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Q18

Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment (250 words).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · GS II · 15 marks · Civil Services in a Democracy

Role of civil services in a democracy.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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All-India Services

Articles 312 and the AIS Act, 1951: common officers for Union and States, the core of the steel frame.

T.S.R. Subramanian v. Union of India (2013)

Supreme Court directions on minimum tenure, Civil Services Board, and written instructions versus oral orders.

Second ARC

Recommended personnel, ethics, and performance reforms; implementation has been selective.

UPSC recruitment

Constitutional recruiting agency; the main remaining guarantee of entry-level neutrality.

Lateral entry

Union experiment to bring domain specialists at joint-secretary level; integrity design decides whether it aids effectiveness.

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