

## NEXT IAS

## खण्ड-A / Section-A

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना मना है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

- Q.1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.  
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।
- Q.2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.  
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।
- Q.3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.  
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।
- Q.4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.  
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड़ से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

4.) A man who wants to lead the orchestra  
must turn his back on the crowd

'Tom and Jerry' is a world famous cartoon which is an integral part of our childhood. All of us must have watched at least one episode of the show at least once. One of my favourite episodes in the same was titled "The Hollywood Bowl", the place where best orchestras were performed. It was through this episode that I got to know

what an orchestra is. The encapsulating music from the string of violins, cellos; the exquisite saxophones, trumpets added the musical and visual grandeur which mesmerised the audience. However one thing which struck to me was "why did Tom, the lead of orchestra, turn his back to the audience?" Is not this violation of the basic rules of stage and performance?

Today when I ask the same question, I perhaps have an answer. Hadn't Tom turned his back to the audience, he wouldn't have been able to control the orchestra. He wouldn't have been able to synthesise and harmonise different instruments to produce one single melodic tune. And perhaps he wouldn't have been able to successfully perform at the orchestra.

## NEXT IAS

which is the mother of all rules of performance.

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना मना है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

The lead member of the orchestra plays a very crucial role. He/she focuses on the individual members and instruments of the orchestra. It is through his/her weaving of the hands which results in production of the melodious sounds. If they rapidly move their hands, the orchestra increases its pace and if they want a soothing melody, the hands will move gracefully with the tunes of the instrument matching the grace of the hands. Thus it is important for the lead to always face the orchestra, turning back on the crowd.

Our lives are also not less than an orchestra. Who is to lead this orchestra? Perhaps the most important answer would be 'we' - we are the lead

## NEXT IAS

of this orchestra. Being social in nature, social aspirations are put on us from our childhood. The individual would want to take humanities but the society aspires to put science on the individual. All of us would have faced such situations in our lives. A person's personal aspirations might differ from social aspirations. Perhaps, the solution lies in taking the lead of our lives and turning the back on society so that we can march ahead towards our goals.

History has seen many such orchestras where the lead turned his back on the crowd. One such person was Alexander the Great. He wanted to let the whole world listen to the Greek orchestra, and he was successful in doing so by bringing the world under his rules. Even today people believe his mission, sing his tales of

glory. Would such a feat be achieved if he had listened to crowd who jeered him for his overambition? The answer would be no. Only when he turned his back on the crowd and focussed on his compatriots, was he able to make his Greek orchestra a legendary classic.

The orchestra of social changes and revolution are many in India. One common thread among them is the leaders of orchestra turned their back to the regressive society and social attitudes of those times. Leaders like Swami Shree Narayan Guru, Periyar fought untouchability and caste discrimination by ignoring the ideas of caste among the society. The SNDP movement, Temple entry movements were the orchestras filling the tune of equality among the audience which were successful because their leaders chose to turn their back to the crowd.

Our constitution is also one of the most beautiful orchestras synthesised by the leaders like Ambedkar, Nehru who brought in various tunes of the population and nation. When they decided to incorporate Universal Adult franchise in a country maimed with poverty and communal tensions, the international crowd was wooly. They cautioned against this and many predicted that this orchestra would fail. Did our orchestra fail? No, because our leaders chose to turn their back on the crowd and the result is this orchestra is still running beautifully.

The orchestra of constitution is able to keep its tune audible due to a proactive judiciary. The values and morals of constitution are protected and

enforced by the courts. Protection against discrimination and Right to Equality was one such value. In Navej Singh Johar case, the Supreme Court decriminalised section 377, thus reducing discrimination against homosexuals. Would the humble judges have led this orchestra of change if they listened to the crowd which was homophobic? Well, the answer is no. The judges turned their backs to the crowd while leading the orchestra of judiciary to enable the tunes of progress reverberate in society.

India is a Parliamentary Democracy with people participating in it through elections. Can the orchestra of democracy be successful if it is tuned to the whims and wishes of the crowd? Will the orchestra of democracy sustain

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

## NEXT IAS

itself is misplaced priorities and policies were implemented by listening to the crowd?  
The answer to both the questions is no.

If first question is answered in affirmation, then it leads to majoritarianism or what Locke calls "Tyranny of Majority". This itself is antithetical to the idea of democracy.

If we answer the second question in affirmation, then it leads to populism and populistic measures which can turn a democracy into mobocracy, spoiling the orchestra. What should the leader do? He/she must turn his/her back on the crowd to ensure that orchestra of democracy goes on.

Who doesn't love freebies? All of us get delighted and attracted when we hear the word "free". Can our Nation achieve economic well being if leaders engage in freebie culture? Should the



leader listen to the crowd and formulate economic policies or should he/she ignore the freebie demands of the crowd and formulate prudential policies. The answer is clear to everybody. For our economy to be successful, sometimes leaders need to turn their backs to politics of freebies raised by crowd. This ensures our orchestra goes on.

Though the lead of orchestra must focus on orchestra, turning his back to the crowd, but the success of orchestra also depends on knowing the demand and mood of the crowd. If the crowd likes Chopin's Nocturnes, then playing the exquisite Beethoven's Rhapsody wouldn't generate a successful orchestra.

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना नहीं है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

## NEXT IAS

without knowing the demands of the crowd, sometimes an orchestra can be created causing trouble to all. Afghanistan is a classic example.

People were not ready for radical social changes introduced by Gen. Daud Khan in a traditional society like Afghanistan. This led to rise of conservative elements in the society in form of Taliban. What is the result? Afghanistan's orchestra was and is in chaos. Thus the leader of orchestra must also look to people to know which type of music they need.

Looking at the crowd is important to get the feedback and attend the grievances of the orchestra. How can the lead improve the orchestra without looking at the crowd? This question

led our leaders to formulate policies like Right To Information, CPGRAMS grievance redressal portal to keep the orchestra of Democracy running in our country. Crowded forms an integral part to ensure orchestra is running as it was envisioned.

We normally like such shows and orchestras where people are invited from audience to sing a song or to demand which piece to be played. This is because it makes us involved in the orchestra. A similar orchestra was envisioned when our leaders enacted 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of ct paved way for participatory democracy through Gram Sabhas in Panchayat Raj.

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना मना है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

## NEXT IAS

The lead is not only looking out the crowd, but is involving the crowd ~~also~~ making the orchestra dynamic.

Thus the lead of the orchestra has to manage turning the back to crowd, turning towards the crowd and involving the crowd itself. At the end of the day, the lead's job is to successfully lead the orchestra so that its tunes reverberate in the society. Though it's a difficult task, the very quality of ~~ability~~ ability to manage this makes a person the leader of the orchestra. The leader must ensure that the orchestra goes on and on.

खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.  
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।
- Q6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.  
ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।
- Q7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.  
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।
- Q8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.  
प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना मना है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

5) International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.

Pax Britannica - the name is enough to remind us the grand British Empire where the sun never sets. The name is enough to instill the image of great prowess and might of the empire. It became the standard of comparison and ideam for many countries to achieve the level of national security Britain had.

## NEXT IAS

Where does the beginning of this mighty Empire lie? The answer is international trade. The East India company with the crown's authorisation sought to expand the trade. The profits earned from the colonial trade brought with it unparalleled economic profits, which laid the foundation for a strong, safe and secured Britain which was ever expanding. This made Britain to Pass Britannia.

Britain's story shows how international trade is a good indicator and basis for national security. What is the rationale behind considering international trade as basis for National security or as an indicator of National security? Well, the answer lies in

provision of peaceful and stable conditions.  
 for international trade to flourish, there  
 needs to be ambient conditions in form of  
peace and stability within the country.  
 Who are the top countries of international  
 trade? They are USA, China, India, Japan  
 etc all of which are stable and peaceful.  
 On the other hand do the countries like  
Yemen, Syria, Congo, Sudan etc feature on  
 the list? It is highly unlikely as these  
 countries are marred by civil conflicts,  
disincentivising international trade. Thus  
 a country able to secure its national  
interests in form of peace and stability is  
 able to do well in international trade.

The fundamental profit motive  
 of international trade is the major reason  
 why it has garnered so much support.  
 The belief that vast sums of profit

उम्मीदवारों को  
 इस भाग में  
 लिखना मना है।  
 Candidates  
 must not  
 write on  
 this margin

## NEXT IAS

would flow into the society is enough  
for free trade supporters. The prosperity  
trickling down to the society manifested  
 in form of higher incomes, profits and  
lower unemployment rates would reduce  
development deficit. This would help  
 secure national interests of integration as  
various secessionist movements like the one  
 India is facing in Manipur would resolve.  
 Thus greater international trade would mean  
greater prosperity ultimately translating  
 to greater national security of the nation.

The importance of International  
Trade as an indicator of national security  
 can be gauged by the fact that many  
 countries are using International trade  
 as a strategy in their National Security



documents. For instance, the United States is keen to secure favourable terms of trade and Bilateral trade agreements with countries like India, France etc.

This becomes more important and amplified when critical technologies like semi-conductor chips, defense technology, AI are considered. Countries having comparative advantage and access to such goods are considered to fulfill their national security needs.

National security is a multidimensional concept which encompasses food security, energy security, water security etc. How does one country short on energy fulfill her goal of energy security? The answer is international trade. The power of international trade can convert her energy insecurity to energy security. Countries like India, US

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना नहीं है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

## NEXT IAS

fulfill their energy security by trading with Middle East. If there was no international trade, then they would have been energy insecure, thus making international trade as a good indicator of national security.

The basis for any country to achieve her national security is power, roots of which lie in economy. A strong economy is a prerequisite condition for a powerful nation. International trade is one important component of economic strength. When a nation's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) increases, more resources are available for increasing the comprehensive national power. This helps in securing national security. Thus good levels of international trade is a causal factor of ability of a nation to secure her security, making

## NEXT IAS

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस भाग में  
लिखना नहीं है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin

it an important indicator of national security

However, practice has shown many a times that international trade is not a good indicator of national security. Why is it so? It is because the rise of anti-globalisation or reverse globalisation and protectionism has ended the conducive conditions for international trade. This has reduced the effectiveness of international trade in securing the national security demands of a country.

Rather than becoming an indicator of national security, international trade has become a source of insecurity for countries. Today USA feels insecure owing to rise of China which seeks to replace US as the hegemon. The roots of US insecurity due to China's rise lie in

## NEXT IAS

international trade policies of US which facilitated the rise of China.

Weaponisation of dependency caused by international trade is yet another source of national insecurity. China has used this divinity tactic many a times. During COVID-19 when countries like USA, Australia were demanding Chinese accountability, China weaponised trade by restricting supply of Rare Earth Elements. The result was anxiety among US and Australian establishments as they were insecure due to compromise in critical technologies due to Chinese actions.

International trade in banned items like arms, drugs forestry

## NEXT IAS

national insecurity in the most region.  
 The supply of arms in Afghanistan,  
Sudan and North East India show how  
 trade creates insecurities. All these  
 regions are hotspots of civil unrest,  
making these conflicts sustained due to  
trade in arms, drugs etc. Over here,  
 it would be appropriate to say  
 International trade is a good indicator  
 of national insecurity.

The opposite of International  
 Trade is Protectionism and Autarky.  
 Various policies like "Make in USA",  
Mineral Supply Partnership, China's  
Double circulation, Price cap etc  
 show the new trend of protectionism  
 becoming the indicator of National  
Security. Policy thinkers are looking

उम्मीदवारों को  
 इस भाग में  
 लिखना नहीं है।  
 Candidates  
 must not  
 write on  
 this margin

## NEXT IAS

at achieving autarky in all key sectors as a necessary pre-condition to tick all the boxes of National Security.

International Trade is not the only indicator of National Security. Military strength is an important indicator too. A country with a strong military power can ensure security along her border. Isn't USA, China, India able to secure her national security? Yes they are able to. What is one of the common factor in them? Well they are countries having strong military. Thus role of military in acting as a good indicator of national security must not be discounted.

Politically, Democratic culture is important to achieve national security. It is only when people have channels and agency to voice their opinion, when their grievances are heard, that people give legitimacy to state. If that is not the case, then chaos and insecurity would prevail in form of civil unrest.

However, as stated earlier, economic base forms the base for all other powers, be it military or political. Thus it is important to reinvigorate International Trade to help countries achieve national security. A multidimensional and multipronged strategy would help in this regard.

## NEXT IAS

The rules of international trade must be made favourable for the global south. As these are the countries marred with insecurities, International Trade can play a transformational role to help them secure National Security.

Just like international trade transformed Britain to Pare Britannia, it must enable all the countries to transform just like Britain, but not for conquest, but for development which is the prime national security target of all countries.

\*\*\*