

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

If you want to walk fast, walk alone.
But if you want to walk far, walk together

During India's freedom struggle, different leaders had different ways and ideas on how to overthrow the British Raj. On one hand we had the category of "angry young men" also called as "extremists" in academic parlance. These wanted to sacrifice themselves, indulge in brave acts of assassination of British officials and strike fear in the hearts and minds of the British. These were more or less individual acts of bravery and supreme sacrifice. They wanted to walk fast and hence they walked alone. Prominent Examples include

Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, etc.

There is no doubt that they did achieve their objectives in the short term. But freedom struggle was a protracted war. It would not just take time, but efforts of every Indian subjugated to the misery of British Raj.

This was well realised by one man - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, revered as "The Mahatma." He recognised the power of "walking together", taking everyone along. Through his movements like non-cooperation, Dandi march, Quit India, he made sure he involved the masses, from the urban elite to the measly beggar, from women to dalits, from

children to older populace.

The result? India achieved
freedom on 15th August, 1947 and has
come far with our country preparing
to celebrate India@75 in 2022 —

"
The Aradi Ica Amrit Mahotsav."

The example of Mahatma
shows the importance of walking together
to walk far in life. Humans, as the
psychologist Sigmund Freud called are
"egoistic animals." Due to the attitude
of "I, me, myself", we tend to think
of achieving great things through our
own efforts.

Not just egoism, there is
another pertinent quality that we
lack — of patience. We not just want

to achieve great things, but achieve them in ~~no~~ no time. We lack the patience of consensus building, of taking different stakeholders along. What we finally end up with is a momentary success.

This can be best explained by contrasting the lives of two great kings in history - Ashoka and Akbar. While Akbar wanted to establish a tolerant religion "Din-i-Ilahi", he framed his own rules, formed a small group of followers and started to preach the tenets of his new formed religion.

On the other hand, King Ashoka first understood the tenets and ethos of Buddhism. Then, he started to disseminate noble thoughts of Buddha via major and minor pillars.

He then asked his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to teach people about noble ideals of Buddhism even outside India.

This approach gave time to people to understand, accept and assimilate what Buddhism actually means and demands.

The final result is, "Din-i-Ilahi" has gone into oblivion, while Buddhism today is a flourishing religion all across the world.

If past is any prologue, we have similar examples in our contemporary times as well. The China vs India story needs ~~not~~ mentioning.

China and India are the world's largest and second largest populated ~~country~~ countries. A burgeoning population does create pressure on limited resources and steps are needed to control

Population explosion. But here too, both countries managed the problem in their own ways.

China came out with a strict ~~two child~~ "one child policy." It could do that because of its dictatorship of Communist party. It could manage to curb population growth at a much faster rate than India.

India on the other hand, is a democratic country. Hence India adopted consensus building as an approach to control population. Campaigns like "Baccho dohe acche," [Two kids are best], encouraging use of contraceptives and female literacy and empowerment was focussed upon. Though everyone was taken along, this approach took time.

Today, China is reeling under large dependent old age population because

of lack of young people. Far years back, it had allowed two children per couple but that did not work. Recently it allowed upto three children per couple. But this shows how walking fast and alone leads to unsustainable results.

On the other hand, India did not use any form of coercion, but by walking together, taking everyone along, we have recently reached the Total Fertility Rate of Two, i.e. below replacement level.

India could walk fast, ~~but we could walk~~ because we could walk together.

Not just in terms of population. But a major criticism of India is that it is a "slow elephant." This criticism came in the wake of India developing at 2-3% annual rate of growth in 1980s, also called as "Hindu Rate of Growth."

This "slow elephant" was

contrasted with "fast Asian tigers," the Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore and South Korea. These countries were walking alone and walking fast with high rates of growth. fast loans, easy foreign Direct Investment, rapid exports led to ~~high~~ the Asian tigers riding fast and high.

But came the 1997 Asian financial crisis and 2008 Global financial crisis. The economic bubble that was created due to "fast reforms" burst and these countries witnessed huge market crash and loss of jobs.

The "slow elephant" meanwhile was focusing on slow but substantial economic growth that was inclusive. For India economic development is coupled with social development [concept of Directive

Principles of State Policy]. India took even the most vulnerable in its path to development. The result is that by walking together, India has come so far that it is world's fifth largest economy that is poised to become a \$5 Trillion economy by 2025.

Another aspect that is linked to walking fast and alone is the rise of inequality. In developed world, the rich and elite walked fast and they walked alone, without thinking about the poor at the last rung of socio-economic ladder. The result is, that these countries are witnessing high socio-economic inequality and societal unrest giving rise to leaders like Donald Trump.

Contrast this with the philosophy of "Antyodaya" of Deen

Jayal Vadhyaaya who advocated taking along even the most destitute in the path to progress. By focusing on MSMEs, agriculture, food processing, microfinance and self help groups, India has ~~made~~ walked far and walked together. This is corroborated by this year's economic survey that says, In India, growth is (not) leading to inequality.

Nevertheless, "inequality" has many manifestations. One recent manifestation of inequality was seen during COVID 19 pandemic. Some countries like USA, UK, China, wanted to walk fast. Hence they walked alone and developed their own vaccines. They rapidly vaccinated their masses. But in all this,

they forgot that a ~~challenge~~ trans-national challenge like COVID19 does not require one to walk fast, but to walk far and walk together.

India realised that nobody is safe till everyone is safe. In line with its philosophy of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam" it started "Vaccine Maitri" and took along the lesser developed countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, along in its fight against the pandemic.

Today, even though we have a new variant "omicron", but the mortality levels are low because India understood the importance of vaccinating all and taking all along if we want to walk far in our fight against COVID19.

The litany of empirical evidences

is long, but the henceforth mentioned case studies reinforce the importance of walking together to walk fast.

It is true that we are born alone and we die alone. But that does not mean we need to walk alone.

The urge to achieve greatness in minimum possible time is well understood. But when we walk fast we sometimes tend to break more things than we actually finally achieve.

walking fast is easy and walking alone is convenient. But great things take time. And greater things require the participation of all. Walking together and building consensus is an arduous task.

"Sabka vilas" does not hold any meaning, until we also have "sabka sath." Hence, to walk fast, we must walk together.

Global Politics of Infrastructure and Connectivity

The New York Times journalist Thomas Friedman coined the term "The world is flat" in his book "The Lexus and the Olive Tree." What he meant by the quote was that the advent of globalisation and global connectivity has integrated the world to such an extent that events in one part affects the events in another part of world.

The major role in making the world flat has been played by the development of infrastructure and connectivity.

In this essay, we would examine the importance of infrastructure and connectivity through history. We would then delve deeply into the current aspects and

politics of infrastructure and connectivity. We would then analyse the need for infrastructure and connectivity as a means to counter growing trans-national challenges.

THROUGH THE TIDES OF HISTORY

Politics over infrastructure and connectivity goes back to ancient times when the central asian region served as the connecting gateway between west and east and south east Asia, via the ancient silk route.

The kingdoms like the Qin dynasty in China, the tribes of Central Asia, the Romans and Kushans from India fought to exercise their control over the silk route.

This competition stemmed from the fact that controlling the

Infrastructure and connectivity routes would give transit revenues and control over strategic locations like control over Khyber pass in North West India.

This competition and politics was further manifest in colonialist struggle between the European powers. From UK to France to Portugal, these countries were acquiring bases to control the maritime trade routes. To further build their power, UK built infrastructure in the form of ports and railway network to better connect itself with its colonies.

In the aftermath of world war II, the United States and the Soviet Union began a race to provide funds to countries to develop infrastructure and connect via roads, rails and

waterways so that the Soviet Union could make these countries follow communism while the US wanted to develop infrastructure to make capitalism as the attractive ideology in these countries.

Through Marshall Plan, US not just provided funds for infrastructure to Europe, it made sure these countries are interlinked through connectivity. That would promote oneness in Europe and Europe as a bloc could then be aligned to USA as an ally.

The policies of USA were guided by the thoughts of two greatest geopolitical thinkers - Alfred T Mahan and Halford mackinder. While Mahan advocated linking sea routes by building ports in other countries, Mackinder talked of integrating Eurasian subcontinent through

Infrastructure and connectivity. Though Mahan and Meleindes differed in their approach, their objective was same - using infrastructure and connectivity for world domination.

GLOBAL POLITICS TODAY : ENTERS THE DRAGON

Apart from USA, China too understood the need to focus on infrastructure and connectivity. In 2013, Xi Jinping unveiled the Belt and Road Initiative. It has two components - the maritime road involving acquiring ports in strategic locations and the land belt for integrating the Eurasian region through infrastructure and ~~area~~ connectivity.

Under this plan, China has started investing in infrastructure projects in developing countries. The ~~a~~ stated reason is "development of the underdeveloped

world." But it is the element of geopolitics and the thirst to dominate the world that is guiding its BRI project.

What China is doing is providing loans at high interest rates to countries that have low probability of paying back the loans. When these countries ultimately default on these loans, China takes on lease territories of these countries. Prominent examples are Hambantota Port in China, Guadalupe port in Palcistan, port in Djibouti, etc.

Hence these loans are used to advent a new era of "neocolonialism."

The other part of BRI reveals another form of politics. The politics of "divide and rule." Through financing infrastructure in countries like Nepal,

Bangladesh, Myanmar and Maldives, China is creating a rift between India and its neighbouring countries who now look to China for development.

Same strategy is used by China to finance projects in relatively less developed East European countries. This is being done to break the European unity and reduce influence of USA in Europe.

The extension of this politics of infrastructure and connectivity is seen in Central Asian region. This region has traditionally seen influence of US and Soviet Union. But now, through the BRIC, China is exploiting natural resources like uranium and other rare earth materials in the central Asian region and Afghanistan.

This is not just reducing influence of USA and Russia but also making China a major power in the region.

Infrastructure and connectivity require finance. To achieve its ambitions, China has started the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank and the BRICS led Dev Development Bank. But a silver lining in these initiatives is the increasing voice of the global south.

Traditional Infrastructure and connectivity financing mechanisms and institutions are dominated by the West. For Eg: the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are seen as tools for advancing western values of market fundamentalism in developing societies.

The definition of Infrastructure and connectivity is becoming fluid with the emergence of new forms of connectivity. Apart from BRI that is focussed on hard Infrastructure, China is also advancing the "Digital Silk Route" and the "Polar Silk route".

While the former is being used to develop 5G Infrastructure, the latter is used to make ports in the arctic region to exploit its potential in the wake of melting of its glaciers amidst climate change.

China has been accused of data theft through its 5G connectivity projects and hence countries like US, Japan, UK, India, etc have barred China to use its state run telecom companies to capture market of these

countries. Recently UK has promised "D-10" as a network of ten democracies to jointly develop and deploy 5G Infrastructure across the world.

Similarly, amidst the threat of growing Chinese influence, recently the G7 has launched "Build Back Better World" project to fund infrastructure and connectivity in developing world, though through transparent process.

In the Indo-Pacific region, two initiatives have been launched to counter the Chinese debt trap diplomacy. US, Australia and Japan have launched the Blue Dot Network as a means to do feasibility studies of Chinese loans in the regions to prevent the vulnerable countries from falling into debt traps.

Mother initiative is by India, Australia and Japan called Supply Chain Resilience Initiative. "This has been done keeping in mind the abrupt disruption in supply chains because of COVIDA pandemic and excessive dependence on China."

BEYOND POLITICS : INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

It is true that countries like US, China, Russia have been engaging more in the politics of infrastructure than the developmental aspects of it.

But on the other hand it is also true that the world is on an inflexion point. Today we face the challenge of pandemic, poverty, climate change, terrorism, etc. All these are ~~trans~~ trans-national in their nature. Hence they can be

only solved by coming together.

But coming together is not easy. The tectonic plates of geography have created barriers in physical connectivity. It should be the joint efforts of global humanity to connect to each other via Internet, railways, ports, airways, roads, etc.

Infrastructure and connectivity are called as capital expenditures because they create assets, jobs and lead to better standards of life in the country of investment.

These should not be used as a tool for domination, but as a tool for development. Global politics of infrastructure and connectivity should be human centric and liberating.

Rough

flow chart

Intro: Gandhi

Body: Pt. C

Geo. → Singapore / China vs India, Farm laws vs LPG reforms.

Soci. debate Age of consent

Adm. → Story of Dr. Chandrasekhar / Ambedkar

Intimidated → concept of bench. Easy to dispose off cases by high judge

Scientific

Environ → Development Ecology based on Coal. But Shaprot How renewable comp. inst.

Ethical → Importance of team work, EI, democratic attitude.

Sports → Drone vs Kohl.

People: → Gandhi vs Extremists
Bose

Other

Intimidated: US invaded Afghanistan.

Intimidated के विरुद्ध संघर्ष अफगानिस्तान
USA vs India's approach
to Afghanistan.

COVID 19: → COVID 19 vaccine break.

Did it eliminate virus?

No. संघर्ष अफगानिस्तान 2021.

Rough

→ other side of story

↳ Stabi
↳ Age of consent
↳ Alida chalu re !

Inequality

Don't
write

Flow chart

Intro story line:

↓
imp of walking together

↓
why do people want to walk alone? → Ex

↓
Consequence

↓
why is it imp to walk together
Ex to walk fast

↓
sometimes walking fast is also imp

↓ Ex
condemnation team work

Ques

Ques: From Friedman

infra & connectivity

Q: Why is there a need for infra & connectivity ~~to the~~

OR ~~Policies through~~ infra & connectivity

OR ~~the~~ the ~~use of~~ + & -ve
aspects of connectivity

OR Policies under infra & connectivity

OR Way of

Conclusion → Trans national challenge
65% Fed. Govt. 35% State

