



**An Institute for Civil Services**

**IAS TOPPER'S**

**TEST COPY**

**VEER PRATAP SINGH**

**Rank - 92**

**GS Mains**  
**General Studies Paper - II**

**GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II**

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are 20 questions.</li><li>• All questions are compulsory</li><li>• The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.</li><li>• Answer the questions in <b>NOT MORE THAN 200</b> words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length.</li><li>• Answers must be written within the space provided.</li><li>• Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</li></ul>
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Name Veer Pratap Singh

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

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## REMARKS

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Q1. "A government with an absolute majority will see a conformist judiciary". To what extent is this applicable in Indian perspective. Critically examine, whether the confrontation between powerful legislature and judiciary affects the constitutionalism? (12.5 Marks)

Ans It is generally believed that Judiciary tends to conform a powerful ~~and~~ executive having absolute majority. But, in India this is not the case. We witness that Judiciary of India is independent of Executive. Indian Constitution provides for separation of powers (Article 50) and balance of power. Both of these are considered part of "basic structure" of Constitution.

So, we can say that independence of Judiciary is generally maintained in India. There have been some aberrations like in 1970's when Judiciary became

Remarks

Conformist to government.

But, in present scenario, judiciary is not buckling under the pressure of government. This is clear from following verdicts -

- 1) Supreme court declared NJAC null and void.
- 2) Declaring Right to Privacy, a fundamental right under Article 21. etc.

It is true to some extent that confrontation between judiciary and legislature affects the constitutionalism. Legislature always tries to bring judiciary under its influence. While judiciary goes on establishing its supremacy through judicial activism & judicial overreach. But Constitution envisions a balance between them. But, as they keep on pulling constitution into their direction, they end up disturbing harmony and balance between different organs of state.

However, an independent judiciary & powerful legislature act as Checks & Balances. So, they protect Constitution also. In weakness of one institution, other may take over the constitutional provisions.

Remarks

Q2. "Though the Cauvery and Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunals have been in existence for over-26 and 30 years, respectively, they have not been able to make any successful award till date". What are the deficiencies of the existing tribunals for inter water disputes? Mention the important provisions of Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 and explain in detail the pros and cons of the bill. (12.5 Marks)

Ans Under Article 262, President can constitute River water Tribunal under River water Dispute Tribunal Act, 1956. There have been many such Tribunals like Cauvery & Ravi-Beas water Dispute Tribunals, but they have not been able to give final verdict over disputes because of following issues -

i) Presently tribunals for river water disputes resolutions are constituted on Ad-hoc basis.

ii) they lack expertise in the field, lack of manpower, most of the tribunals lack sanctioned strength of judges.

iii) Tribunal award can be challenged in Supreme Court.

iv) Tribunals are not bound by strict time limits to resolve a dispute.

Remarks

So, because of lack of time-bound resolution of disputes, there have failed. To correct this government enacted Inter-State River water Dispute (Amendment) Bill, 2014, which has following provisions -

- i) time-bound resolution of river-water disputes.
- ii) Permanent Tribunals to resolve such issues.
- iii) maintaining sanctioned strength of judges in tribunals.
- iv) providing expertise to judges in this field.

But, this Bill does not provide for strict guidelines to judges to resolve river water disputes solely on the basis of health of river basins and needs of riparian States. This Bill could also have provided flexible mechanism to resolve issues politically. But, time-bound resolution and Permanent Tribunals will help a lot in

Remarks

resolving such thorny disputes which affect lives of millions in river basins.

Q3. Indian constitution presents India as a compromise between the British Sovereignty of Parliament and American Judicial Supremacy. What are the arguments for and against the statement; elaborate with examples. (12.5 Marks)

Ans. In India, neither Parliament nor Judiciary are supreme, but Constitution of India is supreme. Constitution provides for a balance of powers, Separation of powers (Article 50), Independence of Judiciary, non-interference of Judiciary in Parliamentary proceedings etc. So, Constitution strikes a delicate balance between British Sovereignty of Parliament and American Judicial Supremacy, which

Arguments For-

- i) Separation of power, Balance of power & Independence of Judiciary are part of "Basic structure"
- ii) Judiciary can't interfere in Parliamentary proceedings or what happens in Parliament.

Remarks



- ii) Judges are not appointed by parliament. Judiciary appoints its judges by itself through Collegium System.
- iii) Parliament can't abridge or take away powers of Judiciary. Also, Judiciary can't limit the jurisdiction of parliament to enact legislation.

### Arguments Against

- i) Supreme Court is guardian of Constitution. So, it's the Judiciary which has to go all-out to preserve constitutional ideals. It many times limits the powers of ~~judiciary~~ parliament.
- ii) Judiciary through 'Judicial Review' can declare any law passed by parliament as null and void on the ground of law violates some constitutional provisions of 99th Constitutional Amendment Act was declared invalid.
- iii) Under Article 142, Supreme Court can pass any order restrained to

Remarks: ensure complete justice. So,

It seems that being a protector & guardian of Constitution Supreme Court has some overriding powers like Judicial Review.

Q4. Does Supreme Court's Judgement on liquor ban on highways subject to judicial overreach and violate doctrine of separation of powers? Substantiate your arguments. Also mention the benefits of such directives. (12.5 Marks)

Ans. Supreme Court banned sale of liquor within 500 m of National and State Highways. Many states resented this verdict as they lose revenue on liquor sale. Many termed this verdict as judicial overreach and violative of doctrine of separation of powers.

It ~~is~~ can be said to be a case of judicial overreach because it is not the duty of judiciary to step in to prohibit or regulate sale of liquor. This is the duty of executive. Parliament can enact a law to do so. Sub-intervention by the apex court was seen to be ~~too~~ unwarranted. Though, Supreme Court has powers

Remarks

to go under Article 142, but this is an extraordinary power which should be used only sparingly in extraordinary circumstances. So, it seems that

~~But, it~~ it trespasses its jurisdiction and violates doctrine of SOP.

But, it has following benefits -

- i). It will reduce road accidents and casualties which happens due to drunk driving.
- ii). It's a signal to executive & legislature that they have not performed their duties to protect lives of people and regulate sale of liquor.
- iii). It will decrease sale of liquor thereby helping people to shun drinking. This can reduce domestic violence and bring economy of poor households in order which is disturbed by bad habits of drinking.

Remarks

Q5. What is integrated case management information system (ICMIS)? With fast growing IT system, India needs to cope with the changing world. Do you think ICMIS would help Indian judiciary be digital court. Critically comment. (12.5 Marks)

Ans. Apex Court of the Country has adopted ICMIS which aims at managing cases in Supreme Court through IT. This aims at digital filing of cases. This provides services such as e-filing, checking listing dates, case status, overall packing of case in SC. It will also act as gateway for payment of court fee etc.

ICMIS would help in streamlining of case-filing process, packing of case, gaining information about case, ensuring transparency and reducing backlog due to fast processing of cases. This will increase judicial pace in resolving cases.

Remarks

with a lot of focus on e-governance due to changing world because of introduction of IT systems, judiciary also needs to adopt technology to become a digital court. And initiatives like e-court, Tele-law initiative and ICMS etc are going to make courts digital platforms to dispose cases.

ICMS has potential to make Indian judiciary a digital court. But, as it is being rolled out in Supreme Court, it is required to replicate similar system in High Courts and Subordinate Judiciary where maximum cases are dealt with.

But, this requires digital literacy and penetration of digital technology and internet facilities to remote rural areas, to make this initiative a success. However, this is a right

Step is right - need to go for ICMS & e-courts.

Q6. Do you think criminalizing marital rape may destabilize the institution of marriage and is more prone to be misused? Justify your opinion. Why India needs a law against marital rape? (12.5 Marks)

Ans A victim of marital rape has filed a case in Supreme Court. Government has filed an affidavit to oppose criminalizing marital rape. Government's position is that, this will break the sanctity of marriage and will the institution of marriage itself as it is prone to misuse.

This view is being supported on the basis of sheer misuse of Domestic Violence law where only around 2% accused were convicted & rest cases were either withdrawn or found false.

So, Ministry of women & child development says, such a law, which

Remarks

Criminalise marital rape will result in exploitation of husband and his family. Also, marriage is Sacrament in Indian culture. So, a marital rape cannot have place in statutes.

But, India needs a law to criminalise marital rape. ~~As~~ Currently in India, if bride is above 15 yrs. then sexual intercourse <sup>by her husband</sup> cannot be considered rape in any circumstances but, this leads to marital rapes where husbands demand "marital rights" and wives have to go through such ordeals. There can be instances where husbands forcefully do penetrative sex with their wives. And, any sex which is done not by consent of other, is called rape. So, this definition of rape should also be extended to marital rape. Also, reasoning that domestic violence law resulted only in 2% convictions is not well-

Remarks

founded because cases may be either drawn due to pressure from family, intimidation by husband or other reasons. So, when other countries are also making marital rape an offence, India also needs to criminalize it.

Q7. "Risk Profiling of the bureaucrats would result in improved accountability towards public services". Analyze in the context of 2nd ARC recommendations, how "risk profiling" can be done and its ramifications for administrative improvements? (12.5 Marks)

Ans

Remarks





*Remarks*

Q8. "Grievance redressal is the weakest link in the justice delivery in India". Evaluate the role of institutions of grievance redressal in India and their limitations? (12.5 Marks)

Ans. When citizens don't get services as desired or they are not treated as active participants of governance, they develop grievances against institutions which need to be addressed by these institutions. So, grievance redressal mechanism hold key in quality service delivery. But, in India, these systems are either not in place or not functional. Very few grievance redressal systems addresses grievances of people satisfactorily.

So, institutions of grievance redressal like Judiciary, dedicated functional mechanism in all departments, consumer forums, tribunals etc. are very important.

Remarks

for maintaining accountability, transparency, and openness in the functioning of these administrative institutions. These mechanisms ensure that all people get their due entitlements and get services hassle-free and in a seamless manner.

When there are no grievance redressal mechanisms then officials don't treat citizens with sensitivity and responsiveness. They treat them as mere beneficiaries. But, citizens have rights and entitlements which need to be given to them without any harassment. So, to avoid all such untoward situations these mechanisms are paramount.

But, these alone can't solve the problem of justice delivery. Citizens need to know their rights & duties, they need to know proper procedure and these mechanisms should be availed in cases of genuine grievances to avoid

Remarks Any burden on their functioning. Intervention of technology can solve this to a great extent like LGPRAMS portal to resolve grievances.

Q9. Labour reforms are very significant in the light of automation of Industries and for mass manufacturing. To what extent has India been successful in implementing labour reforms. Suggest alternative measures to be implemented by the government.

(12.5 Marks)

Ans. World is moving towards Industry 4.0 (4th Industrial revolution) which points towards automation, AI, Internet of things and amalgamation of existing technologies to enhance efficiency and productivity. This necessitates labour reforms in Indian economy to prevent replacement of labor by technology and to produce quality products at mass level.

India had very rigid labor laws. At present there are 44 central laws and around 100 state laws. This maze of arcane & archaic labor laws make business difficult. India started reforming these mainly after LPG reforms in 1991. Since then India has made some laws flexible to hire & fire employees. But still majority of laws

Remarks

are very rigid.

Now government is consolidating these laws into 4 codes viz. wages code, Industrial Relations code, social security code, and working conditions of workers code. This will do away with labyrinth of arcane laws. It will help in ease of doing business. So, it can be said that labor reforms have not been properly done in India so far.

### Alternative Measures

- i). government can exempt start-ups and small businesses from some labor laws.
- ii). rather than giving excessive security to laborers, government can link retrenchment with employees performance and retrenchment allowance.
- iii). to enhance productivity bonus can be linked to profit of company. so workers will try their best to enhance revenue of company to get more bonus.

Labour Codes need to be enacted at the earliest.

- Remarks
- 1). exempting CEs & SEs from labor laws.

Q10. Is there a relationship between lack of innovation in India with the level of quality of education in India? Elucidate with examples. How does India Innovation Index provide impetus to Indian states to drive the innovative spirit? (12.5 Marks)

Ans India's Educational System suffers from low level of learning outcomes at all levels. India's pedagogy is such that it focusses more on theoretical aspect than innovative practical approaches. WIPO ranked India 66th in Global Innovation Index. This reflects lack of innovation in India.

There is a direct relationship between level of quality of education and lack of innovation. This is clear from the fact that IITs, IISc, IISER & TIFR are the major institutes which lead innovations in India. Also, quality of education is very high in these institutions.

Remarks

CSIR leads in paper publication in science and technology. Other state universities and central universities lack quality education so they lack innovation also.

India's Innovation Index intends to rank states on the basis of level of innovation. So, this provides for competition among states. Government's initiatives like Bharat Unnat Abhiyan, Rashtriya Aiksha Mission, Atal Innovation Mission, Uchchatar Aiksha Abhiyan, etc. aim at innovating new ideas especially in field of science and technology. So, states will be ranked on the basis of their achievements in these programmes. States will also be provided central assistance to help universities & other institutes innovate for local & global solutions. So this competition among states may drive innovative spirit in India.

Remarks

Q11. Minimizing food loss has the potential to be transformative in multiple ways for India and the world. Analyze the statement. Why effectively dealing with food wastage can lead to development in India? (12.5 Marks)

Ans. Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central & State Warehousing Corporations (CWCs, SWSs) are responsible for food grains storage. But India does not have enough storage to store its entire cereals. FCI has around 30 MT capacity. But, due to poor infrastructure even that much is not stored in FCI godowns.

India produces around 250 MT grains which are much more than ensuring its food security. So, storage systems need to be built to ensure long-term food security and reducing food waste. Minimising food

Remarks



loss can feed starving & hungry population in third world countries. This can be utilised in ensuring proper nutrition and eradicating problems of stunting & malnourishment. Also, by exporting surplus food grains, country can get a lot of money which can be used for human development.

So, India needs to eliminate food wastage as it leads to wastage of scarce resources India has. If all get proper food in India, then will enhance their health & thereby their labor productivity. So, healthy workforce can lead to rapid economic development. Also, poverty can be tackled by properly dealing with food wastage. So, providing two times square meal is not a big challenge for India, if its cereals are effectively stored and managed. So,

Remarks

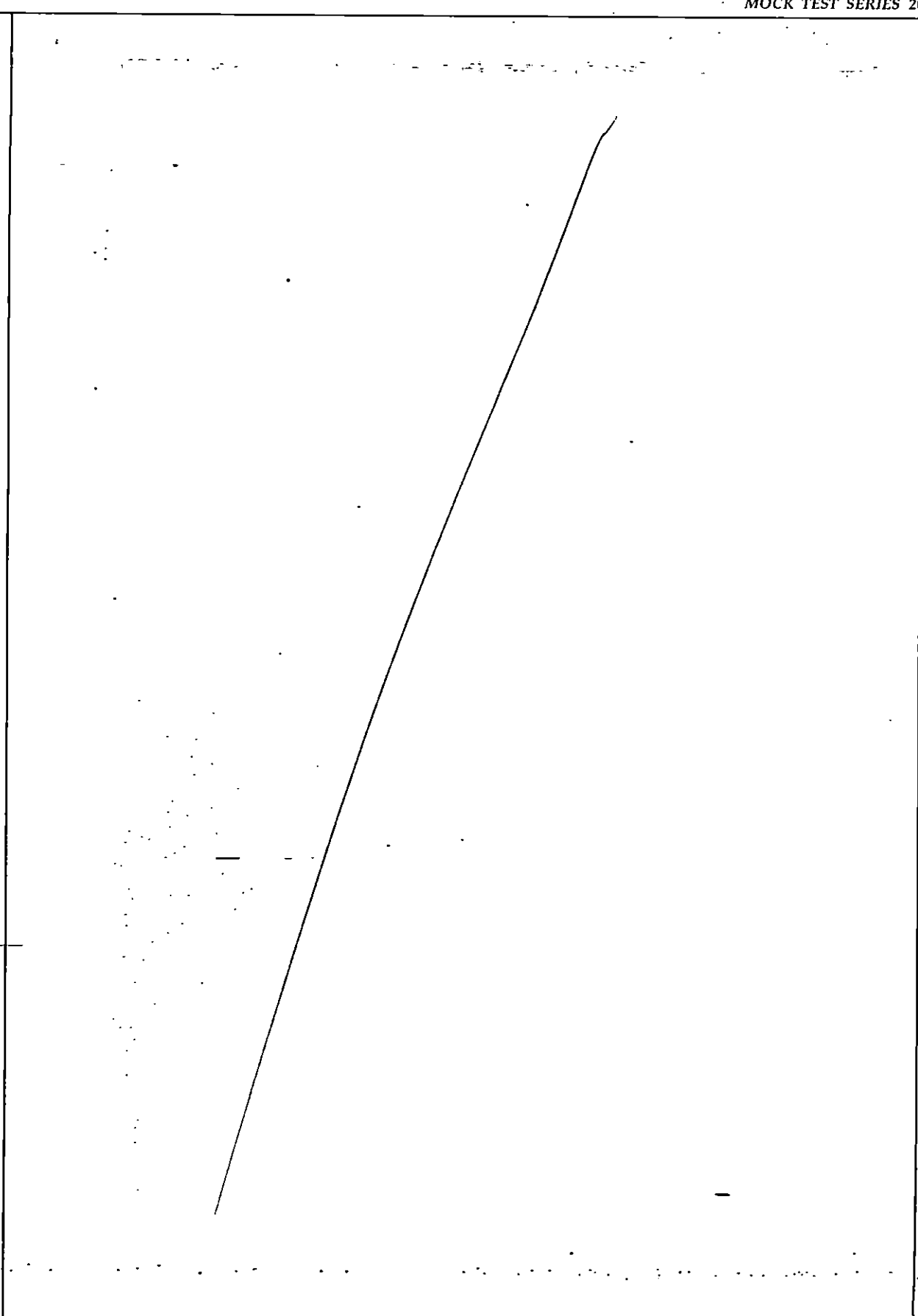
Government needs to build storage systems and warehouses to prevent any food wastage.

Q12. Explain what is Track-II diplomacy, and analyze, why it doesn't work in India-China context, with particular reference to Doka-la pass and Doklam plateau confrontation?

(12.5 Marks)

Ans

Remarks



*Remarks*

Q13. Discuss the significance of Indian Ocean naval presence in overall Indian foreign policy?  
 How it affects India's bilateral and multilateral relations? (12.5 Marks)

Ans. Indian Ocean has seen a zone of influence of India for a very long period. India does its maritime trade mostly through Indian Ocean. India has significant naval presence in Indian Ocean. India has naval bases in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. These are Strategic Commands of Indian Navy.

India also has a very long coastline, 7516 km, which needs its protection from intrusion by other countries. This requires naval presence in Indian Ocean region to keep a vigil on other countries' movements.

Remarks

in the ocean and Indian neighbourhood especially to Botel-maritime boundaries of India, including continental shelves, and EEZs. So, it has a vast significance in Indian foreign policy.

It affects India's bilateral relations with neighbours like Sri Lanka which often accuses Indian Navy of trespasses in Sri Lankan waters. Also, China is trying to strategically encircle India in Indian Ocean through its 'String of Pearls' by building ports and naval bases in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives & Pakistan. China has also been building its first naval base abroad in Djibouti.

So, naval presence in ocean is crucial to safeguard Indian interests. So, India is also building a naval base in Seychelles. Also, along with Japan, U.S, Australia etc. India

Remarks

is reshaping the geopolitics of Indian Ocean. India needs to take all DORA countries into confidence to bolster its naval presence in ocean.

Q14. Discuss the contribution and failures of United nations bodies in preventing major global crisis, since cold-war? (12.5 Marks)

Ans. Just after second world war, UN was constituted to prevent any such future crises. But, after some years world witnessed a prolonged cold war which divided world into two blocks i.e. NATO and Warsaw Pact. NAM countries maintained equal distance from both blocks.

Major contributions in preventing crises -

- i) It averted Cuban Missile crisis which could lead to third world war.
- ii) after nuclear arms race, it has been, to a great extent, successful in preventing nuclear proliferation.

Remarks

- iii) maintaining peace in fragile African continent.
- iv) providing humanitarian assistance to war-ravaged countries like Syria, Congo, Afghanistan etc. which could have led to humanitarian crises.
- v) establishing multi-polar world

### Failures

- i) It failed to tackle terrorism which has expanded its roots to all continents.
- ii) failed to persuade countries for complete nuclear disarmament.
- iii) 'Right to protect' has been widely misused by P5 countries. It became a tool to interfere in internal affairs of countries like in Gulf countries. So, it failed to avert Gulf crisis, interference in Iraq, Syria, Yemen etc.
- iv) refugee crises are also posing a formidable challenge in front of the world.

Remarks

Q15. In an ever-changing geo-political global scenario, new alignments and axis develop for self and motivated interests. In this reference what should be India's foreign-policy approach taking consideration of China-Russia-Pakistan axis, the West Asian Theatre and changing South Asian parameters? (12.5 Marks)

Ans China's is making axis with Pakistan, strategically encircling India through 'String of Pearls', and making inroads in South Asia and West Asia etc. So, in such a changing geopolitics, India needs to calibrate its foreign policy accordingly.

India's foreign Policy approach can be on following lines -

- i) Counter encirclement of China by building Partnerships with Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Mongolia and Russia.
- ii) deepening defence and strategic ties with Indian Ocean Rim Association countries to stymie

Remarks



- the invasions made by China.
- iii) Taking South Asian countries into confidence to prevent their tilts towards China. India needs to follow 'Buzal Doctrine' in letter & spirit and act as a benign big brother.
- iv) Leveraging India's Aid Diplomacy and soft power to counter China's hard power.
- v) India needs to build strategic ties with Gulf countries like Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Iran. Israel is also very crucial for Indian interests in Middle East.
- vi) Expanding India's naval presence in Indian Ocean.
- vii) 'Pivot to Asia' can be leveraged alongwith Australia, Vietnam, Japan and South Korea to tame China.
- ix) Expediting the counter-narratives to China's OBOR initiatives, by like Africa.

Remarks Asia Growth Corridor.

- x) Strategically engaging with China itself on fora like SCO, BRICS, ASEAN, G-20 etc.

Q16. The recent standoff at Doklam Plateau shows the strong relationship between India and Bhutan. Why is Bhutan special to India? In the month long, high tension confrontation, India's real test was to assure Bhutan, to not crumble under Chinese pressure. Examine. (12.5 Marks)

- Ans India and Bhutan are natural allies which share historical, and cultural relations. India and Bhutan share special and strategic friendship. Bhutan is special to India because-
- i) Bhutan acts as a buffer state between India & China.
  - ii) Bhutan supports India everywhere. It's clear from the fact that Bhutan and China don't have formal diplomatic relations, and Bhutan was the only country in the region to boycott OBOR, along with India.
  - iii) Despite the challenges to Indian security interests Bhutan

Remarks

- did not allow China to build a road on Doklam plateau.
- iv) Bhutan's 80% imports & 90% exports are with India.
- v) India shares open borders with Bhutan.
- vi) Bhutan's location is strategically very important as it separates NE-India from China.

Bhutan & India's friendship was put to test during Doklam standstill which both ~~gov~~ passed easily. Bhutan did not buckle under pressure from China. India gave full assurance to Bhutan to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Chinese construction of road in Chumbi valley ~~trijunction~~ was a threat to security interests of both nations as it will be near to Jamphel Bridge & Chicken's neck. So, Bhutan & India cooperated ~~unprecedentedly~~ to overcome Chinese

Remarks

intrusions & pressure in the region. India succeeded in assuring Bhutan to provide Indian troops access to its territory.

Q17. Does having close relations with Israel compromises India's historical support (along the UN lines), for Palestinian cause? Discuss critically in the light of the recent visit?

(12.5 Marks)

Ans. India, for a long period, has followed a hyphenated policy towards Palestine-Israel. But, recently India dehyphenated relations with Israel and Palestine. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, paid official visit (first by PM) directly to Israel without going to Palestine first as per the tradition.

So, India is coming closer to Israel because of India's strategic interests in the region. India balances its interests in West Asia with regional powers like Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel.

But, this shift in India's diplomacy has been seen as going far away

Remarks

from its past support to Palestine cause. But, India still extends full support to Palestine cause and also deepening relations with Israel.

India accepts PLO as sole representative of Palestine. India has not shifted from this official position. So, it can not be said that India compromises historical support for Palestine.

Also, engagement with Israel is needed for India because Israel provides ~~test~~ defence equipments and technology to India. Israel has expertise in water conservation & desalination, and agriculture. So, India is collaborating in these areas without changing status quo over Israel-Palestine conflict. India still continues to support Palestine.

Remarks

Q18. Is global ban of nuclear weapons feasible? Examine how effective will the ban be in making nuclear disarmament a reality? (12.5 Marks)

Ans Nuclear Disarmament has been a very contentious issue in global politics. Some attempts like CTBT were made to persuade world to go for elimination of nuclear weapons which are very catastrophic in nature.

Earlier NAM countries pitched for Nuclear Disarmament but Nuclear weapon states did not want to go for this. Later, some NAM countries like India pursued nuclear program and became nuclear weapon state. India gave moral exemplar theory to support its programme.

It is the demand of the time to ban nuclear weapons, and it is quite feasible because

Remarks

- i) Just as Chemical and Biological weapons have been banned, even nuclear weapons can also be banned.
- ii) Summits like Nuclear Security Summit can persuade countries to destroy their nuclear arsenal as nuclear weapons are for defence, so there can be other defence like cyber weapons. This means there is no need for MAD strategy (Mutually Assured Destruction) through nuclear weapons.

This ban can be effective if all nuclear weapon states, NPT or non-NPT states agree to systematically destroy their weapons under the supervision of IAEA. More than 90% chemical weapons have been eliminated as of now. So, similarly nuclear weapons can also be eliminated. But, there are some countries like North Korea which may not comply with agreement. So, this will leave no options for other countries but to maintain their Nuke arsenal. But, Nuke

Remarks The need of the disarmament is the need of the hour given present stressed state of global politics. These weapon pose existential crisis to this world.

Q19 What is Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction? With the rise in trans-national marriages and complexities involved in modern-day relationships, do you think India should sign this? Critically analyze. (12.5 Marks)

Ans

Remarks





• *Remarks*

Q20. China and Pakistan have invited India to join CPEC (China - Pakistan Economic Corridor), which is a part of OBOR (One Belt One Road) initiative of China. Should India join it or not, while having already declined to be part of OBOR forum? What regional implications CPEC is going to have in South Asia? (12.5 Marks)

Ans China's Belt and Road Initiative aims at boosting trade and connectivity in Asia, Africa and Europe. CPEC is part of this OBOR initiative. This intends to join Xinjiang (Kashgar) Province of China with Gwadar Port (Pakistan), through rail, road and ports. This is a 46 billion USD project.

But, India declined to be a part of this initiative and raised three objections -

- i) This CPEC corridor passes through Pak. so, this compromises India's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- ii) There is lack of transparency and it seems China wants to have political control of the region.
- iii) Project smacks of Chinese neo-colonialism.

Remarks

Though, India's all concerns are genuine and right, but India needs to hold discussion with China to allay India's fears and accommodate its concerns. By joining it India can gain much economically as it will lead to economic integration of the region. But, territorial integrity and sovereignty of India are non-negotiable issues. So, if China relents from its position of taking CPEC from Pak, then India should join it.

Through, CPEC China is making an axis with Pakistan. Also, other South Asian countries except Bhutan, are part of this so China is making inroads in South Asia. This will hurt Indian interests in the region. It seems as if China is strategically encircling India in South Asia & in Indian ocean. This will isolate India regionally. So, India need to go all out to secure its interests in region by deepening & widening ties with SAARC nations.

Remarks

Also, India can leverage SASEC & BIMSTEC fora to build support in Indian favor. →