

1. Assess the contribution of Lal Bahadur Shastri to reviving the morale of India as a nation.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving short description about Lal Bahadur Shastri and then simply write about shastri's contribution in raising morale bar in India.

Introduction

Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India was a great statesman known for his honesty and humility. He served the country in various roles and was one of the most down-to-earth personalities of our history.

Body

- During Shastri's brief Prime Ministership, the country faced two major challenges. While India was still recovering from the economic implications of the war with China (1962), failed monsoons, drought and serious food crisis presented a grave challenge. The country also faced a war with Pakistan in 1965.
- Shastri's famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', symbolised the country's resolve to face both these challenges it revived Indian masses morale.
- Shastri Ji as India knows him was a humble yet strong statement who guided India through tough times. Also, Shastri promoted White Revolution and Green Revolution.
- Against societal prejudice and discrimination: Shastri was born Lal Bahadur Shrivastava being against the prevailing caste system, he decided to drop his surname.
- The title 'Shastri' refers to a 'scholar' or a person, adept in the holy scriptures. During the adverse situations too, he came forward, made himself accountable and showed the signs of a true leader- one who leads from the front.
- Accountability: He served as the railway minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet and was so conscientious that he resigned following a train accident at Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu in 1956. His gesture was hailed by all including Nehru, whom he considered his "hero".
- Practice before preaching: In 1965, India was embroiled in a war with Pakistan and the country was facing an acute food shortage. He asked his family to give up a meal a day. It is only after he was sure that his own family could survive this he announced on All India Radio, urging the public to sacrifice one meal at least once a week.
- Moral public and private life: Shastriji had a Chevrolet Impala car for official use, which his son once used for a drive. When Shastri learned about it, he asked his driver to check the distance the car was used for and later deposited the money in the government account.

- Believed in “Sheelam Param Bhushanam”: In his maiden Independence Day speech, he had laid emphasis on character and moral strength – not only for personal growth but for the development of the nation.

Conclusion

Shastri's overall tenure helped India to become self-sufficient and later to become an exporter of the foodgrains mainly his ideas, body of work boosted Indian morale in 1960's. Also, his tenure led the foundations on which industrial growth could be achieved later.

Q-2-Discuss the political and social effects of caste based movements in post independence India. Do you think the prevalence of caste system has weakened the social fabric in India? Critically examine .

Approach -

In this question candidates are expected to write about political and social effects of caste based movements in post independence India. Also write about does caste system weakened social fabric in India. examine It critically .

Introduction -

Caste based movements are basically a social revolution aimed for social change, replacing the age old hierarchical Indian society, and is based on the democratic ideals of liberty, equality and social justice.

Body -

Social effects of caste based movements in India -

- After Independence, India's new constitution identified groups of former Untouchables as "scheduled castes," singling them out for consideration and government assistance.
- The constituent assembly mandated with the function to draft the constitution of independent India adopted the Constitution based on the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- The real idea behind the said ideals was to create an egalitarian society where discrimination in any form be denounced and the state would aspire to create an empowered society free from any such discrimination.
- Indian constitution provided constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individuals. On the bedrock of fundamental rights constitution provided for the abolition of untouchability, and discrimination based on caste, race, gender and place of birth.
- extensive economic and social rights for disadvantaged sections, and also won the Assembly's support for introducing a system of reservations of jobs in the civil

services, schools and colleges for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, a system akin to affirmative action.

- Due to various affirmative action policies, legal reforms, political awareness, social movements, industrialization, urbanization, and economic growth, the caste system has undergone a drastic change in the era of modernity and market economy.
- Occupational hierarchy too has significantly changed except priesthood and cleaning sewer and skinning dead animals.
- Upper caste people are today doing all the jobs which are opposite to their caste status.
- Due to the positive discrimination policy (reservation policy) in jobs and education, members of the Dalit community are no longer considered impure or polluted in an organization.
- Inter-caste marriages among educated Indians, especially in urban areas, are increasing day-by-day.
- The spread of quality education, availability of jobs and new economic opportunities have changed many things.
- The thinking and social behaviour of the generation born after 1990 have undergone a significant change.

Political effects of caste based movements in India-

- We have witnessed an utterly unexpected trend in this era it was the violent agitations, to press for the demand for reservation in jobs and education by those not lower or oppressed castes. Instead, they have been socially influential and economically well-off castes.
- These castes are Gujjars of Rajasthan, Jats of Haryana, Marathas of Maharashtra, Patidars/ Patels of Gujrat and Lingayats of Karnataka.
- Apart from the caste polarization for political gain, some factors seem active behind the above-said demand.
- In this scenario, it would not be incorrect to say that the affirmative action aimed to bring socioeconomic parity has become more of a tool to grab power.
- caste provided an extensive basis for organization of democratic politics. Caste identity and solidarity became primary channel through which electoral and political support is mobilized.
- Political parties find it easier to mobilize support directly from a member of caste community by appealing.
- The political system encourage the use of caste as a means f breeding followers.
- Caste enabled the illiterate and ignorant to politically participate in democratic process.

Positives of caste system -

- Although caste system in past provided some benefits like ,It has handed over the knowledge and skills of the hereditary occupation of a caste from one generation to another, which has helped the preservation of culture and ensured productivity.
- It plays a crucial role in the process of socialization by teaching individuals the culture and traditions, values and norms of their society. But by and large caste system have weakened the social fabric of india .

Negatives of caste system -

- The caste system is a check on economic and intellectual advancement and a great stumbling block in the way of social reforms because it keeps economic and intellectual opportunities confined to a certain section of the population only.
- It undermines the efficiency of labour and prevents perfect mobility of labour, capital and productive effort
- It perpetuates the exploitation of the economically weaker and socially inferior castes, especially the untouchables.
- It has inflicted untold hardships on women through its insistence on practices like child-marriage, prohibition of widow-remarriage, seclusion of women etc.
- It has stood in the way of national and collective consciousness and proved to be a disintegrating rather than an integrating factor.
- It has given scope for religious conversion. The lower caste people are getting converted into Islam and Christianity due to the tyranny of the upper

Conclusion-

It is high time for the Indian society to get out of caste hierarchy and eradicate all forms of visible or invisible discrimination's and consider all social groups equal in real sense. To thrive as a vibrant democracy and an emerging economic power will be much depends on how far Indian society embraces equality, fraternity and harmony.

Q-3-How did the 1971 Indo Pak war change the political landscape of South Asia ? What are its current day implications ?Discuss.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how did Indo pak war changed the political landscape of south Asia and in second part of answer write about its current day implications.

Introduction -

1971 war was fought for independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan. Indian armed forces supported Bangladesh in its liberation war. Pakistan had to suffer huge defeat and about 93000 Pakistani troops surrendered to Indian armed forces.

Body -

Bangladesh Liberation war changed the political landscape of South Asia in following ways,

- Diminishing the Two-front War Threat: The East Pakistan uprising provided India with the opportunity to break up Pakistan and eliminate the threat of a two-front war in any future confrontation.
- Although the eastern front remained largely inactive in 1965, it tied down substantial military resources that could have been deployed to greater effect in the western theatre.

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- Preventing Side-Lining of Pro-India Awami League: India recognised that a drawn-out civil war in East Pakistan would radicalise the Bengali population.
- This could lead to the side-lining of the pro-India Awami League and shift the leadership of the movement to left-wing pro-China parties such as the Bhashani-led National Awami Party and the Communist Party.
- Negating Internal Security Threat: The Guerrilla warfare, inspired by Maoist ideology, was the major form of resistance against the Pakistani military.
- If India wouldn't have intervened in the Bangladesh Liberation War 1971, this could have been detrimental for India's internal security interests, especially in the context of the Naxalite movement which was then raging in eastern India.
- Negating The Communal Threat: By July-August 1971, 90% of the refugees were Hindus concentrated in the border districts of West Bengal with large Muslim populations.
- Consequently, there was danger of serious communal strife if India did not act quickly to ensure their return.
- Departure from Non-Alignment: At the diplomatic level, India did not act entirely alone. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's carefully crafted diplomatic dispatches to world leaders had helped create a groundswell of support for the persecuted Bengalis of East Pakistan.
- The signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty in August 1971 came as a shot-in-the-arm for India, encouraging it to stay the course.
- The victory defined India's much broader role in foreign politics.
- Many countries in the world, including the United States, realised that the balance of power had shifted to India in South Asia.
- This time all the South Asian member countries should come front to maintain an amicable and good relation that is the basic need for peace and development of this region. Further other nations should also cooperate because the South Asian Region has a lot of potential of economic development.

How did the Indo Pak War 1971 shape today's India-Bangladesh relations-

- The Indo-Pak war of 1971 liberated Bangladesh and established a friendly neighbourhood on the eastern front for India.
- Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia and one of the fastest-growing economies.
- Indian firms have huge investment opportunities in the country due to their growth potential. Bangladesh is crucial for India's connectivity and peace in the north-eastern states.
- India had recently inaugurated the new trade corridor, Maitri Setu Bridge from Sabroom in India to Ramgargh in Bangladesh on the Feni river in Tripura-Bangladesh border.
- Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize 2021.
- Bangladesh was a special invitee to India's 75th independence day celebrations and President Kovind is part of Victory day celebrations in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh marked 50 years of liberation war victory over Pakistan on 16th December 2021.
- The nation celebrated victory in the 1971 war for independence by hosting a military parade with India's president as a guest of honour.

- Bangladesh has a special place in India's neighbourhood first policy and the relation is ever more crucial in the current geopolitical scenario as well.

Way Forward :-

- India needs to look at more ways to deepen its ties with Bangladesh, especially keeping in mind the shifting nature of geopolitics and geoeconomics in South Asia.
- India and Bangladesh have more or less agreed on most issues and this stability must be maintained.
- India needs to find a fine balance in respecting Bangladesh's economic growth while maintaining its economic progress.

Conclusion -

The ultimate accolade for India's role in creating a new nation is that Bangladesh is today a relatively prosperous country, having made steady progress from the category of a Least Developed Country to a developing country. The creation of Bangladesh — from the ashes of East Pakistan — is presumably India's finest foreign policy triumph till date.