

REGIONAL ASPIRATION

STUDY NOTES

Region and the Nation: Indian Approach

- The Indian approach in nation building is to balance the principles of unity and diversity. The nation would not mean the negation of the region.
- The one basic principle of the Indian approach to diversity is, the Indian Nation shall not deny the rights of different regions and linguistic groups to retain their own culture.
- India adopted a democratic approach to the question of diversity. Democracy allows the political expressions of regional aspirations and does not look upon them as anti-national.
- Democratic politics also means that regional issues and problems will receive adequate attention and accommodation in the policy making process.
- Soon after Independence, Jammu and Kashmir and some parts of North-East faced mass agitations in many parts for separation from India.
- These events were followed by mass movement in many parts for the formation of linguistic states, such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.
- In some parts of Southern India, there were protests against making Hindi the official language of the country.
- With the passage of time the challenge of diversity was met by redrawing the internal boundaries of the country.

Jammu and Kashmir

- The 'Kashmir issue' is always seen as a major issue between India and Pakistan.
- Jammu and Kashmir comprises three social and political regions. Jammu-a mix of foothills and plains, Kashmir-heart of Kashmir region; Ladakh-mountainous region with very little population which is equally divided between Buddhists and Muslims.
- Before 1947, Jammu and Kashmir was a Princely State. The state was having majority population of Muslims but Hari Singh was a Hindu ruler of the state.
- In October 1947, Pakistan sent tribal infiltrators from its side to capture Kashmir. This forced Hari Singh to ask for Indian military help.
- Indian Army successfully drove out infiltrators from Kashmir valley and Hari Singh signed an Instrument of Accession with the Government of India.
- It was agreed that once the situation will be normalised, the views of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be ascertained about their future and India agreed to maintain the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir.

External and Internal Dispute

- Externally, Pakistan has always claimed that Kashmir valley should be part of Pakistan.
- Pakistan sponsored a tribal invasion of the State of 1947 and consequence of it, a part of the state came under Pakistani control.
- India claims this area under illegal occupation whereas Pakistan describes this area as 'Azad Kashmir.
- Internally, there is a dispute about the status of Kashmir within the Indian Union.
- Article 370 gives greater autonomy to J&K compared to other state of India. State has its own Constitution.

The Special Attention Provokes Two Opposite Reactions

- A section of people outside J&K feels that Article 370 should therefore be revoked and J&K should be like any other state in India.
- Another section, mostly Kashmiris, believe that autonomy conferred by Article 370 is not enough.

Politics Since 1948

- Between 1953 and 1974, the Congress Party exercised a lot of influence on the politics of the state.
- National Conference remained in power with the active support of Congress for some time but later it merged with the Congress. Thus, Congress gained direct control over the government of the state.
- In 1974, Indira Gandhi reached an agreement with Sheikh Abdullah and he became the Chief Minister of the State.
- Farooq Abdullah succeeded after death of his father as Chief Minister in 1982.
- Farooq Abdullah was soon dismissed by the Governor, his dismissal due to the intervention of the center generated a feeling of resentment in Kashmir.
- Ups and down in state politics continued till 1986 when National Conference agreed to have an electoral alliance with the Congress.

Insurgency and Effect

- In 1987 assembly election the National Conference-Congress alliance gained a massive victory and Farooq Abdullah returned as Chief Minister.
- By 1989, the state had come in grip of a militant movement mobilized around the cause of a separate Kashmir nation.
- Throughout the period from 1990, J&K experienced violence at the hands of the insurgents and through army action.
- In 2002 J&K experienced a fair election in which National Conference was replaced by People's Democratic Party (PDP)-Congress coalition government.

Separatism

- Separatism surfaced in Kashmir from 1989 and is made up of various strands.
- One strand of separatists wanted a separate Kashmir nation, independent of India and Pakistan.
- Jammu and Kashmir is one of the living examples of plural society and politics.
- Despite diversities and divergence on the one hand and the continued situation of conflict on the other, the plural and secular culture of the state has remained largely intact.

Punjab

- The decade of 1980s witnessed major developments in the State of Punjab.
- Social composition of the state was changed first with partition and later-after the carving out of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.
- The Akali Dal, which was formed in 1920 as the political wing of the Sikhs, had led the movement for the formation of a 'Punjabi Suba.'
- Punjab had to wait till 1966 to be reorganized on linguistic lines for the creation of a Punjabi speaking state.

Political Context

- After the reorganization, the Akalis came to power in 1967 and then in 1977.
- During the 1970s a section of Akalis began to demand political autonomy for the region. This was reflected in a resolution passed in a conference at Anandpur Sahib in 1973.

Cycle of Violence

- The militants made their headquarters inside the Sikh holy shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar and turned it into an armed fortress.
- In June 1984, the Government of India carried out 'Operation Blue Star' code name for army action in the Golden temple in which the government could successfully flush out the militants.
- In this operation temple was damaged, which hurt the Sikh sentiments and their faith was betrayed.
- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31st October, 1984 outside her residence by her Sikh bodyguards as a revenge of 'Operation Blue Star.'
- In many parts of Northern India violence broke give space out against Sikh community and continued for almost a week which results in the killings of more than two thousand Sikhs.

Road to Peace

- In 1984, The new Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi initiated a dialogue with moderate Akali leaders and in July 1985 a peace agreement was signed between Rajiv Gandhi and Harchand Singh Longowal (the President of Akali Dal).
- The agreement known as Rajiv Gandhi- Longowal Accord or the Punjab Accord.
- The cycle of violence continued nearly for a decade and peace returned to Punjab by the middle of 1990s. The alliance of Akali Dal (Badal) and the BJP scored a major victory in 1997, in the first normal elections in the state in the post militancy era.

The North-East

- The North-East region of the country now consists of seven states, also referred to as the 'seven-sister.'
- The region witnessed a lot of change in 1947. The entire region of North-East has undergone considerable political reorganization.
- The vast international border and weak communication between the North-East and the rest of India have added to the delicate nature of politics there.
- Three issues dominate the politics of North East: demands for autonomy, movements for secession and opposition to 'outsiders.'

Demands for Autonomy

- At the time of independence the entire region except Manipur and Tripura comprised the State of Assam.
- There were opposition and protest riots throughout the state on various issues.
- At different points of time the Central Government had to create Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh out of Assam.
- The reorganization of the North-East was completed by 1972.

Secessionist Movements

- For autonomy there were secessionist movements in North-East region like Mizoram and Nagaland etc.
- After independence, the Mizo hills area was made an autonomous district within Assam.
- Movement for secession gained popular support after the Assam Government 'failed to respond adequately to great famine of 1959 in Mizo hills.'
- Mizo's anger led to formation of Mizo National Front (MNF) under the leadership of Laldenga.
- MNF fought guerilla war, got support from Pakistani Government and secured shelter in East Pakistan.
- In 1986 a peace agreement was signed between Rajiv Gandhi and Laldenga.
- This accord granted Mizoram as full fledged statehood with special powers, and MNF agreed to give up secessionist struggle.
- Thus, the accord turn Mizoram as one of the most peaceful places in the region.

- The story of Nagaland is similar to Mizoram except that started much earlier and had not yet such a happy ending.
- After a section of violent insurgency a section of the Nagas signed an agreement with the Government of India but it was not acceptable to other rebels.

Movements Against Outsiders

- The large-scale migration into the North-East gave rise to a special kind of problem that pitted the 'local' communities against people who were seen as 'outsiders' or migrants.
- The issue has taken political and sometimes violent form in many states of North-East.
- The Assam movement from 1979 to 1985 is the best example of such movements against 'outsiders'.
- In 1979, the All Assam Student's Union (AASU), a students' group not affiliated to any party, led an anti-foreigner movement. Movement demanded, outsiders who had entered the state after 1951 should be sent back.
- With the successful completion of the movement, the AASU and the Asom Gana Sangram Parishad organized themselves as a regional political party called Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which came to power in 1985 with the promise of resolving the foreign national problem as well as to build a 'Golden Assam.'

Sikkim's Merger

- At the time of independence Sikkim was a 'protectorate (A state that is controlled and protected by other) of India. Chogyal was its monarch.
- In 1975, Sikkim was merged with India and it became the 22nd State of the Indian Union. Accommodation and National Integration.
- Regional aspirations are very much a part of democratic politics. Expression of regional issues is not an aberration or an abnormal phenomenon.
- The best way to respond to regional aspirations is through democratic negotiations rather than through suppression.
- Regional imbalance in economic development contributes to the feeling of regional discrimination.

Goa's Liberation

- After independence 1947, British withdrew but Portuguese who were ruling since 16th century in Goa, Daman and Diu refused to withdraw themselves.
- Goa was liberated in 1961 from Portuguese by an army operation. Goa, Daman and Diu was declared an Union Territories.

QUESTION BANK

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Tick (✓) the correct answer :

- In which year agreement took place between Sheikh Abdullah and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi?**
 (a) 1970 (b) 1974 (c) 1976 (d) 1980
- When was Anandpur Sahib Resolution passed?**
 (a) 1962 (b) 1965 (c) 1967 (d) 1973
- Who was the leader of the Naga National Council?**
 (a) V.P. Singh (b) Lal Denga (c) M Karunanidhi (d) Angame Zapu Phizo
- Match the following-**
 (A) Socio-religious identity leading to statehood (i) Nagaland/Mizoram
 (B) Linguistic identity and tensions with center (ii) Jharkhand/Chhattisgarh
 (C) Regional imbalance leading to demand statehood (iii) Punjab
 (D) Secessionist demands on account of tribal identity (iv) Tamil Nadu

22. The States Reorganization Commission was appointed in which year?
 (a) 1953 (b) 1951 (c) 1950 (d) 1954
23. The "Communal Zones" exclude
 (a) Lahore (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Kolkata (d) Amritsar
24. Name the original state from which Chhattisgarh was carved out.
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Jharkhand (d) Madhya Pradesh
25. Mention anyone's right granted to the people of India as a result of any movement.
 (a) Fundamental Rights (b) DPSP (c) RTI (d) Both (a) and (b)
26. The studies of popular movements are very helpful in understanding the nature of _____ politics.
 (a) Monarchy (b) Colonized (c) Democratic (d) none of these
27. _____ of the movement gives wrong colour.
 (a) Operation (b) Proclamation (c) Suppression (d) Negotiations
28. _____ proves that political settlement can resolve the problem of separation effectively.
 (a) Assam (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Meghalaya
29. Rajiv Gandhi reached an agreement with saint _____.
 (a) Gobind Singh (b) Harchand Singh (c) Satnam Singh (d) Ram Singh
30. Longowal accord to bring normally in _____.
 (a) Bihar (b) Assam (c) Chennai (d) Punjab
31. In which year, the Longowal Accord take place?
 (a) July 1984 (b) July 1985 (c) August 1986 (d) August 1987
32. Anandpur Sahib resolution was a plea for-
 (a) Strengthening Federalism (b) Separation of Sikh nation
 (c) Distribution of Resources (d) all of these
33. _____ are all the examples of regional problems can only be solved through Democratic and peaceful ways only.
 (a) Terrorism in Punjab (b) Problems of North-East (c) Mizoram problem (d) all of these
34. The reorganization of the North-East was completed in _____.
 (a) 1970 (b) 1972 (c) 1974 (d) 1976
35. Instead of one Tribal state, several states got carved out of which state among the following?
 (a) Assam (b) Mizoram (c) Tripura (d) Arunachal Pradesh
36. Which among the following is not true about the Kashmir?
 (a) Kashmir valley is the heart of the Kashmir region (b) Muslims and Kashmiri's are in majority
 (c) There is no Hindu Temples (d) Hindus in Majority
37. _____ region is a mixture of foothills and plains.
 (a) Jaipur (b) Shimla (c) Kashmir (d) Jammu
38. Who among the following Known as Periyar?
 (a) K.C. Shah (b) E.V. Kamaswami Naicker
 (c) Dr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy (d) None of these
39. E.V. Ramaswami Naicker opposed _____ and the domination of North India.
 (a) Hindi (b) Punjabi (c) English (d) Gujarati

40. On _____, a military operation took place in the Amritsar.
 (a) 5th May 1983 (b) 5th June 1984 (c) 6th July 1985 (d) 7th August 1985
41. A military operation took place in _____ temple of Amritsar.
 (a) Lotus (b) Gurudwara (c) Golden (d) none of these
42. The operation of Golden temple is known as the
 (a) Red Star Operation (b) Yellow Star Operation (c) Green Star Operation (d) Blue Star Operation
43. The operation Blue Star hurt the sentiments of the _____ community.
 (a) Jain (b) Hindu (c) Sikh (d) Muslim
44. The _____ movement started in Bengal.
 (a) Naxalite (b) Maoist (c) Chipko (d) Anti-Drugs
45. The Maoist movement started in the year of _____
 (a) 1961 (b) 1963 (c) 1965 (d) 1967
46. When did the Maoists get separated from CPI(M)?
 (a) 1963 (b) 1966 (c) 1969 (d) 1973
47. What is full form of ML in CPI(M-L)
 (a) Marxist (b) Liberalist (c) Leninist (d) Both (a) and (c)
48. Article _____ provides the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir
 (a) 342 (b) 345 (c) 470 (d) 370
49. On 5-6 August _____ article 370 abrogated from the Indian Constitution.
 (a) 2012 (b) 2002 (c) 2016 (d) 2019
50. Among which of the following the new name Kallakudi railway station?
 (a) Dalsingsarai (b) Begusarai (c) Gorakhpur (d) Dalmaipur
51. Which among the following party had the secondary objective for giving Tamil cultural history greater importance in the school curriculum?
 (a) AIADMK (b) INC (c) BGS (d) DMK
52. The _____ of India in 1947 had reduced the North-East to a land-locked region and affected its economy.
 (a) Nuclear tests (b) Partition (c) Elections (d) none of these
53. In 1974's Sikkim assembly, _____ won the elections.
 (a) Sikkim Jan Sangh (b) Sikkim Congress Party (c) only (a) (d) both (a) and (b)
54. Regionalism denotes-
 (a) Feeling of love (b) Feeling of unity (c) Feeling of brotherhood (d) All of these
55. Communal riots encouraged by _____.
 (a) Federalism (b) Regionalism (c) Communalism (d) none of these
56. Which among the following is not a part of seven sisters states?
 (a) Assam (b) Manipur (c) Punjab (d) Tripura
57. To resolve the _____ disputes between Punjab and Haryana, a commission would be established
 (a) Water dispute (b) Border dispute (c) Resources dispute (d) none of these
58. The Demolition of Babri Masjid in _____
 (a) 1990 (b) 1991 (c) 1992 (d) 1993

59. The violence between two communities is considered a threat to_____
- (a) Citizenship (b) Regionalism (c) Only (a) and (b) (d) Democracy
60. Full form of MNF
- (a) Multi National Functions (b) Multi National Front
(c) Multi National Fort (d) none of these
61. Mizor were headed by_____
- (a) Zhou Enlai (b) Imran Khan (c) Laldenga (d) Both (a) and (b)
62. Laldenga was the _____ of Mizoram.
- (a) Chief Minister (b) Head of council (c) only (a) (d) both (a) and (b)
63. In 1986, a _____ was signed between Rajiv Gandhi and Laldenga.
- (a) Personal Agreement (b) Peace Agreement
(c) Democracy Agreement (d) Economic Agreement
64. _____ believes that the political concerns the question of regionalism and language.
- (a) Norman D. Palmar (b) Lal denga (c) E.V. Ramaswami (d) none of these
65. Domination of a _____ at a place leads to a violent form of regionalism.
- (a) Multiple caste (b) Single caste (c) No caste (d) Only two caste
66. MNF was formed in_____
- (a) 1961 (b) 1966 (c) 1971 (d) 1977
67. In _____ Naga National Council launched an armed struggle for sovereignty of Nagas.
- (a) Tripura (b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Nagaland (d) Assam
68. _____ act will be applicable in J&K, there can now be a quota for minorities.
- (a) Right to Life (b) Right to Information
(c) Right to Inquiry (d) Right to Speech
69. _____, the popular leader of the National Conference.
- (a) Sheikh Mujibur (b) Sheikh Abdullah (c) Hari Singh (d) none of these
70. Now in India, there are 29 states and _____ Union Territories.
- (a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 10
71. In which state did the Jallianwala Bagh massacre take place?
- (a) Chandigarh (b) Punjab (c) Maharashtra (d) Canada
72. In which state was the 'Amul Milk Dairy Cooperative movement started?
- (a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Jaipur (d) All the above
73. Name the state which was created in 2000.
- (a) Bihar (b) Jharkhand (c) Uttarakhand (d) Chattisgarh
74. Most benefitted state by Green Revolution was-
- (a) U.P (b) Haryana (c) only (a) (d) both (a) and (b)
75. The state which faced a mean famine situation during 1960's.
- (a) Delhi (b) Bihar (c) Jharkhand (d) Uttar Pradesh

Input Text Based MCQ's

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (76 to 80):

India adopted a democratic approach to the question of diversity. Democracy allows the political expressions of regional aspirations and does not look upon them as anti-national. Besides, democratic politics allows parties and groups to address the people on the basis of their regional identity, aspirations and specific regional problems.

76. Which type of diversity exists in India?

- (a) Social (b) Political (c) Cultural (d) Economical

77. Name the political party that represent regional identity?

- (a) DMK (b) INC (c) BJP (d) BJS

78. Mention any one movement that expresses regional aspirations: -

- (a) Chipko movement (b) Anti-Arrack movement
(c) Assam movement (d) Arunachal Pradesh movement

79. How does democracy treat regional issues?

- (a) To address people on their regional identity (b) Aspirations
(c) Specific regional problems (d) All the above

80. _____ adopted a democratic approach of to the question of diversity?

- (a) China (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) U.S.A

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (81 to 85):

The Assam movement from 1979 to 1985 is the best example of such movement against 'outsiders'. The Assamese suspected that there were huge numbers of illegal Bengali Muslim settlers from Bangladesh. They felt that unless these foreign nationals are detected and deported, they would reduce the indigenous Assamese into a minority.

There were other economic issues too. There was widespread poverty and unemployment in Assam despite the existence of natural resources like oil, tea and coal. It was felt that these were drained out of the state without any commensurate benefit to the people.

81. Name the group that led the movement against outsiders in 1979?

- (a) AASU (b) DMK (c) AIADMK (d) Congress

82. What the term AASU stands for?

- (a) All Arunachal Student Union (b) All Agra Student Union
(c) All Assam Student Union (d) All Agriculture Student Union

83. Why did Assamese seek the detection and deportation of the outsiders?

- (a) Huge numbers of Bengali Muslims from Bangladesh
(b) These felt that these were foreign nationals
(c) They would reduce the indigenous Assamese into minority
(d) All the above

84. What were the economic issues taken up as part of the movement?

- (a) Poverty (b) Unemployment
(c) Existence of natural resources (d) only (a) and (b)

85. The Assam Movement was taken place in 1979 to _____

- (a) 1980 (b) 1982 (c) 1984 (d) 1985

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (86 to 90):

The best way to respond to regional aspirations is through democratic negotiations rather than through suppression. Look at the situation in the eighties -militancy had erupted in

Punjab; problems were persisting in the North-East; Students in Assam were agitating. Kashmir valley was on the boil. Instead of treating these as simple law and order problems, the Government of India reached negotiated settlement with regional movements.

86. How are regional aspirations dangerous for the Unity of the Country?

- (a) Pose Threat (b) Lead to collapse political and electoral process
(c) It harms countries unity (d) both (a), (b) and (c)

87. What is meant by democratic negotiations?

- (a) Process to solve situation peacefully (b) Process to solve situation aggressively
(c) Process to increase situation peacefully (d) Process to decrease situation aggressively

88. Who was leading the agitation in Assam?

- (a) Teachers (b) Workers (c) Students (d) none of these

89. Which among the following is the steps taken by the Government of India to respond to the regional aspiration?

- (a) Negotiated structure (b) Negotiated settlement (c) Negotiated system (d) All the above

90. _____ was on the boil.

- (a) Bay of Bengal (b) Arab sea (c) Kashmir Valley (d) none of these

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (d) | 4. (a) | 5. (b) | 6. (c) | 7. (d) | 8. (d) | 9. (a) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (a) | 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (b) | 16. (b) | 17. (b) | 18. (d) | 19. (d) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (a) | 23. (b) | 24. (d) | 25. (c) | 26. (c) | 27. (c) | 28. (c) | 29. (c) | 30. (d) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (a) | 33. (d) | 34. (b) | 35. (a) | 36. (c) | 37. (d) | 38. (b) | 39. (a) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (d) | 43. (c) | 44. (b) | 45. (d) | 46. (c) | 47. (d) | 48. (d) | 49. (d) | 50. (d) |
| 51. (d) | 52. (b) | 53. (b) | 54. (d) | 55. (c) | 56. (c) | 57. (b) | 58. (c) | 59. (c) | 60. (b) |
| 61. (c) | 62. (a) | 63. (b) | 64. (a) | 65. (b) | 66. (b) | 67. (c) | 68. (b) | 69. (b) | 70. (c) |
| 71. (b) | 72. (a) | 73. (d) | 74. (d) | 75. (b) | | | | | |

Input Text Based MCQ's

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 76. (c) | 77. (a) | 78. (c) | 79. (d) | 80. (b) | 81. (a) | 82. (c) | 83. (d) | 84. (d) | 85. (d) |
| 86. (d) | 87. (a) | 88. (c) | 89. (b) | 90. (c) | | | | | |