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VYOM BINDAL

RANK - 141

**GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II
TEST - 6**



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GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
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1. Invigilator Signature

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Name VYOM BINDAL

Roll No. _____

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature

REMARKS

SECTION - A

- Q1. If India is serious about its Africa initiative, a lot will depend on how it marshals its banking and financial sector there. Analyse. (10 Marks)

Africa is an important partner for India for fostering South-South co-operation, meet our growing energy needs and secure vital sea lines of communication, sea bound foreign trade.

However, ~~to~~ present India-Africa relations are performing below potential as can be seen from

- 1) India-Africa trade of around 62 billion dollar is much less compared to China-Africa trade of close to 166 billion \$
- 2) As per World Investment Report, 2018, India's investment in Africa is just 14 billion \$, compared to Chinese investment of 90 billion \$.
- 3) While gout-to-gout relations remain strong,

Remarks

govt had not been able to take private sector along with it.

One of the foremost obstacle in fostering deeper ties is weak presence of Indian financial and banking sector in Africa. This prevents free flow of investment, restricts trade opportunities as highlighted above.

~~India did attempt to deepen financial relations by becoming member of African Development Bank, proposal to extend loans to African countries by New Development bank.~~

However, much more needs to be done to fully utilise the potential, India can also envisage partnership with Japan, US for better presence of Indian banking sector in Africa.

Remarks

- Q2. India must revise its nuclear policy and keep its strategy opaque. Critically discuss the statement. (10 Marks)

Currently India had pledged to a no-first use (NFU) policy in its nuclear doctrine. It was chosen in order to:

- i) Prove that India's nuclear programme is for deterrence and not aggression.
 - ii) Project India as responsible nuclear power on global stage.
- However, circumstances had changed which demand review such as -
- 1) Deployment of tactical nuclear weapons by Pakistan, to which India cannot respond with strategic nuclear weapons.
 - 2) Questions are also raised about India's capacity to launch second strike after being attacked with a nuclear weapon.

Remarks

- 3) NFU policy assumed rationality of other actor who will be deterred by threat of asymmetrical escalation. But this does not apply in case of nuclear terrorism.
- 4) NFU gives other party or adversary the strategic advantage of launching first strike, even as it remains assured that India will not launch first nuclear attack.
- 5) Doctrine of "minimum credible deterrence" should be revised to "credible minimum deterrent".
 Already, India had reviewed its nuclear doctrine once. It now reserves to respond to chemical and biological weapon attack by nuclear weapon.
 Hence, it is opportune time to revise our nuclear policy, keep it opaque given the changed circumstances.

Remarks

(4)

mention all major components of our nuclear doctrine -

- Q3. Malabar-17 demonstrates a shared determination to safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific along with far-reaching geo-political impact. Discuss. (10 Marks)

Malabar exercise was earlier a bilateral naval exercise between India and US. It has now been extended to include Japan. This deepening of naval co-operation among these three countries assumes greater significance because of :

- 1) It is a step to collectively check the aggressive rise of China in Indo-Pacific region. China is reclaiming reefs, it reject ruling of permanent court of arbitration in dispute with Philippines.
- 2) It merges the policy priorities of three countries for the region which include
 - a) USA's Rebalance Asia Policy
 - b) India's Act East Policy
 - c) Japanese policy of free and open Indo-Pacific.

Remarks

- 3) It provides an opportunity to ensure the preservation of rules based multilateral order in the Indo-Pacific region and ensuring freedom of navigation for all.
- 4) For India it has benefit of maintaining presence in Chinese neighbourhood, just as China is expanding its footprint among India's neighbour. It will help in strategic balancing.
- (X) ~~what are we going to do about it? during?~~
- It is also an indication of balancing act from India as on one hand it is participating in China dominated SCO and on other hand in US dominated Indo-Pacific region. Hence, Malabar-17 demonstrates India's resolve to protect its vital interests in Indo-Pacific region even as it deepens engagement with China.

Remarks

- Q4. Multilateral diplomacy is the only way to resolve Syrian conflict and military action has only escalated the conflict even further. Analyze the statement. (10 Marks)

Syrian conflict had been raging for more than five years claiming millions of innocent civilian lives, shattering the Syrian economy.

Despite all major players proclaiming to fight against Islamic State and other terror groups, there has been lack of united action because:

1) Western and Russian perceptions in Syria differ. While western countries led by US want to topple Bashar Al-Assad regime, but Syria supports his regime.

2) US support to Free Syrian Army and other anti-Islamic State and anti-Assad groups had in fact led to strengthening of terror groups.

Remarks

3) Repeated air strikes in absence of ground level battle had failed to yield any positive results.

4) Covert support to Islamic state and Sunni terror groups by Saudi Arabia, Qatar had only led to greater violence.

~~(U)~~ Hence military action and serving one's competing geo-strategic interests had only complicated the problem further.

~~All major powers do~~ There is need for an aggressive multilateral diplomacy where:

~~All major participants come together to fight terrorism.~~

5) Recognise the regime change in Syria at present may create vacuum for terror groups to flourish. Jointly defeat terror groups and then initiate process for self-determination by people.

Remarks

- Q5. The amendment to do away with the domicile requirement for elections to the Rajya Sabha has militated against the very purpose that guided the Constituent Assembly to create the Council of States and reduced it to a mere revising chamber. Critically analyse.
 (10 Marks)

Indian constitution envisaged Rajya Sabha as the balancing wheel of Indian federalism which was entrusted with the specific task of preserving the state's interest against undue encroachment by central government.

For this purpose it even extended special powers to Rajya Sabha under article 249 and article 312 of the constitution. However doing away with domicile requirement leads to following consequences :

- 1) Person elected from a state have no organic link with state, hence he/she may not be able to adequately represent the interests of the state.
- 2) This provision leads to division of Rajya Sabha

Remarks

- (4) ~~bring agenda X
of the
amendment
also~~
- = on lines of political parties and making it representative of party interests rather than interests of states.
 - 3) It had even increased the role of money power in getting elected to Rajya Sabha as contesting candidate has to lobby with political party ~~than~~ than with members of State Assembly.
 - 4) It lowers the prestige of Rajya Sabha and perception is created that it is a parking ground for defeated politicians rather than elected representatives.

Constitution gave almost equal powers to Rajya Sabha with that of Lok Sabha except in financial matters. Perhaps time has come to review the provision of domicile requirement to restore sanctity of Rajya Sabha.

Remarks

- Q6. The role of Parliamentary Committees in upholding accountability of the executive is continuous if not close. In the light of this statement, discuss the factors that limit the effective functioning of these committees? (10 Marks)

Parliamentary committees play important role of indepth and continuous scrutiny of the government. It usually provides an unbiased constructive criticism of government proposals and also act as de-facto "Min Parliament" as it has representation from all political parties.

However, functioning of these committees is constrained by several factors:

- 1) Except Public Accounts Committee, other committees lack technical assistance to scrutinise the highly technical matters of legislation, administration.
- 2) Recommendations of these committees are only advisory in nature, hence can be

Remarks

easily ignored by the government.

(X) 3) Most of Committees perform only a post-facto analysis after expenditure had been incurred or decision had been taken rather than preventing wrongdoing.

Some good points
of fiscal work
of P.W.D.
etc. 4) They also face issues of lack of adequate staff, space to hold meetings and secretarial assistance.

It is usually found that senior members of Political parties serve on several important committees, thus reducing chances for others.

(c) There is lack of clarity of their power to summon Ministers. Parliamentary Committees are bulwark of Parliament, strengthening them is necessary to strengthen democracy.

Remarks

What steps can be taken?

- Q7. What are the provisions of 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2017? Does it address the issues and lacunae that existed in the statutory body- National Commission for Backward Classes? (10 Marks)

123rd constitutional Amendment bill had following provisions

- 1) It gives constitutional status to the National Commission for backward classes, hence raising its prestige and power.
- 2) It will be empowered to look into the claims of inclusion and exclusion from the OBC list, which assumes importance in wake of demand by various groups to be included in OBC category.
- 3) National Commission will also have duty to review the ceiling for classification of ~~tiny creamy layer~~ among the other backward classes.
- 4) It gives National Commission powers of trial

Remarks

court in summoning persons, taking evidence on oath, calling for public records etc.

It will review the working of the constitutional and legal safeguards, grievance redressal of OBC community. This function is presently performed by National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

The bill did remove certain lacuna which existed in statutory body like:

- 1) Elevating its status to constitutional body.
- 2) giving it powers of civil court. —
- 3) Power to review safeguards.

The bill is currently pending before the Parliament. Early passage needs to ensure social justice for backward classes.

Remarks

- Q8. "An institution must speak with one voice, lest it loses credibility and ends up confusing people." In this context, analyse the government's current impetus on making the office of Comptroller and Auditor General a multi-member body. (10 Marks)

CAG is a constitutional office established under the article 148 of the constitution and is tasked with the vital function of ensuring the financial accountability of the executive.

~~Proposal is made by the govt. to make it a multi-member body as it will lead to~~

~~Powerring the burden of CAG in discharging its duty.~~

↳ Incorporating the greater technical expertise in the office of CAG.

~~However, the proposal is opposed on following grounds :-~~

~~1) It may dilute the power of CAG by dividing it.~~

Remarks

- 1) Apprehensions are raised that govt. wants to put additional members to dilute criticism of govt. policies by CACs.
- 2) In case of divergence of opinion among the members, CACs will lose its credibility.
- Hence, any attempt to change the composition of office of CACs must keep in mind its crucial role of being the guardian of public purse, which should not be diluted at any cost.

④

You can cite some examples of good work done by CACs and why, at all, has this proposal come?

Remarks

- Q9. What do you mean by public authority as per the provision of RTI Act 2005? Do you think that there is a need to revisit this provision of the law? Give your argument in the light of the recent developments. (10 Marks)

Section 2 of the RTI Act, 2005 gives a broad definition of public authority to include:

- 1) All legislative and executive bodies of the central and state government.
- 2) Judicial and quasi-judicial authorities.
- 3) It even includes private authorities performing the duty of public character.

However, despite such broad definition, there is ambiguity regarding inclusion of:

- 1) Political parties had refused to be included under RTI.
- 2) Judiciary had also denied information under RTI and continues to follow much less transparent internal rules.

Remarks

3) Ambiguity also remains about inclusion of private bodies performing public functions e.g. BCCI, PPP projects among others.

RTI is a progressive legislation and fulfills the fundamental right to information which citizens already possess by virtue of article 19 of the Constitution.

However, given the above ambiguities, perhaps there is a need to review section 2 to explicitly include such bodies in ambit of RTI.

④

Lead about arguments given by above mentioned bodies -

Remarks

- Q10. The regional powerhouses India and Brazil share a relationship that is gradual and progressive, however, mainly dominated by trade and commerce. This relationship needs a fillip to engage in new area of co-operation to support mutually converging interests and strengthen this relationship. Discuss. (10 Marks)

India-Brazil both are developing countries and share relationship on various platform like BRICS, IBSS, Non-Aligned Movement among others.

There is need to engage in new areas of co-operation such as:

- 1) Brazil had attained high expertise in bio-fuel technology, India can collaborate to fulfil its own target of promoting biofuel
- 2) India needs to strengthen the space relationship and technical co-operation with Brazil seating relating to launch of satellites, common space programmes.

Remarks

3) Trade relation can be further enhanced by looking for export of pharmaceutical products, generic medicine by India to Brazil.

4) Both countries need to co-ordinate their strategies on global issues like terrorism, climate change, reform of UN security council, maintaining a rules based trade order.

5) Greater people to people contacts by promoting tourism, cultural exchange programmes.

Brazil can become important fulcrum of India's Latin America policy and South-South co-operation is relationship is diversified to cover new areas.

Remarks

SECTION - B

Q11. Human trafficking the third largest organized crime violating basic human rights. Why has this menace been on rise? Do you think the trafficking of persons (prevention, protection and rehabilitation) bill, 2018 can help in tackling trafficking in India? Critically examine. (15 Marks)

Human trafficking strips the individual of his/her dignity, violates their basic rights. This menace is unfortunately on rise because of following reasons:

- 1) Growing conflicts, wars, terrorism, persecution across the world which render people vulnerable to the trafficking networks e.g. Rohingya refugees, Syrian refugees among others.
- 2) Rising inequality at the global level leading to marginalisation of certain sections which are forced into trafficking.
- 3) Trafficking of humans as a crime had assumed transnational character, however,

Remarks

the inter-jurisdictional Police and judicial co-operation remains weak.

To tackle the issue of human trafficking, India had introduced new Bill with following provisions:

- 1) It establishes a National Trafficking Bureau to co-ordinate at inter state and transnational level.
- 2) It adopts a rehabilitative approach and provides for a victim compensation fund for physiological, social and economic support of victims.
- 3) It has provision for confiscation of proceeds of crimes generated from activity of trafficking.
- 4) Bill defines an aggravated form of trafficking when trafficking is done for

Remarks

begging, using chemical hormones to bring early maturity in children.

- 3) It establishes special courts to try the trafficking offences and sets time limits for investigation, trials.

While Bill is step in right direction, it also suffers from certain lacuna:

- 1) It does not explicitly exclude consenting sex workers.
- 2) It overlaps with several other laws like Passport Act, Foreigner's Act, Anti-begging laws.
- 3) It omits certain kind of trafficking like for clinical trials, organ transplant etc.

Bill is overall a step in right direction to deal with menace of trafficking. However, above lacunae should also be addressed to make it more effective.

Remarks

73

comprehensive address
the demands
the question

Q12. "Anti-defection law was enacted to enhance the credibility of Indian polity. While this enactment brought about some order in the system, some politicians found ways of circumventing it over the years." Critically comment on the statement in the light of the recent disqualification of two leaders by the Vice President. (15 Marks)

Anti-defection law was added in tenth schedule of the constitution in order to bring political stability, morality in politics and as a part of electoral reforms.

However, over the years, ways has been found to circumvent its provisions by:

1) Utilising the loophole which allows mergers of party with another party if two-third members agree.

This has been used for wholesale defections especially in the smaller states.

2) The role of Speaker/Chairman who is adjudicating authority in anti-defection

Remarks

had also come under question for example plea for disqualification of 21 MLAs in Andhra Pradesh Assembly is pending with Speaker for long time.

3) Disqualified politicians had found ways for backdoor entry into politics by contesting fresh elections, lucrative posts or entry to Rajya Sabha or State legislative councils.

Anti-defection law had also been criticised for depriving legislators the freedom of speech and expression. Fear of disqualification due to defection had generated a "high command culture" in political parties.

Given these circumstances, there is need to review the anti-defection law. Some

reforms can be :

- 1) Disqualifying the person found guilty under anti-defection law from contesting any election for next six years.
- 2) As suggested by National Commission on Review of Working of Constitution, the power to decide on disqualification should be given to a quasi-judicial body like Election Commission.
- 3) Law should be amended to make difference between opportunistic defection and genuine dissent.

Hence, there is need to review anti-defection law keeping in mind the wider need to impacting higher ethical standards in Indian electoral system.

Remarks

(x) 3)
 about the
 topic is
 appreciable

- Q13. Discrimination in health insurance against individuals based on their genetic disposition or genetic heritage, in the absence of appropriate genetic testing and laying down of intelligible differentia is unconstitutional. Analyse the statement in the context of genetic discrimination in India. (15 Marks)

~~Health insurance agencies~~

Remarks

Q14. Citizen's charter are "expression of an ethical governance", but their real utility is questionable. Discuss. (15 Marks)

~~citizen charter is a tool of ethical governance because it gives following rights to the citizens:~~

- 1) Service is delivered to them as a matter of right rather than as paternalistic entitlement by the government.
- 2) It give citizens clear idea about the quality of service delivery in terms of time bound delivery, customer satisfaction.
- 3) Citizen charters set up an effective grievance redressal mechanism which enhances the accountability of the government.
- 4) Citizen charters provide a platform for two-way communication by incorporating the public feedback mechanism.

Remarks

However, in case of India, real utility of citizen's charter remains questionable because of:

- 1) Charters are framed without discussion with cutting edge functionaries, citizens hence they become mere managerial charters.
- 2) Most of organisations had framed charter as replica of modern model charter, without taking into account the specific nature of service provided by them.
- 3) There is absence of effective grievance redressal mechanism which renders the charter ineffective.
- 4) Indian charters had been static in nature as they fail to elicit regular public opinion and incorporate changes.
- 5) Some organisations like Khadi Board had

Remarks

provided ambiguous quality standards like phrases like "best possible time", "as far as possible" etc.

⑥ To make citizen charter's tool of better governance some changes can be:

Completing the Right to Service by passing appropriate legislations.

Like UK, a charter mark scheme can be started to foster healthy competition among agencies to improve their charter.

3) Display of charter in prominent places,
use of local language

4) Fixing the accountability of charter implementation by appointing Nodal officer in every department.

There is need to make citizen charter a basis of promoting citizen centric governance.

Remarks

- Q15. More than a decade after the Right to Information Act was passed by Parliament, its implementation remains inefficient. Examine the various structural, procedural and logistical issues with the act. What are the reforms needed to turn RTI into a true "master key to good governance?" (15 Marks)

Right to Information Act empowered the citizens to hold government accountable and is in fact extension of their fundamental right to information under article 19 of the constitution.

RTI did help in empowering citizens, unearthing scams and fostering a culture of accountability in the administration. However, it did faces certain challenges such as :

Structural issues

Section 2 of the Act defines "public authority" but as current instances show there is ambiguity about inclusion of judiciary, Political parties among others.

Remarks

- 2) Section 8 of the RTI Act lists the exempted category of information but it ~~is~~ includes use of subjective words like security of nation, public interest
- 3) Official Secrets Act and other oath of Secrecy to Ministers continue to exist.

Procedural challenges:

- Many organisations had not listed out modalities of giving information.
 - Sometimes raw, unprocessed information is given rather than specific one.
- Logistical issues:
- Public Information Officers are not appointed regularly, or other officers are given additional charge, increasing their burden.
 - Strength of Central Information Commission

Remarks

is low compared to requirement, hence nearly 23,000 appeals are pending with it.

Reforms Needed

- 1) Proactive disclosure of information by the agencies as mandated under section 4 of the RTI
- 2) Clearly defining the exempt information
- 3) Increasing the budget for state and central information commission
- 4) Digitisation and proper upkeep of the public records as mandated by RTI
- 5) Timely fulfilling of vacancies related to Information officers and Information Commission.

Apart from this, RTI needs to be complemented with Lokpal, Citizen Charters, whistleblower protection to truly usher in second democratic revolution.

Remarks

Q16. Do you think strong India-Japan relations would help preserve a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific? Support your arguments. Also analyse, to what extent Japan and India made significant changes to their foreign and national security policies.

(15 Marks)

Strong Indo-Japan relations will help in preserving a stable balance of power in Indo-Pacific region as:

- 1) Both have shared interest in maintaining freedom of navigation, open sea lines of communication.
- 2) Geographically, they can work together to ensure that rise of China in Indo-Pacific region is peaceful and do not violates the rules based order.
- 3) Geoeconomically, both have interest in protecting their vital foreign trade passing through Indo-Pacific region.
- 4) India-Japan together have requisite military capacity, financial capacity to balance

Remarks

- the rising presence of China.
- keeping these factors in mind both countries had taken following steps to align their foreign and security policies.
- 1) Both are members of the quadrilateral grouping, which is emerging a strategic counterbalance to China.
 - 2) Japan is now the part of Malabar exercise along with India-US, this is to boost the naval co-operation.
 - 3) Japan extended diplomatic support to India against China during the Doklam crisis.
 - 4) India is negotiating with Japan with a multibillion dollar US Ambition-2 aircraft deal. Apart from that negotiations are on for robotics, unmanned ground vehicle.

Remarks

from Japan to India.

- 3) Both countries have agreed to ensure a rules based multilateral order in Indo-Pacific region.
- 4) Japan had aligned its "free and open Indo-Pacific strategy" with India's "Act East" policy.
- 5) As a mark of exceptional ties, India had become the first non-NPT country with which Japan had signed the civil nuclear deal.

~~It is an era of great uncertainty and flux in Indo-Pacific region. Even as India strives to strengthen relations with China, it makes sense to deepen ties with Japan also as part of a multiple-alignment strategy.~~ (6)

Remarks

~~all of this create apprehension for china!
what are we going to do about it?~~

- Q17. Recently, America withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Is this the right move? Highlight the implications on India and the world. (15 Marks)

America withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action negotiated with the Iran to contain its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief in a graded manner.

America's withdrawal is a step in wrong direction because it will have the following implications:

[At global level]:

- 1) Agreement represented a triumph of diplomacy and non-coercive method to contain Iran's nuclear programme. Its scrapping will dent the credibility of multilateral diplomacy as deal was outcome of P5+1 negotiations.
- 2) Cancellation of the deal will strengthen the

Remarks

conservative and headline sections in Iran which may lead to increase its terror activities in Yemen, Syria.

- 3) The economic damage caused by the sanctions will further accentuate the economic crisis in Iran.
- 4) so unilateral scrapping of agreement by USA will further widen the transatlantic rift as many European leaders are not in agreement with America's decision.
- 5) Deal could have acted as template for global non-proliferation rules and check such activities.
- 6) On other hand, North Korea which continues with its nuclear programme is approached by America for negotiations. This

Remarks

will send a wrong message and fuel an aggressive behaviour by covet nuclear nations.

Impact on India:

If sanctions relating of Iranian Oil and petroleum industry are enforced by America, it will impact India's crude oil import from Iran.

Due to pre-eminence of American financial system, it will become difficult for India to go ahead with Chabahar port agreement, triple transit corridor.

Iran is important for India not just for energy supplies, but strategically to check China's rise in Eurasia region and preserve our maritime security. Hence India should refrain from any action which dilutes relation with Iran.

6½

what do you see should be done by responsible parties involved in Iran deal?

Remarks

Q18. Elaborate the unique strengths of India and the Nordic countries. Discuss whether the relationship offers immense opportunities for trade and investment diversification and mutually beneficial collaboration. (15 Marks)

~~Outstanding
Nordic
Countries~~

Unique strength of "India and Nordic countries which can be utilised for mutually beneficial relation include-

- 1) In defence sector, India is in negotiation with Sweden for the Gripen fighter of saab group
- 2) Nordic countries have high human development indicators, hence India can co-operate with them to improve on its welfare programmes.
- 3) Nordic countries could become important partners in several of India's programmes such as "Digital India", "Smart cities" programme and make in India initiative.

Remarks

- 1) Both have shared diplomatic interest in ensuring a multipolar global order and reform of UN security council.
- 2) Tourism is also an important area of co-operation to boost people to people ties.
- 3) Nordic countries with their expertise and experience in successful harnessing of renewable energy can help India to meet its Nationally determined contributions to curb climate change.

hence, there is need to strengthen the relationship with nordic countries for a mutually beneficial ties.

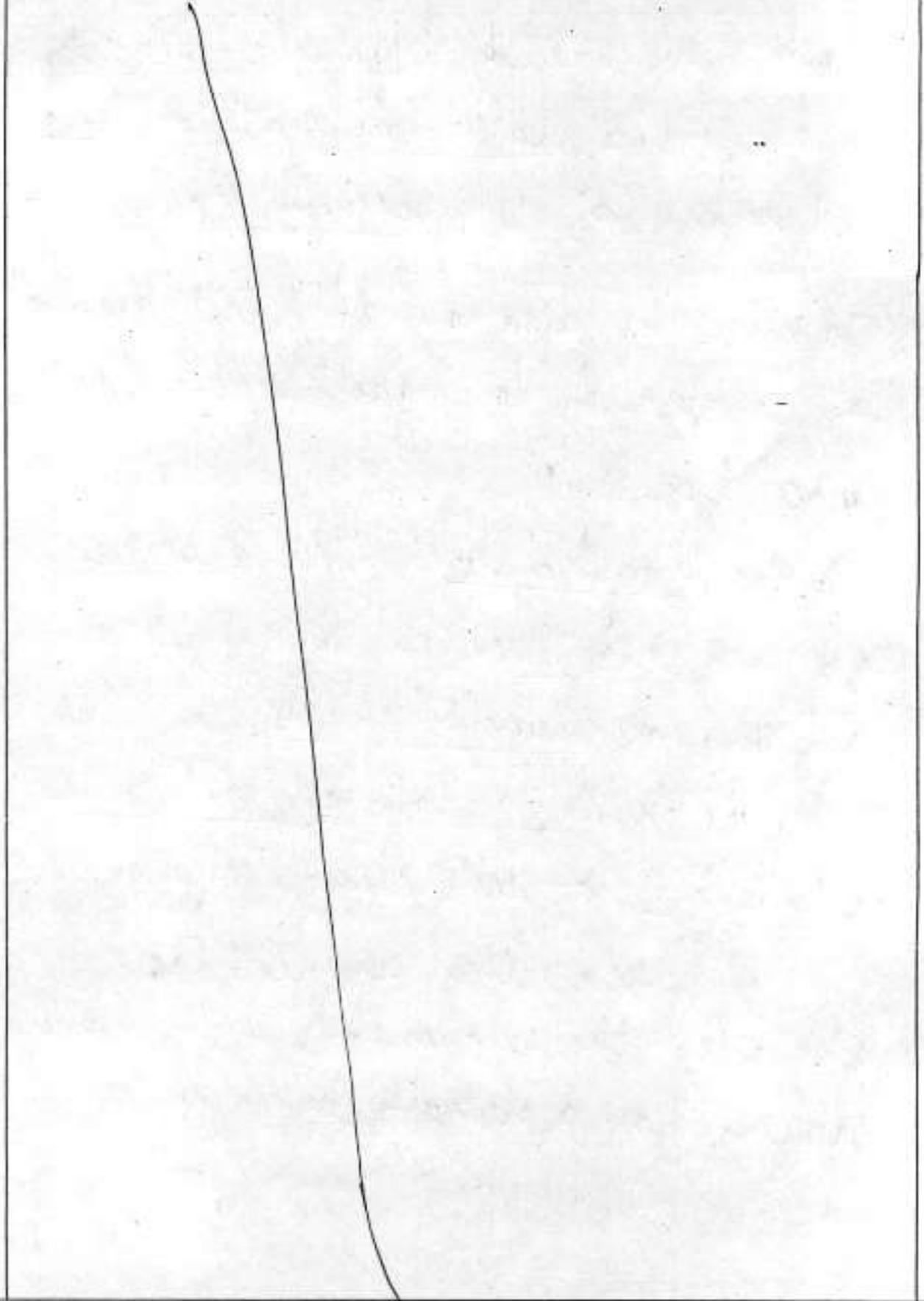
(5)

what has been history of our relationship?

what have been hurdles in strengthening our relationships?

Remarks

Remarks



- Q19. The older parameters, traditional variables and orthodox institutional thinking of the special relationship are now outdated and ineffective with respect to India-Nepal relationship. Analyze the issues and the opportunities on which both the nations need to work.

(15 Marks)

India-Nepal share a unique relation characterised by civilizational ties over borders, people to people contacts among other. The unique Indo-Nepal treaty of peace and friendship is testimony to this.

However, India needs to shed its older approach to Nepal which was characterised by:

- 1) Big brotherly attitude towards Nepal rather than treating it as sovereign independent country
- 2) viewing Nepal-China relations with excessive suspicion even in matters not affecting India's interest.

Remarks

- i) India's intervention in Madhesi issue, undeclared blockade in 2015 had also generated anti-India feelings in Nepal.

Nepalese side: It should also be more cautious of India's security interest while playing "Chinese card" with India.

However, with recent visit of Nepalese Prime Minister both countries had started new reset in relationships as can be seen from:

- i) India extended its aid to Nepal by 73% under its neighbourhood first policy.
- ii) Feasibility studies will be conducted on Panaut-Kathmandu rail link, Motihari to Amlekgung petroleum pipeline.
- iii) India will fund the Aren-III hydro

Remarks

power project to the tune of 1.5 billion \$.

- 2) India had extended security training, funds for modernisation of Nepalese security forces.
- Despite these several issues remains
- 1) Lack of progress on Pancheshwar dam project.
- 2) Territorial dispute related to Kalapani and Susta area.
- 3) Growing trafficking of Nepalese girls along Indo-Nepal border
- 4) growing China - Nepal ties as can be seen from Shigatse - Kathmandu rail link, China building optical fibre network, oil reserves in Nepal. Hence, need is for both countries to mutually settle their disputes and further strengthen the mutual ties.

Remarks

7½
good

Q20. What were the objectives of passing the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which sought to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950? Also discuss the process involved in delimitation of constituencies and issues arising out of delimitation. (15 Marks)

relevant articles

The delimitation of constituencies is done by the delimitation commission of India appointed by the Parliament.

While going for the delimitation the commission ensures uniformity of representation in two counts.

- 1) Every constituency should have approximately the same number of electors.
- 2) Different states should have constituencies in a manner proportionate to their population.

Once notified, the orders of delimitation commission cannot be challenged even in supreme court.

Remarks

Current process of delimitation suffers from the problem that delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies is based on

i.e. 1971 census and has been freezed till till 2026.

This creates the problem of over and under-representation due to vast changes in population composition which has taken place since 1971.

Hence, there is need to revise the existing delimitation process to ensure adequate representation for all people.

(5)

what are apprehensions involved? who are probable beneficiaries and losers? Read more about it -

Remarks