

**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 CSE 2024****AIR-242****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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(Don't write anything in this part)

(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)

~~DRSCs~~ DRSCs are a method to ensure parliamentary oversight on the executive.

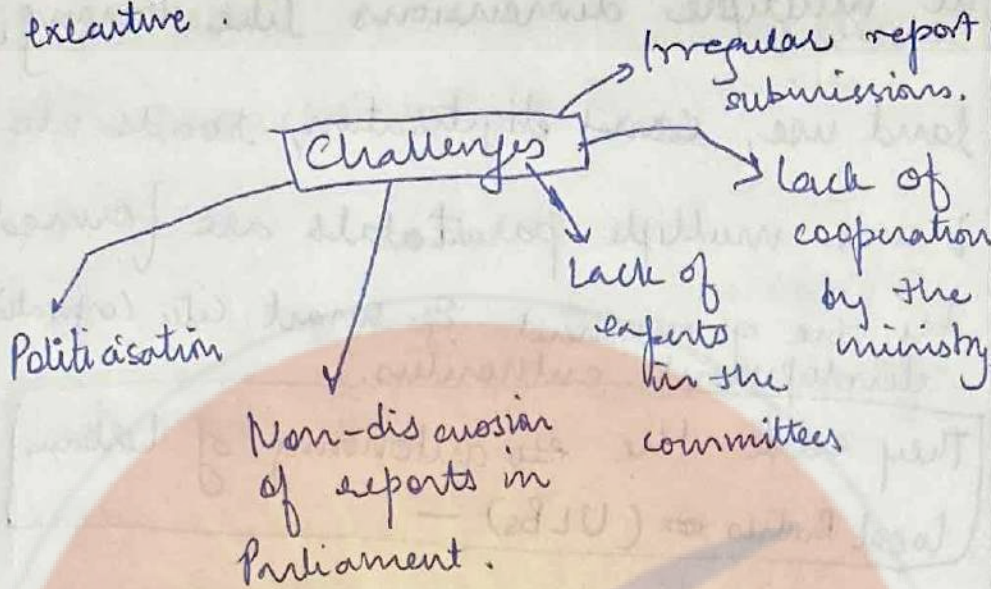
## Role-

- 1) Ensure financial regularity in functioning of the department.
- 2) Evaluate the proposed policies of the ministry.
- 3) Exercise Evaluate the effectiveness of on-going schemes and projects.
- 4) Provide suggestions for the improvements.
- 5) Report the findings to the Parliament.

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6.) Fulfill the spirit of the parliamentary system of democracy where legislature controls the executive.



Challenges need to be addressed to ensure full actualisation through regular reporting and discussions.

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Introduction
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Conclusion
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Suggestions:

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

Urban areas require governance in multiple dimensions like housing, land use, ~~road~~ digitisation, roads etc. Hence multiple parastatals are formed by the government. Eg. smart city corporation, development authorities.

They erode the ~~to~~ autonomy of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) —

1.) Multiplicity creates of bodies creates ~~to~~ jurisdictional conflict.

◦ Eg. sanitation is a vertical of Smart city mission as well as ULBs

2.) Shared finances

◦ The budget of ULBs is shared with centralised agencies.

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3.) Centralised bodies follow one-size fits all approach.

◦ ULBs focus on localised approach.

4.) Enroachment into ~~domains~~ functions of ULBs

◦ Eg. Housing by development authorities like DDA, but PMAY by ULBs.

5.) Other parastatals' take primacy in the eyes of the government.

◦ Eg. enhanced focus on smart cities mission through SPVs rather than revamping ULBs.

The performance of ULBs in terms of quality delivery, fiscal consolidation etc. needs to be improved.

Students should not write anything inside the box

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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 enforce financial emergency in the whole or a part of the country in the situations of weak economic condition of the country.

It remains a dead letter in following ways -

- 1) Never used till date.
  - Even during several BoP crisis or Covid crisis, it was not used.
- 2) Borrowings by the government could be done even without its usage, to improve the financial state temporarily.
- 3) Other methods to control the economic downside like budget, fiscal stimulus etc. have proved to be effective.

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• Eg. Aatmanirbhar Bharat stimulus of ₹ 20 lakh crore during Covid crisis.

4.) Financial emergency usually targets revenue expenditure through salary cuts for public servants including MPs, judges etc. However other methods like DA freeze, effective functioning of PSOs etc could be done through an executive order.

5.) It sounds will implicitly signify an economic mismanagement by the government. Hence, will have political ramifications for the party in power.

Over constitution makers envisaged the financial challenges and empowered the state to tackle it through Article 360. However with improving economy, it seems unlikely to be used in coming future.

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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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)

US constitution is said to be rigid whereas Indian constitution leaves scope for due amendments.

Indian constitution - blend of flexibility and rigidity -

1.) Power to Parliament to amend →

- Under article 368.

2.) Power of judicial review →

- Courts (Supreme court, High courts) can review the amendments for constitutionality.

3.) Different <sup>majority</sup> quantum of votes required for different kinds of amendments.

- Eg. federal provisions require special majority of both the houses plus 50% of the states to ratify for amendment.

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- 4.) Basic structure doctrine → by In Keshavanand Bharati case, Supreme Court said the basic ideals of constitution like federalism, free and fair elections etc- can't be amended.
- 5.) Balances parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy.

US constitution →

- 1) Rigid in nature → ~~Only~~ Only 27 amendments till date.
- 2) Judicial supremacy → Marbury v/s <sup>review.</sup> Madison case, 1803 → Powerful judicial.
- 3) Strong federations → Most of the powers are with states.
- 4) Very broad guidelines are only present in US constitution.

Both constitutions are suited to the needs of the respective political democracies.

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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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

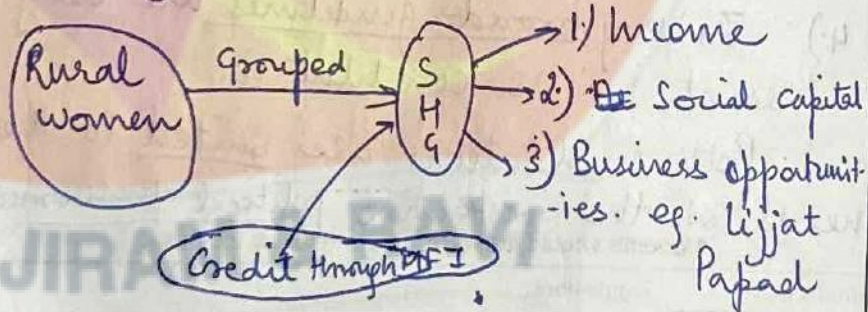
Microfinance institutions provide credit to the disadvantaged sections, fostering the inclusivity <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ growth. Eg. NABARD, SIDBI etc.

## Role of MFI in rural financial empowerment -

- 1) Reducing dependence on informal lending.

• Moneylenders charge very high rate of interests.

- 2) Linkage to empowerment of rural women



- 3) Increasing grassroot entrepreneurship  
MFIs have played role in standup

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India, MUDRA like schemes :

4) Digital delivery of credit  $\Rightarrow$  Increases transparency and curbs leakages.

5) Asset creation in rural areas through investment in agriculture like drones etc.

6) Enhancement of overall living standard:- focus on health, sanitation, tackling hunger, etc. as a result of ~~the~~ financial inclusion.

7) Creation of empowerment oriented development rather than subsidy oriented.

Challenges like lack of banking coverage in rural areas, formalisation of SHGs, enhancing digital literacy etc. need to be tackled for more effectiveness.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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

Aspiration District Programme (ADP) was launched in 112 most backward districts to tackle the multi-dimensional poverty indicators.

## Successes of ADP -

### 1) Health and sanitation

◦ Increase in institutional delivery, vaccination of children in these districts.

2) Education → Use of technology ~~has~~ and enrolment has increased.

3) Financial inclusion → More than 90% from earlier 80%.

4) Skill development → focus has enhanced and training centres are functional.

5) 95% districts have been doing achieving the targets in most of the parameters.

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- 6) Rating based methods → NITI Aayog ~~has~~ rewards the performer districts.
- 7) Targetted approach of development  
• More effective

## Some challenges persist -

- 1) Agriculture and water resources vertical has not performed well.
- 2) Stunting, wasting and malnutrition has seen less improvement.
- 3) Learning parameters like numeracy, comprehensive skills are lagging.
- 4) Widespread migration due to lack of labour market.

Overall, the model of development is a template that should be persisted with and government's follow up with Aspirational Blocks Programme is a welcome step for further targetting.

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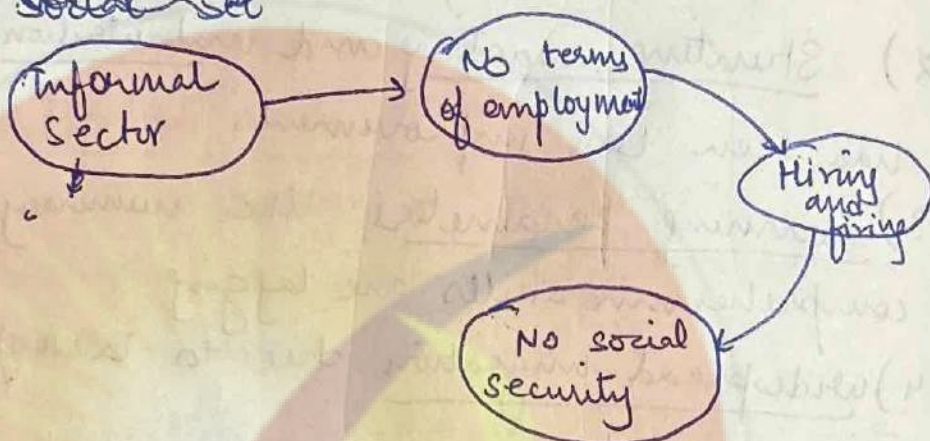
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7. Rising informality in employment raises the concern for social security. Discuss the statement with reference to platform workers. (10 marks, 150 words)

• Only about 20% of the workers work in formal sector in India and the rising informality poses several challenges.

Social Sec



Concerns for social security due to informalisation, particularly for platform workers -

- 1.) No job security
  - Can be terminated without any warning.
- 2.) Stringent work conditions etc
  - Eg. food delivery partners work under time-bound delivery of food packets.

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3) Rating based assessment - The receiver of the service rates the worker and it determines the career growth of the worker.

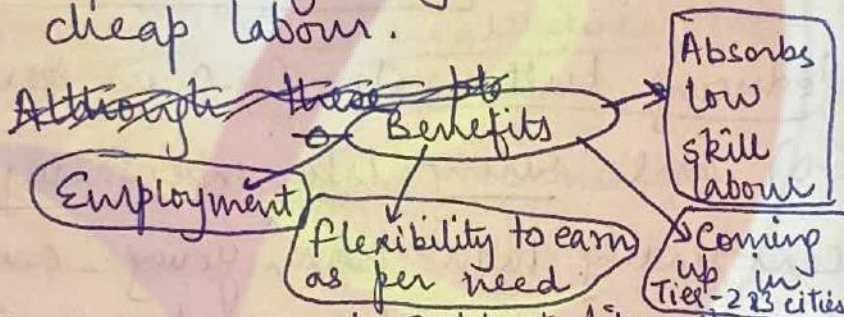
4) No provisions for medical benefits, provident funds, pensions etc.

→ No security of health or future.

5) poor enforcement of government labour norms.

6) No fixed hours of work.

7) No career or financial growth as companies flexibly fire and hire new cheap labour.



Better government support like Shram Yojana, Maan Dhan Yojana etc are much needed for this sector of employment.

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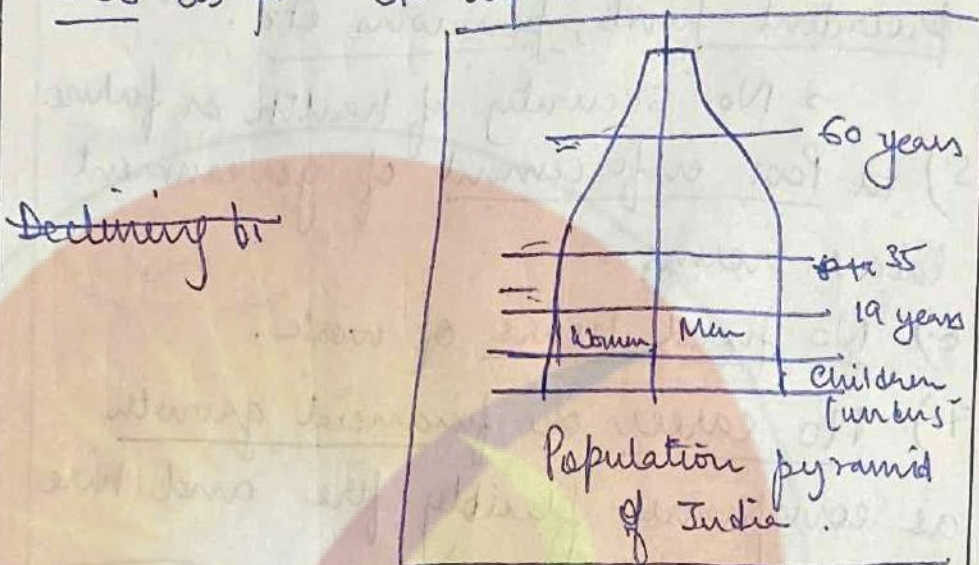
# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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)

India is expected to have 14% of the population as elderly by 2036 as per UN report.



Reducing birth rates (2.0 as per NFHS 5.0) and rising life expectancy is causing India from a young country to a gradually older country.

Renewed focus is thus needed in the following ways -

- 1) Focus on medical equipments for geriatric care. Eg. hearing aids.

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- PLI Scheme on medical equipments
  - 2.) Personalised care mechanisms
    - Highly sensitive diseases at old age. Eg- schizophrenia.
  - 3.) Tackling mental health disorders. → Old people are more vulnerable.
    - factors like loneliness, lack of power etc.
  - 4.) Old age homes to be built and equipped with due medical facilities.
  - 5.) Training the healthcare staff in geriatric specialisation.
  - 6.) Leveraging global technologies.
  - 7.) Promote active ageing to engage elders.
  - 8.) Focus on prevention of lifestyle diseases like diabetes.
- Due Policies need to be shaped up.

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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)

Multilateral organisations like UN bodies ~~do~~ usually <sup>have</sup> do not <sup>funding</sup> cover generation on their own and are dependent on sovereign nations' contributions.

Challenges in efficient functioning due to funding issues, particularly UNESCO →

## 1-) Donor influences

- The large donors try to decide the agendas and mode of functioning of these organisations.
- Eg. WHO during Covid crisis was alleged to be under Chinese influence.

## 2-) Uncertainty in finances

- The volume of finances remain uncertain as contributions by the members are voluntary in nature.

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## 3.) Small pool of resources

• The budget of several institutions is very less and thus this checks their effectiveness.

• Eg. UNESCO cut its efforts in educational dimension due to lack of funds.

## 4.) Arbitrary withdrawals

• US withdrew from UNESCO in 2011 and UNFCCC in 2020, crippling these organisations.

## 5.) Autonomy compromise ⇒

• Large donors influence selection of the top posts in these bodies.

• China, Germany - largest donors to UNESCO.

## 6.) Politicisation

• Issues around Palestine, Ukraine etc influence the funding by several states.

Secured funding, political neutrality and autonomy in functioning is desirable.

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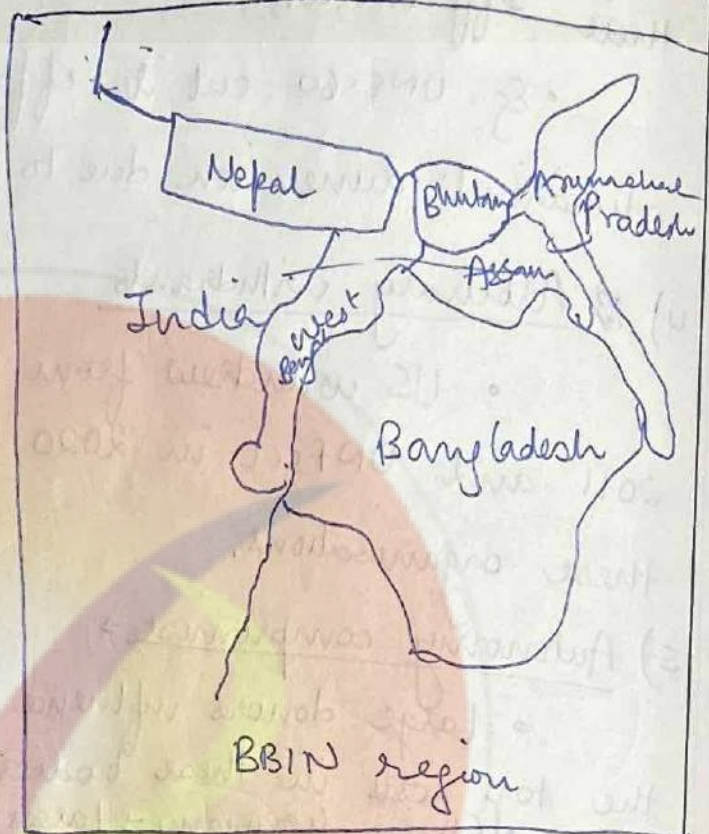
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## VAJIRAM & RAVI

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

BBIN stands for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.



Regional integration through BBIN -

- 1) Connectivity projects - linkage between the region.
- 2) Movement of the people will be facilitated.
- 3) Facilitating trade and economic ~~cost~~ <sup>cooperation</sup>.

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engagement.

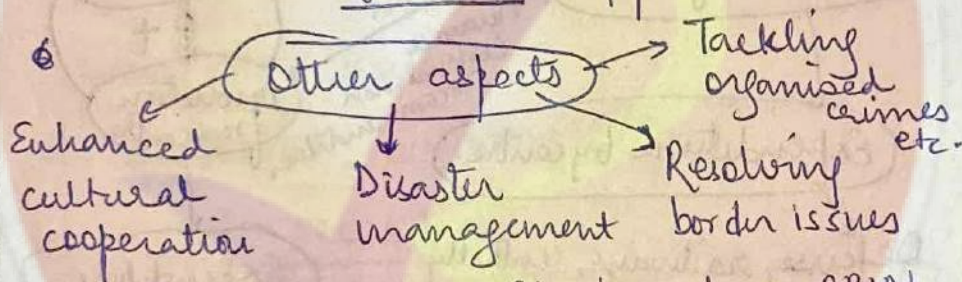
- Custom posts to be developed.

## 4) Hydro-cooperation

◦ lots of common Himalayan rivers like Kosi, Teesta, Ghaghra etc flow in the region.

5) Energy cooperation - India has developed energy projects in Nepal & Bhutan.

◦ Developing nuclear plant in Bangladesh with Russian support



Backing out of Bhutan from BBIN motor connectivity corridor is a setback but the grouping has significant potential.

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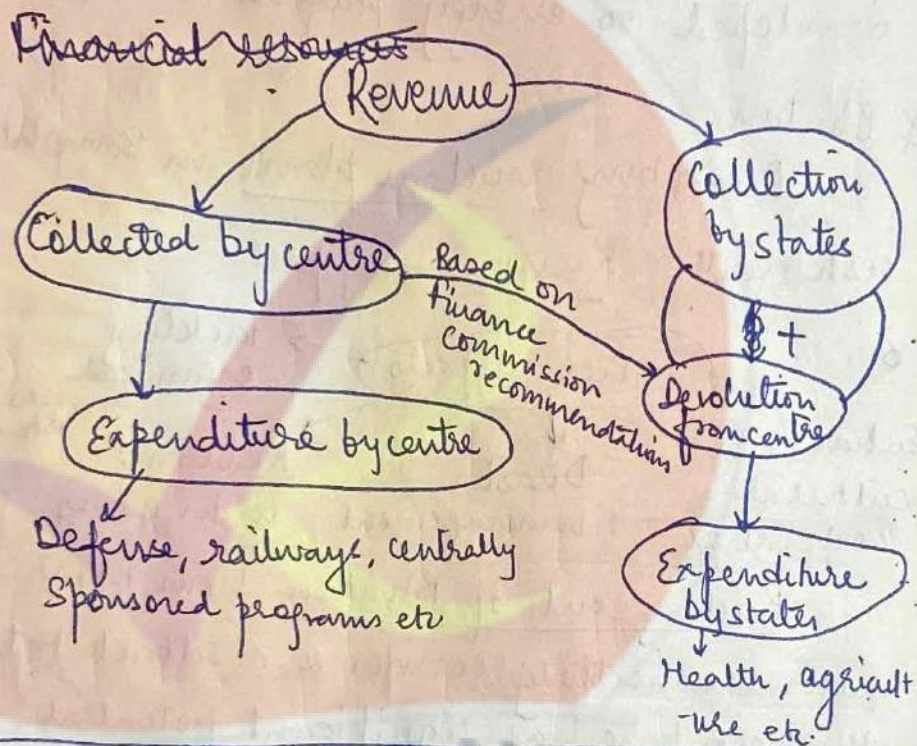
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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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

The fiscal federalism in India is tilted in the favor of the union through the patterns of taxation and expenditure as well as bodies like finance commission.



Financial resources of centre are elastic and substantial —

1.) Major taxes are with centre

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◦ Eg. Income tax, corporation tax etc.

2.) More pool of people to tax as almost all people fall under indirect taxes.

Around 4 crore people fall under income tax bracket.

3.) Flexibility to borrow from foreign sources like World Bank, ADB etc.

4.) Flexibility to levy cess and surcharge on excise.

5.) Flexibility of windfall tax only with the union.

6.) Borrows substantially through issue of securities

For states, it is inelastic and inadequate

1.) Tax brackets are weak as they can levy ~~tax~~ on minor sectors only like ~~alcohol~~ alcohol, sales tax etc.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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2) Expenditure heavy subjects under 7th schedule are with states.

Eg. health, education, agriculture etc.

3) Cannot borrow from foreign governments unless pledged by Government of India.

4) Restrictions on borrowing from union govt or RBI, if older loans are not repayed.

5) Huge dependence on finance commission rewards and grants

• No representation in the commission.

6) Centre controls the policies of states indirectly through sponsored programs.

A balanced fiscal federalism could pave the way for more effective actualisation of the principle of subsidiarity

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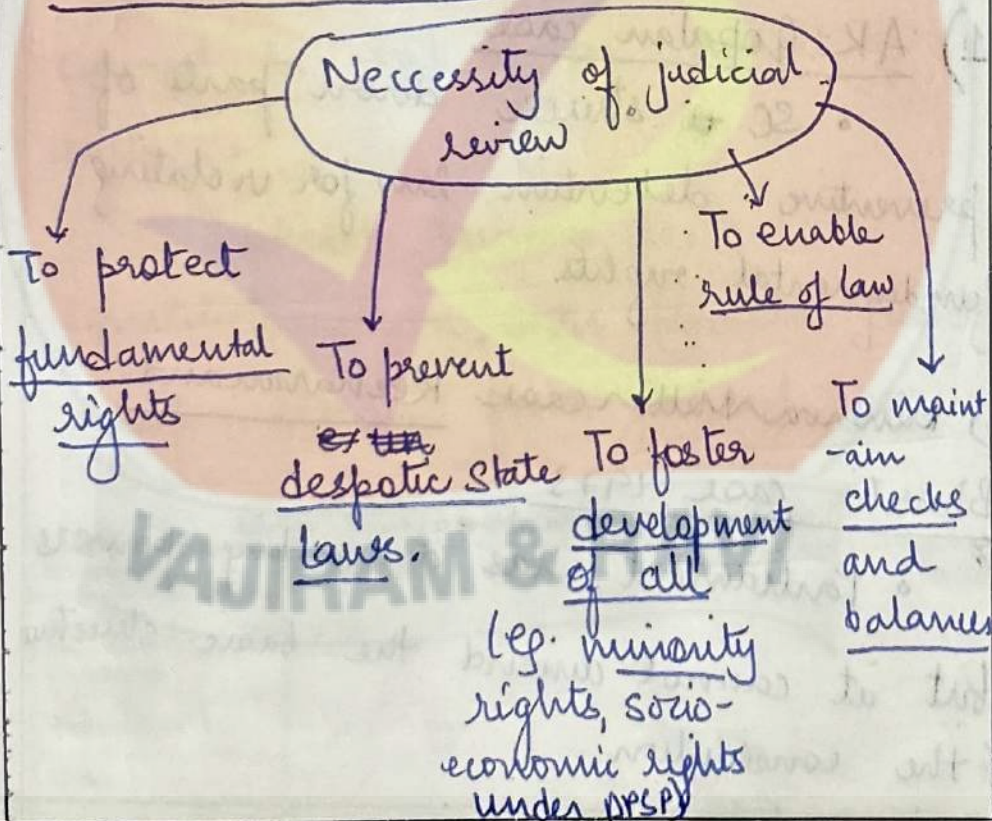
# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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)

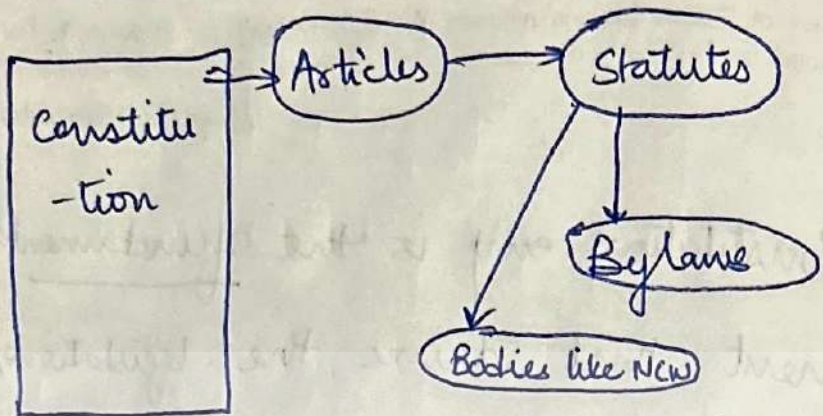
Constitution ~~is~~ is the fundamental document that drives the legislations, governance and executive actions.

Constitution grants the power of judicial review to higher courts through various articles like Article 13, 32, 226, 136, 142 etc.



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To maintain constitutional supremacy all must be <sup>within</sup> the limits set by the constitution.

Case laws in Supreme Court <sup>(SC)</sup> for judicial review:-

1) AK Gopalan case

• SC struck down parts of preventive detention law for violating fundamental rights.

2) Minerva Mills case Keshavanand

Bharti case, 1973

• Parliament has amending powers but it cannot amend the basic structure of the constitution.

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◦ The basic structure keeps on evolving.  
 ◦ Features include parliamentary system, federalism, secularism etc.

3) Minerva Mills case → Judicial review of SC → a part of the basic structure of the constitution. ~~It is~~

◦ Partially invalidated 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment that put <sup>all</sup> DPSPs over fundamental rights under articles 14, 19 and 31.

4) L. Chandrakumar case :- Tribunals cannot be out of the ambit of courts.

∴ Judicial reviews lead to constitutionalism, ~~with~~ However judiciary must refrain from judicial overreach.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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## VAJIRAM & RAVI

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)

Delimitation is the process of dividing political units, based on the factors of population, geographical continuity, administrative convenience etc.

Delimitations in India → 1952, 1962, 1972, 2002

Delimitation as a wedge between representative democracy and federalism -

### ① Equal weightage of votes

• Number of voters per constituency needs to be roughly the same for <sup>value of each vote</sup> representation to be equal.

• This is ensured through delimitation.

### ② Changing demography

• Different regions have different

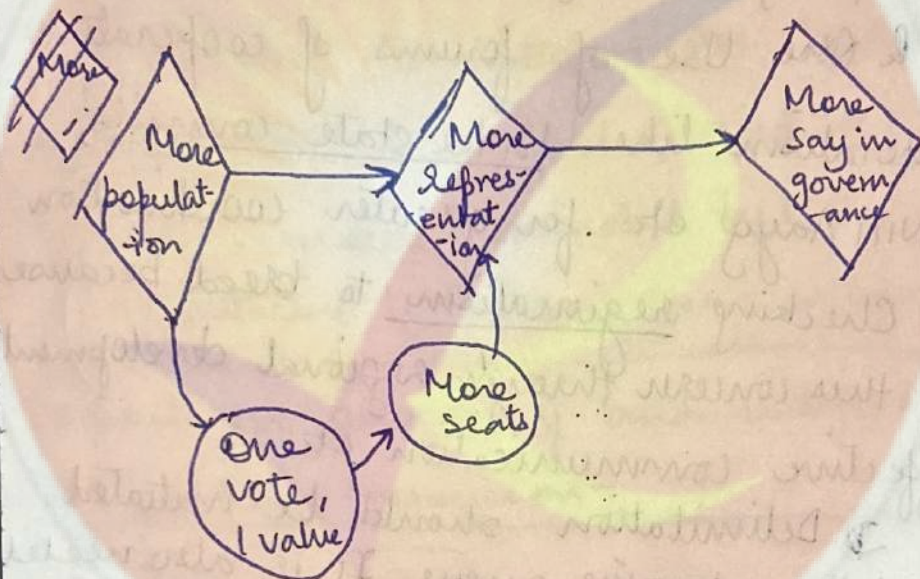
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population growth rates owing to birth and death rates, migration etc.

② Political dynamics between federal units depends on the number of Lok Sabha and Vidhan seats in those states.

This is



Concerns

1.) States with better demographic states performance are likely to face reduced representation.

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2) This pattern coincides geographically roughly as southern states are likely to lose ~~so~~ some seats vis-a-vis northern states.

### Addressing concerns -

- 1) Giving more weightage to demographic performance under Finance Commission devolutions.
- 2) Dialogues and deliberations through all party meetings. → Political consensus
- 3) & Use of forums of cooperative federalism like inter state councils, NITI Aayog etc. for greater coordination
- 4) Checking regionalism to bleed because of this concern through regional development, effective communication etc.
  - ↳ Delimitation should be initiated post the upcoming census. It is also needed for implementation of women's reservation.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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)

~~SE~~ Supreme Court in Anoop Baranwal case provided for a committee consisting of PM, Leader of Opposition (Lok Sabha) and Chief Justice of India to select Election Commissioners.

## Recent amendment

- Selection committee → PM, Leader of Opposition (Lok Sabha) and a Union minister (nominated by PM).
- Appointment by President (same as before)

Impact on autonomy and independence of Election Commission -

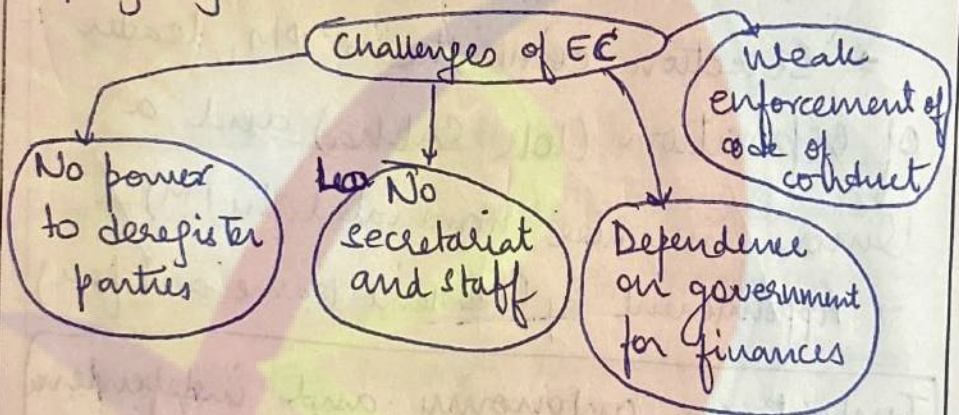
## Negative impacts -

- 1) Party Bias towards party in power -
  - o Majority (2/3) members of the committee are from government of the day.

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- 2) Lack of checks and balances
  - No involvement of judiciary
- 3) Perception of neutrality gets damaged.
- 4) No security of tenure for election commissioners (except CEC).
  - Can be removed on the advice of CEC.
- 5) Doesn't talk about challenges plaguing EC.



- 6) Dependence on government reduces the autonomy.
  - Presence of pliable bureaucrats undermines fair ground for all candidates

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## Positive impacts -

- 1.) No conflict of interest with judiciary. If judiciary was a party ~~member~~ in selection process, it deciding on cases related to EC, would ~~lead~~ lead to conflict of interest.
- 2.) Inclusion of leader of opposition, as against earlier method of direct selection by PM is a progressive beginning.
- 3.) Paves way for further progressive legislations.

All round strengthening of EC is a must for free and fair democracy, which is a part of basic structure.

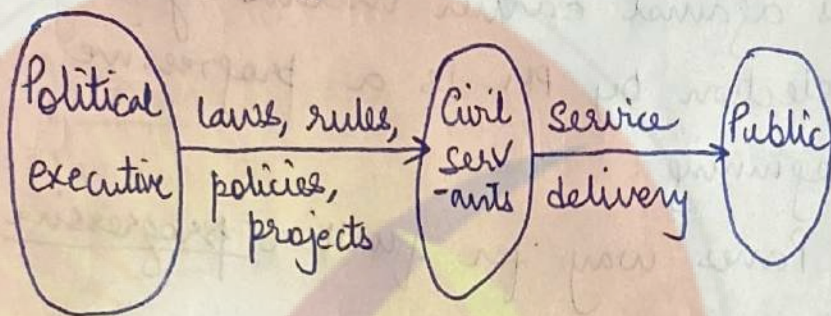
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# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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)

Civil servants are truly called the steel frame of governance in India for their role in execution as well as policy formulations.



Why performance targets are necessary for civil servants →

- 1) Enhances accountability fixing in case of missing the targets.
- 2) Enhances efficiency and effectiveness in service and project delivery.
- 3) Cost-effectiveness ⇒ as the cost and time overruns are checked.

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4.) Proactive governance and people's participation would enhance.

5.) Leveraging innovation and technology

• for target achievements, civil servants would adopt innovative methods.

• Eg → using solar pumps for irrigation, rainwater harvesting to enhance water table etc.

Role Mission Karmayogi → enhancing capability of civil servants →

1.) Regular training to equip the civil servants with changing spectrum of governance.

2.) Improvising to adopt global best practises of governance.

• Thriving of a mixed economy model under increasing market forces.

3.) Inter-departmental coordination for projects and frameworks. Eg.

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PM. Gati Shakti.

4) focus on quality of service delivery.

5) Enhancing adoption of technology

6) Focus on quantification of completion of projects or disbursement of ~~to~~ services to enhance accountability

7) Citizen-centred approach of governance.

8) Voluntary disclosure / publishing of service levels = eg. ~~so~~ citizen charter.

For India to become a developed nation by 2047, we need to ~~off~~ have target oriented approach for public servants.

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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 (FRA) provided rights to the tribal community over forest produce, land and to preserve their customary living.

## Status of implementation -

- ① Non-uniformity in application across states.
- ② Increased the economic integration of tribals.
  - Rights over forest produce.
- ③ Provided protection against wholesale displacement.
- ④ Preserves the traditional rights
- ⑤ A change of approach over earlier laws where protect conservation

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efforts. excluded them.

The act envisages to ~~ex~~ include them.

## Challenges -

- 1) Improper enforcement.
- 2) Displacement of tribals persist.
- 3) Poor economic parameters of Tribal community.
- 4) Not in sync with several laws like Wildlife Protection Act.
- 5) Poor social and political say of tribal communities despite the law.
- 6) Encroachment into tribal areas.
- 7) Lack of awareness.

## Measures for improvement -

- 1) Harmonise all laws with regard to forest, wildlife and tribals.
- 2) Powers to NCST to investigate violations of Forest Rights Act.

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3.) Awareness among tribals about their rights, must be spread.  
 • Use of local stakeholders for this is necessary.

4.) ~~to~~ Plug the loopholes in the Act to check encroachment, displacement etc.

5.) Mandatory approval of Gram Sabha under PESA, EIA should be enforced.

The Act is in syne with Tribal Panchshet principles and must be duly improvised.

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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)

India Stack, developed by MEITY is an application programmable interface (API) and could be used by people, businesses, civil societies and even by foreign countries (eg. India shared API with PNG). It can be used to develop digital public ~~infrastructure~~ infrastructure like UPI, ONDC etc.

Usage in good governance -

- 1) Digital/e-governance
  - Enhances the reach of governance. eg. UMANG
- 2) For grievance redressal
  - eg. CPGRAMS.
- 3) For enhancing effectiveness
  - eg. DBT, e-NAM
- 4) For better service delivery
  - eg. e-ration cards,

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- 5) For better financial management  
 • eg. PFMS.
- 6) For efficient collaboration among government officers.  
 eg. e-office.
- 7) For efficient policing  
 eg. CCTNS, ~~digital fingerprint~~ <sup>print.</sup>
- 8) For responsive approach by government  
 • My gov.

## Usage in case of living -

- 1) Efficient payment systems -  
 eg. UPI.
- 2) Efficient ~~data~~ documentation  
 eg. Digilocker.
- 3) Efficient marketing  
 eg. ONDC.
- 4) Support to businesses  
 eg. can use APIs to develop their softwares.

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5) Seamless transportation/travel

- eg. Digiyaatra

6) Efficient management by people

- eg. ~~the~~ weather forecasts etc

India Stack needs to be propagated to ~~be~~ enhance the reach of good governance and ease of living through digital means ~~the~~

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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)

India has a long international boundary of more than 15100 km and a coastline of more than 7500 km.

## Role of neighbours in overall development

### 1) Regional peace and stability.

◦ Disturbed due to conflicts in Myanmar, terrorism in Afghanistan and deep state in Pakistan.

### 2) Economic cooperation

◦ Successful FTAs help trade.

◦ Eg. European Union as an Economic union.

### 3) Co-development

◦ Similar challenges remain in neighbours like urbanisation, disaster management, women empowerment etc. in South Asia.

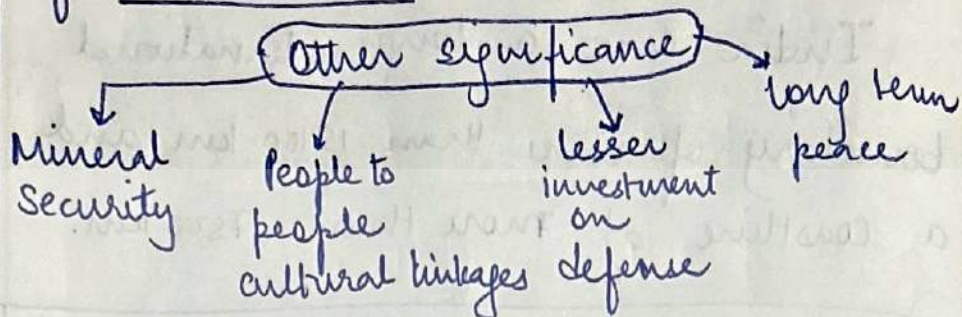
4) Foreign interference → Weak neighbours breed grounds for foreign powers to play

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the part in internal polity. Eg. influence of US and China in Pakistan.



### Gujarat doctrine features

- 1) ~~#~~ Helping the neighbours in times of distress.
- 2) Cooperation without the expectation of reciprocity.
- 3) Neighbourhood first.

### Relevance in present times India's foreign policy -

- 1) Establishment as the leader of the South Asia.
- 2) Support to neighbours in times of crisis.  
Eg. - Sri Lanka in 2022, Maldives despite recent 'India Out' campaign.

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## 3.) Increasing peace in the region

- Border disputes with Bangladesh are resolved.
- Peaceful discussion with Nepal on border issue.

## 4.) Increasing ~~for~~ Newer groupings in the region are coming up.

- Eg. BIMSTEC, Colombo Security Conclave. etc. → Diminishing role of Pakistan

## 5.) Increasing connectivity and infra projects in the region -

Eg. IMT, BBIN, power projects in Nepal and Bhutan etc.

The rising power of China, through BRI, debt trap diplomacy in South Asia needs ~~to~~ <sup>India</sup> to relent with the Gujral doctrine.

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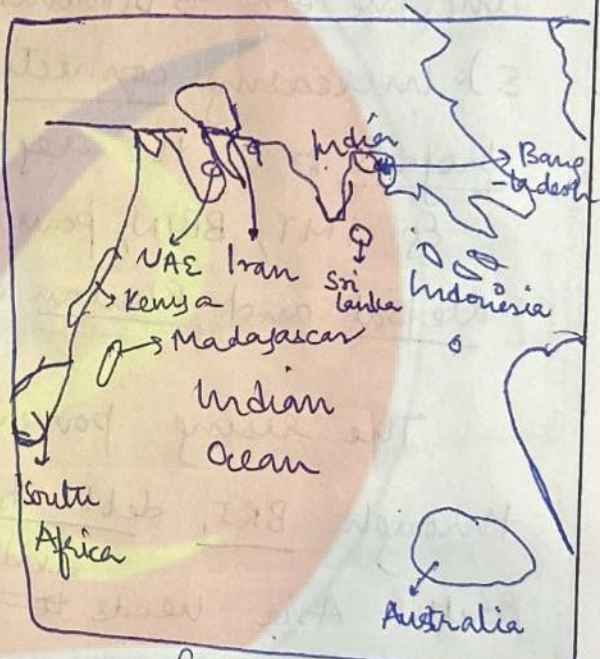
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19. Examine the objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. What importance does it hold for India's strategic interest? (15 marks, 250 words)

Indian Ocean Rim Association has 23 members and 11 dialogue partners. India was the founding member.

## Objectives -

- 1.) Regional cooperation for trade
- 2.) Marine fishing development sustainably
- 3.) Cooperation for disaster management preparedness
- 4.) Safety of passage in Indian Ocean



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- 5.) Tackling the impacts of climate change.
- 6.) Efficient blue economy development.
- 7.) Technological cooperation.

Importance for India's strategic interests -

- ① Create a voice for safer Indian Ocean Region.
- ② Trade and shipping passage securely.
- ③ Counter China in Indo-Pacific.
- ④ Emerge as a net security provider in the region, as we occupy central position in the Indian Ocean.
- ⑤ Better weather forecasting tools for understanding monsoons could be developed.

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⑥ focus on sustainable development in the oceanic and marine sectors.

⑦ Deep sea mineral exploration prospects in collaboration with other countries.

India as the leader of TORA, needs to allay all the members ~~for~~ towards the rising challenges in the region like climate change, China's rising dominance etc.

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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 known as the "factory of the world" for its large share in global manufacturing scenario.

Strategic challenges to global economy in active decoupling from China

- 1.) Increased cost of production -
  - Will create inflation
  - China has economy of scale for manufacturing.
- 2.) Supply chain disruptions due to friendshoring like policies of the West
- 3.) Political tensions might upheaval as ~~countries~~<sup>companies</sup> move away from China.
- 4.) Mineral security -> China has

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largest reserves of Rare earth metals and other minerals.

5) Technological challenges → China is a leader in emerging tech like AI, semi conductors etc.

6) Polarisation across the world if countries choose China-Russia over Western allies or vice-versa.

7) Might escalate into more militarisation

8) Challenges Tussles in global forums like WTO, <sup>UN</sup> etc.

### Benefits for India's economy -

1) Shifting of bases to India -

• Eg. Apple iPhone assembling in India.

2) Technology transfer to India - General Electric - HAL deal for <sup>hyper</sup>sonic engines.

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3) ~~Investing~~ Catching the bus on emerging technologies → eg. Semi-conductor plants being setup in India.

4) Reducing trade deficit of India -  
 Countries may offer us more easy lines of trade to discourage China.

5) Boost to schemes like Make in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat etc.

6) More migration opportunities for education, employment, labour etc.

7) Enhanced status and say in geopolity as a result of rising economy.

We must work on removing domestic bottlenecks like weaker infra, ease of doing business, poor IPR laws etc. to enhance more investment.

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