

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT 2024

GENERAL STUDIES

Full Length Test

Test - 2 (GS2 CT2)

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

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SUBMISSION DATE: 20 August 24

UPSC IFS 2024

AIR-72

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.

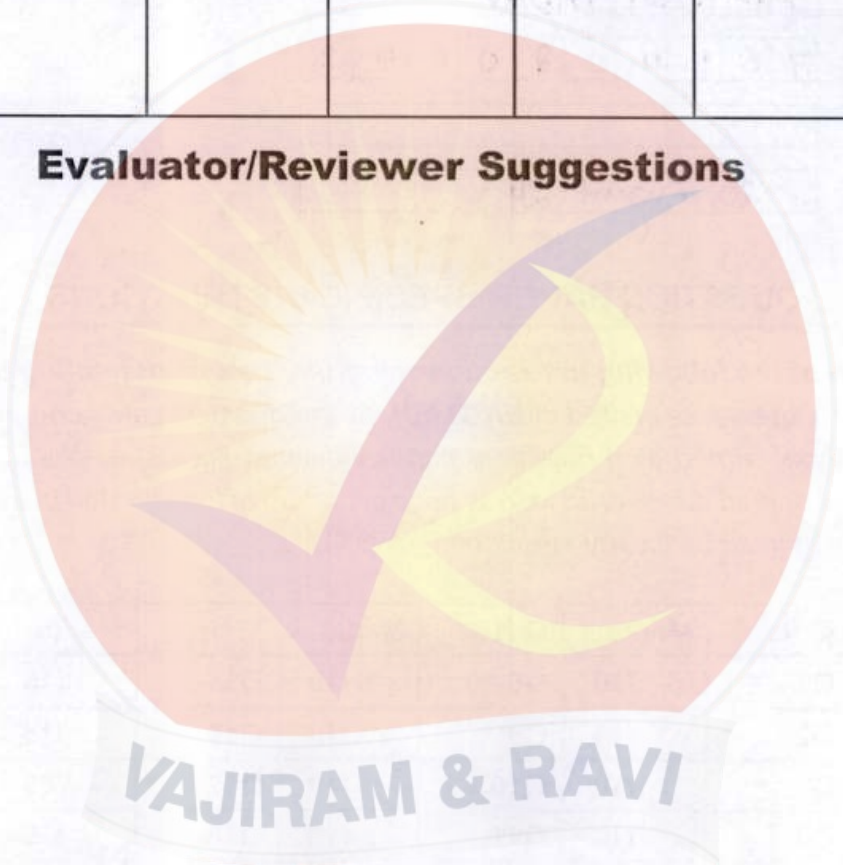
Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 9717565805 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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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 the role of the Department Related Standing Committee (DRSC) system in improving parliamentary effectiveness. (10 marks, 150 words)

Departmentally related standing committees (DRSCs) are established under the Rules of Business of house.

Role of DRSCs in improving parliamentary effectiveness :

- ① Proper scrutiny of Bills : to bring out the faulty provision of bills.
- ② Increased accountability over executives to reduce the hasty and faulty introduction of bill.
- ③ Proper input to enhance the provisions of Bill
- ④ Helping the executives to perform the legislative duties.

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- ⑤ Increase the spirit of democracy by increased debate and deliberation over bill
- ⑥ Gives proper time to public to respond to the provisions of bill.

Limitations of DRSCs

- ① Their recommendations are advisory only
- ② No mandatory provision for referring bill to DRSCs
- ③ Burdened by various other pending works

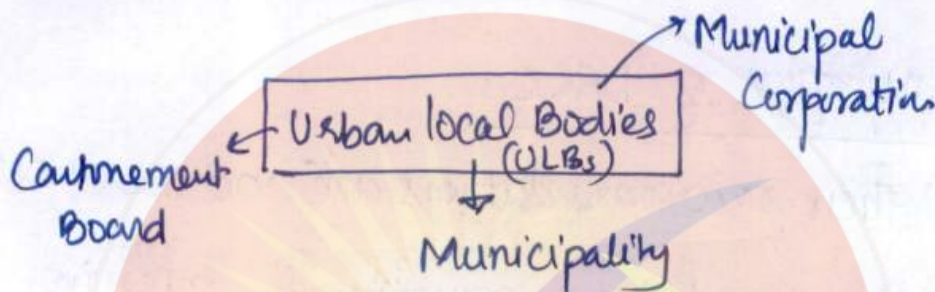
This DRSCs are vital organ to make Parliament - a truly deliberation unit of democracy.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

2. Presence of multiple parastatals erodes the autonomy of Urban Local Bodies.
Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

74th Constitutional amendment Act - 1992 established the democratic decentralisation at the Urban levels.



Multiple parastatals eroding Autonomy of ULBs

- ① Dependent on States for funds - [eg] very limited avenue of taxation.
- ② Limited no. of functions devolved by state government [eg] 18 titles in 12th Sch. List.
- ③ Not providing adequate freedom to enhance functionaries [eg] limited skills.

and not sufficient number to function optimally.

④ Limited capacity of ULBs to technology adoption ~~to~~ due to lack of independence independence.

Way forward

- ⇒ ① Devolve more subjects to function
- ② Create avenues to raise funds [eg] municipal bonds.
- ③ Provide funds [eg] grants U/275.
- ④ Skill development of personnel.

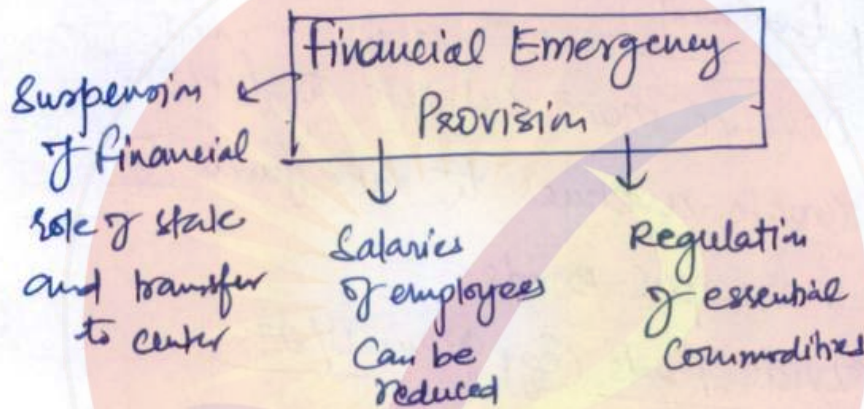
ULBs are important for the future of Indian Urbanization as by 2050 India's 65% population is going to reside in Urban areas (UNDP).

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

3. The provisions under Article 360 remain a dead letter even during the worst economic crisis. Analyse. (10 marks, 150 words)

Art. 360 deals with the Financial Emergency which is declared if the credit of India comes to grave danger.



Art-360 remained dead letter even during worst economic crisis because -

- ① Covid-19 was the different kind of crisis required more empathy towards people and state
- ② States required more funds to handle crisis.

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invoking Art-360 would make them want of funds in times of crisis-

③ Government used other methods to tackle the crisis [eg] Reducing imports from china (Atmanirbhar package)

④ Rather than use of Art-360 crisis was the time of providing support to states. So India provided Atmanirbhar Bharat package to help out states.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Marks:	

4. 'Unique blend of flexibility and rigidity distinguish Indian constitution from that of the US constitution.' Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Indian Constitution is the largest written Constitution whereas American Constitution is the first written Constitution.

Unique Blend of flexibility and Rigidity in Indian Constitution.

① Flexibility ⇒ Indian Constitution is dynamic in nature. 108 times amended since 1950.

② Rigidity ⇒ strict provision to Amend

- (a) special majority + 50% state (7th sch.)
- (b) special majority (FD & DPSP)
- (c) alone center can't amend & state as very little role.
- (d) Basic structure can't be amended.

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USA Constitution :

- ① States has their own Constitution to change by their own choices so most flexible
- ② lack of rigidity due to federal scheme

Thus both Indian & USA Constitution has a unique feature. And India adopted preamble & PRs from USAs.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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5. Discuss the role of microfinance institutions (MFI) in rural financial empowerment in India. _____ (10 marks, 150 words)

Microfinance Institutions are those institutions which provides small loans to farmers. [eg] KCC loans, Bhartiya Grameen Bank, RRBs.

Role of Microfinance Institutions

- ① Vital for the food security: Farmers will be able to grow crops.
- ② Doubling farmers income: (Ashok Dalwai Committee)
- ③ Agri and allied activities: [eg] Animal rearing → largest milk producing.
- ④ Poverty reducing: Small credits provides protection from inflation shock.

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⑤ Women empowerment: [eg] ~~NABARD~~

NABARD - SHG - Banking programme:

⑥ Primary Agricultural Societies (PAS)

Challenges to MFIs.

⇒ Huge NPAs as farmers are not able to pay back

⇒ Fund / Function / Functionaries issues.

⇒ time taking process to farmers.

The MFIs can play a vital role in financial inclusion as one of the

7 pillars of Budget of 2023-24

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

6. Do you agree that the Aspirational District Programme has emerged as a template for good governance? Substantiate. (10 marks, 150 words)

Niti Aayoga's Aspirational District programme is to provide support to poorest of the poorest districts.

ADPs as temple for good governance

- ① Increased performance on various parameters [eg] poverty, nutrition.
- ② Competitive governance by Delta ranking.
- ③ Convergence of different schemes
- ④ Prahari as sec. level officer to Review and monitor

⑤ EEC information, Education
Communication Campaign.

⑥ Role models and best practices based
ranking.

Challenges to ADPs

① Lack of funds to districts

② Awareness in people

This ADP will make a district
model district will be beneficial for
the welfare objective of country.
and will lead to Sabka Vikas.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

7. Rising informality in employment raises the concern for social security. Discuss the statement with reference to platform workers. (10 marks, 150 words)

Platform workers are the informal workers away from the traditional employer & employee relations. (eg) Old & Uber workers.

Rising Informality : Concern for Social Security

- ① Platform workers does not get social security (eg) Pension, Health insurance etc.
- ② they are easy to hire & fire.
- ③ because lack of legal provision to protect the PWs.
- ④ Working condition & operational safety is lacking.

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Way forward

- ① include into formal work force
- ② implement 4 codes ① wage code
- ② working condition ③ social security etc.

formalisation of platform workers
will boost the employment level in
India

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

8. Demographic transition demands renewed focus on healthcare intervention patterns.
Discuss the statement in the light of geriatric health in India.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Geriatric health care deals with the old age people. India is having almost more than 6 cr. people immediate need of geriatric care.

Need for geriatric care

- ① By 2030 almost 15 cr. people will require care. (UNDP)
- ② Lack of available infrastructure in traditional hospitals.
- ③ India has only 1.3 Nurse in 1000 people (3/1000 WHO)
- ④ Requires dedicated professionals to help out old age people.

- ⑤ Training to handle female patients.
- ⑥ if not done then extra burden on already burdened health care system.
- ⑦ increased out of pocket expenditure

Solution

⇒ Involvement of private sector to provide infrastructure & training.

⇒ establish community old age home

PM Vaya bandhy yojna is a good step to support old age people

by focusing on geriatric care, we will be able to fulfill DPEP U/ AIT-41

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

9. 'Funding remains a major limitation for the effective functioning of multilateral organisations.' Discuss the statement with reference to the functioning of UNESCO.
(10 marks, 150 words)

UNESCO is the Education, Social & Cultural organisation of UN. It provides the list of World heritage sites.

Funding a major limitation for effective functioning.

- ① UNESCO dependent on contributions from members.
- ② Voluntary contributions [eg] USA withdrawn funding to it.
- ③ ~~the~~ Limited resources and various important functions [eg] Education of children globally monitored by it.

④ Recent removal of various sites from the WHS status due to lack of funds & monitoring.

⑤ Solutions

① Member state must contribute towards better functioning.

② Developed nations obligation to support it

③ This UNESCO is important for protection of cultural diversity of world. It should be empowered by providing financial support.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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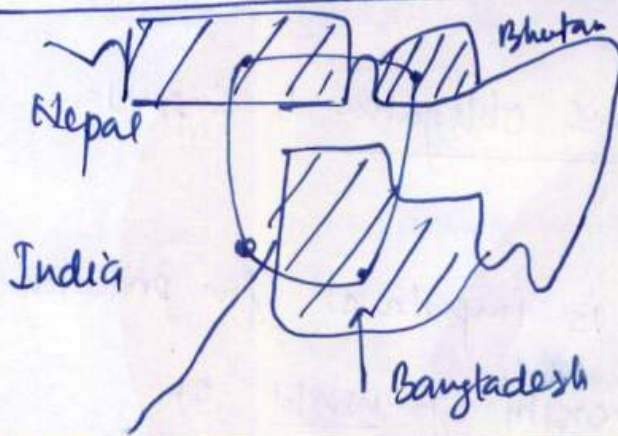
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10. How will the BBIN grouping promote regional integration in South Asia? Discuss.
(10 marks, 150 words)

BBIN stands for Bangladesh Bhutan India, Nepal group. It envisages to establish connectivity amongst each other.



BBIN Promoting Regional Integration

- ① Road connectivity → trade, people to people connect.
- ② Electricity grid ⇒ Power surplus to power deficit.

- ③ Connectivity to land locked Nepal & Bhutan.
- ④ Excess to resources of Hydroelectric power of Nepal.
- ⑤ Stability in the region due to shared prosperity.

Challenges

- ① Unstable Bangladesh
- ② still not moved forward
- ③ China's influence on BBIN

Solution → India should push by giving initial support.

This BBIN can play a crucial role in improving connectivity and integration of region.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

11. 'Financial resources of the centre are elastic and substantial while that of the states are inelastic and inadequate.' Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Art. 280 of the Constitution establishes the Finance Commission of India, which devolves the financial resources between center & States.

Availability of financial resources to

(A) Central government : FRs more elastic & substantial

- ① More disposal of financial resources as more subjects U/Central list 7th Sch.
- ② GST and other taxes such as Income tax and Co-operative tax.
- ③ Custom duty : is imposed by Center.

So these resources are more elastic because Center can change according to the situation & substantial because center has more control over these FRs.

⑥ State governments FRs : Inelastic and inadequate

eg ① Center provides 41% of net tax collection to states which is fixed.

② there is also a borrowing limit that is 0.5% of SGDP

③ Center's permission to increase borrowings

④ Can't borrow from international market

⑤ due to GST loss to state revenue

⑥ less subjects and residual subjects with Center U/Art. 248

⑦ During the time of crisis state demands funds under NDMF and other resources.

⑧ Grants U/275 is also not sufficient.

However the mechanisms adopted by Central government such as GST Compensation, relaxation in borrowing

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Limits beyond 0.5% is providing enough financial resources to states - Apart from this states are self sufficient to tax

① Electricity ② Alcohol for human consumption and other taxes such as wealth tax, entertainment tax etc.

Way forward

Co-operative federalism and looking the genuine need of states to get funds from center. will make the governance and in India citizen centric.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

12. "Supremacy of the constitution requires all ordinary laws to conform to the constitutional law." Discuss the statement with reference to judicial review in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Supremacy of Constitution is the basic structure of the constitution as held by Keswanand Bharati case in 1978.

It means the constitution is Supreme law of the land, and stays at fountain head for all laws in India.

Supremacy of constitution is protected by the judicial review. As Judiciary decides the validity of all the laws by touching it with corner stone i.e. Constitution.

Role of Judicial review is maintaining Constitutional Supremacy

- ① ordinary law under Art. 13 : No law should violate fundamental rights U/ Part-3
- ② Under Art. 32 an ordinary person can appeal directly for the breach of

fundamental rights to Supreme Court.

- ③ Under Art- 226 same power vested with HC of states.
- ④ Judiciary is Kesavanand Bharati case (1973) defined some features of Constitution as basic structure such as
- (i) Rule of law, Independence of Judiciary
 - (ii) Limited government, separation of power
 - (iii) federal scheme, preamble etc.
- If any law breaches these then it can be held unconstitutional and void.
- ⑤ Similarly in various cases Supreme court established the Supremacy of Constitution
- [eg] 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and establishment of NJAC. (as breached the Independence of Judiciary)
- ⑥ Judiciary added more meaning to Supremacy of Constitution through various

Judgements:

[eg] SR Bommai case ,

~~This~~ But this power of judiciary to review and declare new provision of basic structure is unlimited which can become Judicial overreach. [eg] there are instances of judiciary correcting its previous stands.

Thus it is important that independence of judiciary should remain intact however judiciary should also balance its independence with Judicial accountability and transparency.

then only the Constitution can remain Supreme.

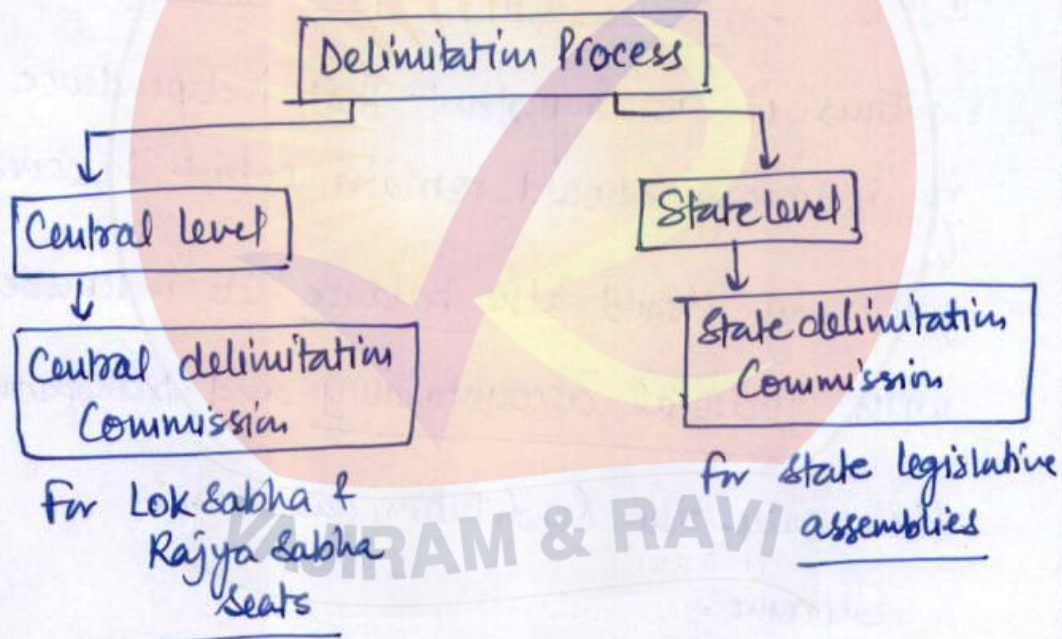
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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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Marks:	

13. 'The delimitation process creates a wedge between representative democracy and federalism.' Examine. Also suggest measures to address the concerns of federal units. (15 marks, 250 words)

The delimitation process is the readjustment of boundaries of constituencies and the seats in the center and state level. eg

2002 delimitation Commission fixed the seats for 2026 in LS & RS.



Delimitation Process creates wedge betⁿ representative democracy and federalism

① Changing the physical and demographic aspect of constituencies [eg] Recent J & K

delimitation

- (2) State constituency seats for LS also determined by Central Delimitation Commission (CDC) against the federal spirit
- (3) No. of seats also determined by the Central government.
- (4) Disrupts the demographic dynamics of states and creates tensions in some groups. [eg] delimitation on the basis of Caste and communities.

Measures to address the concerns -

- (1) Representatives of states in the CDC to listen to their demands.
- (2) Scientific and transparent method to readjust the boundaries & seats.
- (3) to ensure harmony in the country the demographic profiling should be

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done to reduce the tension.

- ④ Independent review by experts must be done before finalising delimitation process. [eg] Judiciary can audit

Thus the delimitation which is due till In 2026, will change the structure of constituencies in India, so it.

Should be done fairly and transparently, taking all stakeholders in consideration.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Presentation	
Marks:	

14. Examine the impact of recent changes to the election commissioners' appointment process on autonomy and independence of the election commission.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Art. 324 established the Office of Election Commission of India (ECI) to execute its power of conducting, regulating elections in India. Its mandate is to conduct free and fair elections for parliament, president and vice president's post.

Recent changes to EC, appointment process

- ① Establishment of Selection Committee:
Constituting (a) PM, (b) Leader of opposition in LS, (c) Cabinet minister
- ② before selection there will be a search committee to short list names

③ Impact of these changes on the autonomy and independence of EC

- ① As previously the Judiciary (SC) suggested

CJI should be included in the selection Committee. this reduces the independence of EC

② Majority of executives from the present government may influence the autonomy of EC

③ minority role of LOO in LS, does not have much to influence the appointment

⊗ However recent changes will bring more autonomy and independence from previous one because —

① previously there was no search & selection committee

② Appointment was done by cabinet Committee of appointment headed by PM
(all were executive of government)

③ Bring diverse view point in consideration in new system.

Further some issues remains such as

① Salaries are ^{not} charged from CFI rather voted every year → reduces autonomy

② Not debarred from reappointment in government.

③ Election Commissioners can be removed on advices of Chief EC without impeachment like process.

Thus the role of EC is very instrumental in democracy. So we should make the office of EC independent by considering NCRWC and 2nd ARC to make EC fully independent.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Marks:	

15. 'Without performance targets, the civil service degenerates into a closed priesthood with no accountability.' Discuss the statement with reference to the Mission Karmayogi. (15 marks, 250 words)

Mission Karmayogi is the civil services Capacity building programme. It mandates rule based bureaucracy to coste based.

Need for performance target to maintain the composition of civil services intact

① For more accountability: [eg] the time bound objectives of Swachh Bharat mission.

② For infusion of innovation: the target orientation forces innovative thinking [eg] JAM trinity

③ Reduces the wastage of resources:

④ Reduces the chances of corruption.

Impacts of Not having target oriented Civil services.

- ① Lack of vision and mission → Lethargy and non function [eg] Recent cases of Urban mismanagement of drainage.
- ② Corruption and misuse of public resources
[eg] Recent cases of social media popularity of civil servants (CS)
- ③ Against the welfare of people ;
Vulnerable people require proactive time bound performing CS.
- ④ Various challenges such as —
Poverty → almost 11%. (NITI)
inequality → top 1% ⇒ 40% wealth. (Oxfam)
Women Empowerment ⇒ 50 cases of crime per hour (NCRB)

Mission Karmayogi (iGOT Karmogi) brings

various aspects of civil services

- ① Performance orientation.
- ② mandatory field visits.
- ③ technology adoption.
- ④ Regular monitoring by seniors.
- ⑤ Role based
- ⑥ people centric and welfare oriented
- ⑦ Based on the strength of a civil servant

This mission Karmayogi is the comprehensive reform to civil services in India. This will make CS the real steel frame and help India achieve SDG Goals by 2030.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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16. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 was a historic effort in doing justice to the tribal community.' Evaluate the status of its implementation and suggest measures for improvement. (15 marks, 250 words)

Forest Rights Act - 2006 (FRA) recognises the community and individual rights of Tribal Communities (8% of total population)

Significance of Forest Rights Act (FRA)

- ① Traditional land rights : providing land to traditional dwellers for Agriculture and cultural practices.
- ② Community forest rights - performing community based activities.
- ③ Gram Sabha to be the highest body to decide the rights of forest dwellers.
- ④ Balance between the rights of Tribes and rights of wildlife.
- ⑤ Empowerment of Tribals by providing

legal status of their activities ,

Issues with the implementation of FRA

- ① Large scale denial of Rights to tribes by Ministry of Tribals
- ② In conflict with the conservation efforts by forest department
- ③ Not able to conclusively decide the ownership status of Tribals .
- ④ Involvement of some outsiders to misuse the land of tribals by false claims
- ⑤ Lack of awareness among the tribals

Measures to better & effective implementation

- ① Identification of traditional forest dwellers
- ② proper documentation and issuing Aadhar Cards to them .

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- ③ fast track courts to deal with the claims of Tribals.
- ④ Education and Empowerment of Tribal by other means such as → TRIFED and MSP to Minor forest produce



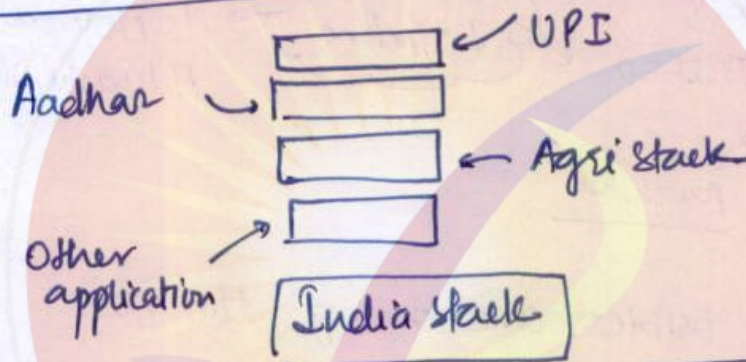
This tribes are one of the most vulnerable community in India. It should be lifted from poverty and discrimination by providing proper right to them & fulfill SDG-10 (inclusive growth)

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Marks:	

17. What do you understand by India Stack? Discuss its role in good governance and improving ease of living. (15 marks, 250 words)

India Stack is a technological system which is a combination of various aspect of digital solutions [eg] layer of payment, layer of identity



Role of India Stack in good governance + improving ease of living

- ① Bring Transparency in governance :
thru PDS and direct benefit transfer.
- ② More accountable governance [eg]
CPGRAMS and Banking ombudsman.

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- ③ Last mile delivery → the payment system, under UPI and BCs
- ④ Communication for better future: Early warning system using DTH.
- ⑤ Technological solutions to Agriculture →
[eg] Krishi Vigyan Kendra and information by M-Kisan.
- ⑥ Land reforms by Bhoomi project of (ker)
- ⑦ Using new technology such as AI & ML and Blockchain to solve real life problems
- ⑧ Conducting hackathon on Urban planning etc.
- ⑨ India stack is making life easy by providing services at the doorstep of public [eg] Umang app

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Therefore India stock can play a vital role in making India developed by 2047 with 30 tn\$ economy.



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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Marks:	

18. 'You can change our friends but not neighbors.' In the light of the statement, examine the relevance of Gujral doctrine in India's Foreign Policy.

(15 marks, 250 words)

India adopted the policy of neighbourhood first by seeing the significance of role of neighbours in growth & stability

Nature of Neighbours

(A) two hostile neighbors

(i) China at Eastern border and Galwan region [eg] 2020 Galwan clashes.

(ii) Pakistan at western side: the hotspot of terrorism activities

(B) other less stable :

(i) Bangladesh: Recent disturbance and throwing of democratic government by revolutionaries.

(ii) Economically unstable Sri Lanka

(iii) Politically Unstable Myanmar

(iv) No so close and friendly Maldives

(c) Stable Nepal & Bhutan

Relevance of Gujral doctrine in Foreign Policy.

- ① Establishment of peaceful relationship with neighbors
- ② Helping them out to make them stable
- ③ Non interference in the internal matters
- ④ Respect for sovereignty and Independence of all.
- ⑤ Mutual growth for All in the region.
- ⑥ Resolve disputes with Diplomacy & Dialogue.

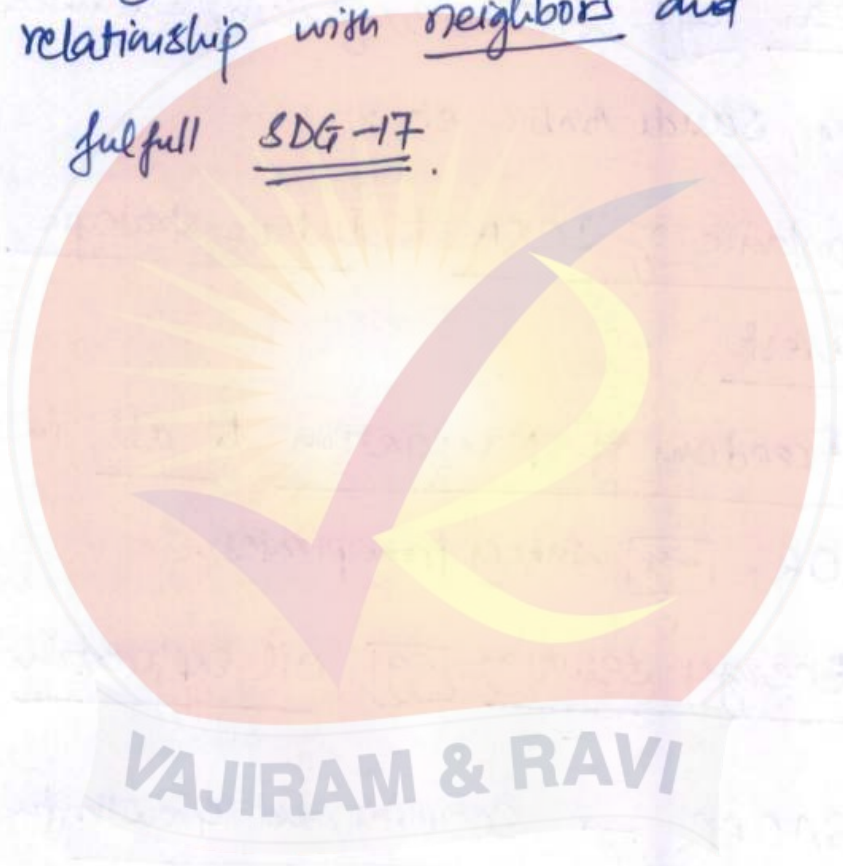
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⑦ Rule based order and peaceful Coexistence.

This the Gujral doctrine is good starting point to further enhance relationship with neighbors and fulfill SDG-17.



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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

19. Examine the objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. What importance does it hold for India's strategic interest? (15 marks, 250 words)

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a multilateral co-operation between countries lying on the periphery of Indian Ocean. [eg] India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran, Saudi Arabia etc.

Importance of IORA to India's strategic interest.

- ① Freedom of Navigation to all. in IOR. [eg] safety from pirates.
- ② Energy security [eg] oil exploration
- ③ SAGAR → Security and Growth for All in the region
- ④ India as net security provider to all
- ⑤ Significant trade happening almost 70% of Indian trade.

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⑥ Countering the significance of china in IOR (string of pearls) with Necklace of diamond

⑦ establishing the Naval ports as bases [eg] Duqum port.

⑧ Backyard of India Important for peace and stability.

Challenges to India

① Presence of china in IOR through Srilankan port (Hammantota) & Pakistan's Gwadar port

② Pirates in Arabian sea

③ Limited presence of Indian Naval forces.

④ China's influence on Maldive etc.

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This IORA can play a significant role in India's ambition to be the net security provider in IOR.



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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

20. What are the strategic challenges to the global economy in active decoupling from China? How will it benefit India's economic growth prospects?

(15 marks, 250 words)

China is 2nd largest economy of the world after USA. Most of the countries depends on products from china including India.
[eg] APIs for pharma industry.

Strategic challenge to global economy in active decoupling from china

- ① Import dependence : India, USA are dependents on china for various products [eg] India (Solar PVs = 20,000 cr.)
- ② Important part of global supply chain
- ③ It will make domestic products costly and higher inflation → increase political instability.
- ④ Limited domestic capacity to produce [eg] India missing middle

Impact on India by decoupling China,

- ① China + 1: manufacturing base in India by big companies.
- ② India having largest population of working people ⇒ Cheap labour
- ③ largest market for global players USA, Britain, France can start base of manufacturing in India.
- ③ Domestic manufacturing will increase so boost to employment, reduced import.
- ④ Saving valuable forex
- ⑤ Reduced dependence on China will make India strategic autonomous
- ⑥ Able to push for border disputes

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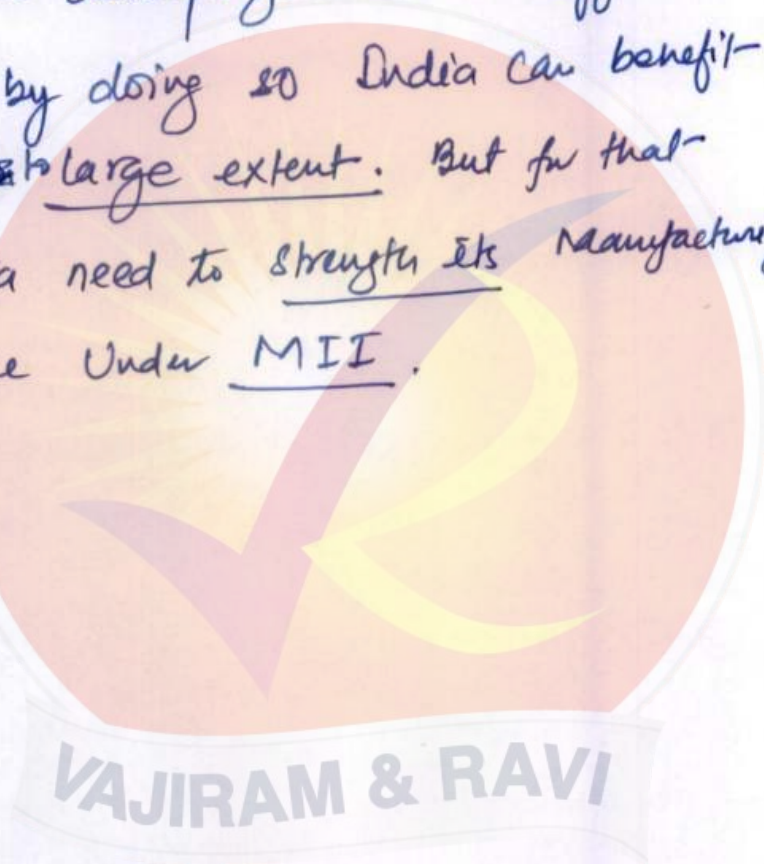
VAJIRAM & RAVI

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in India's favour

⑦ Good relationship with other trading partners:

This decoupling china is difficult but by doing so India can benefit from it to large extent. But for that India need to strengthen its manufacturing base Under MI.



Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

