

③ The revival of Village Defence Guards leads to an empowerment of local bodies in securing the borders of the country. Explain. (200)

Village Defence Guards :-

Village Defence Guards is erstwhile Village Defence Committees. As in the policy, RDGs were to instil a sense of ~~not~~ self protection, with the district is superintendent of police mandated to exercise command and control.

- This aim to mitigate negatives

- The present methodology of being

under the Superintendent of police (i.e) a top-bottom approach A good control mechanism is needed to ensure that cadres remain motivated and focused.

- For example Jammu and Kashmir

has been the enthusiasm of people in electing and trusting local bodies. here Panchayati

Raj Act also amended in 2020, paved way

for the setting up of the District Development Council. This completed three-tier

local governance structure & reinforced the

other local bodies, at panchayat and block

block levels. However, due to the security situation and socio-political uncertainties, the empowerment of local bodies never moved beyond holding election.

- The revival of the VDCs should be used as an opportunity to empower the local bodies panchayats are most suited to understand local dynamic conflict zone that change rapidly from one sub-region to the other.

Way forward :-

① ~~the~~ VDCs should never be sucked into proactive intelligence and tactical operations, and must instead remain confined to 'self defence and deterrence roles'. Or else they will end up with as one more hit agency handling dwindling numbers of militants.

② J&K lies in empowering the local panchayat population by strengthening democracy and making it more participatory at the grassroots - The Grandhigian way of decentralised governance.