

## VAJIRAM &amp; RAVI

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>0869859</u>	Submission Date: <u>4 Aug 2025</u>
MOBILE NO.: <input type="text"/>	

**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.

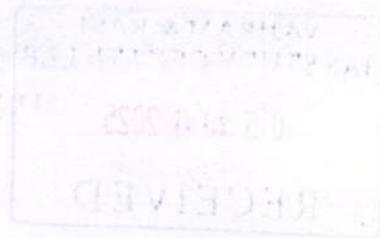
VAJIRAM & RAVI IAS STUDY CENTRE LTD		<b>For Student Only</b>	
Start Time - <u>05 AUG 2025 11:30</u>	End Time - <u>2:30</u>	Mode of Examination	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date -	Dispatch date -	<b>RECEIVED</b>	

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				

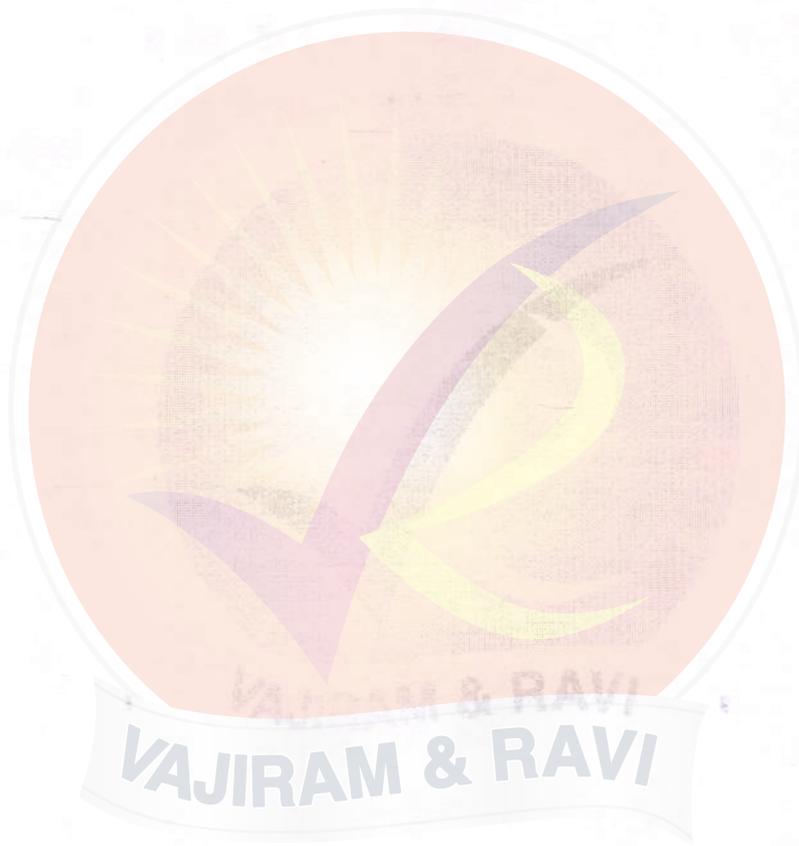
**Mentor's Feedback**

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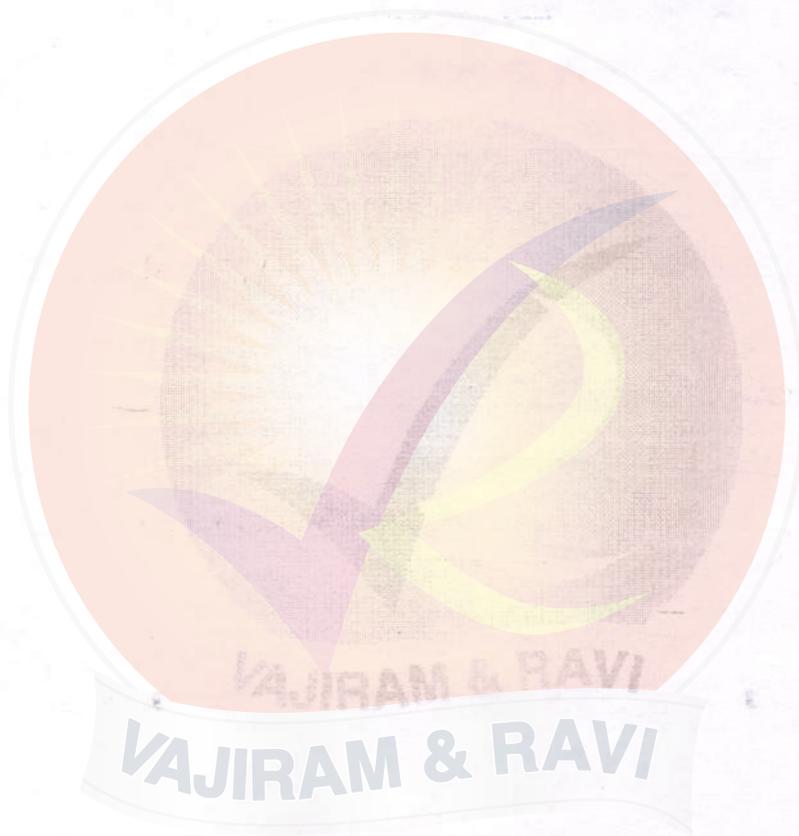
**VAJIRAM & RAVI**



## Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



## Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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

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

In the famous case Ram Jaiya Kapoor vs UOI Supreme Court has established India's nature of government a Separation of power.

Tussle between various organs of the State : tensions of SOP

- (i) Between executive and judiciary (Article 50) : SC use of 142 under state of TN vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu - have binding time limit
- (ii) Between executive & legislature (Article 79) -! Tussle over Governor role (A. 300) and President to dissolve house. (eg) NEE Bill controversy.
- (iii) Between Judiciary & legislature : 99<sup>th</sup> CAA (NJAC)

Article 122 and 121 → SC struck down NJAC

## (iv) Tribunalization of justice system

Bar Council v. State of Madras : limited tribunal misuse.

### Need of checks & Balance

(i) Judicial review to limit tyranny of elected

eg SOP under Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain

(ii) Smooth functioning to democracy

eg Article 124(4) : Removal of Supreme Court

(iii) Curb the issue of Judicial adventurism

eg Recent Justice Pasayat vs <sup>MT</sup> Corruption Case & Shyam Chanksey Case - Anthem in cinema hall.

(iv) Strengthen democracy & public trust eg Kesavananda - Basic Structure

Thus, there should be balance between SOP and checks & balance for transparent governance.

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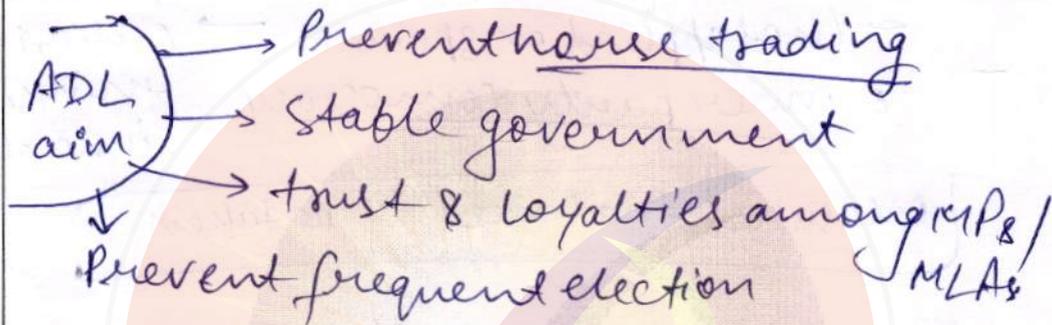
Presentation

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)

Based on recommendation of Y.B. Chavan Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> CAA 1985 implemented ADL (antideflection law) to address the issue of Ayaal, gayaal politics.



Implications of centralising power within party leadership under ADL

Factors → implications

(i) Speaker as sole decided → mainly come from ruling government

eg → Maharashtra Speaker → hence issue of biasedness → floor test 2020

(ii) mainly targeting the opposition leader → violates the principle of natural justice as per critics

eg → Nabam Rebia Case

(iii) Allow wholesale defection through merger (91st CA 2003) → violates the doctrine of trust (public).

[eg] Meghachandran case: questioned the morality of ADL

(iv) Violates equality principle (not applied on speaker) & inner party democracy → penalize critical thinking/innovation

## Measures that need to be taken

(i) Dinesh Goswami committee: the ADL decision should be taken by majority not all president

(ii) Judicial review to prevent malpractices (Kihotto Holloman)

(iii) Increase limit from  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd to  $\frac{3}{4}$ th under defection

(iv) Germany model — no casting vote for speaker & UK — once a speaker always a speaker

→ Thus, there is a need to take pragmatic efforts to save the inner party democracy & party trust.

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Marks:

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

Recently in 2014, Maharashtra assembly elected a candidate automatically without facing poll due to absence of opposite contestants

Violation of the principle of free & fair election & citizen's rights <sup>electoral</sup>

(i) This shows the malpractices & use of money & muscle power.

(ii) Ignorance on the side of returning officers  
eg → Declaring void nomination by ECI in case of any faults

(iii) In ADR v8 UOI 2002, SC held that the citizen has right to know about the background of contestant

(iv) This malpractices may erode

Voter turnout.

eg → The decline in the voter turnout in 2024 as compared to 2019 (in Bihar)

⑤ ECI has brought the provision of NOTA to address the issue of Right to choose the party

The measures required

- ① → Preventing democratic backsliding by enhancing ECI power. (Dinesh Chandra)
- ② Clear disclosure of mandates for the contestant who can abide by RPA 1951
- ③ Enhance citizen engagement eg ECI → SVEEP
- ④ Transparent electoral funding (Indrajit Gupta Committee)

Thus, a fair & transparent election will ensure festival of democracy are celebrated in letter & spirit.

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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)

The right to property has been abolished under fundamental right 31 by 44<sup>th</sup> CAA 1978 and now is constitutional right 301A.

The right to property : not a fundamental right ; need to follow due process of law : Causes

- (i) ~~So~~ the right to property is synonymous with right to livelihood
- (ii) Bulldozer justice violates the due process of law  
eg → SC verdict in Chhatissgarh house demolition
- (iii) The citizen has right to get information when their house is on unauthorized land.  
eg → Olga Telis Case vs State of Maharashtra.

(iv) This shows the dictatorship of district authorities

(v) In UP bulldozer justice system SC has warned the state, the right to property must be safeguarded.

Need of principle of natural Justice

(i) follow the demolition protocol  
→ by district authorities

eg Property → may be livelihood (A-30)  
or source of earning of that person.

(ii) Checks & Balances and the citizen has right to be heard in court.

(iii) Prevent extrajudicial measures as they are violation of separation of power (eg A-50)

Thus, right to property is connected with A-21 of the individuals which need to be safeguarded.

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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)

The PESA (Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996) is implemented in 5<sup>th</sup> schedule area to empower grassroots democracy.

PESA implementation: - uneven & inconsistent across states

① Delay in election under Tribal autonomous Council in states like ~~Madhya Pradesh~~ <sup>Maharashtra</sup> & ~~Madhya Pradesh~~ <sup>Madhya Pradesh</sup>.

② Issue of underfunding: Irregular fund devolution to tribal bodies by the State finance Commission (CAU report).

③ Overlapping Jurisdiction under PESA & FRA undermine role of Gram Sabha.

④ Most of the States are yet to implement complete provisions under PESA even after 29 years.

(iii) Issue of Jal-jungle-Jameen lead to Maxali - sm in stnschedule areas

(iv) The conditions of tribals areas has not yet improved.

eg literacy rate = 57.1.  
BPL = 45.1.

### Measures that need to be taken

(i) Timely & periodic fund devolution by SFC and more proposition of untied funding.

(ii) Strengthening Governor's roles in these areas for effective governance

(iii) Xaxa & BezBarishah Committee - Speci - al Safeguard need to provide in tribal areas

(iv) Holistic development and imple - mentation of CSS funds eg PM Janman.

Thus, Constitution Safeguards tribal autonomy under A-46, 243 and policies like Panchsheel (Tribal) which needs PESA effective implementation

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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)

India ranked 131st in global gender gap index 2025 which shows miserable condition of gender gap.

Need for gender sensitivity with the demand for gender neutrality in legal system.

(i) Gender neutral laws like POCSO to prevent its misuse by any gender  
eg recent misuse of section 498A (domestic violence)

(ii) Substantive equality to achieve SDG-4  
eg protection of LBGTQIA with right to marriage & child adoption.

(iii) Gender sensitive laws and policies  
eg Mohini Chisri Committee 2010  
↳ special focus on widowhood of elderly

(iv) Address the less representation of women in law & governance

Eg → Bihar - 35% reservation for women in police

(v) Prevent custodial torture of women → (Sheela Barse v. State of Maharashtra)

(vi) Address the patriarchal norms under local customs

Eg → UCC - in Shah Bano Case urged from state to implement UCC

(vii) Active participation from Judiciary.

Eg → Naz Foundation (sec 377 abolition) Hussainara Khatoon Case - Right to speedy trial

(viii) Equal protection of all gender & sensitization of public servant

Eg → Chanchal Rana - Swikruti project

Thus, gender neutrality is the need of hour to achieve Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas

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Marks:

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

India has federal form of govern-  
ment with vast regional, cultural  
& geographical diversity.

One-size fits all approach: ignore regional heterogeneity

Approach → Implications

(i) uniformity of law eg UCC → marginalization of tribals & minorities

(ii) uniformity in fiscal federalism (A 268-282) → The geographical & economic conditions of all states are different

(iii) Centralization of power eg one nation one election → overshadowing regional political parties

(iv) GST implementation: one nation one taxation → Issue raised by states like West Bengal & Tamil Nadu

eg Pending CST compensation

(v) Imposition of Hindo language (TN has alleged) → Negating the native language like Telugu, Malayalam.

Measures that need to be taken

(i) Venkatachaliah Committee:

Strengthen collaborative federalism

(ii) Respect the dignity & autonomy of state eg Tax devolution under 15th FC & population policy

(iii) Ground level public participation & Kashi-Tamil Sangam

(iv) Regular role to facilitatory role of centre  
eg Prevent mis use of A-356 & ED, CBI etc

Thus, In JLNehru world - the test of India's secularism lay in what minority feels and not in how majority think.

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Marks:

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)

The unified pension scheme is the upgraded version of national pension scheme to provide pension to the government employees.

UPS: Integrate fragmented pension system across sectors

- (i) Assured pension - 50% of the employee's average basic pay drawn from last 12 months
- (ii) This will help to diversify their investment through stock market or government bond as well.
- (iii) assured minimum pensions of Rs 10000/months to the employee.
- (iv) Insurance coverage - in case of death of the retiree the pension will go to immediate family member →

(v) unlike earlier schemes UPS tries to consolidate the funding.

(vi) market inflation indexation based on CPI (IW) index.

(vii) more flexible with the choices of employees to remain in NPS ~~or~~ before selection & not after choosing NPS

## Challenges pertaining to UPS

(i) Many of the states like West Bengal has not adopted this scheme

(ii) Issue of fiscal burden (mandated under FRBM Act).

eg  $\approx 0.9\%$  of GDP cost by 2060

(iii) concern about how the UPS will impact union finance (resembles OPS)

Thus, a balance fiscal cost-benefit analysis will help us to realise inclusion in this regard.

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Marks:

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

The origin of BRICS can be traced when Jem O'Neill coined this word for world's four largest and fastest growing economies and formally established in 2009 (Russia)

## BRICS relevance in multipolar world.

- (i) Hold ~ 44% global oil & natural resource (mainly Iran, VA & etc)
- (ii) Fastest growing economy (26% GDP in terms of nominal & 33% in terms of PPP in the world)
- (iii) Countering west hegemony like G7 and NATO
- (iv) Promote the welfarism & multilateralism  
eg New Development Bank & currency reserve arrangement
- (v) De-dollarization & so on in the process to make alternative

of SWIFT system

eg Nostro-vostro Account.

## Strategic significance of BRICS

For India

For global South

(i) Addressing issue of fuels & oils

eg 80% dependency on import from other countries.

(ii) India-VAEFTA & Russia's growing engagement  
eg \$65 bn trade

(iii) Fight against terrorism, climate change

(iv) Indo-china deescalation

(i) Advocacy for UN reform

(ii) Digitalization of economy  
eg India's UPI sanction

(iii) Technology sharing & development  
eg loan to Ethiopia under CRA & NDB

(iv) WTO reforms  
line of credit to Africa etc

Thus, BRIC is emerging as shining star in current changing global political post US election.

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

In 2024 Bangladesh witnessed democratic backsliding & rise of military rule under MH. Yunus

Impact of recent Bangladesh crisis on Indo-Bangladesh Relation & Neighbourhood First Policy

Indo-Bangladesh

Neighbourhood first policy

(i) Rising issue of refugee crisis in northeast

(ii) Declining economic trade  
eg \$15bn trade in 2023

(iii) Disagreement over trial of Sheikh Hasina

(i) Bangladesh as gateway of north east

eg Agartala-

Ahaura Rail Link

(ii) Tensions in BIMSTEC charter

eg Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia

- ⑩ Unofficial remark by Mr. Kumar on north east India.
- ⑪ India's high stake in Bangladesh eg Rupoor Power Plant, Chittagong port etc
- ⑫ Threatening ASEAN relation
- ⑬ Rising proximity to China & Pakistan in Bangladesh
- ⑭ Persecution of minorities

## Measures required

- ① Diplomatic engagement on border, water & refugee issues.
- ② A mutual talk at high ministerial level to prevent misunderstanding.
- ③ Protection of minorities in Bangladesh.
- ④ Enhancing economic cooperation and talks to address terrorism issue.

Thus, both are interdependent which require a pragmatic diplomacy to address conflict.

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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)

The article ~~243~~ <sup>243</sup> of Indian Constitution mandates governor to establish state ~~finance~~ <sup>election</sup> Commission in every 5 yrs.

Constitutionalization of SEC has not translated into real functional independence

- (i) Delay in establishing SECs in most of the states (more than 10 states)
- (ii) Hampering participatory democracy at grassroot level.
- (iii) This also leads to delay in regular election at local bodies  
eg Assam pradesh: the election at PRT ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> conducted on time
- (iv) Lack of funds, functions & functionaries (2nd ARC)

(eg) SEC dependence on state  
Staffs → undermine impar-  
-ality.

Impact of this institutional  
weakness on the functioning  
of local self-government in  
India.

- (i) undermine constitutional  
mandates under 73<sup>rd</sup>/74<sup>th</sup>  
CAA.
- (ii) Delayed appointment of SEC  
create issue of erosion of  
public trust
- (iii) This hampers overall image  
& sanctity of state  
election commissions
- (iv) NCRWC also notes that  
the SECs irregular appoin-  
-tment have slippery  
slope impact on other bodies

like state finance commission,

① Aggravation the funding concerns

eg 80-90% of funding at local level comes from grants by either state or centre.

measures that need to be taken

① Balwant Rai Mehta Committee.

Regular appointment of SECs to conduct election

② The accountability of governors needs to be fixed to ensure transparency in process (2nd Arc)

③ Social auditing & public awareness - ness to raise electoral democracy

Thus for healthy grassroot level democracy the role of SECs need to be strengthened

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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 refers to a situation where the president & Prime minister are from different political parties.

French Semi-presidential system  
Cohabitation.

Impact :

- ① The political conflict in the governance model
- ② The same condition can be seen in case of India's state level  
eg → Governor - central nominee sometime has different political ideologies with state
- ③ Competition for public image.

eg → creating confusion among masses

India's parliamentary system prevents such arrangement

[Causes]: (i) India: Parliament  
- any form of government where president is only de-jure head.

(ii) To prevent the frequent fall of government at national level.

(iii) Political homogeneity & the government of majority

(iv) Present acts under the aid & advice of COM headed by C.M.

eg → India's Chandhiv. Raj Narain Case.

(v) unlike France people doesn't directly participate in presidential election (Art 54)

(9) Prime minister is chosen by public and he is crisis & manager chief.

Lessons that India can draw from France experience

(1) The political turmoil due to cohabitation in France

(ii) The political leaders defection against the ruling government in favor of president

(iii) Threat of presidential rule which may spoil the spirit of democracy

(iv) Attentive government & citizen to prevent such issues

Thus, Indian constitution has provided shield against cohabitation through provisions like Article 74, 123 on the aid & advice of <sup>com.</sup>

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Marks:

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

In recent case of State of Tamil Nadu v. Governors of Tamil Nadu, SC has given guidelines for the time bound assent by the governors.

Absence of timelines for granting assent under A.200 enables constitutional subversion.

Argument in favor

- (i) The governor acts as linchpin (crucial post) between centre & state
- (ii) Delay in assent by governors create conflict in state legislation
- (iii) This hampers the assembly smoothness and development policies eg N&ET bill, control - versy
- (iv) Rajamannar Committee highlights

gited, governor should act as Constitutional post & not as Centre agent.

- (v) Governor is not accountable to public while the ruling state party has been chosen by people

eg → Shambhu Singh Case - Governor should act on advice of COM headed by CM.

Argument against

- (i) The discretionary power to governor to prevent any mis-use of power by legislature

- (ii) The flexibility of governor absent ~~is~~ helps in taking mindful decision

- (iii) Article 155 - The governor serves at the pleasure of president → A.202 → sent bill to president

## Measures that are needed

(i) Supreme court has prescribed the time limit of 1 month for the governor to take decision

(ii) Addressing the root cause of conflict

eg. Mainly targeted by opposition party (from ruling government)

(iii) S R Bommai Case -: The governor's action comes under the judicial review

(iv) Cooperation between Governor & State for the development of State.

eg. Kantar Singh Case - Supreme Court guidelines

(v) Sarkaria Commission - Review of CM by Centre during governor appointment.

Thus, the governor needs to act based on Constitutional morality under A. 200.

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)

42<sup>nd</sup> CAA 1976 added A-39A under the DPSP to provide free legal aid to the disprivileged people.

Role of the legal service authority in ensuring equal access to legal aid for underprivileged sections

- ① Provision of free legal aid to certain categories of people by NALSA  
eg disaster victims, women etc
- ② Addressing the pendency of cases in criminal courts
- ③ NALSA notes  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of undertrials belong to SC/STs → Can't afford costly litigation.
- ④ Legal service authority

like Lok Adalat helps in easy dispute resolution of cases.

⑦ This ensures the protection of rights of disprivileged under Art 21

eg → Privacy protection (Puttaswami case)

[challenges pertaining to it]

⑧ Lack of awareness among people about alternative dispute resolution

⑨ legal service authority itself grapples with inherent issues

eg → high pendency of cases and understaff. (MCA)

⑩ 30% vacancy at the Judicial posts.

⑪ The bodies like Lok Adalat

doesn't entertain non-comparable matters.

Key reforms required to enhance its performance

(i) 2nd ARC: Addressing the issue of vacancy, staff etc.

(ii) e-Prison project to overhaul the infrastructure of Judiciary  
eg currently 0.09% of GDP expenditure on Judicial infrastructure.

(iii) Addressing Judges to population - on ratio gap at global level

(iv) Public outreach campaign  
eg Karnataka Sakala mission

Thus, The legal service authority aligns with Gandhian Swaraj which must be implemented in letter & spirit.

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Marks:	

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

PAC (Public account committee) is called as mini parliament established as permanent standing committee after independence.

PAC : Conscience Keeper of the Parliament

- (i) Public scrutiny of budget and government expenditure
- (ii) Holistic representation from Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha & leader of opposition
- (iii) Appointed by Lok Sabha speaker.
  - it's mandate to submit the annual report to parliament
- (iv) Provide expertise & recommend

endation to the parliament

eg) Atsmitic surrogacy were allowed based on its suggestion

## Challenges faced by PAC

### Structural

### Political

(i) Lack of proper staff & infrastructure

(ii) 49% attendance rate of PAC.

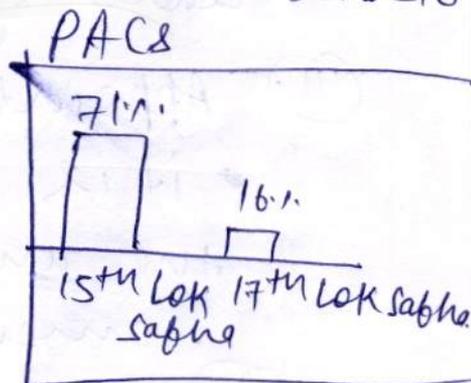
(iii) Dominance from ruling party MPs

(iv) Lack of skills to address emerging issues like Cyber crimes

(i) Political interference in PACs

(ii) Recommendations - not binding on government

(iii) Declining the bills sent to PACs



⑦ Temporary (one year) → less experience

⑩ Critics argue that their decisions are generally political driven

eg → Aadhar bill Controversy

## Measures required

① MCRWC - Binding decision of PAC on the parliament

② Increase tenure of PAC to utilize their experience & expertise

③ Addressing issue of skills & Capacity eg Mission Karmayogi like model

④ Digital attendance & salary based on that will enhance their presence

⑤ Prevent political interference

Thus, to establish transparency & Accountability the Conscience Keeper need to be empowered.

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Marks:

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)

ABDM under PM-Jan Arogya Yojana is world's largest health insurance scheme, covering secondary & tertiary sector.

Digital health: not just a technological solution but also governance imperative

- ① A bottom up approach - eg ABDM aims to target the most vulnerable section of society
- ② Addressing issue of healthcare infrastructure  
eg CoWIN - online registration of patient
- ③ focus on preventive rather than curative healthcare  
eg Tel manas - addressing mental health concern.
- ④ governance overhaul -

more transparent healthcare facilities

eg DBT fund transfer of 54 crore - um to hospital for patient.

(i) Technology has also reduced the hospital congestion by 60% as per Niti Aayog

(ii) got aims to bring down out of pocket expenditure of public (currently 48%)

However, challenges remain in this direction

(i) under staff and doctors per pop<sup>n</sup> population ratio much lower than WHO recommendation

(ii) Digital waves have not: only 60% internet penetration

(iii) misuse of funding by doctors themselves

eg Siphoning of funds under PMJAY in <sup>west</sup> Bengal by fake beneficiaries.

(iv) India's expenditure on health is less than 3% of GDP

(v) Poor primary level healthcare facilities

eg 70% population in rural areas but 70% hospitals are in cities

Need of hour.

(vi) J. Satyanarayan committee - national digital health stack to increase its penetration.

(vii) Expand the coverage of PMJAY eg UK based universal health coverage.

(viii) Bhore committee - focus on community based preventive health care.

(ix) Regular monitoring to prevent its misuse by grass particle

Thus, the alignment of health & digital infrastructure both are need to be taken into consideration

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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)

In Aug, 2014 Government had announced for lateral entry in UPSC which could provide expertise in governance.

Lateral entry reform in civil service

Strike the balance between efficiency & accountability :

argument in favor :

- (i) Provide competitiveness in the civil servants
- (ii) Expertises and technical knowledge in circulation.
- (iii) Foster efficiency in administration  
eg E. Shreedharan : Came through lateral entry.
- (iv) Innovative ideas in the

bureaucracy

eg → Digital revolution: Nandan Nilekani's efforts.

(i) More transparency in governance & tackling issue of embezzlement

eg → 2G Scam, Commonwealth Scam etc

Argument against

(i) Short tenure usually 4-5 yrs in bureaucracy

(ii) violation of meritocracy & equality

eg → the UPSC - three level exam vs direct entry

(iii) Profit motives of private companies → against welfare

(iv) Internal conflicts among recruited & laterally entered civil servant.

(v) Conflict of interest :-

Issue of lobbying by private player in tendering process.

Measures required

(i) 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC: Mid-term career training of civil servants

(ii) Baswan Committee - ensuring accountability among laterally recruited officials

(iii) Hota Committee: field experience & training through public private exchange model

(iv) Addressing the issue of reservation policy in lateral entry  
cost-controversy in lateral entry

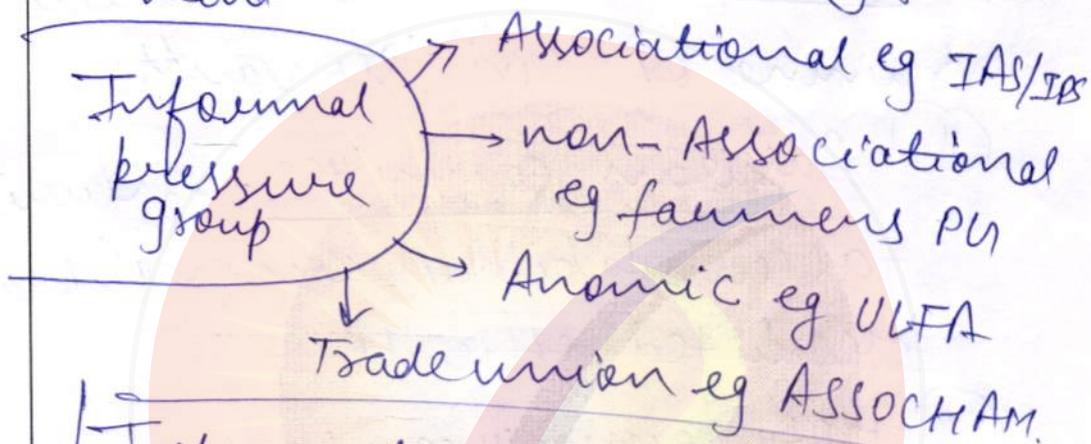
thus, a balanced approach should be taken to ensure minimum government & maximum governance

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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)

OECD defines pressure group as non-state organisation whose aim is to act in the welfare of people by indirectly pressuring government.



Informal pressure group: Early warning system in democratic societies.

Role:

① Holding government accountable for their policies & action

eg withdrawal of three farm laws - farmers PU

② voice of voiceless: tribal

rights protection <sup>eg</sup> Cancellation  
of POSCo deal

(ii) Act as extended arms of government

eg SEWA: women empowerment <sup>but</sup>

(iii) Indirectly pressure govern-  
ment for their interests

eg lobbying, propagandizing etc

(iv) Public awareness & demand  
of Rights

eg RTI - MKSS

However, PNs face several challenges

(i) Chaitany Reddy says the PNs are  
driven by narrow interest  
eg Farmer protest mostly  
demand from green revolu-  
tion belt areas

(ii) Funding & international activities

- ties  $\rightarrow$  protest against Kudam Kulam PPA and IB report

(10) these are also suffering from the issue of urban biasedness

(11) Disruption in daily government activities - (MHA report)  $\rightarrow$  violates the smooth functioning

measures required

(1) USA & UK charity Act regulate these pressure groups in their state

(11) Include PIs under RTI Act to enhance transparency

(11) Public awareness & regulate their foreign funding under FCRA as Charities

(10) Better collaboration for socio-economic upliftment

Thus, pressure groups act as harbinger of social change as per Habermas they also need regulatory safeguard

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

Recently USA has imposed 25% tax + Penalty on India for increasing trade relations from Russia.

India - Russia relationships : Cold war Solidarity.

- ① The 1971 treaty of friendship agreement between both countries marked the beginning of new relation.
- ② Both are forever ally, helping each other in every situation  
eg → USSR support to India during 1972 war.
- ③ The 42nd CAA 1976 - added the word Socialist : shows the impact of Russian ideology.
- ④ Both have trade relations worth \$68bn, which is projected to reach \$100bn by 2030.
- ⑤ India - Russia has recently

Signed agreement on employment of skilled Indians in Russia

(Vi) Both are working collaboratively on multilateral platforms, like BRICS, SCO etc.

However challenges lies in form of strategic inertia in this multi-polar world

(i) Indo-US-Russia angle.

eg India now imports 60% of oil/natural gas from Russia  
(exponential increase after 2022)

(ii) USA alleged India's as fueling Russia's economy.

(iii) The ~~same~~ trade in defence (S-400, igla etc), fertilizers etc are not digested by Trump administration

(iv) The BRICS de-dollarization

policy was forcefully countered by USA.

③ China-Russia's closeness amid war is filling the vacuum of Indo-Russia relation

## Need of pragmatic reset

① Reviving trade in local currency & digital payment

④ India's economy is not a dead economy - this needs 'strategic approach

eg) Indo-Russia's trade agreement on critical minerals

①① Exploring SCO, RATS to counter recent terrorism clashes

⑩ India - Russia - China can also work collaboratively to realise the goal of Asian century.

Thus, strategic to pragmatic approach by both nations will help to solve their economic-political <sup>concerns</sup>.

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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)

Arctic is also called as climate regulator of the world hold's world's 30% natural resources

The opening of new frontiers of strategic competition in Arctic

Causes!

(i) Strategic location - due to environmental significance eg High albedo effect

(ii) Resource potential - 30% minerals & 15% natural oils are yet to be explored

(iii) Short maritime route - 50% reduction in time between Europe & Asia

eg Northern sea route

(R.) Countries own interest:

eg unregulated Arctic unlike Antarctica.

eg USA - Greenland dispute.  
USA - Canada - conflict over  
• Northwestern route.

Implications for India

(i) Energy security - India's 80% of natural resources / fuels come from import - exploring these regions can be beneficial

(ii) Scientific diplomacy - India's Himadri and polar station in Svalbard will help to explore Arctic.

eg winter expedition (1st time) by India.

(iii) multilateral engagement - India can ~~be~~ observer member become

of Arctic Council to strengthen its ~~sa~~ position.

(iv) Arctic region can also reduce Indo-Russian trade navigation significantly

(v) Scientific research in these region will help to study monsoon, Himalayas climate etc

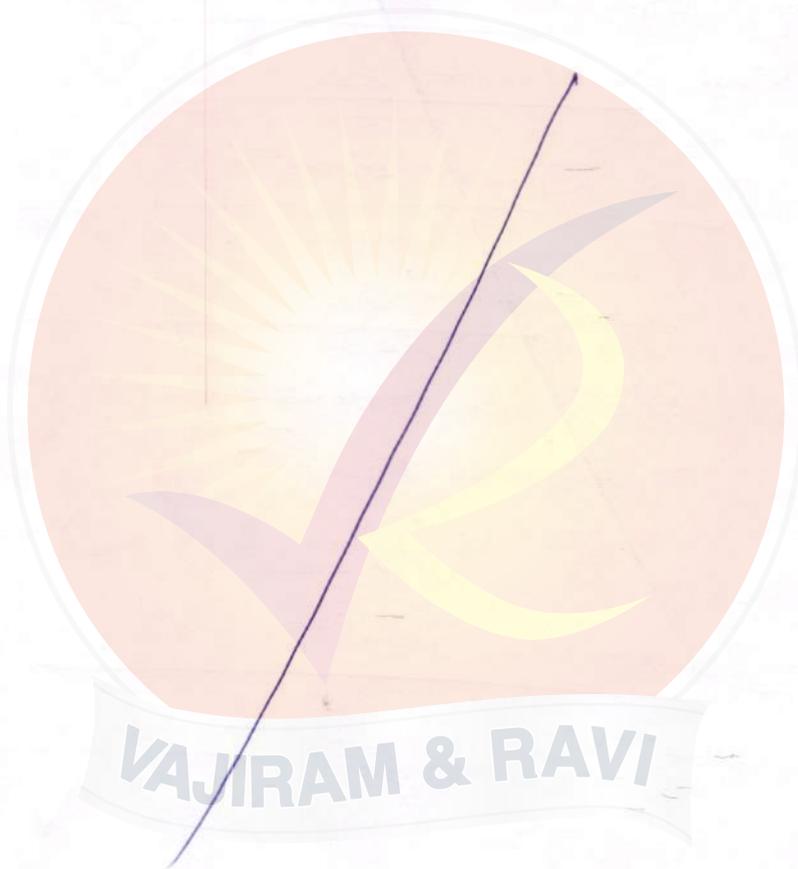
(vi) India as a voice of global south can act as leader in Arctic diplomacy.

(vii) However, issues lies - : Negative impact of Arctic tribes, species tragedy of common.

Thus, a proper framework like high sea treaty needs to be implemented to maintain the importance of Arctic region.

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# Space for Rough Work



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