

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT - 2025

General Studies Full Length Test Test - 6 (GS - 2) Test Code - A21052506	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:	<input type="text" value="Shiksha Pathak"/>	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.:	<input type="text" value="24VR9S499"/>	Email: <input type="text" value=""/>
UPSC ROLL NO.:	<input type="text" value="6101869"/>	Submission Date: <input type="text" value=""/>
MOBILE NO.:	<input type="text" value=""/>	

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/pair 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

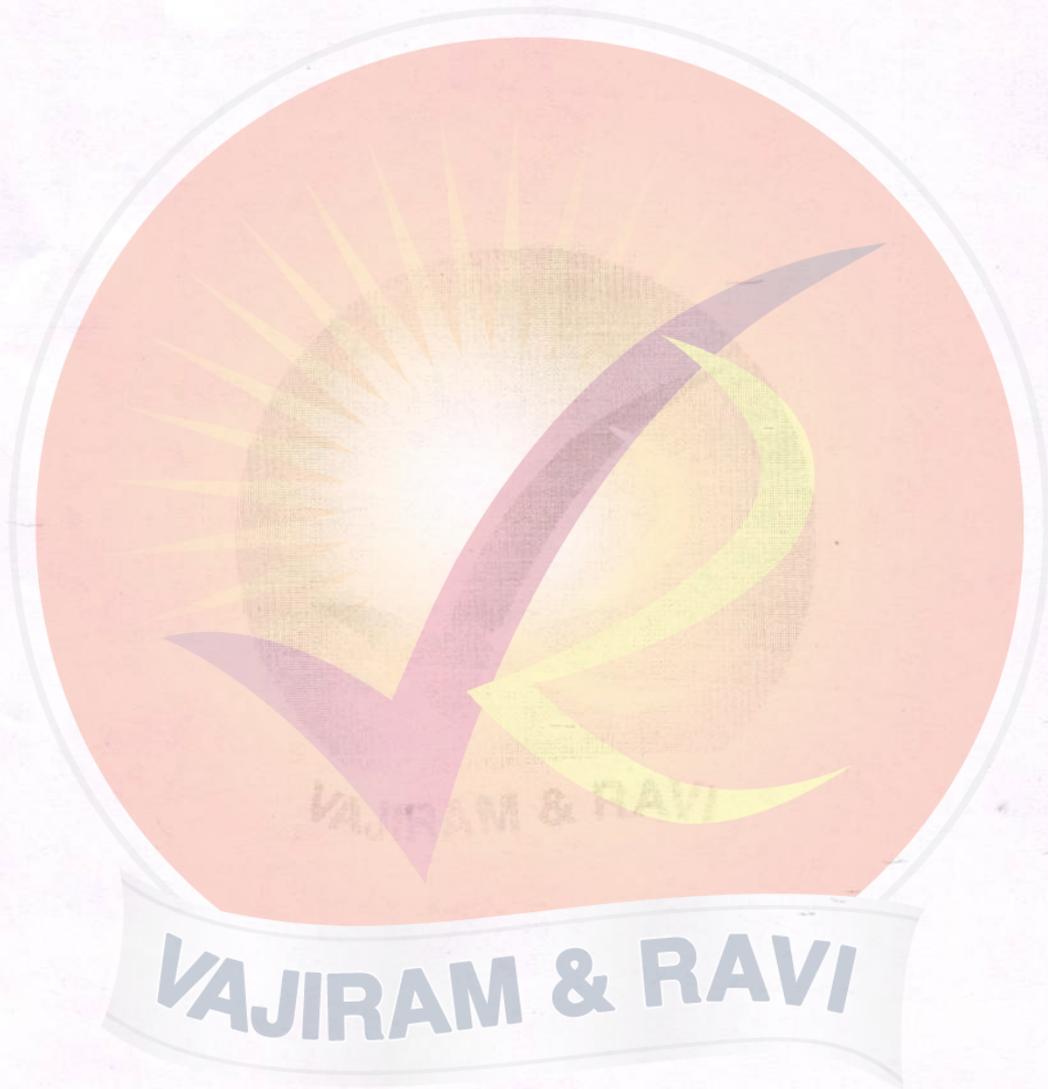
Start Time - <input type="text" value="10:30 AM"/>	End Time - <input type="text" value="1:30 PM"/>
Mode of Examination	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date - <input type="text" value=""/>	Dispatch date - <input type="text" value=""/>

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



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)

Separation of power ^(SOP) was first enumerated by Montesquieu, who separated the jurisdiction of different organs of the state to prevent conflict of interest.

Indian constitution as parliamentary democracy provides for separation of power (Article 121, 122) yet to ensure accountability, there is checks and ^(CB) balances (Article 61, 13, 32 etc)

Tension between SOP and CB

(2) Encroachment of jurisdictions, Judiciary may encroach upon executive or legislature.

Case law → In Prakash Singh case

SC recommended guidelines for arrest.

In recent T.N Ve Governor of T.N

SC recommended time limit for

- governors to act on state laws
- ② Appointment of judges, though Constitution provides appointment by state. Judiciary, through three judges case developed collegium system for appointment citing independence of Judiciary
- ③ Ordinance making power of executive often is used to bypass the legislative procedure. SC in Wadhwa case has put limitation on ordinance making power (Article 123, 213)
- ④ Establishment of tribunals (Article 423, presence of executives. SC in Chandua Kumar case has brought it under its jurisdiction,
- ⑤ Removal of judges often gets politicised however, constitution provides limited separation of power with delicate checks and balances requiring responsible conduct by all the organs.

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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)

Anti-defection law mentioned in 10th schedule aimed to prevent hoarse-brooding and ensuring the trust of public.

However, it appears to have centralised power within party.

Implication on Federalism

① Inadequate expression of regional party representatives, MPs or MLAs may fear disqualification in representing their constituency interest that might go counter party's agenda at National level.

② Encouragement for law impacting federal polity or state as MLAs at state level may not voice out their dissatisfaction (eg) Passage of Farm laws 2020

③ Poor quality debates by sub-units in Parliament preventing

healthy operation of federal polity (e.g) Declaration of emergency in 1975 suspending federal set up.

Implication on intra-party democracy

- ④ Members losing freedom of speech and turning into sycophants
- ⑤ lack of fair debates, decision making or recruitment at party level.
- ⑥ Impact on quality of decisions by the Top leaders
- ⑦ Demotivate youth from joining politics.

Suggestions → Restricting power of Whip to important issues (no. confidence motion). (Uroswami Committee)

→ Promoting intra-party democracy (Sankaria Commission)

"The law is as good as the people who implement it" - Cicero

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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)

Recently in 2024 elections candidates in four places (Ahmedabad) have been declared victorious uncontested as nominations of other members was rejected.

violation of free and fair elections

- ① Choices were not available to the people for exercise of this right to vote.
- ② Procedural hurdles in violating right to contest, RPA act 1951 provides for nomination process and lack of compliance leads to rejection.
- ③ Formal election without meaningful election among multiplicity of Candidates

violating citizen's democratic right

- ④ No role of citizen in the election

as they neither chose nor rejected a candidate

② Public mandate was not ascertained whether they support the candidate or not.

③ Lack of fair representation of the citizens.

④ Mockery of People's Participation in election.

⑤ Lack of electoral responsibility and accountability.

Parliamentary democracy (Article 75) is not just about the process but the substance.

The outcome needs to be

People-centric and not just rule-abiding.

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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 its recent judgement highlighted that private property are not by default common resources, Public use must justify criteria of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \text{scarcity} \\ \rightarrow \text{Public interest} \\ \rightarrow \text{Utility} \end{array} \right.$

Right to property and due process of law (RTP)

- ① RTP comes under Constitutional rights (Article 300A), it can be deprived by legislation.
- ② In Maneka Gandhi case, SC upheld that India follows due process of law, thus law has to be just, fair and reasonable.
- ③ Recent demolitions have been arbitrary as they did not follow due procedure.

SC has given following guidelines for ten's demolition.

(4) There must not be collective punishment to the family for crime committed by one member everyone has right to shelter (Olgaateli's case)

(5) Prior notification and warning must be given to the crew

(6) The demolition must be video-taped.

Thus, right to Property has now been acting as liberal right, and as part

of person's personality yet by due process it can be used for public welfare, balancing the two ideals.

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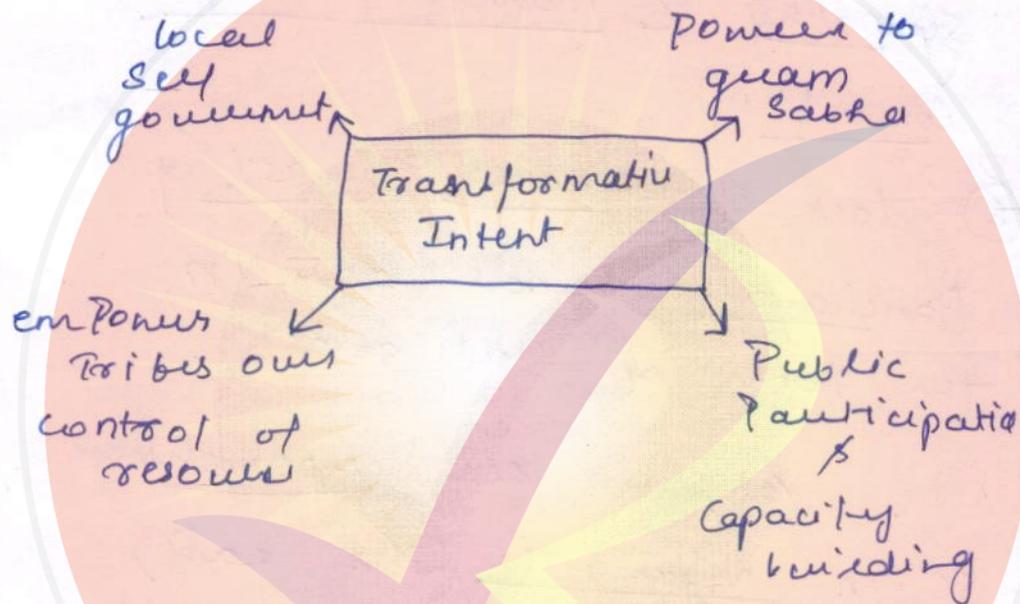
Presentation

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 at extending the grassroot democracy institution to scheduled Areas



Uneven and inconsistent implementation

- (1) Not implemented in tribal dominated state (Odisha)
- (2) states bypassing the power of Gram Sabha through state laws for utilisation of mine
- (3) Lack of awareness among

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tribals about their right
(literacy rate - 59%)

(4) lack of capacity to participate
in self-governing institutions

(5) lack of bureaucratic

sympathy (manishankar expert
Committee)

(6) lack of finances (95% of
Panchayat funds are in
the form of state grant.

Yet, we see empowerment
SC in Niyangiri hills case,
sided with gram sabha and
led to defeat of of

Vedanta **VAJIRAM & RAVI**
Nevertheless, Uniformity

is needed
"66 for tribals, India should
not just be protecting force
but a liberating force" - Nehru

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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 movements have been demanding equal rights and differentiated rights for women to overcome their disadvantage and biological barriers of menstruation and Pregnancy.

Reconciliation by India.

- (7) legal equality rooted in affirmative action.
- ↳ while Article 14 treats every one equal,
 - ↳ Dpsp allows to take action for well being of women (Article 46)

② Promoting neutrality but recognising backwardness. SC allowed Permanent Women Commission in armies but state gives 33% reservation to women in Lok Sabha under women representation act.

③ women-targeted schemes under Mission Shakti for utercycle -

approach

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'measure of civilization is judged through its treatment of women'
- Ambedkar -

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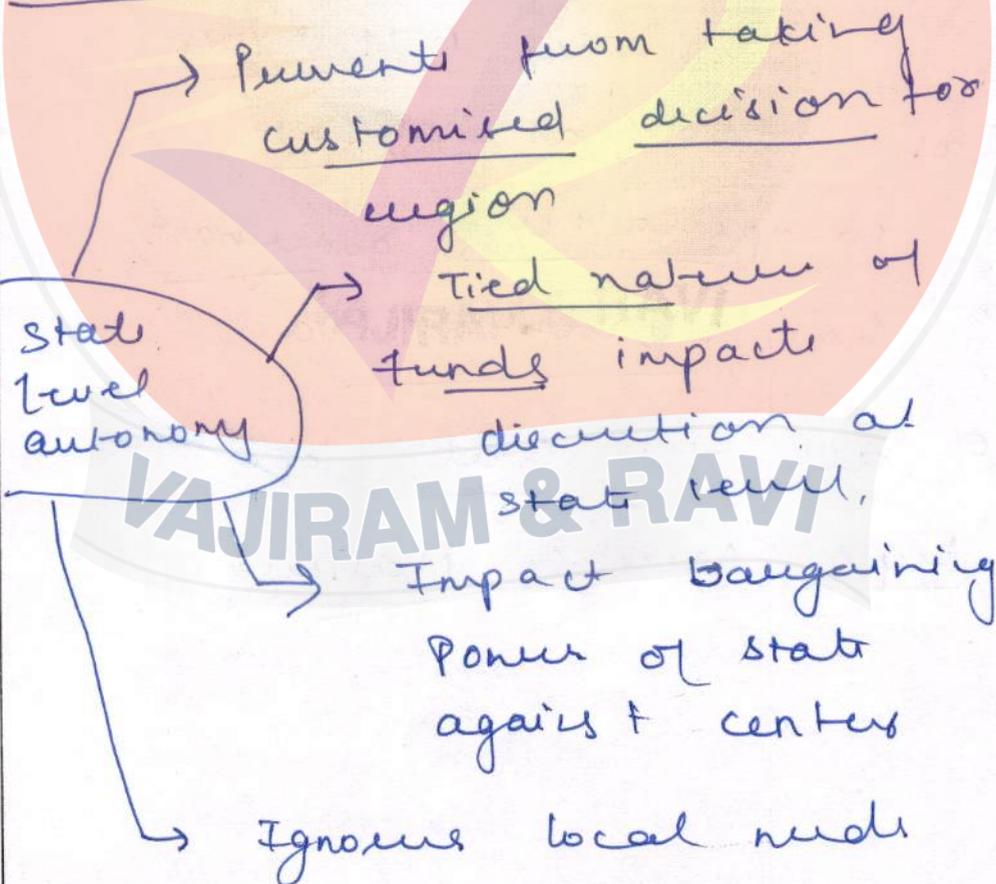
Presentation

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's diversity has yielded a federal polity in constitution. Centralised governance implies imposition of centrally determined rules and guidelines at state level.

Implications



Inclusive development

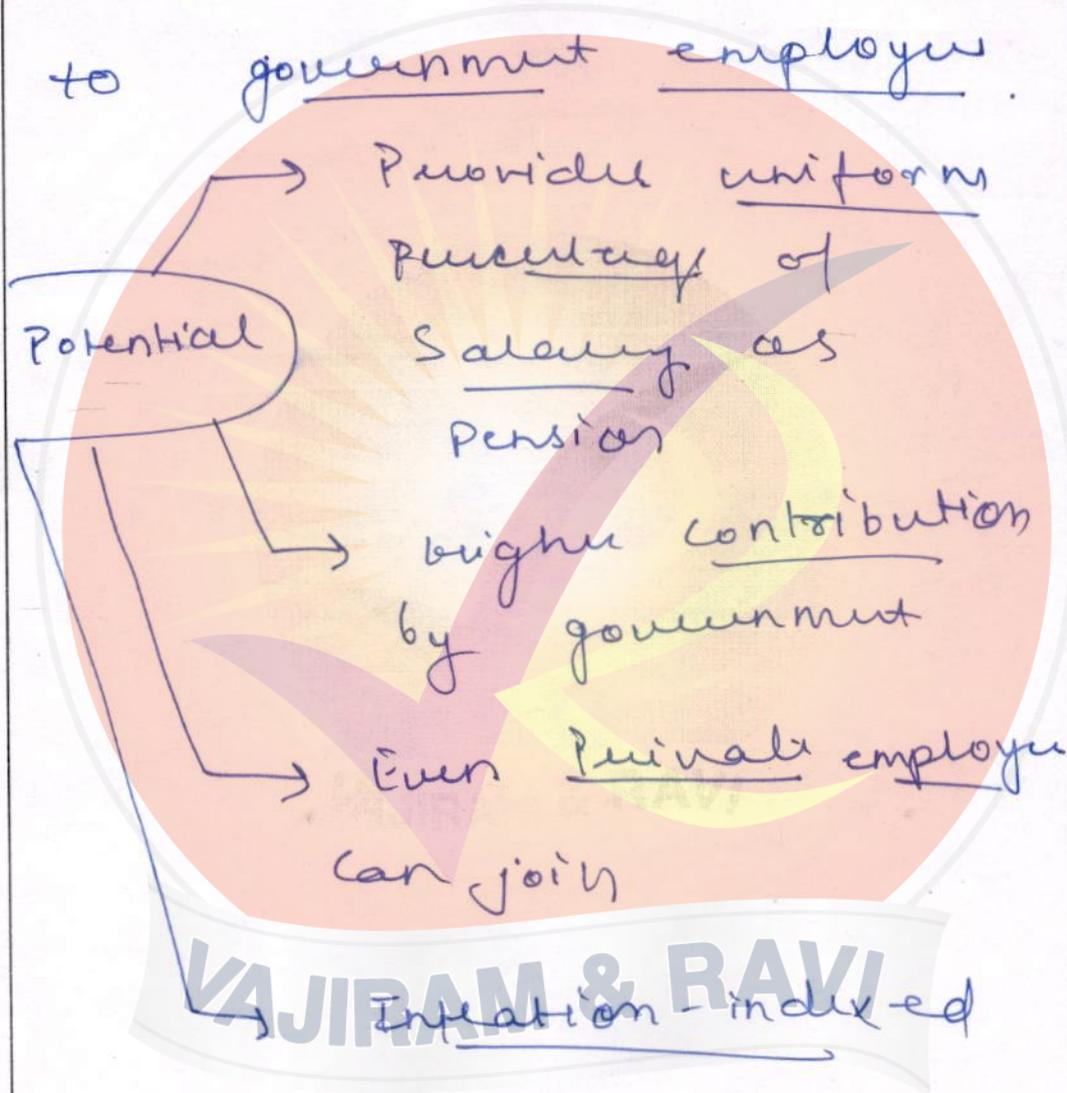
- Ignores the needs of minorities in state
- Prevents flexibility while operation
- Initiation by state for welfare

However, NITI AAYOG has acted as beacon of co-operation governance it has representation of all the states and keeps flexible planning

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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 aims to provide pension benefits to government employees.



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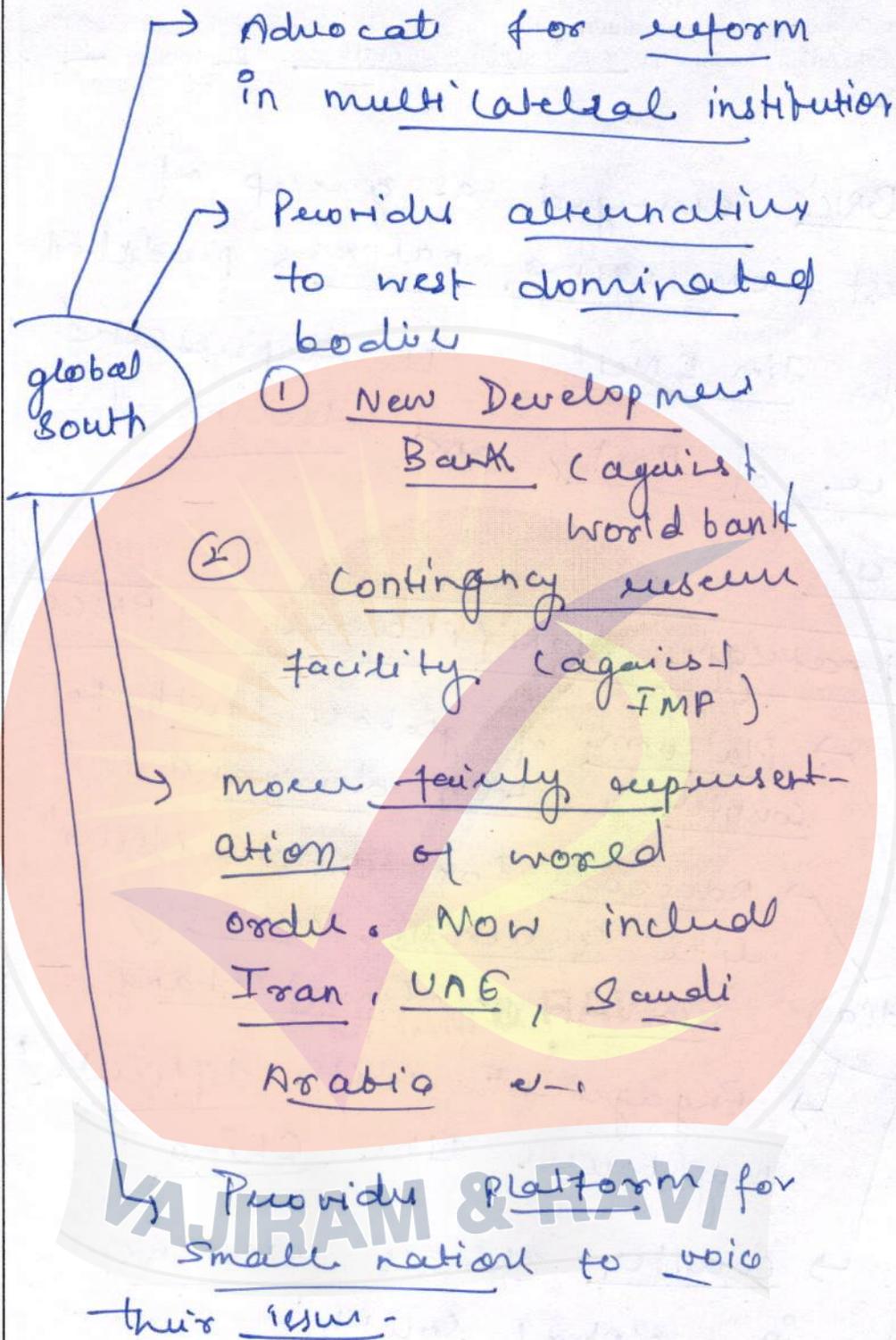
9. The growing focus on multipolarity has kept BRICS relevant in an evolving world order. Examine the strategic significance of BRICS for India and the Global South. (10 marks, 150 words)

BRICS emerged as group of fast emerging nations predicted by Jim O'Neil, It represented 'rise of Rest' and decline of West

Strategic significance of BRICS

- Platform of global south to counter western dominance
- Advocate for India's issues like terrorism, poverty, Security / climate change
- Engagement with difficult neighbours like China
- counter China's influence in global south
- keep manage India's tight balancing between west and east

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"The recent expansion of BRICS shows that multilateral institutions need to be in tune with changing times" - PM of India

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

Recently Bangladesh has seen a democracy backsliding where protests have led to fall of government and shikh Massing escaping to India.

Impact on India - Bangladesh relation

(1) Diplomatic backsliding as the ruling party (Awami League) was seen as pro-India

(2) Delay in implementation of connectivity and power projects

(e.g) Railway service
↳ Akhara - agential rail link
↳ Phusiyana river waters treaty

↳ BBIN motor vehicle agreement.

↳ maitree power plant
and so on.

③ Rising influence of china
breeds suspicion in relation

India's neighbourhood policy

④ Bangladesh has been India's
largest trade partner and
major nation in neighbourhood

⑤ lack of influence on
post-Masina government
will impact India's perception
as net security provider.

⑥ Growing clashes with
China questions the base

of INP

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Thus there is need
for India to practise
multi-alignment even
in Bangladesh domestic
affairs politics

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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)

73rd amendment act introduced local self-government and to ensure free and fair elections it provided for State Election Commission.

Provisions

- ① Each state will formulate its own laws for constitution of SEC
- ② They have been trusted with the task of conducting election at municipality and village level
- ③ They are independent and do not come under Election Commission of India.

Yet, According to recent report by Ministry of Panchayat Raj, only less than 10 states

Constituent SEC

Institutional Weakness

① Lack of Uniformity across the states. State laws give varying powers to SEC.

② Lack of Political will to constitute regular SEC and no consequences does not incentivise action.

③ Political interference in constitution of SEC often erodes people's trust.

Impact on functioning of local self government

④ No regular elections as SEC is not well equipped or not constituted (e.g) In a village in Rajasthan, Panchayat elections have not taken place in 5 years.

⑤ Lack of trust in the independence of SEC, thereby doubting the election result.

⑥ Ineffective elections due to lack of institutional capacity large scale vacancies in SEC

⑦ low voter turnout (e.g.) In Bangladesh, only 48% of people voted in local election.

⑧ violation of model code of conduct during election, more money and muscle power.

Thus, to make the people really empowered at grassroots level we need to strengthen SEC and bring it under ECI (Panchai Commission)

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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)

Cohabitation is the condition possible in semi-presidential system of French, when the Prime Minister and President are elected from different political parties.

This sometimes leads to blockage of decisions and legislation due to disagreement.

Indian parliamentary system structurally prevents such arrangement.

Constitutional reasons

② President of India is not elected directly (Article 53), but by the elected representatives.

Thus, the party in dominance usually chooses the President.

② President is head of state (Article 54) and has nominal powers, he has to take advice from council of ministers headed by Prime Minister for official conduct.

Administrative reasons

③ Swift decisions were needed in newly independent Parliamentary democracy, thus, attempts were made to prevent any possible conflict between President and PM.

④ Parliamentary democracy demands more power to the Council of Ministers, even a potential non-cohabitation wouldn't impact much.

Historical reasons

⑤ Indian constitution makes didn't favour power in single man. Thus President is just nominal head.

Lessons from French experience

↳ A cohabitation would Paralyse the working of government

↳ lack of consensus among different parties leads to resignation of official position

India needs to develop healthy Party system based on Parliamentary democracy

that even a potential cohabitation through structurally

rule, does not impair the administration

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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 its recent judgement, T.N. Us governors of T.N. Case, specified clear timelines for governors and President to act on state laws, as 'inaction' is unconstitutional.

Constitutions did not provide any timeline due to following reasons—

① Giving governors enough space and time to think on the issue (Article 200)
↳ whether it needs to be sent to President
↳ It needs to be assented or abstain assent.

② Ensure national integrity, post-independence, which was plagued

by secessionist trends, Governors acted as hands of center to prevent any state laws going against nation's interest.

However, with Passage of time, the lack of timeliness was used to handle political vendettas against state ruled by different Party.

Constitutional Subversion

- ① Legislative mandate was violated when state laws were not taken acted upon (e.g) Governors of T.N and Kerala not acting of appropriately legislated law.
- ② Violation of doctrine of separation of Power, Governor (Executive) withdrawing from its function of assenting the laws.

③ Constitution mentions "as soon as possible" reflecting an urgency in governor's action.

④ President inaction on state laws violates federalism and People's mandate.

⑤ Temporal reasonableness demand the laws essential for today must pass swiftly today.

In this backdrop, SC guidelines appears step in right direction. Governor acts as 'lynchpin' of co-operative

federalism and must

conduct himself with Propriety (Sankar's Commission)

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

Legal Services Authority was created under National legal services authority act 1987 to fulfill the mandate of access to free and fair legal aid under Article 39A

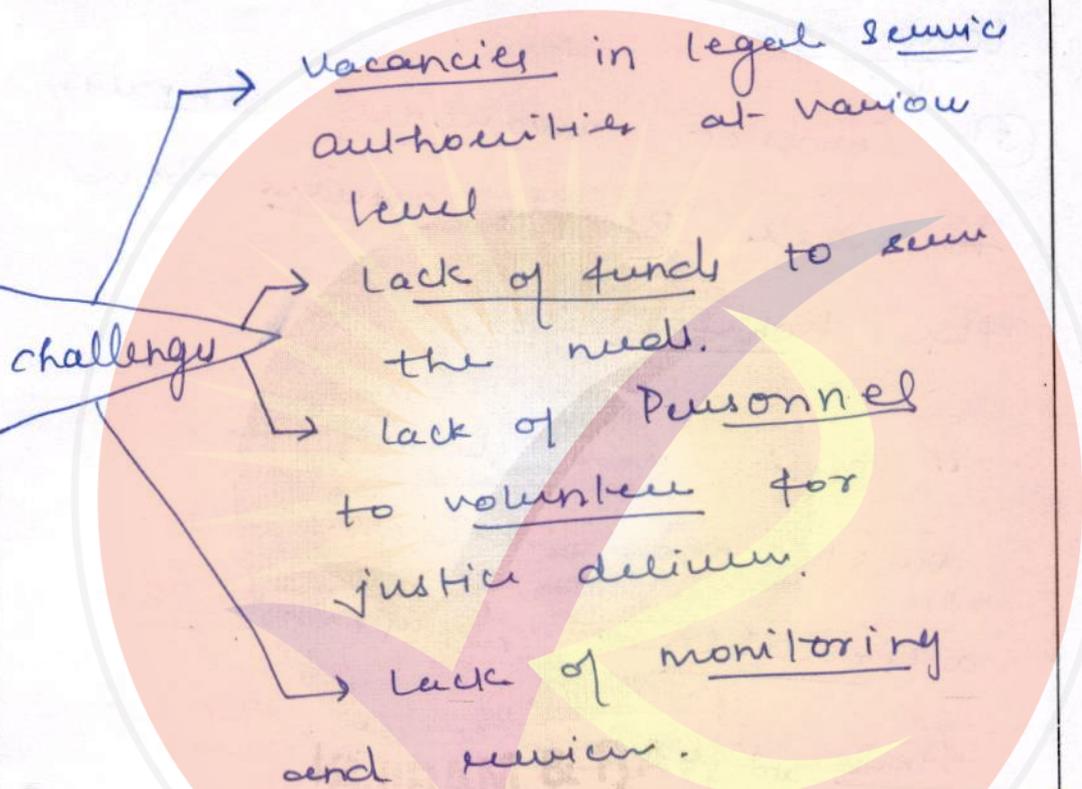
Role in ensuring equal access to underprivileged sections

① Free legal aid to women, SC, ST, OBC, elderly, disaster affected people.

② free legal expertise and advice by state and district legal services authority

③ Promoting alternative dispute resolution to prevent excessive legal and long drawn battles for poor sections.

- ④ Made judiciary cheaper, accessible and approachable.
- ⑤ Created a Network of Authority that penetrates entire India.



Suggested Reforms

- ① Raise the allocation of funds to authorities.
- ② Immediate filling of all the vacancies.

- ③ Provide expert body support to deal with specific cases
- ④ Make it more accessible by adoption of Vernacular languages
- ⑤ Conduct awareness campaign to make people aware about the benefits.

" Justice must reach the most marginalised at affordable rate, appropriate time and convenience of the citizens "

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

Public accounts Committee is one of the three essential finance Committee, It has 22 members and it prepares financial reports on expenditure and revenue to check the economic propriety.

Structural constraints

- ① Involved in Post-facto analysis of expenditure
- ② Recommendatory role, thus advice need to be implemented
- ③ Short tenure of 1 year prevent experience gain and utilisation in future act
- ④ lack of expert - support

Provides deep analysis.

Political constraints

⑤ members are elected in proportion to Party strength in Parliament, thus power dynamics get reflected in PAC as well.

⑥ As the chairperson is by convention (since 1967) from opposition party, Party in power may not take the PAC as serious.

Committee effectiveness

② PAC reports are used as inputs to ask questions in Parliament

② It is used by CAG to bring out cases of discrepancy

in expenditure.

③ Incidents of inefficiency and scams have been uncounted with the help of PAC reports

(e.g) Rajah scam, 2G spectrum case.

Thus, PAC is huge beacon to keep the government accountable yet, it has failed to act to its potential due to structural and political issues.

PAC needs to be empowered in line with recommendation of National Commission to review the working of constitution.

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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 revolution have touched all the spheres of human life and health is no exception.

In India, Digital Public Infrastructure in health sector Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has made health more accessible.

Strengthening of Universal health Coverage

① Accessible to remote areas.
e.g. Telemedicine, e-sanjeevani provides health care in remote areas.

② Made Convenient documentation. Through Ayushman digital health cards, medical reports are saved at cloud based Platform.

③ Women empowerment, 20% of ABDM beneficiaries are women, Direct benefit transfer under, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, has made the financially independent

④ Inclusive health sector
Platforms for vaccination
CoWIN, UNIN has made immunisation easier, more than 94% of childrens are immunised under universal immunisation mission.

⑤ Empowering the vulnerable section, Vay Vandana cards (for elderly > 70 years of age) provide digital and physical health care to elderly population

Challenges

(1) Lack of internet connectivity, only 45% of India's population has internet connection.

(2) Digital literacy, only 34% of population is digitally literate.

(3) Data breach and Privacy. Data of thousands of users of COWIN got allegedly leaked on Telegram.

(4) Lack of human touch (e.g) manodarpans and other chatbot can't replace

Physical human presence.

Thus, these challenges have to be overcome to fulfill dream of Viksit Bharat with healthy citizens.

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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 allows the recruitment of outsiders for specialised positions for short term contract.

Strike balance between efficiency and accountability.

① As civil servants are generalist specialised positions remain vacant.

② large scale vacancies (> 4700 at IAS position) need lateral entry for immediate resumption of operations.

③ short term nature of lateral entry prevents excessive expenditure on

training or post-service benefits

(4) Presence of external talent promotes healthy competition among the civil servants.

(5) Brings new perspective to the public work culture.

Challenges in lateral entry

(1) Harms the morale of existing civil servants

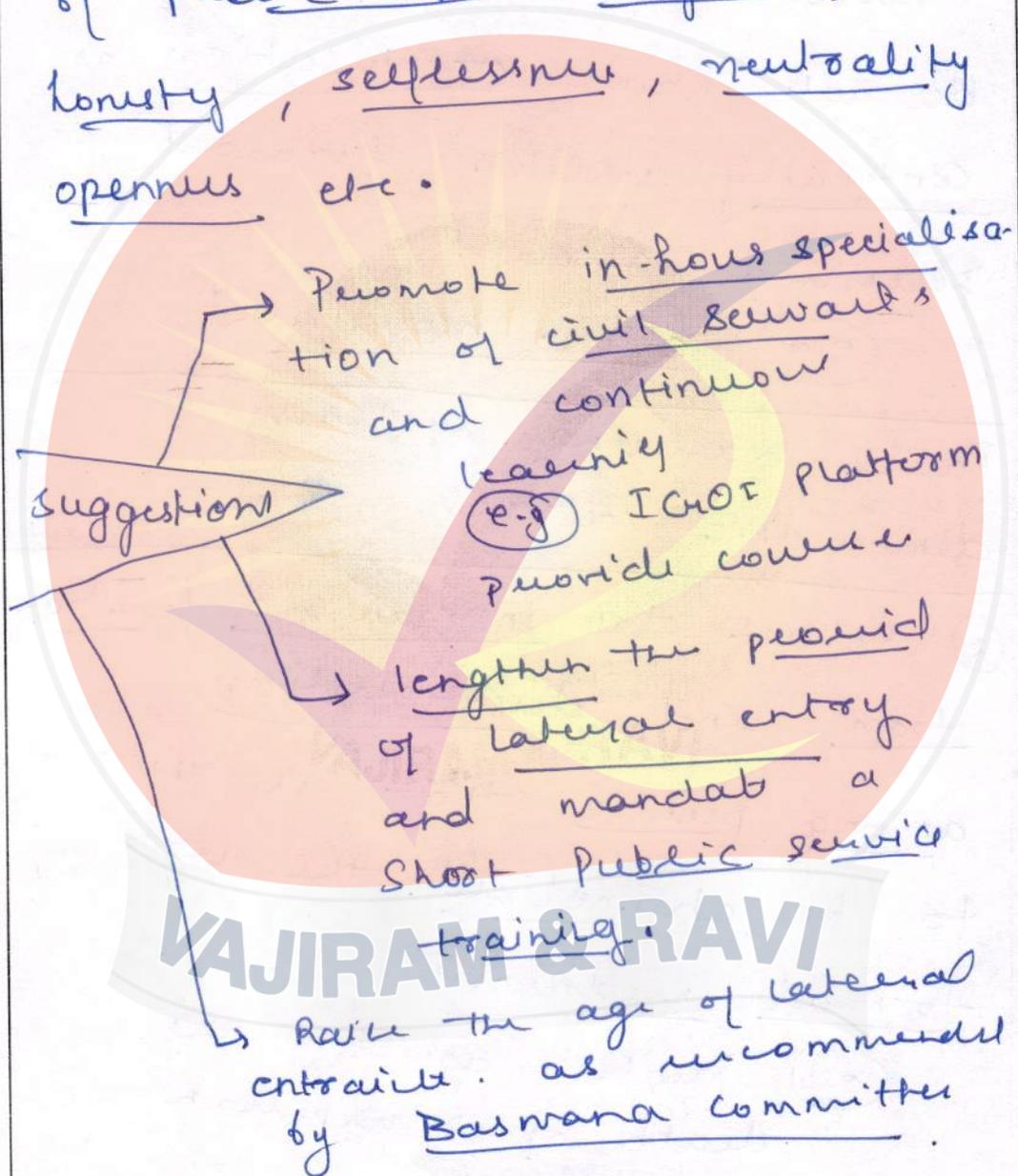
(2) Potential leakage of confidential information when the expert goes out.

(3) Possible clash of public and private work culture

(4) An outsider from public private sector may not have public motive for work to be efficient at

Public service.

⑤ Short term nature of work prevents inculcation of values of public life - integrity, honesty, selflessness, neutrality, openness etc.



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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 also known as amorphous pressure groups as they do not have organisation or continuity unlike formal pressure groups.

(e.g) chipko movement

Early warning systems in democratic societies.

⑦ Reflect the inorganised frustration and dissatisfaction among public that is yet to be channelised through formal mediums.

(e.g) Protest against the death of 3 aspirants in delhi

- ② More genuine and non-political expression without focus on the formality (e.g) Aray movement
- ③ Shows the localised gaps in governance and service delivery (e.g) Protest by localities over blackouts in east up.
- ④ They are purpose and goal specific with no long-term working agenda.
(e.g) People against corruption movement by Anna Hazare.
- ⑤ Reject the inherent inequality on discrimination (e.g) parents protesting against fee-hike by private school.

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Thus, informal pressure groups give voice to those people who are usually not touched by political channel of representation but as this suffering have crossed the threshold they needed to raise the voice.

Therefore, the basic functioning of the democratic system is questioned, hence the an early warning for the pledged revolution that is taking shape.

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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 the only constant in the ever changing global politics"

- S. Jaishankar.

The relationship has seen ups and down yet in the present context of 'flux' in global politics, there have been

Challenges -

① Geopolitical inertia

↳ Ukraine - crisis has made Russia closer to China and Iran.

↳ India's relation with West (US) has been rising as China's aggression grows

↳ India condemns 'any act of war'

② Geo-strategic inertia

↳ Russia aims of world order dominated by 'regional powers', while India wants 'multipolar world order' and unipolar

South Asia

③ Geo-economic inertia

↳ Energy has been major pillar of India - Russia trade

(80% of Trade volume)

↳ need of diversification

↳ lack of people to people

connect.

④ Multilateralism

↳ India's membership of QUAD,

I2020, makes Russia insecure

↳ Emerging Eurasian alignment

of Russia - China - Pakistan

is threat for India.

Need of Pragmatic reset

(1) Both should see the long term imperative of each other

(2) China is threat for Russia as well. This acts as incentive for Russia to keep relation with India intact.

(3) Strong ^{and} historic defence and security ties made to promoted

(4) focus on people to people

(5) Diversification of trade

basket

Thus, the relationship needs structural modifications

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Marks:

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)

Arctic circle is frozen ocean surrounded by land. climate change facilitated melting of ice has led to creation

Crave for

- New Northern route
- minerals
- oil and gas

Implications for India

energy security

- Potential presence of oil and gas is attractive for India
- Rare earth elements and critical elements are needed for India's

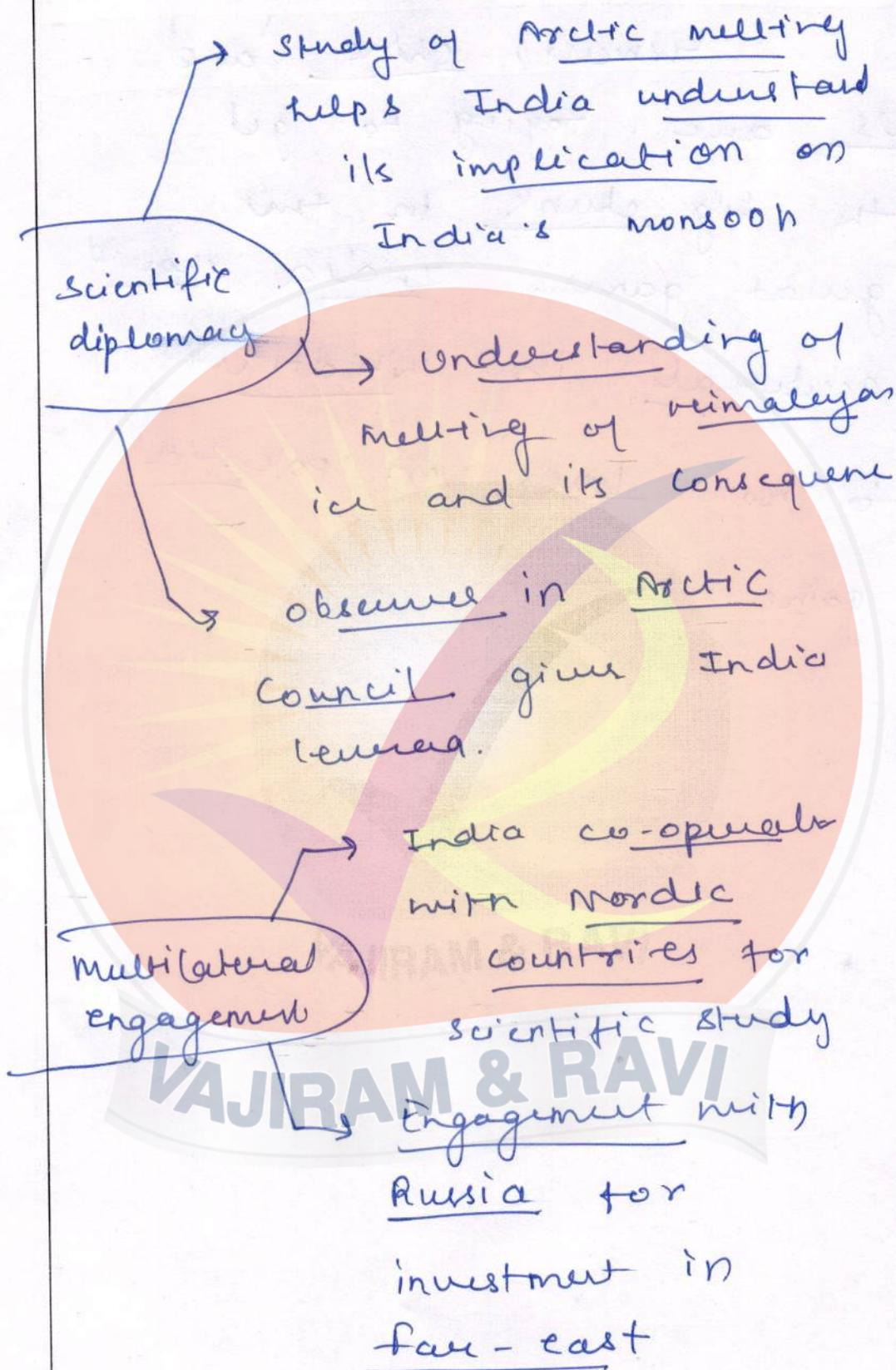
energy transition

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→ New route can provide easier

and cheaper route

for India's oil imports



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However, china and us are trying to get the big chunk in this great game. India should accelerate its initiative to not lose on potential gains

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Marks:

Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work



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