

Passage—1

When Delhi University announced the first list of admission into undergraduate programmes in its 90 colleges earlier this month, the cut-offs reached 100 percent mark in some courses offered by a few colleges. But this is neither surprising nor unexpected. According to the most recent All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE 2018-19), Delhi's gross enrolment ratio (GER) is 46.3 percent (the national GER is 26.3 percent). This means that almost every second youth in Delhi between the age of 18 and 23 is enrolled in a higher education programme. But the aspirations of Delhi's youth are not met by adequate high - quality Higher Education Institutions (HEIs, including universities and standalone institutions), leading to unreasonable high cut-offs. In some HEIs, for courses such as computer science or English literature, the cutoff is in the high 90s, even for aspirants from socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

What we have been seeing in Delhi for more than a decade is also seen in a few other states, where the GER is close to 50 percent. Today, it is a handful of states, and tomorrow it will be the entire country. According to India's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for 2030 and the National Education Policy 2020 target, we are aiming to ensure 100 percent enrolment across our school stages, from pre-primary to the secondary stage. As we move towards this target, there will be a further rise in applications for higher education programmes for which the NEP 2020 has set a target of 50 percent by 2035 — which would mean an additional 35 million seats to be created in HEIs across the country. If the cut-off marks are already at unreasonable levels, we can imagine the scenario with a doubling of prospective student. Unless, something transformative is done, we are headed towards a rise in the number of unemployed graduates (due to poor quality education) and a generation of disenchanted youth (due to the systemic failure in equipping them with required skill sets). Using school-leaving marks to create cut-offs is a lazy option employed by the HEIs to reduce the number of applicants, before launching their admission process. School percentages are not good markers of an individual's readiness to do higher education — and given the serious drawbacks of standardised assessments in our board exams, it is best to get rid of them at the earliest.

Instead, school-leaving certificates will have to be based on an array of assessments, including a student's performance across the secondary level — Classes IX to XII.

NEP 2020 recommends moving into a higher education ecosystem that consists of large multi-disciplinary HEIs, offering under-graduate and graduate programmes, one in every, or nearly every district, in the country. These will be multi-disciplinary universities and colleges; with the latter moving away from affiliation into a degree-granting HEI or a constituent college of the university. Each such institute will aim to have 3,000 or more students. Currently, only 4 percent colleges have an enrolment over 3,000.

Words: 450

Source: The Indian Express, 27th October, 2020

1. Which of the following is a reason for unreasonably high cut-offs?
 - (a) Due to mass outflow of aspirants to foreign colleges
 - (b) Not many Delhiites are opting for higher education
 - (c) Because there are not enough adequate high-quality Higher Education Institutions in Delhi
 - (d) Both B and C.

2. What is the inference of these lines: "In some HEIs, for courses such as computer science or English literature, the cut off is in the high 90s, even for aspirants from socio-economic groups that are disadvantaged?"
 - (a) The cut offs at least for aspirants from socio-economically disadvantaged groups should not be this high
 - (b) The cut off of 90 marks is not high for aspirants from affluent background
 - (c) Both A and B
 - (d) NOTA

3. Which of the following inferences are correct?

(a) The problem of high cut offs is just the tip of the iceberg, if steps are not taken to counteract it then it can lead to disastrous consequences.

(b) One of the criteria for GER is number of enrolments in a higher education programme.

(c) Standardized assessment of board exams should be done away with

(d) All of the above.

4. If the recommendation of NEP is followed, then which of the following will it lead to :

(a) By modelling this recommendation, across the higher education ecosystem not only will access improve, but it will also make HEIs viable.

(b) The CBSE will make a progressive reform by making Class X board exams optional

(c) An initial decrease and then an increase in GER

(d) Both A and B

5. Which of the following is the correct solution to the problem of high cut offs?

(a) The assessment of a student's eligibility for higher education should be based on his or her all round performance in class 11 and 12

(b) Quality of education should be increased

(c) Vocational training should be provided to students

(d) All of the above

Passage—2

This October 27, N. R. Narayanan would have been 100 years old. But no one would perform any rites of remembrance. Another day and another time, Narayanan would have been showcased as a prime success story of an India that made one and all 'meritorious' Indians believe that they could find a place under the constitutional sun. A man from an ordinary, humble background could get inducted into the elite Indian Foreign Service — all that counted was his calibre and competence. He had no godfather or a clan to speak up for him.

And that K. R. Narayanan would hear the call of public office, get elected to the Lok Sabha, become the Vice-President of India and preside over the Rajya Sabha and then go on to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan, told the tale of a Nehruvian India where all that mattered was the requisite temperament and character. India could take pride that it was an open system, a democratic arrangement, and society committed to an egalitarian social order — and was comfortable with excellence and accomplishment. In the process, K. R. Narayanan became a prime example of an inclusive India. He had the distinction of being the first Dalit President of India. His elevation to the Rashtrapati Bhawan had more than a token significance; and, even though the new, aggressive Ambedkarites may not think much of him, his election as President did announce the arrival of a new social assertion. It needs to be kept in mind that he was the presidential choice of the United Front coalition, a political dispensation that sincerely believed that if India had to progress and become a great nation, then it must be a country for all Indians, from all strata, unimpeded with competitive parochialism.

In his long innings of public service, K. R. Narayanan conducted himself as a modern man, well-tutored in scientific temper; he became the first Indian public figure when as Vice-President, he shook hands with an HIV-infected person, whereas the self-proclaimed charismatic saviours were shying up making the gesture. He was urbane and cosmopolitan, at ease with the best and the brightest at home; he never felt over-awed and certainly never felt intimidated in the world's chancelleries because of his immense faith in the nobility of the great democratic experiment under way in the country he represented. However, it was

as the President that K. R. Narayanan repaid his debt to the republic. Circumstances demanded that he creatively explored the potential of the office; and, he turned out to be a responsible custodian of the Constitution. In the process he became the protector of constitutional morality, the most cherished republican virtue.

Words: 430

Source: The Hindu, 27th October, 2020

1. Which of the following would characterize a Nehruvian India ?

- (a) A fair society free from partisan approach
- (b) A utopia of illusions, myths and realities
- (c) A place where a person genuinely deserving of an honor would get it
- (d) Both A and C

2. Why did K. R. Narayanan become a prime example of inclusive India?

1: He became the first Dalit President of India.

2: His rise to position was going to set the pace for the macabre politics in India

3: Ambedkarites did not respect him at all

4: He ushered in a new social era.

- (a) Both 1 and 2
- (b) Both 2 and 3
- (c) Both 1 and 4
- (d) NOTA

3. What is the assumption of the lines “he became the first Indian public figure when as Vice-President, he shook hands with an HIV - infected person, whereas the self-proclaimed charismatic saviours were shying up making the gesture”.

- (a) K. R. Narayanan was a scientific man
- (b) He never felt an inferiority complex
- (c) He valued his knowledge above all else
- (d) He was a brave man, who did not follow superstitions

4. Which of the following can be inferred from these lines: “This October 27, K.R. Narayanan would have been 100 years old. But no one would perform any rites of remembrance. Another day and another time, Narayanan would have been showcased as prime success story of an India that made one and all ‘meritorious’ Indian believe that they could find a place under the constitutional sun.” ?

- (a) K. R. Narayanan has not received much love from the public as any decorated leader should have
- (b) K. R. Narayanan’s life could have given the hope of being successful to all Indian but it was sadly, cut short
- (c) K. R. Narayanan’s life has been one of hope, grit and determination
- (d) K. R. Narayanan’s did not get the respect and adulation that he deserved.

5. Which of the following would not strengthen the author’s argument ?

- (a) Many undeserving politicians worked hard to remove K. R. Narayanan’s name from the political history of India
- (b) K. R. Narayanan’s philosophy and autobiography is relevant even today with almost every person emulating his virtues, he remains vivid in public memory.

- (c) K. R. Narayanan was the only person who upheld the ideals of the Republican Constitution
- (d) All of the above

Passage — 3

President Donald Trump's scathing description of India's air as "filthy" may have come as an embarrassment for the government but it has not provided a fierce nationalistic backlash in response to a foreign leader's insult. Looking at the worsening pollution in northern parts of the country, triggered by suitable burning and later the Dussehra festivities, even Mr. Trump's critics found no cudgels to pick up, while others readily agreed with him. The U.S. President's remarks are, of course, gratuitous, considering that he has spent his term dismantling many environmental regulations, including those relating to pollution and emissions from coal plants and automobiles; his criticism of India and China is also incongruent as they have pledged to implement the Paris Agreement while Mr. Trump has pulled the U.S. out of the pact. Unfortunately, mere resolve cannot raise India's stature. Sensors of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards and other private stations across the north currently show PM2.5, or fine particulate matter levels, in the very unhealthy or even hazardous bands. There is mounting concern about the health impacts, but the Centre has so far attempted to brazen it out by denying any confirmed link between bad air quality and a shorter lifespan. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar last year said no Indian study on such a correlation was available. That view has been challenged, and WHO expressed worry about the situation. There is the added dimension of COVID-19 infection today, with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health contending that a one microgramme rise in PM2.5 is associated with an 8% increase in the death rate due to the novel coronavirus, based on long-term exposure data in the U.S.

India is seeking to address its chronic air quality crisis partly by raising emission standards and fuels. The country adopted the BS-VI fuel standard earlier this year, potentially lowering vehicular pollution, although the national air quality standard for annual average PM2.5 is 40 mcg per cubic metre, which is four times the WHO

limit. It took the COVID-19 lockdown to let people experience clean air once again, with the conspicuous absence of vehicles. The unlock phase has reversed the ephemeral experience, as the burning of vehicular fuels has reverted to pre-lockdown levels, with no significant transition to green mobility, such as bicycle use, in urban centres. Continued burning of crop stubble in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh shows that the central sector scheme providing remedies in the form of farm mechanisation and management alternatives needs fresh impetus. No more time can be lost in addressing the crisis of foul air as the country prepares to hasten with development in a post-COVID-19 era.

Source: The Hindu

Words: 441

1. Mark the main idea of the passage:
 - (a) The government is repeatedly denying pollution related problems but this cannot continue for long
 - (b) Trump's criticism may be gratuitous, but India's air quality needs urgent attention.
 - (c) Covid-19 has certainly helped Indians to realize the problem of filthy air as they compare pre and post lockdown air quality.
 - (d) There is an urgent need to address the crisis of pollution and decrease the annual average of PM2.5
2. Which of the following mirrors the author's opinion?
 - (a) People are infuriated at Trump's insult of their motherland
 - (b) Trump's opinion, though justified, still has found supporters
 - (c) Contract to expectation, this time even Trump's critics are praising his observation.
 - (d) Trump's opinion, though unjustified, still has found supporters.

3. Which of the following is a reason for the increasing pollution?
- (a) Lack of resolve on the part of India
 - (b) US not signing the Paris Agreement
 - (c) Lack of an Indian study showing the relationship of PM 2.5 with shorter lifespan
 - (d) Government's reluctance to recognize and accept the deleterious effects of pollution on the Indian population.
4. What is the underlying assumption of these lines: "It took the COVID-19 lockdown to let people experience clean air once again, with the conspicuous absence of vehicles. The unlock phase has reversed the ephemeral experience, as the burning of vehicular fuels has reverted to pre-lockdown levels, with no significant transition to green mobility, such as bicycle, use in urban centres?"
- (a) Experiencing clean air in India is a rarity
 - (b) Using bicycles will lead to a decrease in pollution levels
 - (c) There is no change on pollution levels during and after lockdown
 - (d) Both A and B
5. Which of the following is a solution the author has suggested to decrease the crisis caused by pollution?
- (a) Using more ecofriendly methods of commutation
 - (b) Emphasis on the central sector scheme providing remedies that replace the burning of crops with mechanization
 - (c) We should be using more fossil fuels and relying less on other sources of fuel
 - (d) Both A and B

Passage—4

Democracy is a way of making collective decisions about rules and rulers that respects everyone's opinion equally. A problem immediately arises about the quality of democratic decisions since people have an unequal understanding of the underlying facts - partly because facts are hard, and partly because politics confuses what is true with what is convenient. Therefore democracies create specialist institutions, protected from democratic politics, to investigate what the relevant truths are and report back.

What makes academic scientists special is not their personal characteristics, like their intelligence or moral character. It is their membership in good standing of one of the specialized epistemic communities that investigate particular issues or features of how the world works, from the effects of international migration on labour markets to the geo-physics of climate change; an effort that includes continuous refinement of the best methods to investigate that issue. The outcome of this is not that academics are guaranteed to be correct just look at the history of science. It is that they have access to the best understanding of the topic that those people in the world most dedicated and able to investigate it have yet managed to figure out.

Academics are not moral sages. They merely know better methods and answers than anyone else on specific topics. Hence their narrow but deep epistemic privilege compared to the rest of us. If you reject what relevant academic experts claim about something like GM crop safety then the burden of proof is on you to justify why you think you know better. Epistemology can be thought of as a bet. Imagine placing a \$10,000 bet of your own money on whether global warming is real or not. Would you bet with the overwhelming consensus of the thousands of specialized scientists whose work is aggregated into the IPCC reports? Or would you go with the next best alternative: some consultant hired by Exxon to talk up this year's snowstorms on Fox News?

So much for why academic experts deserve our trust in the first place. The academic activist does not deserve this trust. They substitute righteousness for

genuine expertise, all the while continuing to exploit the credibility that genuine academic experts deserve.

Words: 366

Source: The Philosopher's Beard (Blog)

1. Which of the following is a problem in the concept of democracy?
 - (a) It is based on the assumption that all people will make informed decisions, when practically this is not possible
 - (b) To analyse and comprehend facts is difficult and this affects the type of decisions taken by the masses in a democracy.
 - (c) It cannot be presumed that every person in a democracy can or will decide based on facts
 - (d) All of the above
2. Which of the following is an underlying assumption for these lines: "The outcome of this is not that academics are guaranteed to be correct (just look at the history of science)"?
 - (a) Given their membership in institutes that validate social facts, academic scientist should always be correct, unfortunately they are not.
 - (b) The history of science shows as that academic scientists have always been correct in their understanding
 - (c) Both A and B
 - (d) NOTA
3. Which of the following is a characteristic of academic scientists?
 - (a) Academic scientists are a part of the specialist institutions created in order to report the factual truths
 - (b) The morality and intelligence is higher than that of the common man

(c) The opinions of academic scientists are based on facts and therefore, they are always correct in their assessment

(d) NOTA

4. Which of the following is a correct inference?

(a) An academic activist unduly cashes on the righteousness of a genuine academic expert

(b) A major advantage that academics have lies in the refinement of their methods

(c) Academics know much more than the average common man does about their topic of expertise

(d) All of the above

5. Which of the following strengthens the author's opinion?

(a) One of the reasons as to why people believe academics is because they have no other better alternative

(b) If people do not believe what years of specialized research is showing then they would have nothing to bank upon

(c) One of the ways to disprove the academics is to prove your own observations correctly

(d) All of the above

Passage—5

The year 2020 has been a watershed moment for relations between India and China following the most serious clashes between the two countries in the Galwan region of Ladakh since the 1962 war; relations between New Delhi and Beijing are at new lows. These events have had a cascading effect on the very thought process of foreign policy, not just for New Delhi with regard to its neighbourhood but also Beijing's understanding of its own threat perceptions as well.

Strategic autonomy is today a term New Delhi's power corridors are well-acquainted with. According to a former Foreign Secretary of India, Vijay Gokhale, the ideation of 'strategic autonomy' is much different from the Nehruvian era thinking of 'non-alignment', Speaking in January 2019, Mr. Gokhale said: "The alignment is issue based, and not ideological."

For Beijing and New Delhi, one region where both contesting neighbours have employed similar versions of 'non-alignment' thinking is in West Asia, and the ethos of equitable engagement with the three poles of power in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel, without stepping into the entanglements of the region's multi-layered conflicts and political fissure. Such were the commonalities in thinking that at one point in time, suggestions were made to construct an 'importers OPEC' in order to put forward the interests of major oil importers, mostly developing Asian economics, against the producers cartel. However, the year 2020 and the tectonic geopolitical shifts it has brought in its wake, from deteriorating U.S.-China ties, to the COVID-19 pandemic that started in China, followed by the Ladakh crisis, is forcing a drastic change in the geopolitical playbooks of the two Asian giants, and by association, global security architectures as well.

Pre-dating 2020, India's out-reach to West Asia sharpened since 2014 with the coming of the Narendra Modi government. As the powerful and oil-rich Gulf states looked for investment alternatives away from the West to deepen their own strategic depth, persuaded by Mr. Modi's centralised decision-making style,

India doubled down on its relations with the likes of Abu Dhabi and Riyadh, giving open economic and political preference to the larger Gulf region.

Words: 351

Source: The Hindu

1. What does the author mean when he says “The year 2020 has been a watershed moment for relations between India and China”?

(a) That the relationship between India and China has changed forever since 2020

(b) Watershed is a geographical term, originally it denotes the area that drains into a single river is the watershed for that river just like Galwan valley.

(c) Both the countries have to rethink their economic policies from now onwards

(d) Both A and C

2. Which of the following is an underlying assumption for these lines: “Strategic autonomy is today a term New Delhi’s power corridors are well acquainted with. According to a former Foreign Secretary of India, Vijay Gokhale, the ideation of ‘strategic autonomy’ is much different from the Nehruvian era thinking of ‘non-alignment’. Speaking in January 2019, Mr. Gokhale said: “The alignment is issue based, and not ideological”.

(a) Nehruvian era thinking of ‘non-alignment’ is issue based and is strictly different from the policy of strategic autonomy

(b) Strategic autonomy is a policy of alignment that precedes and predates it. Many nations follow it to this day

(c) Strategic autonomy is a policy of aligning with countries based on the same standpoints, it is dynamic and gambit based

(d) Nehruvian era thinking of 'non-alignment' benefitted the country in one of its worst crises but stands irrelevant today

3. What could "Strategic autonomy" mean ?

(a) It denotes the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without being constrained in any manner by other states

(b) It is the opposite of the Nehruvian era of non-alignment

(c) It is a policy being adopted by more and more nations worldwide in lieu of the recent pandemic and its effect on the geopolitical strategies of various countries

(d) All of the above

4. Which of the following is a result of change in the geopolitical playbooks of India and China ?

(a) Increased interest in West Asia

(b) Strengthening commitment to Abu Dhabi and Riyadh

(c) Deteriorating U.S.-China ties

(d) Both A and B

5. Mark the main idea of the passage :

(a) To show the difference between strategic autonomy and non-alignment

(b) To give an idea to the reader as to how fickle the international relations of India really are under the Modi regime

(c) To show how the relationship between China and US has changed and its effect on the rest of the world

(d) The engagement by India and China in the West Asia region is a good example of their metamorphosing approaches.

Passage—6

The global pandemic is marching on. As I had said at the JRD Tata Oration, hosted by the Population Foundation of India on its 50th anniversary, of the lessons I have learned over the last nine or 10 months, the most important one is the significance of investing in public health and primary healthcare. Countries that invested in primary healthcare over the past decade or two are reaping the benefits now. Another lesson is the positive role of science and scientists. The global collaboration between scientists to take forward advances in knowledge so that science is continuously informing our response to the pandemic has been encouraging.

In India, the pandemic has had a differential impact on women. Despite gaps, India has seen progress in maternal mortality. There have been significant gains in infant mortality, institutional births and replacement level fertility. However, there is still a high unmet need for family planning and improved access is required to contraceptive services and safe abortions. The government need to be proactive regarding this.

A recent modeling study showed that because of the reduction in coverage of essential services, the prevalence of wasting in children could increase by 10% to 50%.

COVID-19 has also disrupted the education system. It has also adversely affected access to nutritious food as a huge number of children depend on school meals. Another worrying development is the surge in domestic violence. In India, a third of women said that they had previously experienced domestic violence, but less than 1% sought help from the police. Many women have lost their work and livelihood. More women than men work in the informal economy and therefore their income fell by over 60% during the first month of the pandemic.

A few months ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized the importance of gender analysis and gender-responsive public health policies. One of the major issues is the lack of availability of data that is disaggregated by sex and age. We also do not have data on violence against women and children. Over

70% of countries reported partial or complete disruption of immunization services. Other services disrupted include diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases, cancer diagnosis and treatment, malaria and TB case detection, treatment facility-based births, and urgent blood transfusion, as well as emergency surgery. This will have a huge impact. On the one hand, essential services have to be provided; on the other hand, we must ensure financial protection. This can be guaranteed only if there is either a health coverage scheme.

Sources: The Hindu

1. Mark the main idea of the passage :
 - (a) The many lessons from COVID-19
 - (b) What we have done so far, and what all remains to be done
 - (c) The effects of COVID-19 public health, especially of women
 - (d) All of the above
2. Which of the following strengthens the author's opinion ?
 - (a) 23% of girls in India aged between 12 to 16 years dropped out of school in the first half of 2020
 - (b) 60% more material deaths are likely to occur in the year 2020 because interventions like the administration of uterotonics and antibiotics, and clean birth environments, are no longer available because of the pandemic.
 - (c) In India, the number of women and girls living in extreme poverty is expected to increase from 87 million to 100 million this year.
 - (d) All of the above
3. Which of the following is a solution to the problems discussed by the author?

- (a) Schemes like Ayushman Bharat, or private health insurance should be encouraged
- (b) Services providing family planning, contraception, antenatal care should be supported
- (c) Countries should collect data, report and analyze it, disaggregated by sex, and include responses to violence against women as an essential service.
- (d) All of the above

4. Which of the following weakens the author's opinion?

- (a) In spite of having the best health coverage scheme, if there is corruption then the benefits will not reach the common man.
- (b) India has improved its material mortality rate from 16% to 7.5%
- (c) Family planning and adopting methods of contraception cannot be promoted to a great extent in India because of strong religious and traditional considerations, so the government cannot really do much
- (d) Both A and C

5. What else could be done to improve the health of Indian citizens?

- (a) Platforms like ECHO have been used in many States to train healthcare workers and the government's e-Sanjeevani platform is enabling telemedicine appointments.
- (b) At the Aravind Eye Hospital in Puducherry, for example, they did an experiment with shared immunizations Programmes. This seemed to result in better health outcomes as well as higher productivity.
- (c) Apps like Naari Samman should be introduced to curb domestic violence.
- (d) All of the above

Passage—7

The India - U.S. Foreign and Defence Ministers meet for the “2+2” mechanism just a week before the U.S. elections is proof that bilateral ties between the two countries are on a firm footing. Ostensibly, the purpose was to conduct an annual review of ties and to wrap up the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for Geo-spatial Cooperation, the last of the three enabling agreements which will facilitate easier interoperability between the Indian and American defence forces. Other agreements signed or reviewed included those in the areas of health and COVID-19 cooperation, building strategic petroleum reserves in the U.S., renewable energy, space, cyberspace, counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics. In the joint statement they issued, the Ministers also called on Pakistan to take “immediate, sustained and irreversible action” against cross-border terror group on its soil and to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and 2016 Uri and Pathankot strikes. However, the timing and the tenor of the American pronouncements prior to the visit made it clear that the larger import of the visit for the Trump administration was about dealing with China. In every interaction, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo referred to the challenge from Beijing, of the need to build a counter collation to the “Chinese Communist Party”, and to further U.S. Indo-Pacific policy in this regard. In India, he made a reference to the “increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China” and mentioned Indian soldiers killed in clashes with the PLA on the LAC in June. He is taking the same message to his next stops. In Colombo and Male on Wednesday — he is also visiting Indonesia — Mr. Pompeo raised the need to counter and provide alternatives to what he called China’s “bad deals, violations of sovereignty and lawlessness on land and sea”.

For New Delhi, the visit by the U.S. officials was a way to demonstrate that the bilateral relationship is “poll-proof” and will grow regardless of the November 3 election result. The BECA agreement signed is an important addition to India’s defence and strategic capabilities, and it is significant that India-U.S. ties have been reaffirmed now given that it could take some months for the U.S. administration to restart bilateral engagements post-elections. While welcoming their U.S. interlocutors and taking ties forward, however, it is significant that the

government has chosen not to enter into the comments made by Mr. Pompeo on India's China challenge, in keeping with New Delhi's stated policy that the LAC tensions are a "bilateral matter". The conspicuous silence from External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in response to Mr. Pompeo's comments on China is also a sobering reminder that while India appreciates support from the U.S. it retains its strategic autonomy in dealing with threats and troubles with its biggest neighbour.

Words: 420

Source: The Hindu

1. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree?
 - (a) While strengthening its U.S. ties, India must not let this interfere in the dispute with China
 - (b) The cordial ties between India and US will continue irrespective of the result of US elections
 - (c) The main aim of the "2+2" was about US's standpoint on dealing with China
 - (d) All of the above
2. Which of the following strengthens the author's argument?
 - (a) Narcotic use is one of the problems that affects both India and US and efforts should be made to curb it.
 - (b) Space agreements between India and US have been revisited and renewed
 - (c) Both India and US have the same outlook in terms of Pakistan and its pro terror stand
 - (d) All of the above
3. Which of the following is an underlying assumption for "The conspicuous silence from External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in response to Mr. Pompeo's

comments on China is also a sobering reminder that while India appreciates support from the U.S., it retains its strategic autonomy in dealing with threats and troubles with its biggest neighbour”.

(a) India has cordial relations with the US but it will not take any stand if a war ensues between US and China.

(b) India’s issue with China is strictly its own and India will deal with it on its own terms

(c) NOTA

(d) Both A and B

4. Mark the main idea of the passage :

(a) To describe the method in which India-U.S. Foreign and Defence Ministers meet was conducted

(b) To show that India is one of the strongest allied of the U.S.

(c) To emphasize the fact that India will need the support of US in its endeavor of resisting Chinese transgression, hence, it should support US whole heartedly

(d) NOTA

5. Mark the correct inferences of the passage:

(a) U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is looking in build a counter group that can face and challenge China, with the help of other countries of South East Asia.

(b) Prior to BECA, two other deals have been signed to facilitate ease of operability between Indian and American defence forces

(c) The US believes that the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks were brought about the Pakistan

(d) All of the above

Passage-8

This morning's newspapers front-paged Mohan Rao Bhagwat's Vijayadashami address. This was not only unprecedented, but also an extremely significant milestone. Mainstream media, so used to denigrating and ridiculing the RashtriyaSwayamsevak Sangh, was now publishing the statements of its Sarsanghchalak as headline news. This is because of the RSS saga of unwavering determination, tyaga (sacrifice), and tupascharya (askesis) in the service of the nation.

Bhagwat's one-hour speech was wide-ranging, deeply thought-out and covered a variety of issues of national importance including the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crisis, internal and external security, agriculture, the Chinese threat, in addition to Hindutva, and the future of India. After hearing him out, no one would say that the RSS Lacks in either intellectual or political handwidth. More than his predecessors, Bhagwat has succeeded in main streaming and broad-basing the RSS. Though this year's celebrations were much muted, with an audience of just 50 on account of COVID-19, Bhagwat's speed was stellar and statesmanlike.

Not only is the RSS the world's largest voluntary association, but has germinated, nurtured, and established hundreds of subsidiary and ancillary organisations, Besides the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), India's largest labour union, it is also the progenitor of the student union, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), RSS has helped shape the education sector in its own unique yet significant way.

But its most visible success is, of course, the current ruling party, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Like its predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the BJP was inspired, seeded and promoted by the RSS. Even today, most of the BJP's top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, began as RSS volunteers.

Reviewing the major national development since the last Dussehra, Bhagwat spoke approvingly of the changes in Article 370, the Ram Janmabhoomi verdict, and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), all brought about through due

legislative process. He deplored those who “mised our Muslim brothers by propagating a false notion” and regretted the damage to “communal harmony” by the agitators. He claimed that it unexpectedly reinforced simple and age-old Indian values such as removing footwear before entering one’s home, washing hands and feet on returning indoors, and, most importantly, helping those whose needs are greater than ours. According to Bhagwat, although COVID-19 had shrunk the economy, resulting in job losses and privation for millions, India had the social and political resilience to come out triumphant.

Words: 440

Source: The Print

1. Primary Purpose of the passage:
 - (a) To show that RSS does not lack intellectual bandwidth
 - (b) To map the success story of RSS
 - (c) To show that journalism is biased in India.
 - (d) Both A and B
2. How did this transformation of RSS from denigration to mainstream news come about ?
 - (a) This is due to the fact that the current Prime Minister started his political career with RSS
 - (b) This is because RSS has numerous organizations under its wing
 - (c) This because the “Hindu Samaj” associates itself with the ideology of RSS
 - (d) NOTA

3. Which of the following strengthens the author's opinion?

- (a) Founded by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in Nagpur in 1925, the RSS, after decades of calumny and opposition, occupies centre-stage in Indian society and policy today.
- (b) Lakhs of EkalVidyalayas (single-teacher learning centres), SaraswatiShishu Mandirs (primary schools), and full-scale Vidya Bharati schools have been sponsored and supported by the RSS.
- (c) Under Bhagwat's guidance the members of RSS have increased with an estimated membership upward of 8 million.
- (d) All of the above

4. Mark the correct inference :

- (a) RSS is a major part of India's social and political circuit
- (b) The success story of RSS is one of grit, perseverance and determination
- (c) The decisions of the changes in Article 370, the Ram Jannabhoomi verdict, and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) were correct, but perpetrators of communal discord used them to their own advantage
- (d) All of the above

Which of the following is incorrect?

- (a) The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was not conceptualized by the RSS
- (b) Bhagwat focussed on the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic
- (c) Mr. Bhagwat urged each household to adopt healthier and more eco-friendly habits
- (d) NOTA

Passage—9

Peninsular India, is an endowment that translates into several blessings, including India's advantageous location for trade and a favourable climate system that ensures soil fertility and agricultural fecundity. However, our callous disregard to damage done to the Indian ocean system by marine pollution and climate change, is now resulting in severe repercussions, particularly the devastating cyclones on the eastern and western coast.

The extreme fury of Amphan and the ongoing mayhem in Telangana should not make us think that 2020 is an isolated case of severe weather events. Starting with Sidr in 2007, the Bay of Bengal has witnessed more than 15 big cyclones, each leaving a trail of a devastation behind it. Evidence already suggests that while the COVID-19 induced prolonged lockdowns and reduced human movement may have provided air pollution reprieve, the use of extensive plastic and other non-recyclable material in food packets, hand sanitisers, masks, gloves etc. has exacerbated the pollution in the oceans. Credible research shows that in the next ten years, 100 million tonnes of plastic waste could be dumped into the seas. Almost 40 percent of the world's population lives within 100 km of a coast. One-fifty of India's population is known to live along coasts. Rising ocean levels are already imperiling habitations. Environmentalists have conveyed that vast tracts of cities such as Mumbai, Miami, Ho Chi Min city, Bangkok, Shanghai, Manila, Venice, Rotterdam, Alexandria could be submerged under water by 2050.

A coherent joints effort of the civil society at all levels is needed to tackle the multiple factors that impair ocean's health including plastic pollution, industrial waste, degradation of marine ecosystem and global warming. Sadly with several global leaders preferring to indulge in one-upmanship and showmanship, such cooperation looks unlikely, it is on us as individuals to prevent this catastrophe. The imminent demise of Paris accord is an example of myopia and insularity that afflicts our leaders today. Amidst all their grandstanding the temperatures continue to rise, leading to galactical deluges, increasing carbon emissions and disturbances in oceans that are is disrupting the delicate environmental balance resulting in extreme weather events that endanger the well being of the entire

planet. While the danger to these cities is imminent, the correlation between catastrophes and degradation of oceans should awaken us to the urgency of a concerted and committed action plan. Oceans sustain earth's climate, food chains, agriculture, rainfall, water and oxygen in the atmosphere. To neglect and to damage this magnanimous giver, is to imperil our own existence. To quote former US President John F. Kennedy, "We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea...we are going back from whence we came."

Words: 444

Source: The Print

1. Primary Purpose of the passage:

- (a) To show that polluting the oceans will have serious consequences for India
- (b) To warn us about the past cyclones
- (c) To neglect and to damage the oceans, is to endanger our own existence
- (d) Both A and C

2. Mark the correct inference :

- (a) India's geographical location is naturally suited for trade and agricultural prosperity
- (b) Lockdown has decreased air pollution but increased pollution in the oceans
- (c) Catastrophes await us, if we continue our reckless destruction of the Indian oceanic systems
- (d) All of the above

3. Which of the following is a suggested solution to the problem of pollution in the oceans ?

(a) A coherent joint effort of the civil society at all levels is needed to tackle the multiple of actors that impair ocean's health including plastic pollution, industrial waste, degradation of marine ecosystem and global warming.

(b) While government and international organisations such as the World Bank are doing their bit, these will not be enough on their own, every individual should make an effort to prevent ocean pollution

(c) Reduced dumping of waste in the ocean

(d) All of the above

4. Which of the following strengthens the author's argument ?

(a) The Maldives government trying to save several islands in this beautiful archipelago from being submerged under water

(b) The government of Indonesia has already started work on building a new capital, as Jakarta sinks at an alarming pace.

(c) Cyclone Ockhi in 2017 was a precursor to the myriad storms brewing in the western segments of the Indian Ocean, it was brought on by water pollution.

(d) All of the above

5. Mark the correct inference :

(a) We don't seem to have learnt the lesson from cyclones like Amphan and continue to dump toxic wastes in the Indian Ocean.

(b) World leaders are parochial and are unable to see the far reaching consequences of their narrow minded actions on the condition of oceans

(c) Indiscretionary dumping of waste in oceans has far reaching consequences on the weather patterns, agriculture and disrupts the ecosystem

(d) All of the above

Passage — 10

The second and last US presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden was another round in a duel between two very distinct forms of masculinity. An excellent moderator, Kristen Welker, combined with rule changes that reduced the candidates ability to interrupt each other, toned down the vitriol and helped create a calmer debate, with more room for discussion of policy. But this didn't change the fundamental differences between the two men.

For this debate, the Trump campaign recognised the need for the president to show more self-restraint, while Biden stuck to his script as a more conventional politician.

By repeatedly defining himself as a “strong man leader” and demeaning Biden’s so-called “weak” manhood, Trump has turned the election into a masculinity contest.

As in 2016, Trump’s campaign is asserting a strong, authoritarian masculinity as a key plank of his re-election strategy. This was illustrated by the maskless Trump standing defiantly on the White House balcony on return from his hospitalisation with COVID-19. Men’s monopoly of the presidency has frequently meant that election campaigns have turned into masculinity contests. Since the 1960s, from Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan onwards, Republican candidates have perpetuated as masculine mystique around the presidency – the myth that men bring some kind of special magic to the office. Repeatedly positioning their party candidates as “strong men”, Republicans have sought to undermine the masculinity of their Democratic opponents, depicting them as weak and soft on issues like crime and foreign policy.

in its historical context, Trump’s intensified focus on men and masculinity simply continues the Republican tradition of playing “the man card” in presidential election campaigns. This masculine poly appeals to the gendered expectations and longings of some of those they lead. It also perpetuates another Republican myth; that real – white – men don’t vote Democrat. This theatrical performance

sought to reinforce Trump's masculine image of strong leadership supported by his claims to be a "warrior" now "immune from the virus". In the US, leadership in public spheres has historically been viewed as the province of men but Biden has not made masculinity an explicit theme of his campaign, but the contrast to Trump is unmistakable. He presents an understated, "old school" US masculinity characterised by caution, thoughtfulness and benevolent leadership. His paternalistic masculinity emphasises traditional qualities such as equality, trustworthiness, reliability, integrity, decency and morality. Biden's masculinity is premised on working hard, playing fair, having character, respecting science and knowledge, and behaving honourably: a paternalistic form of masculinity claiming to protect women and children.

Words: 417

David Collinson is Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Organisations, Lancaster University and Jeff Hearn is Professor of Sociology, University of Huddersfield

1. Mark the correct inference :

(a) US voters have to choose between two profoundly different versions of manhood in a race being enacted in highly gendered ways.

(b) Had certain changes of format not been made, the debate between the two presidential candidates would have been much more caustic.

(c) Although both Trump and Biden are white, old affluent men, they embody distinct and competing masculine identities: one authoritarian and the other paternalistic.

(d) All of the above

2. By standing maskless Trump, wanted to achieve which of the following :

(a) This claim to masculine power – to have beaten the virus – plays well with those voters who believe that masculinity, particularly white masculinity, is under attack.

(b) He wanted to further the Republican narrative in use since the time of Ronald Reagan

(c) The message was clear: a vote for Trump is a vote for strong and decisive leadership

(d) All of the above

3. Which of the following supports the author's opinion regarding history of leadership in US ?

(a) All 45 US presidents have been men, 44 of them white.

(b) In the US, for the first 100 years of the presidency, only white men had the vote.

(c) Both A and B

(d) Barring, Barack Obama no other US President has ever been on color.

4. Which of the following strengthens the author's viewpoint ?

(a) At a rally in Sanford, Florida in early October, Trump re-emphasised how powerful he was now feeling. The warm-up music was the song Macho Man by Village and to stop what the Trump campaign calls the "socialist" tendencies of the Democrats.

(b) Trump's masculine authoritarianism prioritises dominance, aggression and winning at all costs. This was clear in the first presidential debate when Trump interrupted Biden at least 128 times in 90 minutes, yelling insults at his opponent.

(c) This same "tough guy", often overblown narrative shapes Trump's response to the pandemic, including his disdain for mask wearing and social distancing, which he and his supporters have dismissed as "unmanly".

(d) All of the above

5. With which of the following is the paternalistic approach of Joe Biden consistent ?
- (a) Seeking to bring America together, Biden speak of a less-polarised future when politicians could work together to create a consensus-based politics.
 - (b) Biden is a pragmatic politician who knows how to persuade, charm and negotiate compromise.
 - (c) As a long-serving senator. Biden positions himself as a seasoned protector of the nation in its time of need.
 - (d) All of the above

Answer & Explanations

Passage - 1

1. **Answer:**C

Explanations: C is correct as the passage mentions that But the aspirations of Delhi's youth are not met by adequate high-quality Higher Educations (HEIs, including universities and standalone institutions). Leading to unreasonably

2. **Answer:** A

Explanation:A is correct the passage mentions that the inference of these lines:" In some HEIs, for courses such as computer science of English literature, the cut off is in the high 90s, even for aspirants from socio-economically disadvantaged groups" Is only the first option. Option 2 refers to 90 marks whereas the cut of talked about is high 90's

3. **Answer:** D

Explanation:D is correct the passage mentions that Delhi's gross enrolment ratio (GER) is 46.3 per cent (the national GER is 26.3 per cent). This means that almost every second youth in Delhi between the age of 18 and 23 is enrolled in a higher education programme. School percentages are not good markers of an individual's readiness to do higher education _ and give

the serious drawbacks of standardized assessments in our board exams, it is best to get rid of them at the earliest.

4. **Answer :A**

Explanation:A is correct as the passage mentions that NEP 2020 recommends moving into a higher education ecosystem that consists of large multi-disciplinary HEIs, offering under – graduate and graduate programmes, one in every, or nearly every districts, in the country

5. **Answer: D**

Explanation:D is correct as the passage mentions that Unless something transformative is done, we are headed towards a rise in the number of unemployed graduates (due to poor quality education) and a generation of disenchanted youth (due to the systemic failure in equipping them with required skill sets). Using school-leaving marks to create cut- offs is a lazy option employed by the HEIs to reduce the number of applicants, before launching their education-and given the serious drawbacks of standardized assessments in our board exams, it is best to get rid of them at the earliest. Instead, school – leaving certificates will have to be based on an array of assessments, including a student’s performance across the secondary level – classes IX to XII.

Passage – 2

1. **Answer: D**

Explanation:D is correct as the passage mentions that A man from an ordinary, humble background could get inducted into the elite Indian Foreign Service – all that counted was his calibre and competence. He has no godfather or a clan to speak up for him.

And that K.R. Narayanan would hear the call of public office, get elected to the Lok Sabha, become the Vice-President of India and preside over the Rajya Sabha, and, then, go on to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan, told the tale of a Nehruvian India where all that mattered was the requisite temperament and character. India could take pride that it was an open system, a democratic arrangement, and a

society committed to an egalitarian social order –and was comfortable with excellence and accomplishment

2. **Answer: C**

Explanation:C is correct as the passage mentions that in the process, K.R. Narayanan became a prime example of an inclusive India. He had the distinction of being the first Dalit President of India. His elevation to the Rashtrapati Bhavan had more than a token significance; and, even though the new, aggressive Ambedkarites may not think much of him, his election as President did announce the arrival of a new social assertion.

3. **Answer: A**

Explanation:A is correct as the passage mentions that in his long innings of public service, K.R. Narayanan conducted himself as a modern man, well – tutored in scientific temper, he became the first Indian public figure when as Vice – President, he shook hands with an HIV- infected person, whereas the self- proclaimed charismatic.

4. **Answer: D**

Explanation:D is correct as the passage mentions that Another day and another time, Narayanan would have been showcased as a prime success story of an India that made one and all ‘meritorious’ Indians believe that they could find a place under the constitutional sun.”?

5. **Answer: D**

Explanation:D is correct as all the 3 options do not strengthen the author’s contention.

Passage – 3

1. **Answer: B**

Explanations: B is correct as the passage mentions that President Donald Trump’s scathing description of India’s air as “filthy’ may have come as an embarrassment for the government, but it has not provoked a fierce nationalistic backlash in response to a foreign leader’s insult. Looking at the worsening pollution in northern parts of the country, triggered by stubble burning and later the Dussehra festivities, even Mr. trump’s critics found no

cudgels to pick up, while others readily agreed with him. The U.S. President's remarks are, of course, gratuitous, considering that he has spent his term dismantling many environmental regulations, including those relating to pollution and emissions from coal plants and automobiles; his criticism of India and China is also incongruent as they have pledged to implement the Paris Agreement while Mr. Trump has pulled the U.S out of the pact. Continued burning of crop stubble in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh shows that the central sector scheme providing remedies in the form of foarm mechanization and management alternatives needs fresh impetus. Not more time can be lost in addressing the crisis of foul air, as the country prepares to hasten with development in a post-COVID-19 era.

2. Answer: D

Explanation: Dis correct as the passage mentions that looking at the worsening pollution in northern parts of the country, triggered by stubble burning and later the Dussehra festivities, even Mr. Trump's ciritics found no cudgels to pick up, while others readily agrees with him.

3. Answer :D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions thatThere is mounting concern about the health impacts, but the Centre has so far attempted to brazen it out by denying any confirmedlink between bad air quality and a shorter lifespan. Environment Minister Prakash Javesekar last year said no study on such a correclation was available.

4. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that "It took the COVID-19 lockdown to let people experience clean air once again, with the conspicuous absence of vehicles." And "with no significant transition to green mobility, such as bicycle use, in urban centres"

5. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Continued burning of crop stubble in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh shows that the central sector scheme providing remedies in the form of farm mechanization and management alternatives needs fresh impetus. No

more time can be lost in addressing the crisis of foul air, as the country prepares to hasten with development in a post- COVID-19 era.

Passage - 4

1. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Democracy is a way of making collective decisions about rules and rulers that respects everyone's opinion equally. A problem immediately arises about the quality of democratic decisions since people have an unequal understanding of the underlying facts – partly because facts are hard, and partly because politics confuses what is true with what is convenient.

2. **Answer:** A

Explanation: A is correct as the passage mentions that, The outcome of this is not that academics are guaranteed to be correct (just look at the history of science). It is that they have access to the best understanding of the topic that those people in the world most dedicated and able to investigate it have yet managed to figure out.

3. **Answer:** A

Explanation: A is correct as the passage mentions that, It is their membership in good standing of one of the specialized epistemic communities that investigate particular issues or features of how the world works, from the effects of international migration on labour markets to the geo-physics of climate change; an effort that includes continuous refinement of the best methods to investigate that issue.

4. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Academics are not moral sages. They merely know better methods and answers than anyone else on specific topics. Hence their narrow but deep epistemic privilege compared to the rest of us. So much for why academic experts deserve our trust in the first place. The academic activist does not deserve this trust. They substitute righteousness for genuine expertise, all the while continuing to exploit the credibility that genuine academic experts deserve.

5. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Hence their narrow but deep epistemic privilege compared to the rest of us. If you reject what relevant academic experts claim about something like GM crop safety then the burden of proof is on you to justify why your own money on whether global warming is real or nor. Would you bet with the overwhelming consensus of the thousands of specialized scientists whose work is aggregated into the IPCC reports? Or would you go with the next best alternative: some consultant hired by Exxon to talk up this year's snowstorms on Fox news?

Passage - 5

1. **Answer: A**

Explanation: A is correct as the watershed moment is a moment from where things have changed. It is a historic moment after which things change forever and never remain the same.

2. **Answer: C**

Explanation: C is correct as the passage mentions that the ideation of 'strategic autonomy' is much different from the Nehruvian era thinking of 'non-alignment', Speaking in January 2019, Mr. Gokhale said: "The alignment is issue based, and not ideological." Which means that strategic autonomy is an issue or gambit based strategy where alignment with any country depends on the issue unlike Nehruvian era where alignment was ideological.

3. **Answer: A**

Explanation: A is correct as the mentions that Strategic autonomy is today a term New Delhi's power corridors are well-acquainted with. According to a former Foreign Secretary of India, Vijay Gokhale, the ideation of 'strategic autonomy' is much different from the Nehruvian era thinking of 'non-alignment'. Speaking in January 2019, Mr. Gokhale said: "The alignment is issue based, and not ideological."

It is not necessary that all nations are adopting this policy.

4. **Answer: D**

Explanation: D is correct as the question asks the result of change in the geopolitical playbooks of India and China which is India's out – reach Asia sharpened since 2014 with the coming of the Narendra Modi government. As the powerful and oil-rich Gulf states looked for investment alternatives away from the West to deepen their own strategic depth, persuaded by Mr. Modi's centralized decision-making style, India doubled down on its relations with the likes of Abu Dhabi and Riyadh.

5. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the main idea of the passage is 'The engagement by India and China in the West Asia region is a good example of their metamorphosing approaches since the passage talk about a change in the outlook of both the countries especially their approach of West Asia.'

Passage - 6

1. **Answer:** C

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that In India, the pandemic has had a differential impact on women and goes on to describe this at length. It also provides an input on what we have already done and what is left to be done.

2. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that COVID-19 has also disrupted the education system. It has also adversely affected access to nutritious food as a huge number of children depend on school meals. Another worrying development is the surge in domestic violence. In India, a third of women said that they had previously experienced domestic violence, but less than 1% sought help from the police. Many women have lost their work and livelihoods. More women than men work in the informal economy and therefore income fell by over 60% during the first month of the pandemic.

3. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that However, there is still a high unmet need for family planning and improved access is required to contraceptive services and safe abortions. On the one hand, essential

services have to be provided; on the other hand, we must ensure financial protection. This can be guaranteed only if there is either a health coverage scheme.

4. **Answer: D**

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that in India, the pandemic has had a differential impact on women. Despite gaps, India has seen progress in maternal mortality. There have been significant gains in infant mortality, institutional births and replacement level fertility. However, there is still a high unmet need for family planning and improved access is required to contraceptive services and safe abortions. The government need to be proactive regarding this.

5. **Answer:D**

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that In India, a third of women said that they had previously experienced domestic violence, but less than 1% sought help from the police. Many women have lost their work and livelihoods. More women than men work in the informal economy and therefore their income fell by over 60% during the first month of the pandemic. We also do not have data on violence against women and children. Over 70% of countries reported partial or complete disruption of immunization services.

Passage - 7

1. **Answer: D**

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that However, the timing and the tenor of the American pronouncements prior to the visit made it clear that the larger import of the visit for the Trump administration was about dealing with China

2. **Answer: D**

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Other agreements signed or reviewed included those in the areas of health and COVID-19 cooperation, building strategic petroleum reserves in the U.S., renewable energy, space, cyberspace, counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics. In the Joint statement they issued, the Ministers also called on Pakistan to take

“immediate, sustained and irreversible action” against crossborder terror groups on its soil, and to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and 2016 URI and Pathankot strikes.

3. Answer: B

Explanation: B is correct as the passage mentions that While welcoming their U.S. interlocutors and taking ties forward, however, it is significant that the government has chosen not to enter into the comments made by Mr. Pompeo on India challenge, in keeping with New Delhi’s stated policy that the LAC tensions are a “bilateral matter”.

4. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage emphasizes While strengthening its U.S. ties, India must not let this interfere in the dispute with China.

5. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo referred to the challenge from Beijing of the need to build a counter coalition to the “Chinese Communist Party”, and to further U.S. Indo Pacific policy in this regard. In India, he made a reference to the “increasing aggression and destabilizing activities by China” and mentioned Indian soldiers killed in clashes with the PLA on the LAC in June. He is taking the same message to his next stops. In Colombo and Male on Wednesday – he is also visiting Indonesia – Mr. Pompeo raised the need to counter and provide alternatives to what he called China’s “bad deals, violations of sovereignty and lawlessness on land and sea”.

Passage - 8

1. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that This morning’s newspapers front-paged Mohan Rao Bhagwat’s Vijayadashami address. This was not only unprecedented, but also an extremely significant milestone. Mainstream Media, so used to denigrating and ridiculing the rashriyaSwayamsevak Sangh, was now publishing the statements of its Sarsanghchalak as headline news.

2. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that “This is because of the RSS saga of unwavering determination, syaga (sacrifice), and tapascharya (askesis) in the service of the nation.”

3. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Not only is the RSS the world’s largest voluntary association, but has germinated, nurtured, and established hundreds of subsidiary and ancillary organisations. Besides the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), India;s largest labour union, it is also the progenitor of the student union, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). RSS has helped shape the education sector in its own unique yet significant way.

4. Answer : D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that But its most visible success is, of course, the current ruling party, Bharatiya Janata party (BJP). Like its predecessor, the Bhartiya Jana Sangh, the BJP was inspired, seeded, and promoted by the RSS. Even today, most of the BJP’s top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, began as RSS volunteers.

5. **Answer:** A

Explanation: A is correct as the passage mentions that Like its predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana sangh, the BJP was inspired, seeded, and promoted by the RSS. Even today, most of the BJP’s top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, began as RSS volunteers

Passage – 9

1. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that One-fifth of India’s population is known to live along coasts. Rising ocean levels are already imperiling habitations. Environmentalists have conveyed that vast tracts of cities such as Mumbai, Miami, Ho Chi Min city, Bangkok, Shanghai, Manila, Venice, Rotterdam, Alexandria could be submerged under water by 2050. Even as the Maldives government of Indonesia has already started work on building a new capital, as Jakarta sinks at an alarming pace.

2. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Amidst all their grandstanding, the temperatures continue to rise, leading to galactical deluges, increasing carbon emissions and disturbances in oceans that are is disrupting the delicate environmental balance resulting in extreme weather events that end anger the well being of the entire planet. While the danger to these cities is imminent, the correlation between catastrophes and degradation of oceans should awaken us to the urgency of a concerted and committed action plan. Evidence have already suggests that while the COVID-19 induced prolonged lockdowns and reduced human movement may have provided air pollution reprieve, the use of extensive plastic and other non- recyclable material in food packets, hand sanitisers, masks,

3. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that However, our callous disregard to damage done to the Indian ocean system by marine pollution and climate change, is now resulting in severe repercussions, particularly the devastating cyclones on the eastern and western coast. Sadly with several global leaders preferring to indulge in one- upmanship and showman ship, such cooperation looks unlikely, it is on us as individuals to prevent this catastrophe.

4. Answer: D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that One-fifth of India's population is known to live along coasts. Rising ocean levels are already imperiling habitations. Environmentalists have conveyed that vast tracts of cities such as Mumbai, Niami, Ho chi Min city, Bangkok, Shanghai, Manila, Venice, Rotterdam, Alexandria could be submerged under water by 2050.

5. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Amidst all their grandstanding the temperatures continue to rise, leading to galactical deluges, increasing carbon emissions and disturbances in oceans that are is disrupting the delicate environmental balance resulting in extreme weather events that end anger the well being of the entire planet. Sadly with several global leaders preferring to indulge in one-upmanship and showmanship,

such cooperation looks unlikely. It is on us as Individuals to prevent this catastrophe. The imminent demise of Paris accord is an example of myopia and insularity that afflicts our leaders today.

Passage - 10

1. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that The second and last US presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden was another round in a duel between two very distinct forms of masculinity. An excellent moderator, Kristen Welker, combined with rule changes that reduced the candidates' ability to interrupt each other, toned down the vitriol and helped create a calmer debate, with more room for discussion of policy. But this didn't change the fundamental differences between the two men.

For this debate, the Trump campaign recognized the need for the president to show more self-restraint, while Biden stuck to his script as a more conventional politician.

By repeatedly defining himself as a "strong man leader" and demeaning Biden's so called "weak" manhood, Trump has turned the election into a masculinity contest.

2. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions that Trump has turned the election into a masculinity contest."

As in 2016, Trump's campaign is asserting a strong, authoritarian masculinity as a key plank of his re-election

3. **Answer:** C

Explanation: C is correct as the passage mentions that In the US, leadership in public spheres has historically been viewed as the province of men but Biden has not made masculinity and explicit theme of his campaign, but the contrast to Trump is unmistakable.

4. **Answer:** D

Explanation: D is correct as the passage mentions Trump's toxic masculinity and all three options support the same.

5. Answer : D

Explanation : D is correct as the passage mentions that His paternalistic masculinity emphasises traditional qualities such as equality, trustworthiness, reliability, integrity, decency and morality. Biden's masculinity is premised on working hard, playing fair, having character, respecting science and knowledge, and behaving honourably: a paternalistic form of masculinity claiming to protect women and children. Option B is supported by US masculinity characterised by caution, thoughtfulness and benevolent leadership line in the passage.