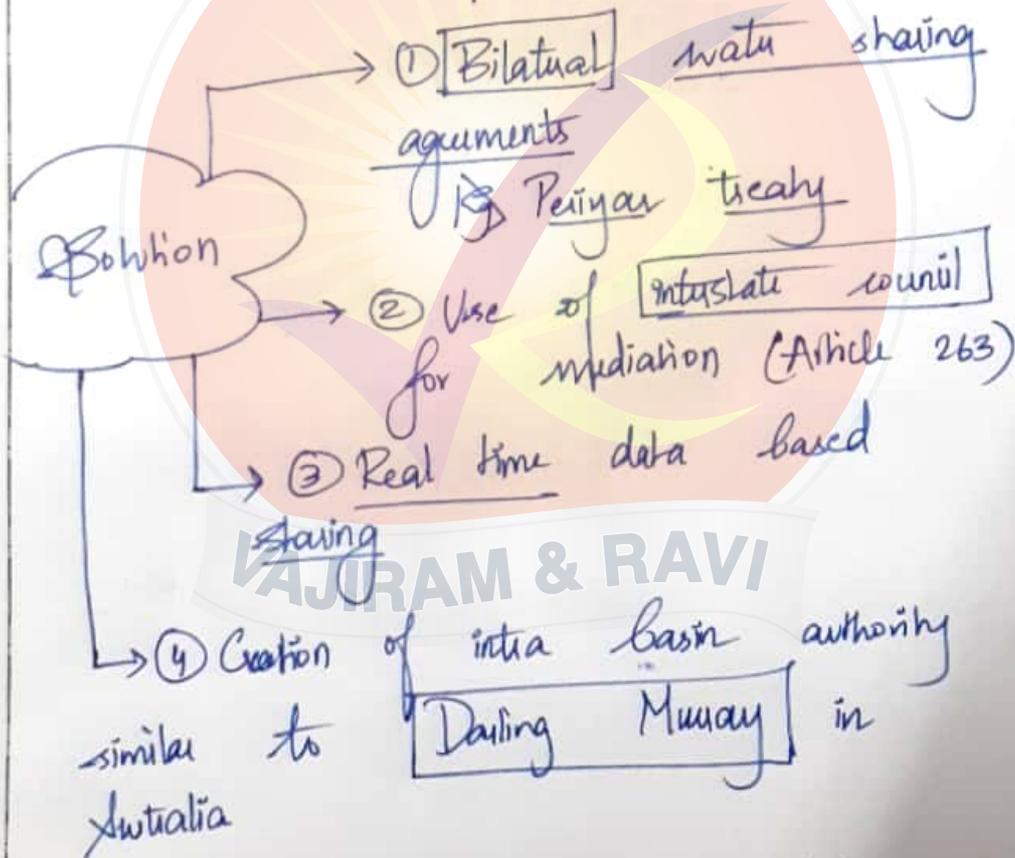
6. Given the prolonged and unresolved nature of Inter-State river water disputes, do you think the current tribunal-based mechanism has outlived its utility? Substantiate your view with relevant examples (10 marks, 150 words)

Interstate river water disputes are resolved under Article 262 of constitution which allows the centre to establish tribunals for resolution.





Since the functioning is weakening, the following measures could be implemented.



Solving water disputes maintains stability in region and sustains growth.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

7. "Operating in the informal grey zone, gig workers are increasingly facing conditions akin to modern bonded labour." Examine this statement in the context of evolving employment trends in India.  
(10 marks, 150 words)

Indian gig workers, ~~are~~ poised to grow to 23.5 more by 2030 are facing issues similar to bonded labour despite opportunities.

## Challenges faced by gig workers

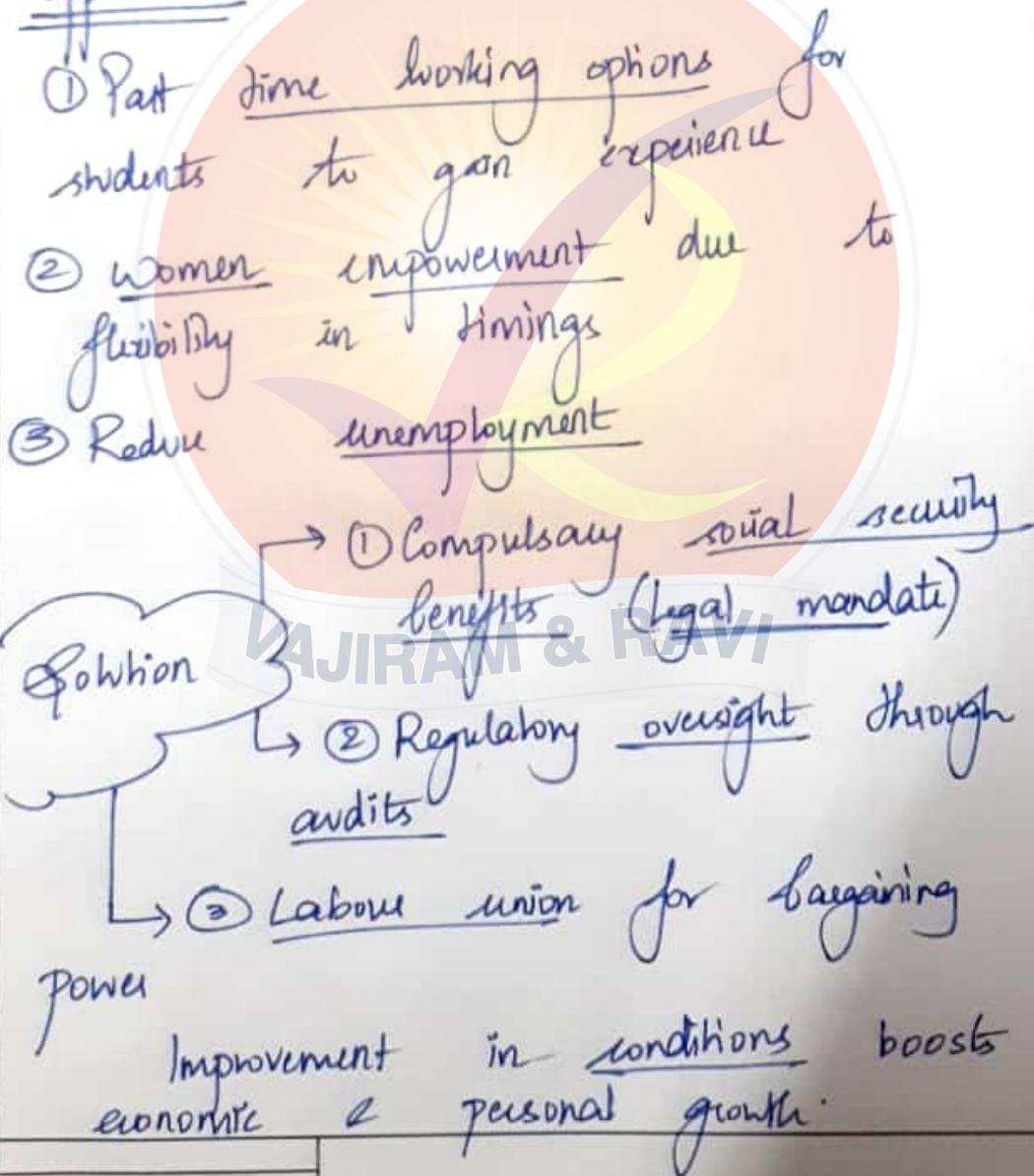
Employment trends today favour gig workers with 75% new jobs made in gig economy. The challenges faced are

- ① Lack of social security benefits  
eg Pensions, Health insurance
- ② Pressure in jobs  
eg To deliver within stipulated time
- ③ Harassment in hands of buyers  
eg Angry worker beaten for being late

④ Dismal growth opportunities in driving sector

⑤ No formal employee contract →  
thus reducing bargaining power.

Despite these, they still offer opportunities :-



Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks

8. Highlight the major challenges India faces in integrating Artificial Intelligence into public service delivery. Suggest a roadmap to address them.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Artificial Intelligence in form of machine learning, LLM and data processing enables efficient public service delivery but comes with challenges.

Challenges faced in integration of AI into public service delivery

- ① Reduces humanised decision making  
eg Disregard to emotions
- ② Prone to failures due to technical glitches  
eg Server failures during income tax filing
- ③ Biasness in data set perpetuates discrimination  
eg Neglect of LYBTQ+ in data set

- ④ Launae exist in RED investments and sandboxing
- ⑤ Rising privacy concerns can affect large scale adoption  
eg collecting data of locations
- ⑥ Requirement of overhauling system ⇒ need of capital
- ⑦ Potential loss of jobs due to automated works  
eg Banking staff

## Roadmap to address

- ① Data protection ⇒ GDPR rules
- ② Intensive data collection involving the entire population
- ③ Firewall protection ⇒ to prevent misuse
- ④ Human interventions at various levels to check prejudices
- ⑤ Investment in RED

Introduction

Body

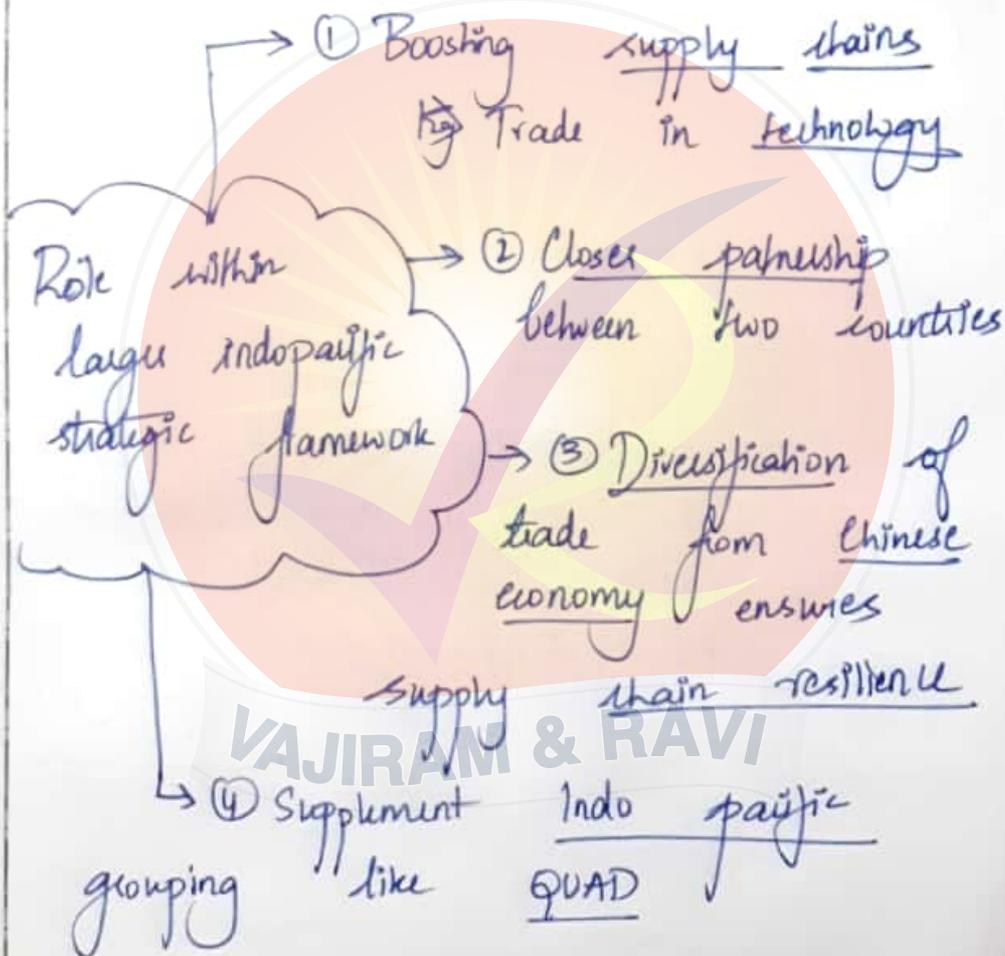
Conclusion

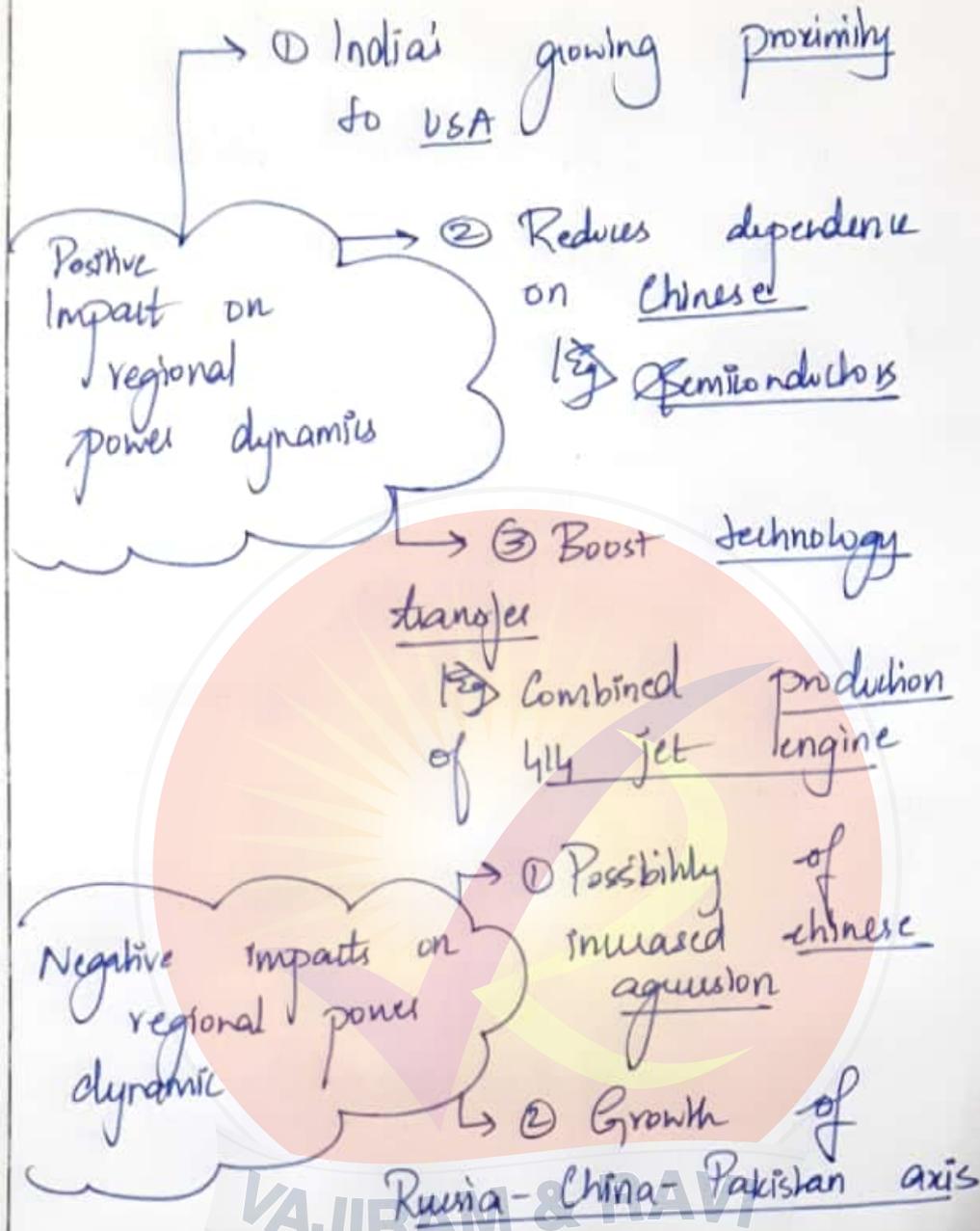
Presentation

Marks:

9. Analyze the role of the US-India COMPACT initiative within the larger Indo-Pacific strategic framework and assess its impact on regional power dynamics.  
(10 marks, 150 words)

The US-India COMPACT initiative aims to deepen military relationship and strengthen trade ties between the two nations.



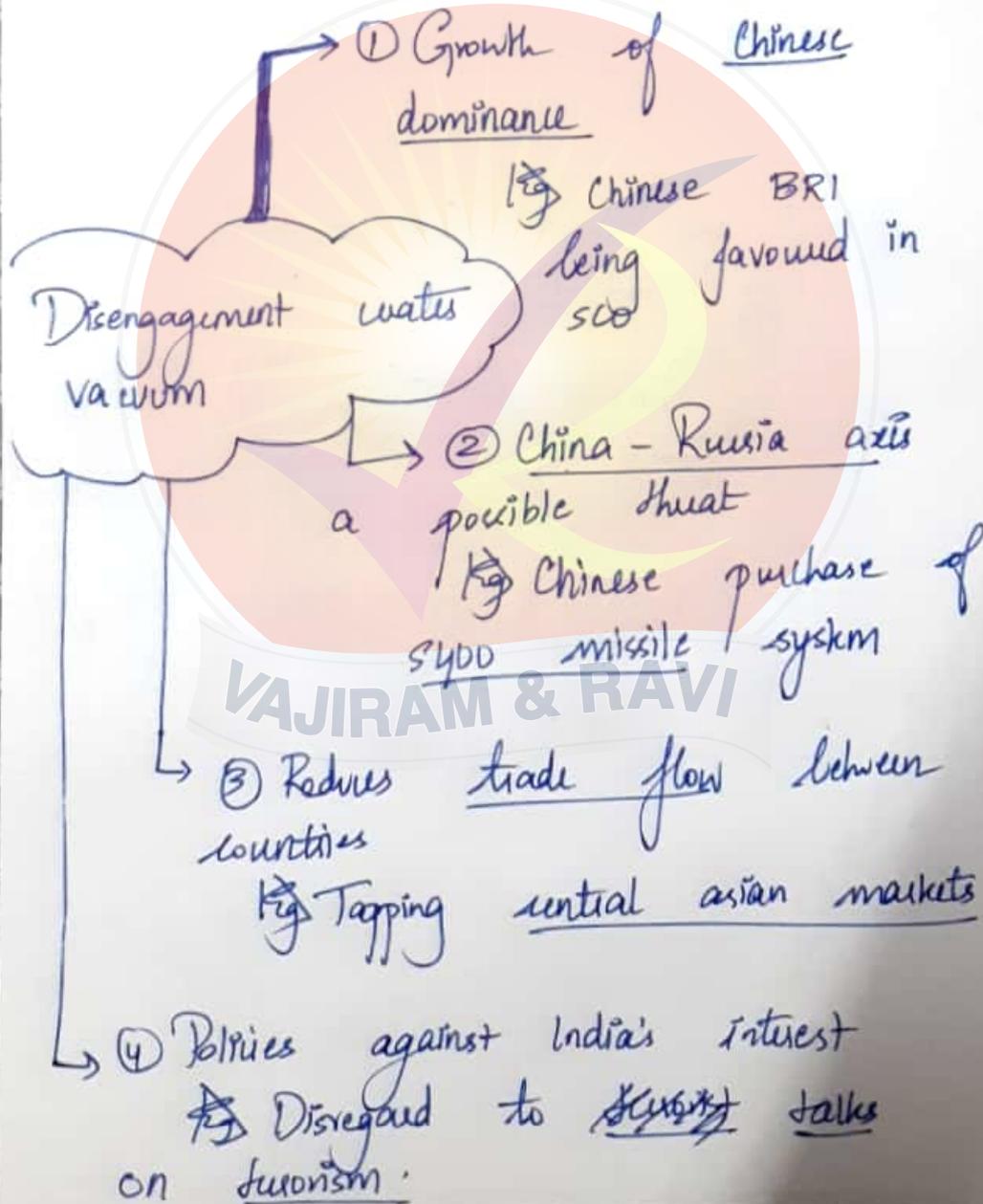


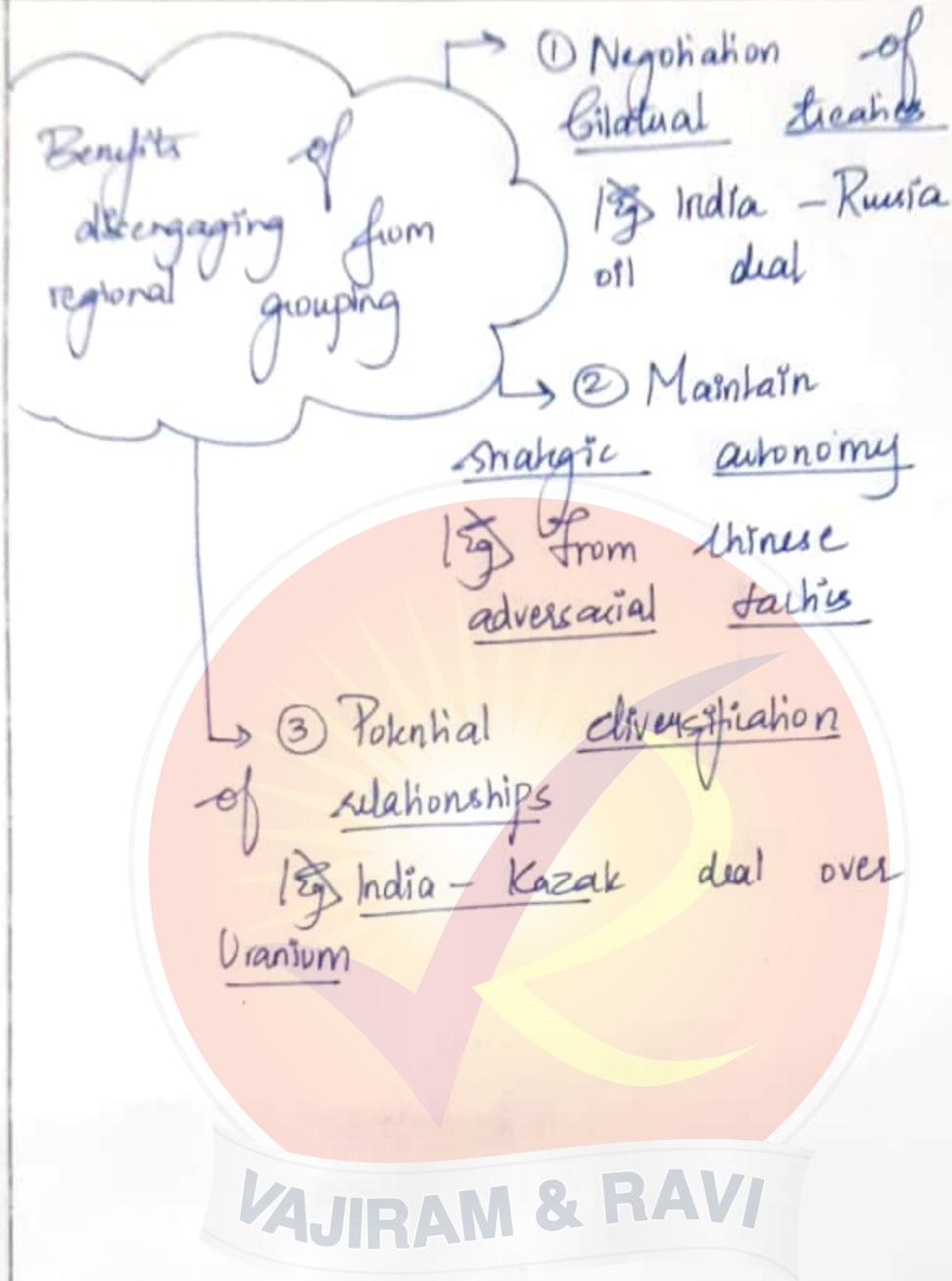
The changes are poised to improve trade flows to \$500 billion by 2030.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Mark's	

10. 'Disengaging from regional groupings only creates vacuums for adversarial actors.' In the context of India's role in the SCO, critically examine this statement. (10 marks, 150 words)

Increasing dependence on bilateral agreements has reduced the role of regional groupings in India's foreign policy.





Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

11. "In the digital economy, regulatory authorities play a crucial role in curbing abuse of dominance and ensuring fair competition." Analyse the effectiveness of statutory regulators like the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in addressing anti-competitive practices in emerging technology markets. (15 marks, 250 words)

The competition commission of India (CCI) recently addressed the case of Google play store service reflecting role of regulating authorities in maintaining digital economy.



## Effectiveness of regulators

- ① Preventing abuse of dominance  
eg Google play store dominance in Android
- ② Ensuring fair competition  
eg Between retail stores and large

online stores

③ Prevent market capitalization of online economy

④ Maintain fair prices for consumers

⑤ quality control of goods & services

↳ MH FDA sealing Zeph dark store in Dhruvi

⑥ Retain consumer trust

↳ Evident in growth of fast commerce

Inefficiencies

① Fund & functional deficiencies prevent efficiency

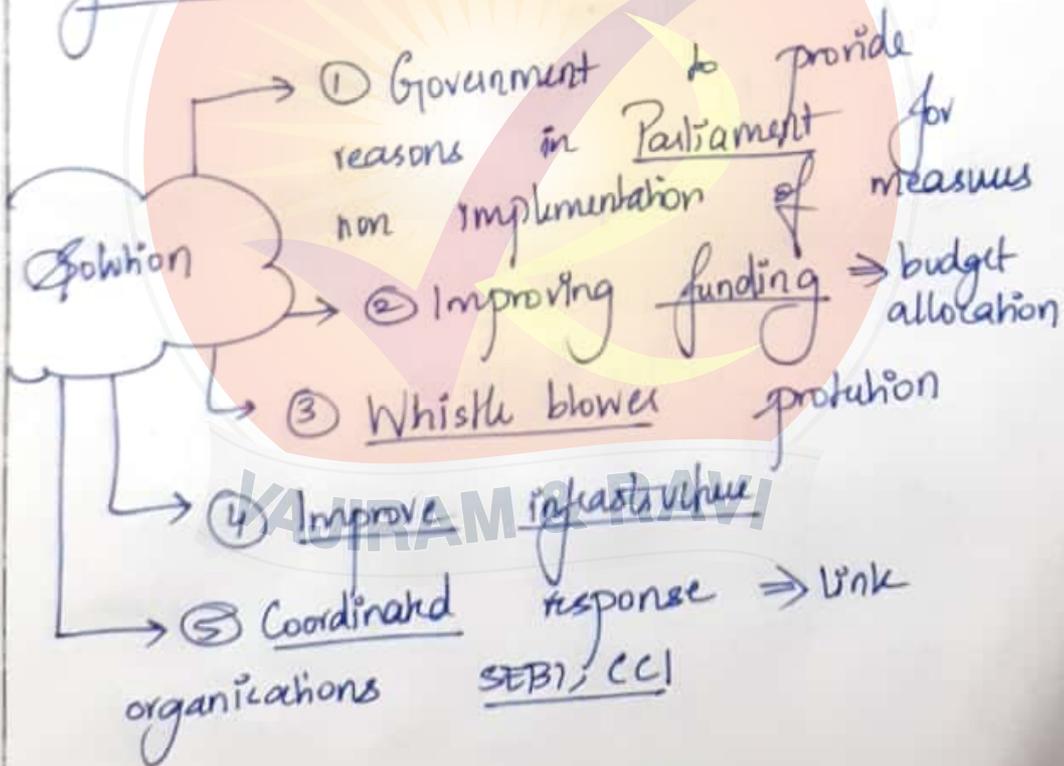
② Structural corruption disrupt market economy

↳ SEBI insider trading case

③ Lack of proactive measures

(i) Oversight over fast commerce.  
 (ii) International flow of services  
 effect role in regulation.  
 (iii) MNC's functioning from  
Nation borders.

(iv) Recommendatory functions  $\Rightarrow$  not  
 implemented on time by  
government



Maintaining market balance ensures  
Investments in digital economy.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

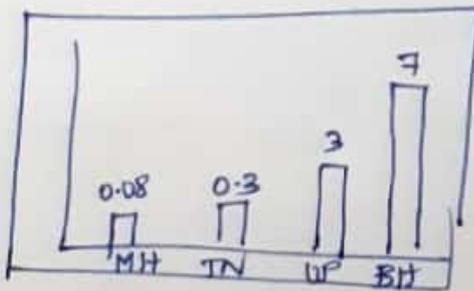
12. "The asymmetry of population growth across states has created a fault line in Indian federalism." Discuss the implications of post-2026 delimitation on cooperative federalism and regional political representation.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Population growth has been uneven across Indian states (Eg. KL  $\Rightarrow$  TFR 1.7, TN  $\Rightarrow$  TFR = 1.8, BH TFR = 3) and this has ~~posed~~ made challenges to Indian federalism

Fault line created

- ① Increasing demand of water resources drives interstate river water dispute  
 Eg. Mekedatu dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
- ② Flow of soil nihilism due to migration  
 Eg. Anhi Bihari votes in MH
- ③ Issues over devolution of funds



$\Rightarrow$  Funds received for every ₹1 collected

④ Issues concerning delimitation ⇒ which reduces seats for southern states

⑤ Asymmetrical federalism ⇒ seen as favouring northern states  
⇒ Critical Grants for special category states

## Implications of Post 2026 delimitation

① On cooperative federalism

① Possible interic state tension

⇒ TV resolution against delimitation

② Low financial transfers ⇒ point of tension

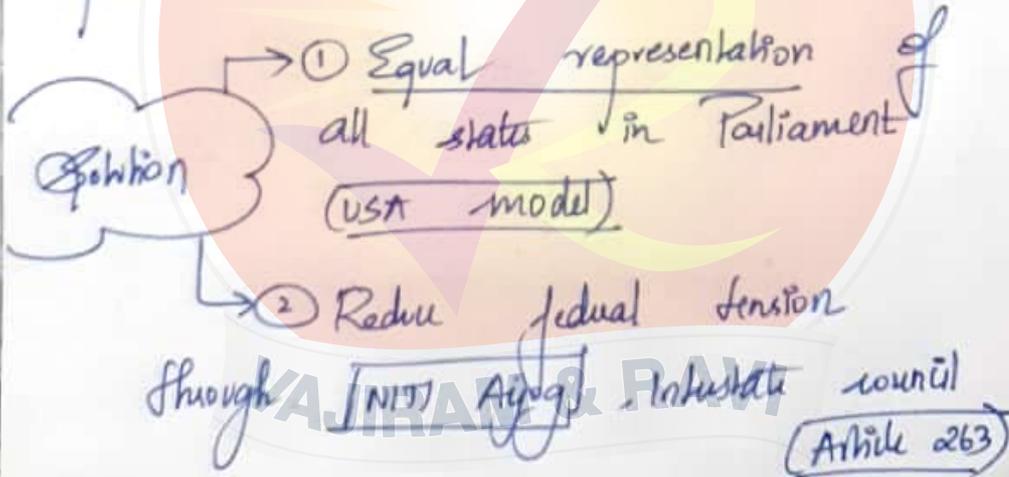
⇒ Use of 2026 census ⇒ low fund transfers based on population

③ Maintain uniform representation across states

⇒ Adjust to population rise

## ⑧ Regional political representation

- ① Reduce representation of southern states due to declining population
- ② Reduce voice in coalition politics due to low seats
- ③ Dominance of national party at centre
- ④ Increase demand for better representation



Thus, maintaining cooperative federalism is the key for smooth functioning of democracy.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

13. The Mediation Act, 2023 marks a significant step towards institutionalising alternative dispute resolution in India. Critically analyse its potential to reform India's overburdened justice delivery system. (15 marks, 250 words)

## The Mediation Act, 2023

institutionalises the alternative dispute resolution system, which involves

non adversarial resolution <sup>outside</sup> the traditional judicial system.

## Potential to reform justice delivery

- ① Reduce judicial case load  
↳ >4 crore cases pending (NJDG)
- ② Reduce burden on judges  
↳ 2200 is case load on subordinate judge (NJDG)
- ③ Speedy resolution of disputes  
↳ Takes 20 years for land disputes in courts (NITI Ayog)
- ④ Reduces cost of litigation  
↳ 3-4 times lower cost

⑤ Cultural : affiliation towards court based litigation

⑥ Lack of oversight over implementation of orders



The Singaporean model of ADR and its success is an example to be replicated.

⑤ Enables maintaining long term relations since non adversarial

↳ Involving business

⑥ Acts as a detour due to quick justice

↳ Violence against women

⑦ Greater involvement of parties in litigation

↳ Divorce cases

Limitations of mediation

① Lack of quality mediators reduce trust in process

② Probability of oppression of poor  
↳ Business vs Farmer land issues

③ Lack of awareness on existence  
↳ MSME awareness <15%.

④ Appeals in court after resolution reduces its role

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

14. The efficacy of Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) in ensuring governmental accountability is often compromised by political considerations and their limited coercive powers, which undermine their ability to affect substantive change. Critically analyse this assertion, considering both institutional constraints and the broader political landscape. (15 marks, 250 words)

Joint parliamentary committees are institutions that maintain the accountability of executive through analysis of legislations

Efficacy of joint parliamentary committees

- ① Scrutiny of bills
- ② Ensure stakeholders opinion in analysis
- ③ Recommends policy changes
- ④ Small forum ensures better deliberation
- ⑤ Participation of all parties in case of single transferable vote based selection  
↳ better quality discussions

## Limitations in functioning

(A) Institutional constraints

① Decrease in number of  Bills  referred to  committees

eg  24%  bill in 17th lok sabha

②  Limited time  prevent long sum  functioning

③ Lack of  quorum  limits discussion time

(B) Political landscape

① Driven by  party motives  disrupt  functioning

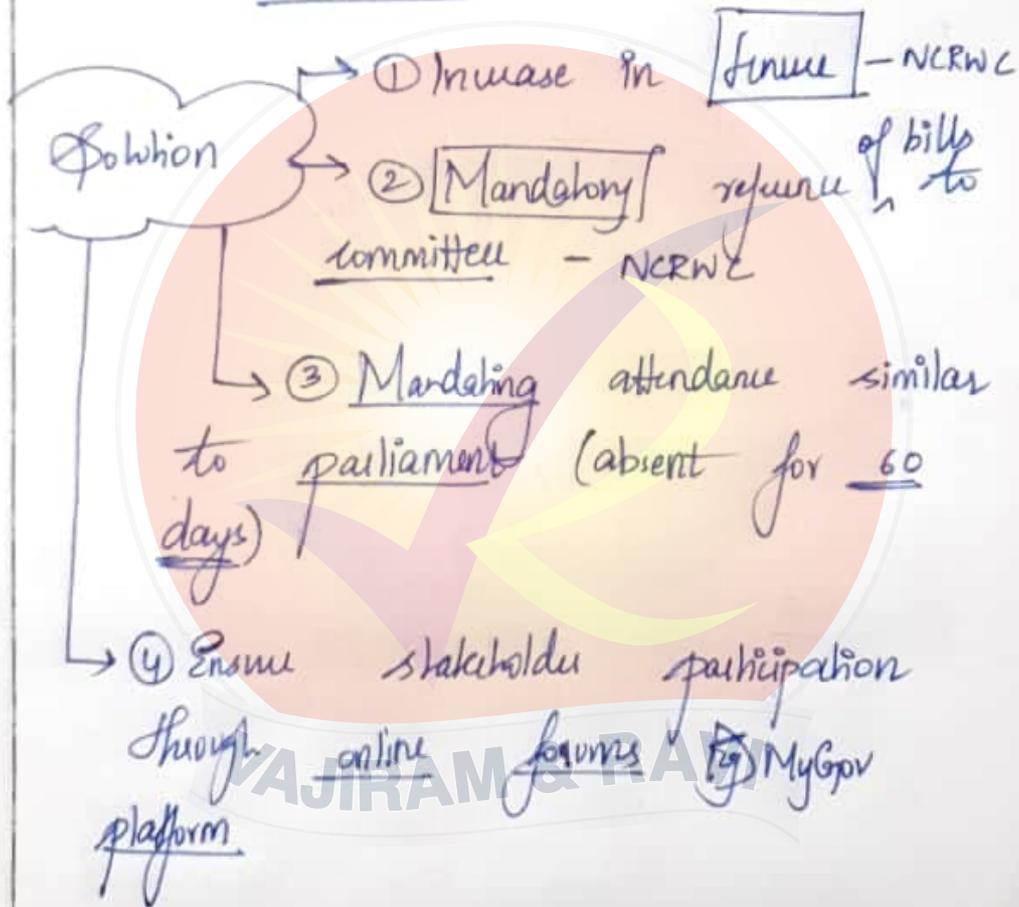
eg Raising  parliamentary issues  in  committees

②  Recommendations  not implemented due to lack of  coercive powers

③ Limited  inclusion  of stakeholders in  discussion  ⇒ declining trust in

## legislations

- ⊙ Lack of funds for effective functioning
- ⊙ Delay in submission of reports limits relevance



Maintaining accountability ensures trust reducing litigation in courts such as Ham loos leave -

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

15. "Non-state actors have emerged as indispensable partners in India's governance ecosystem." Examine this statement with suitable examples.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Non state actors are civil society organisations that function independent of government, supporting a cause.

Non state actors - indispensable partners

① Supplement government efforts in service delivery

eg Ashaya Patra providing

MDM

② Voice the issues of marginalised for government to notice

eg NAZ foundation role in

Naraj Singh Johar case

③ Empowerment of citizens

eg SEWA or self employed women empowerment

④ Ensure transparency in government functions

↳ RTI application filed by NGOs to uncover corruption

⑤ Citizen awareness programmes

↳ On Swachh Bharat & sanitation

⑥ collect data & prepare reports

↳ ASER report on education

## Limitation in functioning

① Funding challenges due to bureaucratic delays & FEMA strict regulations

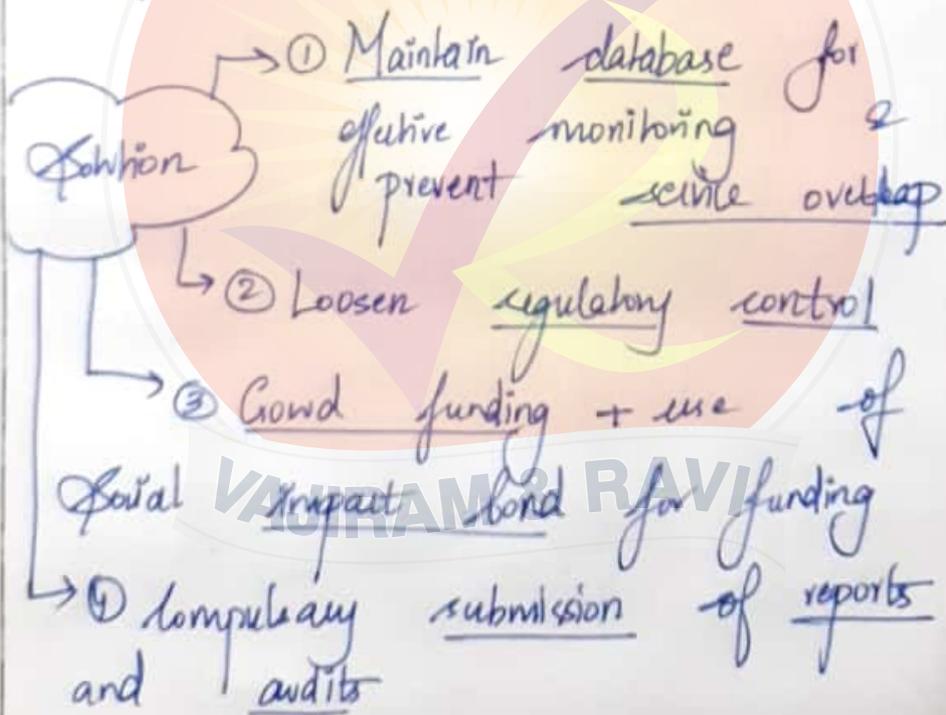
② overlapping functions affect efficiency

③ Insensitive to local practices -  
↳ down planning  
↳ Missionaries

① Disrupt development activities  
↳ Allegations over Amnesty International

⑤ Filing of jealous RTI disrupt governance

⑥ Non filing of audit reports → used as loopholes for tax benefits



Implementing recommendations of Vijay Komar committee is the key

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

16. Mission Karmayogi seeks to shift India's civil services from a rule-based to a role-based system. Explain its design and likely challenges in transforming India's conservative bureaucratic culture. (15 marks, 250 words)

Mission Karmayogi is a skill development and capacity building programme for the civil servants.

Shift from rule based to role based system

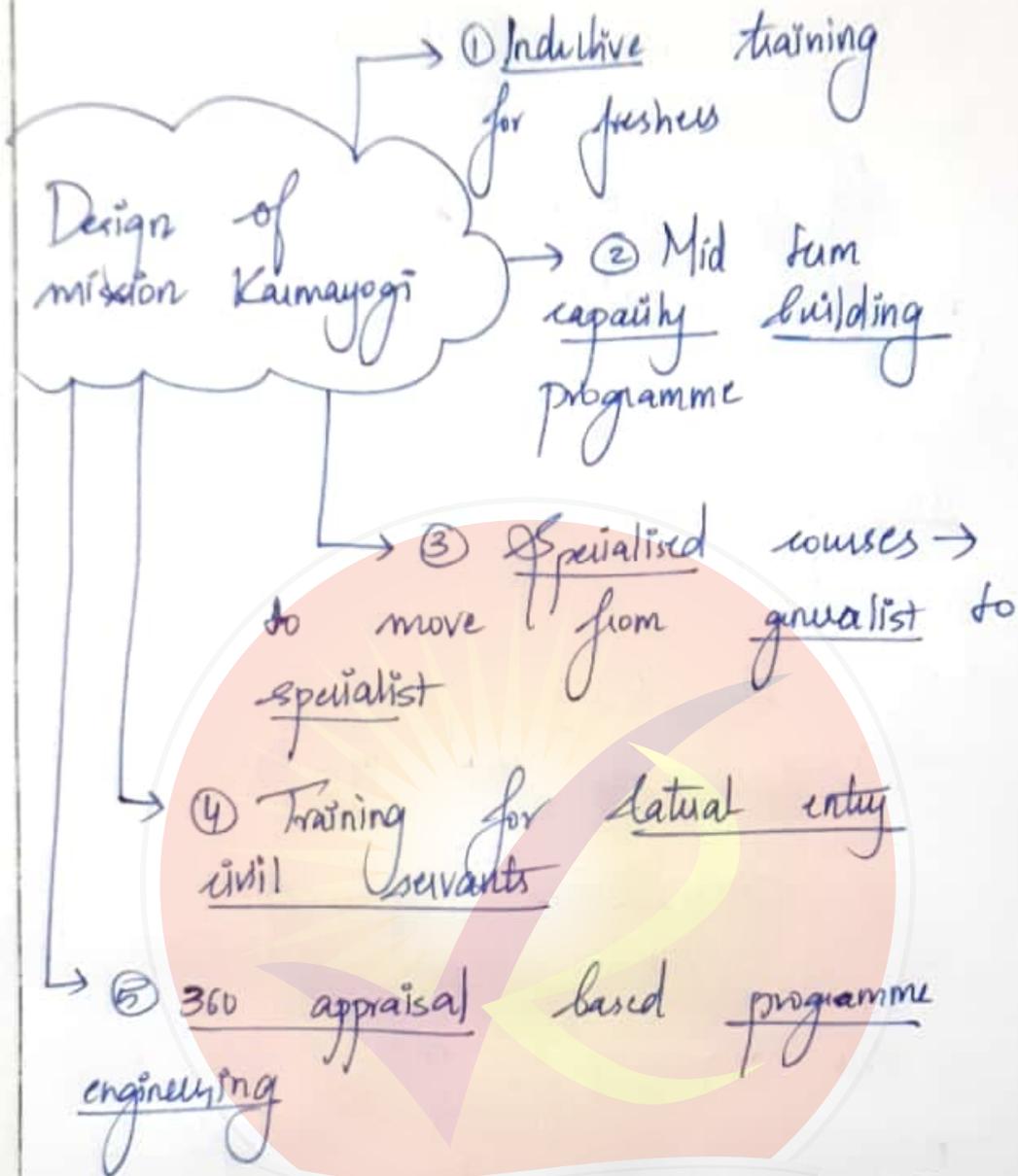
① Inculcation of ethical values in civil services

↳ Transparency - Impartiality

② Equip civil servant in solving ethical dilemmas

③ Ensure transparency functioning  
↳ Role of RTI

④ Capacity building on specialised roles  
↳ Financial planning, Disaster management



Challenges in transforming bureaucratic culture

① Red tapism prevents developmental works → highlighted by [2nd ARC]

② Pressure and overburdened affect quality of work.  
 ↳ Police officials working as admin as well as investigators

③ Lack of accountability ⇒ breeds corruption  
 ↳ NHA sum

④ Poor monitoring of projects  
 ↳ low quality road in MH

**Solution**

- ① Division of labour (Bibek debroy committee)
- ② Lateral entry for specialisation (Subbarao committee)
- ③ Transparent reporting (Integrity pact)
- ④ Frequent 360 appraisal based promotion (2nd ARC)

Efficient functioning ensures the steel frame doesn't corrode.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks	

17. Despite the enactment of the IT Rules, 2021, digital platforms continue to host harmful and misleading content. Analyze the gaps in the current regulatory framework and suggest measures for more effective control over social media and OTT platforms. (15 marks, 250 words)

With 33% Indians having access to social media regulation becomes necessary to safeguard rights of citizen as well as maintain the security of nation.

Issues in ~~social~~ digital platform

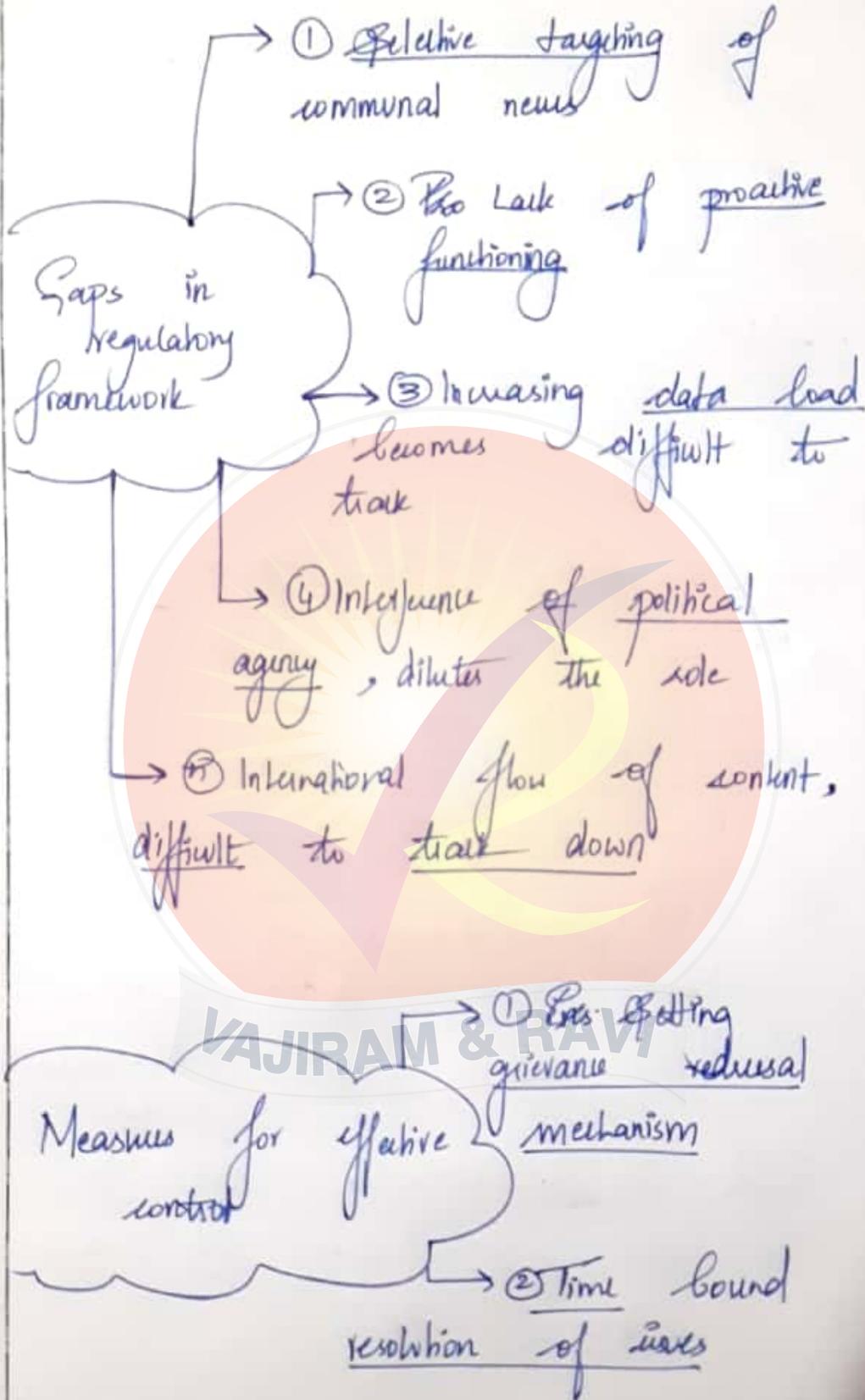
(A) Harmful content

- ↳ ① Child pornography
- ↳ ② Sensitization of news
- ↳ ③ Radicalisation of youth

(B) Misleading content

- ↳ ① Fake news | Ex: Cow vigilantism
- ↳ ② Deep fakes | Ex: Election propaganda

Though IT rules provide forum to tackle these issues they still persist & manifest as violence.



↳ ③ Increase awareness of citizen

↳ only 38% are digitally literate

↳ ④ Parental oversight over OTT content

↳ ⑤ Categorization of content → age specific

↳ ⑥ Fact checking fake news

↳ ⑦ Penalties → Act as deterrence

↳ ⑧ Equip police stations to handle cyber cases

↳ Cyberabad in Telangana

Implementing recommendation of BN Srikrishna committee create safe space for everyone.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks