

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT 2024

## GENERAL STUDIES

Full Length Test

Test - 2 (GS2 CT2)

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.:

NAME:

MOBILE NO.:

EMAIL.:

SUBMISSION DATE:

**UPSC IFS 2024**  
**AIR-18**

### 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.*

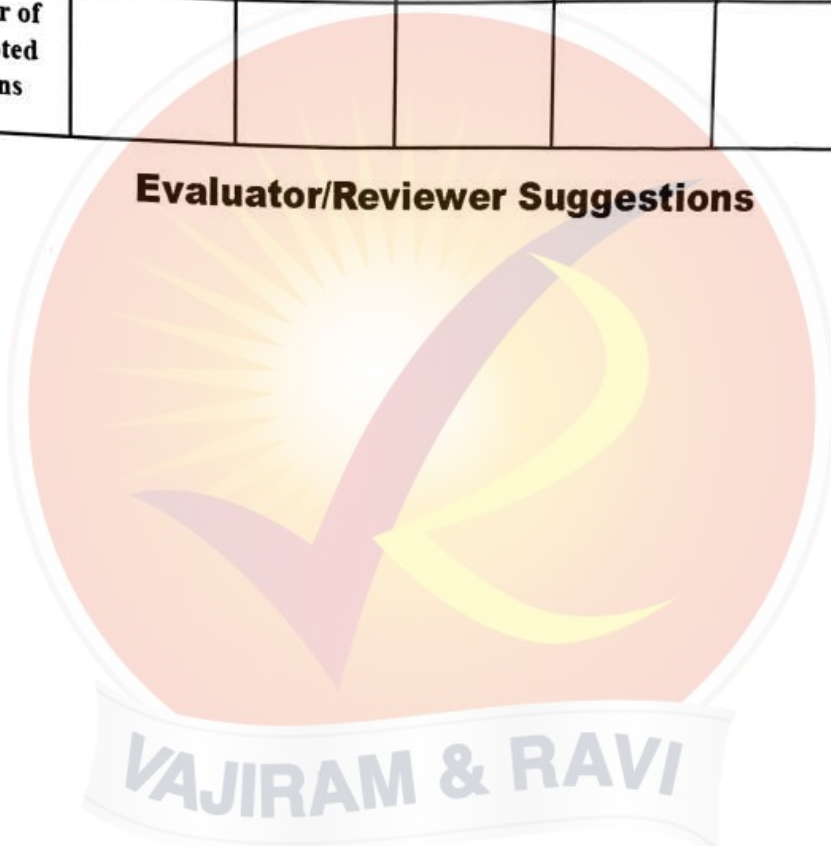
Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

**Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –**

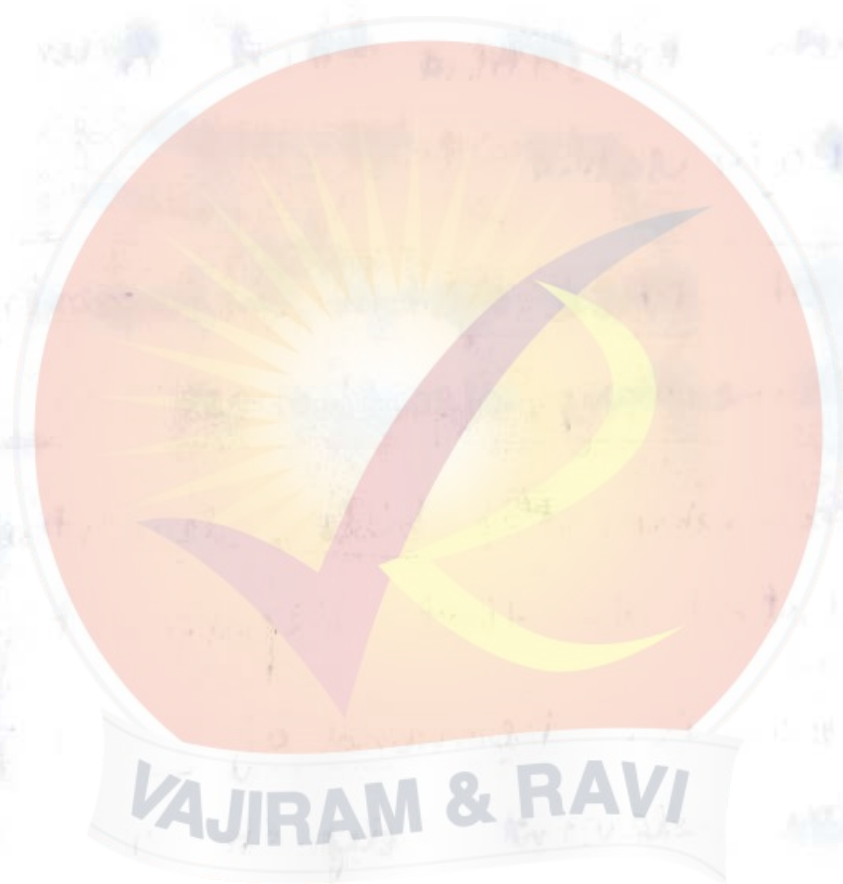
1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 9717565805 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

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)

There are 24 ~~DRR~~ DRSC in India, 16 under Lok Sabha and 8 under the Rajyasabha.

Role of DRSC system in improving parliamentary effectiveness:

- ① Examine the bills, legislation related to that department.
- ② Examine Demand of grants for relevant department.
- ③ makes parliamentary control over executive - continuous, closed, comprehensive.
- ④ Allows opposition members to influence policies for welfare of people.
- ⑤ Can take expert opinion  $\Rightarrow$  better policies  $\Rightarrow$  Rule of law.  $\Rightarrow$  ~~the~~
- ⑥ checks and balance is ensured.

## Limitation of DRSC system

- ① Act Declining use of DRSC  
[eg] 45/222 bills were passed on the same day of introduction in parliament.
- ② Less numbers of Bills being sent to these committees  
[eg] only 16% bills introduced in 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha were sent.
- ③ Partisan behaviour.
- ④ can not intervene in day to day business.
- ⑤ Generally MPs are laymen.
- ④ difficulty in dealing with complex nature of demand of grants.

Mandatory sending of bills to DRSC before they are taken by the Parliament can help in greater effectiveness of parliament in its duty to do welfare of people (Article.

Students should not write anything inside the box

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



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

Article 360 empowers the President to declare financial emergency in the country.

Since independence, no financial emergency has been declared despite country facing many economic crisis including in 1990s.

Impact of use of Art. 360 :

- ① finances of states come under complete control of centre.
- ② Governor can reserve the money bills of states for consideration of the President.
- ③ In short, Expenditure and taxation decisions are finally taken by centre.

Why it remains even <sup>dead letter</sup> even during worst economic crisis :

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- ① Article 360: It's use as 'lender of last resort'.
- ② Economic Impact: Investment declines if it's used.
- ③ Against federalism principle.
- ④ Opposition from regional political party.
- ⑤ Alternative options available to deal with economic crisis.  
~~For~~ IMF loan, World Bank loans.

Article 360 is an emergency provision which should be used only when all other options have been exhausted.

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

Article 1 of Indian constitution declares India to be 'union of states' which signifies that states have no right to come out of union. While US constitution declares USA to be federation of states where state have right to secede.

Flexibility in Indian constitution that distinguish it from US constitution:

- ① Simple process of constitutional amendment under Article 368 in India as against US constitution
- ② states are destructible in India, while in USA, they are not.
- ③ concept of 'Procedure established by law' in India as against concept of 'due process of law' in USA

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④ States' share in Rajyasabha representation can be changed in India while in USA, it is fixed 2 for every states.

Rigidity in Indian Constitution

US Constitution.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ① Single citizenship (Article 5-11)                                | ① Dual citizenship - state citizen, Union citizen. |
| ② Single constitution  | ② states have their own constitution also          |
| ③ Single election commission for both states & Union (Article 324) | ③ separate election Commission for both.           |
| ④ No territorial integrity of states guaranteed (Article 3)        | ④ Guaranteed territorial integrity to states.      |

Despite some differences, both

countries share similar democratic values, cultural linkage, and mutual interest which makes our relationship most defining partnership of 21st century.

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Introduction

Suggestions:

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Marks:

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

Micro-finance institutions provide small finances to various vulnerable section of society, mostly without collaterals.

Role of MFI in rural financial empowerment in India:

- ① Provide Credit to start micro-business  
eg ₹1.58 lakh crore credit given. [Economic Survey]
- ② Ensure financial inclusion.  
eg 53.8 crore Individuals have got the loans from MFI. [Economic Survey 2023-24]
- ③ Help in ensuring women's economic empowerment  
eg 98% customers are women.
- ④ Encourage investment in rural education, health, employment create.
- ⑤ Reduce poverty.
- ⑥ Promote inclusive growth.

Challenges faced by MFI (Economic survey):

- ① Non-performing asset.
- ② loan is generally given without collaterals  $\Rightarrow$  credit risk.
- ③ Lack of data based decision-making.
- ④ Regulatory ~~collis~~ collectool: complex rules & regulation.
- ⑤ Policy Paralysis: Unexpected, sudden change in policy by government

Way forward  $\rightarrow$  Ensure easy availability of funds to MFI.

$\rightarrow$  Credit guarantee by state.

$\rightarrow$  Self help group model of credit disbursement.

MFI can help in achieving goal of Amsit kaal - Sustainable, inclusive and strong growth and empowered society.

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

Aspirational district programme aims to provide all basic facilities and all round development of selected, less developed districts.

Aspirational District programme ensure good governance: ~~through~~.

- (i) Equity and Inclusive development  
→ special fund for promoting education & health of people.
- (ii) Efficiency & effective in Administration  
→ Performance dashboard for each district available online.
- (iii) Transparency: e-governance measures like UMANG App helps in increasing transparency in providing service to people.
- (iv) Responsiveness to people's basic

need like health facilities, roads, etc.

- ① Regular monitoring and competition among districts  $\Rightarrow$  consensus oriented development.

## concern

- ① Lack of funds [CAG report].
- ② Delay in project approval.
- ③ Bureaucratic red tapism.
- ④ Corruption.

## Way forward

- $\rightarrow$  Social Audit of Projects
- $\rightarrow$  Simplify the bureaucratic process

Focus on reducing education skilling gap [Economic Survey]

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

Economic survey highlights that there is rising informality, due to increasing e-commerce, ICT technology adoption.

Rising informality in employment raising concern for social security:

- ① Informal workers do not have security of job.
- ② They do not get benefit like health insurance.
- ③ Long hours of work.
- ④ Possibility of exploitation of workers by employer.  
PP case of sexual harassment.

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However, these platforms have helped in

↳ ~~to~~ creating non-farm employment opportunity

↳ provide unskilled or less skilled jobs. ~~eg~~ Delivery Boy

## Wayforward

① Increase formal skilling.

~~eg~~ In India, only 5% ~~are~~ workforce are formally skilled.

② Improve quality of education in colleges.

~~eg~~ only 46% graduates are employable (India skills report)

③ Promote startups in tier-2 & tier-3 cities.

These steps will ensure state ~~provide~~ fulfill it's duty to provide right to work (Article 41)

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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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)



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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 aims to promote greater co-operation among countries in the field of education, art & culture.

Challenges faced by Multilateral org.

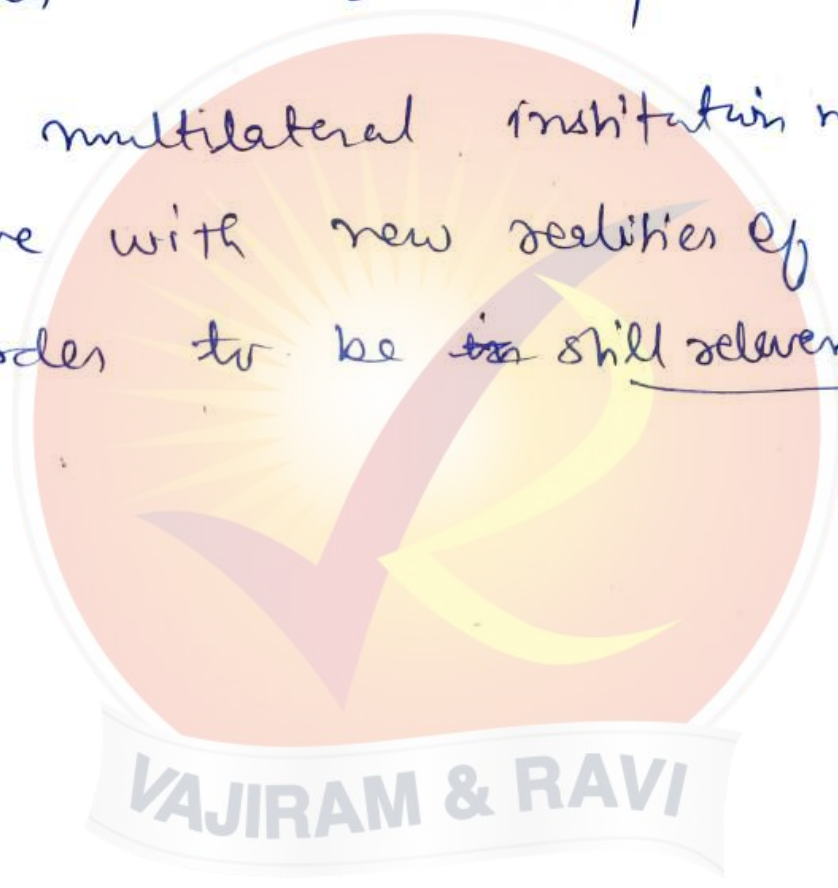
- ① Dependence on west for funding
- ② Majority of funds come from developed countries.
- ③ Hence, dominance of west.
- ④ USA - China rivalry.
- ⑤ Lack of influence of countries of Global South.
- ⑥ Not evolved with time.
- ⑦ Kindleberger trap  
Way forward

→ Greater participation of private

sector like foundation working for welfare of global citizens  
Teg Bill & Melinda Gates foundation.

→ Greater south-south cooperation

These multilateral institutions need to evolve with new realities of world order to be is still relevant.



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Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

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

BBIN grouping is grouping of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.

BBIN grouping promotes regional integration in South Asia through:

- ① BBIN Road infrastructure (highways) which connect all 4 countries.
- ② Railway connectivity.
- ③ waterways connectivity by developing inland waterways.
- ④ Greater co-operation in economic trade & investment.
- ⑤ Promote hydro diplomacy.

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## Challenges

- Pilot fish behaviour of Nepal, Bhutan & Bangladesh,
- funding delays.
- Border dispute.
- Rising fundamentalism in Bangladesh.
- Anti-India Narratives

2-speed regionalism as recommended by C.R. Rajamohan should be promoted for integration of South Asia.

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Introduction

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Presentation

Marks:

Suggestions:

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

Our constitution creates India as Union of states (Article 1) in which centre has been made more powerful with respect to states.

Elastic and substantial nature of financial resource of centre:

- ① More 'taxation subject' has been given to centre.  
Income tax is levied by centre.
- ② Article 292 empowers centre to raise finance from within & outside of the country.
- ③ GST Council: centre has almost veto over any decisions related to GST.
- ④ exclusive power to impose 'cess and surcharge' which are not sharable.
- ⑤ Treasury bills to raise short term finances

financial resource of states; Inelastic & inadequate:

- ① Article 293: states can borrow only within India
- ② Also, if states have financial liability to centre, they can not borrow without centre's permission [ Article 293 ]
- ③ States can not issue treasury bills to raise short term finance.
- ④ Less number of taxation subject.
- ⑤ States have to share significant amount of resource to local bodies.

However, there are various provisions which ensure states' financial empowerment

- ① Centre share significant percentage of net taxes collected to states based on finance commission report.

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- ② centrally sponsored scheme in which centre provides support from 60% to 90% of financial requirement
- ③ Special grant under Article 275.
- ④ Interest free loans to states for capital investment [Budget 2024-25]

Suggestions to enhance cooperation:

- ① Increase efficiency of tax collection
- ② Reduce leakage, corruption.
- ③ Creates equality in GST Council

Above steps will ensure states are financially strong and able to provide its constitutionally stipulated duty to promote justice - social, economic, and political to all [Article 38].

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

Article 13 empowers the Supreme Court and High Courts to declare any law unconstitutional if it violates any fundamental rights.



Supremacy of constitution ensured through judicial review of ordinary laws.

- ① Keshavananda Bharti case: SC introduced basic structure doctrine.
- ② Shreya Singhal case: Supreme Court struck down section 66(A) of IT Act due to their violation.

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of freedom of speech & expression  
under Article 19(1)(a)

③ Nay foundation case: SC decriminalised

Section 377.

④ Anusadha Bustin case: Internet

suspension for long time is violation  
of freedom of speech & expression  
(Article 19(1)(a)) and freedom to  
carry on business (Article 19)

⑤ Kihoto Holohan case: ensured  
judicial review of speaker's decision  
with respect to provision of 10th schedule

⑥ I.R. Coelho case, 2007: laws made  
included in 9th schedule is open  
for judicial scrutiny.

Need for confirming all ordinary laws to  
~~limited law~~ constitutional law:

① To protect fundamental rights  
(Article 14-32) of citizens.

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- ② To ensure substantive democracy
- ③ To prevent abuse of power by executive and legislature.
- ④ To ensure rule of law
- ⑤ Protection of minorities.

vigilant, well functioning, independent

Judiciary help in ensuring supremacy of the constitution.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

Constitution provides that after each census, the delimitation exercise is to be carried out.

This delimitation process ensure distribution of number of seats in Lok Sabha and Rajyasabha <sup>in proportion of</sup> ~~based on~~ population of each states.

The delimitation process creating a wedge.

Representative democracy demands that each citizen have one vote, and each value of each ~~one~~ vote is one.

However, due to various factors such as greater access to education, health care facility, the

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~~Population~~ The southern states were able to control the population growth. This has caused

furthermore, 84<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment act has fixed the share in ~~pop~~ Lok Sabha & Rajyasabha seats to various states based on population of 1971 census till 2026.

This has caused the ~~vote value~~ of vote of people of southern states more than northern states - which is against the principle of representative democracy.

However, any ~~etc~~ reduction in allocation of percentage of seats to southern states will be seen

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as punishment for their success in population control measures.

In this perspective,

Measures to address concern:

- ① Population control measures in northern states.
  - ② Promote education and awareness of small family.
  - ③ Greater collaboration and competition among federal units.
- ④ 58 - Samman (respect), Samvad (Conversation), Sahyog (Co-operation), Shanti (peace); Samisiddhi (Prosperity) will help in ensuring co-operative federalism & representative democracy

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

Article 324 establishes election commission to conduct free and fair election in the country.

Recent changes to election commissioners appointment process:

- ① They will be appointed by the President on the advice of committee consisting of PM, speaker and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha.
- ② Election commissioners can be removed on the advice of CEC.
- ③ Compensation will be equivalent to cabinet secretary.

Impact on autonomy and independence

- ① Executive's dominance in appointment process.

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② No security of tenure to election commissioners.

③ No financial autonomy to ECI

④ Expenditure of ECI is not charged expenditure.

However, supporters argues that

① Recent amendment provides qualification of members of ECI.

② Ensures security of tenure to ECI.

Way forward:

① For Anoop Barnwal case: SC called for appointment of election commissioners on the recommendation of committee consisting of PM, CJI, Leader of opposition to Lok Sabha.

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Other suggestion by Dinesh Goswami Committee

- ① Security of tenure to election Commissioners
- ② Make ECI's expenditure charged on consolidated fund of India
- ③ Grant ECI power to deregister political parties.

Strong, Independent and autonomous ECI will help in ensuring free and fair election, fair implementation of model code of conduct.

As Taskunde Committee observed, ECI should not only be independent but also seen to be independent. Hence Anoop Barnwal judgement should be given attention.

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



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part)

16. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 was a historic en...  
community.' Evaluate the status of its implementation and ...  
improvement. (15 marks, 250 ...)



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



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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)



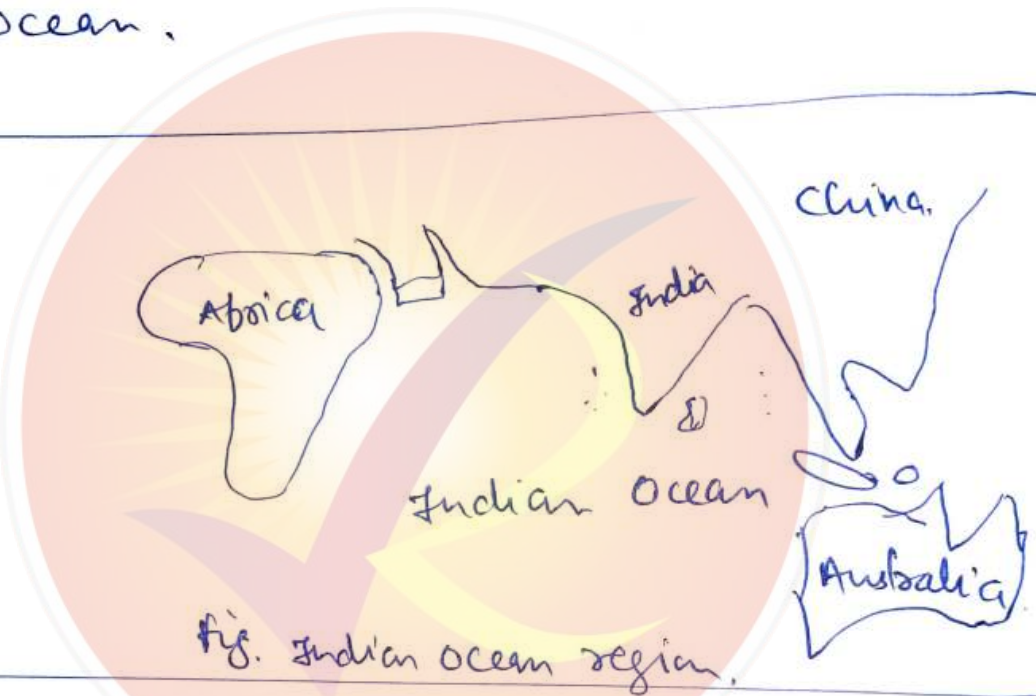
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19. Examine the objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. What importance does it hold for India's strategic interest? (15 marks, 250 words)

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is the platform for countries which share littoral boundary with Indian Ocean.



## Objectives of IORA:

1. Greater co-operation in fighting piracy in region.
2. Intelligence sharing
3. Co-operate in fighting disasters.

- ④ Work for economic integration of the region.
- ⑤ Promote trade & investment
- ⑥ Promote shared security.
- ⑦ Ensure zone of peace in Indian Ocean.

## Challenges :

- ① Does not regularly interact.
- ② Increasing influence of china in the region.
- ③ Differences in views in the region.
- ④ Increasing power politics and influence of outside power.

## Importance of IORA for India's Strategic interest:

- ① Ensure Indian primacy in Indian Ocean region.
- ② Protects Indian maritime interest

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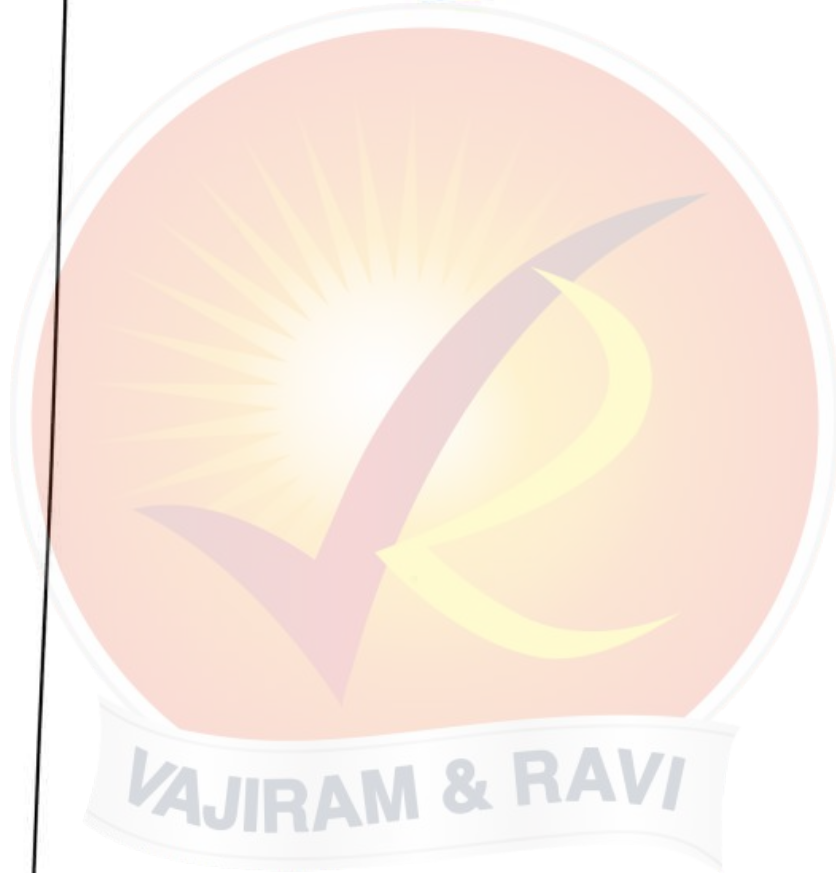
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by reducing piracy through co-operation.

③. Promote blue economy.

④. Reduce ~~that~~ china's influence in the region.



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Introduction
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Marks:

Suggestions:

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)

Economic Survey 2023-24, highlights that world is actively moving to decouple from China.

Strategic challenges to the Global economy:

- ① China - hub of manufacturing
- ② Integration of Chinese economy in Global value chains.
- ③ Low cost of Chinese goods due to government support, and great infrastructure.
- ④ China's rise as Global power  
~~eg~~ silent diplomacy by China brought Saudi Arabia & Iran closer.
- ⑤ Need for Investment.  
~~eg~~ China's BRI provides soft loan.

- ⑥ Global north - south divide.
- ⑦ Trust deficit between developed and developing countries.

⑧

It will benefit India's economic prospect by:

- ① Greater exports from India  
Economic survey said that an electronic good export to us increased due to this.
- ② Reduce dependency on China ⇒ Reduce import deficit for us.
- ③ Great employment generation due to greater exports.
- ④ Enhance trade & economic relation with west.

Way forward

- ① Improve ease of doing business

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- ① Simplify rules & regulation to
- ② Reduce regulatory cost.
- ④ Provide single window clearance
- ⑤ Promote trust based governance
- ⑥ Sign FTA, CEPA, etc. with countries for mutual benefit.

These steps will ensure India is able to maintain its strategic autonomy and reduce China's bullying behaviour like incursion in Ladakh.

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