



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

VISION IAS
M N 08 SEP 2022 No. 3

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	SIDHARTH BHUKLA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	632802
Center	MN	Date	05/09/2022

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility.
Discuss. (150 words) 10

Recently the ^{previous} Chief Justice of India NV Ramanna ~~underscored~~ ^{underscored} need for an umbrella organisation for central investigative agencies like NIA, CBI, EP and S&IO (Serious fraud investigation agency),

Lack of autonomy - dependence on Department of Personnel and Training of CBI.
Credibility issue in investigation agencies - Opposition by state governments
- declining public trust -

Advantages of an umbrella body

1. Pooling of resources - For eg. NIA lacks vehicles and infrastructure which could be provided by CBI.
2. Enhanced coordination - multiple agencies won't investigate same case.
3. Increased autonomy by financially empowering umbrella body and

giving it legal status.

4. Improved coordination with state government
5. Declining functional overlap.

Arguments against umbrella body

1. Sectoral expertise of investigating agency may decline. Eg Enforcement Directorate specialised in money-laundering case.
2. Overburdened body
3. May be considered anti-federal.
4. Subversion of umbrella body may lead to loss of independence of other bodies.
5. No constitutional or legal basis of such a body.

An umbrella body must be preceded by centre-state consultation and requisite parliamentary deliberation

2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India.

(150 words) 10

Article 246 of Indian
Constitution along with VIIth schedule
divides legislative power between
centre and states

List I: Union List

VIIth schedule

List II: State List

List III Concurrent List

Doctrine of Pith and substance

1. It states that - courts while considering
a law would be guided by core
aspects of law.

for eg. of union government
promulgate farm laws and courts enquire
whether union has authority under
List I or List III to promulgate such
law, they would consider the pith
of the law.

It means Significance

- Expansive reading is given to entries

- only minor incidence of law on other entries is allowed
- allows cooperation between Union and states.

Doctrine of Colourable Legislation

1. It means a law which only incidentally fall under domain of Union or state list entries, cannot unduly encroach on other entries of List I, List II and List III.

2. Significance of colourable legislation

- states under encroachment over legislative power of Union by states and states by Union.
- limits Union and states within their respective jurisdiction.

Cooperative federalism is fostered by courts using such doctrines. Further Banker's Commission's recommendation that Union should consult state before promulgating laws on concurrent list should be followed.

3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. (150 words) 10

Recently the Election Commission of India expressed that it has the ability to conduct simultaneous elections in India.

Advantages of Simultaneous Election

1. Continuity in Governance - frequent election divert attention from governance.
 - application of Model Code of Conduct stalls welfare measures.
2. Reduced expenditure on elections
According to ADR Report around ₹ 60,000 crore were spend in 2019 election.
3. Reduced state expenditure by:
 - Reduced requisition of poll premises, central Armed police forces etc.
4. Decentralising Election Commission of India.

Argument against simultaneous election

1. Decline of parliamentary accountability
 - As Lok Sabha or state legislative assemblies would be bound by constructive vote of no confidence.
2. Decline in importance of state level issues which would be merged with national issues.
3. Aversion of regional parties to such scheme.
4. Constructive vote of no confidence i.e. government would not fall unless Lok Sabha could provide another government may be unconstitutional, against Article 75.

These extensive deliberation in Inter-state Council under Article 263, must precede simultaneous elections in India.

4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10

Article 105 of Constitution

highlights parliamentary privileges.

Uncertainty and ambiguity in parliamentary privilege

1. After amendment of 1978 - parliamentary privilege means privilege of parliament during promulgation of constitution, which in turn means privileges of house of commons of Britain are the privileges of Indian parliament.

2. Parliamentary privileges clash with rights of citizens when they are tried for breach of privilege, hence they must be codified.

3. [Searchlight Case] - it was held by Supreme court that privileges are not above Article 21 of Constitution

and court asserted need of codification.

4. Misuse of parliamentary privilege is visible when MPs evade arrests in cases using privilege

5. ~~Doctrine~~ Doctrine of proportionality requires that when parliamentary privilege extinguish fundamental rights there must be a legal basis to that.

Arguments against codification

1. Codification may reduce the freedom of Parliament to conduct its business under Article 122

2. Judicial intervention might increase in parliamentary affairs.

A framework document on parliamentary privileges must be issued by parliament to delineate the extent of parliamentary privilege under Article 105.

5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. (150 words) 10

The TSR Subramanian Judgement made in mandatory to create a Civil Service Board headed by Cabinet Secretary charged with transfer, posting and promotions of bureaucrats.

Civil Service Boards: a step forward

1. Depoliticisation of Bureaucracy by
2. Security of tenure - minimum 2 years tenure is envisaged by Civil Service Board, punitive transfers are reduced.
3. Rule bound procedures for promotion.

Issues with Civil Service Board

1. Lack of implementation of TSR Subramanian judgement - many states have not created

State Civil Service Board

3. Conflict of Interest - as senior bureaucrats appoint other bureaucrats.
3. Only recommendatory powers are given to Civil Service Board
4. No legal or constitutional basis of Civil Service Board
5. Political influence over posting, promotion and transfers continues through other bodies such as appointment committee of cabinet.

As per 2nd ARC, Central Civil Service Authority should be created ~~under~~ ^{by} ~~Act~~ ^a parliamentary law using Article 309.

The Central Civil Service Authority should supervise transfers, posting and promotions of senior executive position.

6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. (150 words) 10

Department of Administrative Reforms, pensions and Grievance (DARPG) has led creation of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture to improve e-governance in India.

Potential of India in transforming service delivery ecosystem

1. Provides framework for e-governance
2. Inter-connectivity between service providers - state government and central government, increases due to common architecture.
3. Using IndEA local self government could create portals, dashboards, grievance redressal mechanisms etc.

4. Standardise e-governance through out India, and at all levels.
5. Creates equity among ~~different~~ different geographies.
6. Aids implementation of Shillong Declaration on providing connectivity to North-East.

It would lead to fulfilment of Hyderabad Declaration of NeSDA, making digital the primary mode of service delivery.

7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(150 words) 10

Civil Registration System

is the governance mechanism for registration of birth, death and other demographic details of citizens.

Eg. Registrar - General of Birth and Death oversees India's Civil Registration system.

Importance of Civil Registration System

1. Primary identity of citizen is given by Birth Certificate.
2. Entitlements to welfare schemes commences with Civil Registration.
3. Data for policy making such as birth rate, death rate is ascertained.
4. Provides basis of other surveys such as NFHS, Sample Registration Survey.

Measures taken by government
to improve Civil Registration System

1. Digitisation: allowing citizen to request modification of data online
 - online delivery of service.
2. Integration with health system
3. Increased coverage through information and education campaign
4. Utilising ASHA's, ANM etc to increase registration.
5. Integration of CRA with other data-sets such as sample Registration Survey.

Recent COVID-19 pandemic and debate over COVID-19 death toll shows importance of enhancing financial support to civil registration system.

8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

Prohibition of Employment as
Manual Scavengers Act, 2013 banned
manual scavenging throughout India

Mechanism for empowerment of
intended beneficiaries

1. Employers of ^{manual} scavengers to provide them safety gear.
2. Rehabilitation mechanism called for
 - i. Registration of manual scavengers
 - ii. alternate employment generation for manual scavengers
 - iii. ex-gratia payment to family of manual scavengers, who died due to this practice.
3. Resettlement mechanism is also listed in Act.

Issue with Prohibition of Manual & scavengers Act

1. No mechanism to record death of Manual & scavengers - According to Safai Karmachari Andolan, there has been 45 deaths between 2016-2020.
2. Subversion of law
 - manual & scavengers are given 'handkerchief' as a easy gear !!
3. low conviction Rate : below 1% !!
4. No enumeration of caste dimension of manual & scavengers - around 78% belong to scheduled caste.
5. No provision for entrepreneurship and skill development among scavengers

The recent NHRC guidelines on manual & scavenging should be followed. Further National Commission on Safai Karmachari should be accorded statutory recognition.

9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (150 words) 10

World Trade Organisation
was created in 1995, during
Uruguay Round of discussion.

Vulnerabilities in present global trading system

1. Currency manipulation by nations such as China.
2. Misuse of developing country status.
3. Supply chain vulnerabilities seen during COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Restrictive Intellectual Property Regime under TRIPS. Eg. vaccine could not be produced due to patents.

Necessary Reforms in WTO

1. Develop rules and agreement on -
- criteria for developing country status.

3. Amend Agreement on Agriculture and exempt procurement of grains for food security from it's ambit.
3. Reform dispute settlement mechanism
- refresh redundant appellate body
4. Agreement on Service Domestic Regulation (SDR) should be completed.
5. Agreement on Unfair Trade Practices is required to counter currency manipulation
6. TRIPS waiver in emergency situation should be included in TRIPS agreement

Thus a New orientation of WTO is required. India should leverage leadership of Non-Aligned movement to reform WTO.

10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.

(150 words) 10

United Nation convention
on laws of the seas oversees
international governance and
cooperation in matters related to
oceans and high seas

Significance of UNCLOS

1. Commission on delineation of Continental shelf of UNCLOS aids in delineation of territorial water, exclusive economic zone etc.
2. International Sea Bed Authority (ISBA)
 - allocated ocean basin for mineral exploration. Eg. India was allocated 7500 km in Central Indian Ocean Basin.
 - aids in bathymetric survey of ocean floor.

2. UNCLOS Tribunal settles international disputes

eg. India - Italy dispute on shooting of fishermen.

- China - Philippines dispute in South-China sea.

Need for Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement

1. To protect Antarctica and Arctic ice shelf from biodiversity loss.

2. Create a transnational marine protected area network.

3. Transboundary nature of marine ecosystems necessitates it.

4. Due to rising challenge of ocean acidification and sea level rise.

UNCLOS should be given authority to conserve Marine Biodiversity Areas in over international waters.

11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. (250 words) 15

National Human Rights Commission is established under Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. It is headed by an ex Judge of Supreme Court.

Role played by NHRC as watchdog of human rights violation

1. Creates various Reports against human right violation
2. Issues necessary guidelines. Eg NHRC guidelines of Manual scavenging.
3. Investigates upon and recommend measures against human right violation eg NHRC's role during 2002 violence in Gujarat
4. Recommends measures for improvement of prisons and prisoners.

5 Inspect jails, police stations
and remand homes

6 Annual Report of NHRC is
placed before Parliament.

Issues in NHRC's role as watchdog

1. Toothless Tiger: it has only powers
of recommendation, it cannot even
give compensation

2 Wide exemptions: The armed
forces are exempted in entirety

3 Human Right Courts have not
been setup ~~as~~ as envisaged in
Protection of Human Rights Act.

4 Time Bar: NHRC cannot take
cognizance of violation after efflux
of 1 year.

5 Recent amendments in 2019 have
lowered requirement as to

be NHRC chairman.

6. Limited impact of NHRC in securing justice.

7. Delay in Action Taken Reports by government and ministries.

8. Absence of law on custodial torture and violence further restrains NHRC

Adhere to Ahmeddi committee
- Action Take Reports within
3 months
- Narrow exemption
- Give authority to ~~extend~~
give compensation.

Further One Human Rights Court must be created in sensitive districts witnessing maximum human rights violation. Constitutional status to NHRC must be discussed.

12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (250 words) 15

India ranks 163/180 countries in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index's contract enforcement parameter.

Use of ICT through various e-governance initiatives could change this scenario.

Integration of ICT in dispute Resolution process

1. Various steps such as :-
- Online listing of cases
 - e-Courts and online delivery of judicial service
 - online access to court records
 - Inter connectivity between courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution forums can be done.

Overcoming challenges associated with courts

1. Judicial Delay - will reduce due to e-courts, online listing of cases.

2. Lack of infrastructure - around 63% courts do not have record rooms
- Online record rooms could solve this.

3. Synergy between courts and other limbs of criminal justice system - initiatives like LIMBS and FAPTR could solve this.

4. Improved access to justice - a person from rural Orissa may file case in Supreme Court from there.

5. Judicial accountability - data generated could be used to evaluate performances.

Overcoming challenges associated with Alternative Dispute Resolution forums

1. Wide publicity should be given to Conciliation Boards, arbitration council.
2. Bringing all stakeholders together - Mediation would be benefited by online video conferencing.
3. Reducing cost of justice
4. Reducing need of legal professionals.
5. Instant dissemination of information about proceeding.
6. Convergence between courts and ADR through online portals.
7. Effective monitoring of ADR forums

for
~~It~~ for integration of ICT
in dispute resolution process an
Indian Courts and Tribunal
Services should be created in
accordance to Economic Survey
(2019-20).

13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

According to Association
for Democratic Reform around
43% of MP's in 17th Lok Sabha
have pending criminal cases
against them.

Provision for disqualification of legis-
tators under R.P.A, 1951
(Representation of People Act)

1. Section 8, bars people ^{convicted} charged
under Civil Rights Act, Prevention
of Money Act etc from being
legislators.

2. Section 9 and section 10 bars
people convicted of corruption and
dismissed from government service

3. Section 123 bars people
convicted of electoral offences

from being legislators.

Issue of criminalisation of politics

Aforementioned ARK Report

mention the extent of criminalisation due to following reason:-

1. Unworkable procedure of disqualification under section 80

Election petition → ~~High~~ High Court →

Election Commission of India →

Governor / President → Supreme Court.

2. Failure to implement Supreme Court ruling

• MP/MCA courts do not give judgement in 1 year

• adequate publicity is not given to criminal antecedents of legislators.

3. Political Parties do not counter criminalisation

4. Vohra Committee highlights the

businessmen - politicians - criminal
networks

5. Rise of money power in politics
favours criminalisation

6. The Lily Thomas judgement which
bars person convicted for more
than 2 years is vitiated by judicial
delay.

Election Commission of India should
be given power to de-register
political parties.

~~minimum~~
Day forward
~~Article~~ Supreme Court should
under Article 142 give directions
to NRI/MCA court.

Parliament should
create a law under Article 104
for disqualifying criminals from
legislations.

14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. (250 words) 15

According to Economic Survey (2017-18), Urban Local Bodies collect only 40% of total expenditure ^{from} Own Revenue sources.

Growing demands of urban population

1. By 2050 around 60% of Indian population would live in cities.
2. Urban area contribute more than 50% to GDP but lack in revenue generation.
2. Issues such as - climate change, sustainable energy, sustainable transportation etc require financially empowered urban government.

Reforms for providing ULB's permanent buoyant revenue sources

1. Venketchelliah Commission recommend that in Article 242 the word 'shall' should be substituted to coerce state government to give ULB power of taxation

2. GST (Goods and Service Tax) proceeds should be made shareable with Urban Local Bodies

3. Reforms in fiscal governance of ULB

- improve property tax collection
- services such as electricity, water etc should be provided by ULB - they could earn user charge.

4. Utilising Land

- Landholding Corporation under ULB are required. Eg Shenzhen generates 80% of revenue needs from land.

5 Delegated authority to levy professional tax to Urban Local Bodies.

6 Empowers ward committees to collect various fees, dues and duties.

7 Allow ULB's to borrow from market via bonds. Eg Ghaziabad had issued bonds.

8 Public-Private participation (PPP) projects by ULB could generate revenues.

For fiscally empowering Urban Local Bodies, a fixed five year tenures and elected mayors should be provided.

15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.
(250 words) 15

Civil society organisations are non-state, non-market organisation, working for socio-economic development. E.g. Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

changing role of CSOs in contemporary times

Earlier CSOs were restricted to Gandhian voluntary service but now they have various roles :-

- Agitation - eg. protest by ESO against Kudankulam plant
- Policy development - centre for Science & Environment aids in environmental policy development.
- Policy implementation - Asha Amla foundation working for leprosy medication

- Policy monitoring - A SER Reports of NGO Pratham on education sector
- grassroot works among local peoples.

Role of CSO is becoming complex

1. Spectrum of CSO's have emerged

- there are anti development CSO's like Greenpeace, Amnesty International

According to Intelligence Bureau India loses 2-3% of GDP due to them.

2. Regulatory burden - New

foreign contribution rules have increased regulatory burden.

3. Role of voluntary self service is

declining - professional management and corporate funding is changing culture of CSO.

4 Relation with government is changing

- FERA license of 1500 NGOs were cancelled.

- According to CBI, less than

10% of CSOs file annual returns

5 Challenges of 21st century such as digital illiteracy, rising ethnic tension, enhanced migration etc is changing requirements of CSO.

India needs to update

National Policy on Voluntary Sector of 2007 and bring it

in alignment with evolving needs of Civil Society Organisation in India.

16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. (250 words) 15

MPLADS Scheme was

launched in 1993, under it ₹
5 crore are allocated to Members
of Parliament for development of
their constituencies.

MPLADS: Reducing inequality in dev-
-lopment

1. Specified portion of MPLADS fund
is reserved for scheduled castes
and scheduled Tribes.

2. Rural infrastructure Development
bridges rural urban inequality

3. Development of backward zones - ~~MPLADS~~

MPLADS guidelines exhort MP's to
focus expenditure here.

[Issues plaguing MPLADS scheme]

1. Violates Separation of powers

hence Venkatchelliah Commission
recommended
~~wanted~~ to abolish the scheme.

2. Corruption and Rent seeking.

3. Violates Article 14, by giving
funds to sitting MP's, opposition
candidates are discriminated against
this violates spirit of free
and fair election

4. Quality of works under MPLADS
scheme is below par

5. Broken monitoring mechanism -
District Magistrates have ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~done~~ ^{not} ~~well~~
in curbing corruption

6. Patronage and favoritism in
allocation of works under MPLADS.

7 Lack of adherence to MCLAD guidelines is visible.

Due to all these issues public perception about MCLADs has become negative.

Way forward

An empowered District Council should be created to monitor MCLAD scheme implementation.

17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. (250 words) 15

Ed-tech firms such as Byju's, Unacademy have become India's leading unicorns showing spectacular growth of Ed-Tech sector.

Factors responsible for growth of Ed-Tech Sector

1. Covid-19 pandemic and concomitant shift to online education.
2. Government support through STARTUP INDIA scheme, STAND-UP INDIA scheme.
3. Low cost of data in India.
4. Easy availability of capital due to surplus liquidity in global capital market.
5. Reforms in labour laws such.

as fixed term employment.

↳ large size of India's education market. Eg 25 crore school ^{going} children.

Benefits of Ed-Tech Sector

1. Spread of quality education - fundamental literacy and numeracy could be achieved.
2. Lowering cost of education.
3. Equity in competitive exams sector - bridging rural-urban divide
4. Government initiatives such as PM e-Vidya & Manodarpan have acquired good base via Ed-Tech sector.

Concerns associated with Ed-Tech sector

1. Over sized valuation - The EdTech bubble may burst leading to negative impact on market.

- a. Lack of Regulations lead to
- i. unverified and unqualified teachers, teaching students.
 - ii. No standard curriculum
 - iii. fooling students in name of education.
 - iii. exorbitant fees are being charged
3. Corporate Governance issues
4. Successive use of fixed term employment is causing insecurity among workers
5. Digital Divide (only 5% of rural areas has internet connection) is exacerbating educational divide.
- Government needs to create Ed. Tech Regulations asserting need for qualification of teachers and maintenance of standards in online education.

18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. (250 words) 15

India's ~~has~~ ASHA workers are appointed under National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission. Recently ASHA workers have been awarded by WHO.

Role of ASHA workers in delivering services in rural areas

1. Last mile connectivity is provided by them. Eg during COVID-19 vaccination campaign, they went door to door.
2. Reproductive and Child Health Education and services are provided by them.
3. Integrating villages with Anganwadis and sub-health centres
4. First responders to health

emergency

5. Ensure regular anti-natal and post-natal checkups, and delivery of β-babies in hospital.

6. Surveys and data collections are done by them.

Challenges faced by ASHA workers

1. Salaries are very meagre - they are only paid, performance based incentive around ₹ 8000.

2. No fixed employment

3. Lack of training and skill development, compared to them Auxiliary Nurse midwives are well trained.

4. Public perception is negative. During COVID-19 crisis many ASHAs were attacked.

5. Excessive burden of documentation. They have to maintain various

registers

Measures to overcome challenges

1. Enhance salaries to atleast
₹15000. These should be discussions
on confirming their employment.

2. Training and promotions: Eg
from ASHA → Auxiliary Nurse
Midwife → Qualified Nurse.

3. Technological upgradation - providing
them smartphones etc.

4. Information and Education
campaign to improve public perception.

India should atleast
spend 2% of GDP on care
economy, giving ASHA workers
status of government employee could
enhance women employment and
scope of care economy.

19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. (250 words) 15

The US-Afghanistan Doha agreement, was followed by Taliban takeover of power in Afghanistan.

Various concerns of India

1. Security Concerns - The Haggarie network is integral part of Taliban, it promotes terrorism.
 - Terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jem use Afghan soils as a base.
 - Opium trafficking has increased.
2. Geopolitical Concerns
 - i. Regional security may be threatened.
 - ii. Tajikistan, an Indian ally is improving relations with China due to ~~fracture~~ ^{limited} of Indian actions to counter Taliban.
 - iii. The ~~Pakistan~~ Pakistan government particularly ISI holds signifi-

can't leverage over Taliban
government

3. Economic concerns

i. Indian investment worth \$2
Billion might be jeopardised.

ii. Projects such as Chabahar port,
International North South Corridor,
TAPI pipeline may be jeopardised

4. Cultural concerns - Ethnic tensions
may increase in the broader South
Asian region

Measures India should take

1. Openness to discussion with all
sections - India has reopened
embassy in Kabul, it should increase
coordination with Taliban to secure
it's interest.

2. Strengthen various pro-India forces
- India should support allies such
as Ahmed Massoud under the

rebric of Afghan led government
in Afghanistan.

3. Developing Regional Security
arrangements

- Furthering NSA level talks a

Delhi security Conclave of Central
Asian, Afghanistan and Indian
government could be created.

- SCO's RATS mechanism should
be utilised.

4. Clear red lines should be drawn
on terrorism front, institutions like
FATF should be utilised to counter
terrorism.

India should utilise
UNSC's membership to create a
comprehensive convention against
Terrorism, this could remove a
major ~~inst~~ irritant between Taliban
and India.

20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship. (250 words) 15

Recently PM Modi highlighted how India-Bangladesh relations have entered sondi Ashyaya (Golden phase) during 50 years of relationship.

Key part of Neighbourhood first: Bangladesh

1. Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia.
2. Key to success of SAARC, BBIN Motor Vehicle ~~Initiative~~ Initiative etc.
3. Promotes Secularism in South Asia.

Key part of Act East Policy: Bangladesh

1. Success of BIMSTEC initiative depends on it.
2. Integration of North East Region with South East Asia through transport connectivity via Bangladesh.

Steps taken by India and Bangladesh to improve relations

1. Resolution of boundary disputes via 2015 boundary agreement - cooperation between border guarding force has been increased.
2. Common membership of SAARC, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) etc.
3. Trade Relations improved - India has removed customs duty on more than 90% of Bangladesh's product.
4. Developmental aid initiatives - India increased official Development assistance to Bangladesh.
5. Energy Connectivity - discussions on common energy market and electricity grids under South Asia Group of Energy (SAGE) and SAARC and

SA & EC

6 Transport Connectivity - improved

DBIN Motor Vehicle agreement,

Agartala - Akhaura railway link etc.

7 Security initiatives - Bangladesh is part of BIMSTEC under which India covers security and energy sector.

8 P2P (People 2 People) connection improved via celebration of 50 years of friendship.

A successful India-Bangladesh free Trade agreement holds the key for economic integration of South Asia.