

1. India should not focus too much on joining NSG. Examine in the light of the evolution of India as a responsible nuclear power.

(250 Words)

Answer:

Background:-

Between May 11th – 13th of 1998 India took a leap into the unknown world of nuclear weapon powers with the five tests at Pokhran. Recently India completed 20 years of conducting these tests.

India has been a responsible power :-

Today India occupies a special position as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology.

This status is a product and a reflection of the steady attempt by India to shift attention away from its nuclear weapons and towards its civil nuclear technology.

Indian diplomacy triumphed in turning a grave crisis into an opportunity by securing legitimacy for its nuclear arsenal and removing obstacles in generating nuclear power.

Nuclear deals have brought India to the nuclear mainstream and opened up the global nuclear market for development of nuclear power without signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

India refused to sign the CTBT, but declared a moratorium on testing, agreed to join the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty negotiations without halting fissile material production

India reaffirmed minimum deterrent without giving any number of warheads and agreed to strengthen export controls.

India published a draft nuclear doctrine within five years of testing when none of the other nuclear weapon states has an explicitly published doctrine

Even the US first published its Nuclear Posture Review in 1994.

Additionally, India declared no-first-use and commitment to disarmament:-

It would not be the first to use nuclear weapons against other countries. But if nuclear weapons were used against India, it would retaliate, and inflict unacceptable pain on the adversary.

This nuclear weapons doctrine has since become the cornerstone of India's diplomatic, military and political policy in the international arena.

Even though India placed its civilian nuclear facilities under perpetual safeguards, its nuclear assets remained fully insulated against external scrutiny and interference. India secured rights to receive uninterrupted nuclear fuel supplies as a trade-off against safeguards.

It kept open its right to acquire advanced enrichment and reprocessing technologies, although it would require bilateral negotiations with the U.S. and others.

India's sovereign right to test a nuclear device in the future has remained intact.

India declared a moratorium on testing after the two series of tests in Pokhran.

There is no Evidence of India's involvement in illegal nuclear proliferation. This has earned India Civil nuclear deals with nations like Japan.

India is not in the company of the other two self-declared nuclear weapons powers, Pakistan and North Korea .This shows India's credibility in international arena.

So India need not focus on NSG :-

India has most of what it needs from the NSG from the 2008 waiver, certainly for the current desultory progress in nuclear power production.

This waiver enables India to effectively harness nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The waiver has allowed India to engage in civil nuclear commerce with a number of countries. It has entered into long-term nuclear fuel supply agreements with a number of supplier countries and is negotiating the supply of advanced nuclear reactors with Russia, France and the U.S.

The waiver was not specific to the agreement with the U.S., it covered all the items in the NSG's lists, and it has no sunset clause

India needs no further waiver to import from willing exporters anything it needs for IAEA-safeguarded civil nuclear facilities. From 2011, of course, this would exclude enrichment and reprocessing.

Neither China nor any other member can create problems for India within the terms of the waiver: whether any member sells to India or not will be dependent entirely on other factors, including its domestic laws and the strength of India's bilateral relations

India has already joined the MTCR, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively.

No foreign nuclear reactor supplier is waiting for India to get a NSG membership.

India has agreements with Canada (April 2013) and Australia (November 2014), and other countries such as Kazakhstan have been supplying too

Conclusion:-

Pokhran-II gave India the strategic space to manoeuvre at the world stage, and to showcase its international behaviour on the rules-based system and what followed has given India the right to claim the tag of a responsible power and a valuable asset in times when powers like the US and China are perceived to be not adhering to international commitments.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. The government ought to reassess the entire structure of the civil service, instead of taking steps in fits and starts, to make public services more management-oriented and relevant to present challenges. Critically analyse. (250 words)
2. Discuss the role of BSF in protecting the country's borders and it's sovereignty. (250 words)