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— THE CLAT COMBAT —
THE VERBAL WIZARD



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (RC)

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THE CLAT COMBAT

Reading Comprehension 1

The chiefs of the RSS, or sarsanghchalaks as they are called, are usually as abstemious with their public utterances as in their life-styles. That's why political watchers wait for their customary annual speech on Vijayadashami or Dussehra, or an equivalent of the State of the Union address. The current chief, Mohan Madhukarrao Bhagwat, is a break from the mostly silent past. He speaks more often but also measures his words more carefully. His immediate predecessor, the late K S Sudarshan, particularly was a headline-writer's delight. Mr Bhagwat isn't any of that, but still makes the headlines. As his interview with the RSS mouthpiece Panchjanya and Organiser did earlier this week. Finally, he's also the chief in an environment unprecedented in the Sangh's nearly 100-year-long history. (It was founded on September 27, 1925.)

For 90 years until 2014, the RSS had been on the defensive, in an adversarial relationship with the establishment of the day and struggling for wider social acceptance and political relevance. Today, the RSS isn't just part of the establishment, it is its core. Mr Bhagwat acknowledges this first up in the Panchjanya interview. In the past, he said, the challenges (kantak, or thorns in its path, as he put it) were of intellectual and political rejection and criticism. Now that (political) environment has transformed. He then goes on to list the new challenges and pitfalls, The sarsanghchhalak notes correctly that the political environment has transformed radically — and for the better. The RSS, therefore, is the most powerful it's ever been in its history. At the same time, I would also argue that it has never been so weak. How do we resolve that contradiction? The new, transformed environment, Mr Bhagwat notes, has placed the pupils of his organisation in key positions of power. Irrespective of which side of the divide you are on, you'd agree that the RSS is now ruling India. Narendra Modi is no Atal Bihari Vajpayee to pretend to distance himself from his alma mater or be defensive about his ideological upbringing. Again, unlike the Vajpayee years when the RSS often bickered with him, sometimes in public, we've never seen any whiff of that with Mr Modi. If anything, we've only seen the most fulsome praise.

That's the reason we argue, counter-intuitively, that the RSS is at its weakest in terms of influence while at its strongest politically. Because political power has now been outsourced fully to the Modi government. Even if the RSS is still, in principle, his guru, nobody would dare whisper a word of advice or counsel to him, forget some whiff of criticism. When the shishya grows into such a popular and domineering leader, the guru has to applaud from the sidelines. (SOURCE: <https://with.edits.and.revisions.theprint.in/1313616/>)

1. Based on the facts mentioned in the passage, how has the political environment changed for the RSS after 2014?

- (a) The RSS is now facing more hostility from the political establishment.
- (b) For the RSS, the political situation has changed and improved drastically.
- (c) The RSS is still operating in the same political climate.
- (d) It was not made clear how the RSS and the political climate were related.

2. Which of the following would answer the given question based on the passage: Is the current relationship between Narendra Modi and the RSS similar to that of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the RSS?

- (a) Yes, they are similar.
- (b) No, they are not similar.
- (c) The relationship between Narendra Modi and the RSS was not compared to that of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the RSS.
- (d) Only in public did RSS and Vajpayee complement one another.

3. What according to the author, is the reason for the RSS being at its weakest despite its political strength?

- (a) A lack of popular backing.
- (b) Transferring political power to the Modi administration.
- (c) Complaints from other political parties.
- (d) A decline in ideological significance.

4. What is the current state of the RSS in terms of its political power and influence as per the passage?

- (a) The RSS is at its strongest politically, but at its lowest in terms of influence.
- (b) The RSS is at its strongest in terms of influence while at its weakest politically.
- (c) The RSS is equally strong in terms of both influence and political power.
- (d) The state of the RSS in terms of both influence and political power is unclear.

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5. According to the passage, which of the following words would describe the relationship between Narendra Modi and the RSS?

- (a) Hostile (b) Distant (c) Adulatory (d) Indifferent

1.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. Consider lines from the beginning of second paragraph, "For 90 years until 2014, the RSS had been on the defensive, in an adversarial relationship with the establishment of the day and struggling for wider social acceptance and political relevance. Today, the RSS isn't just part of the establishment, it is its core." Option (a) cannot be inferred as it didn't face any dislike, Option (c) is incorrect as it is stated in the second paragraph environment has transformed (d) can be eliminated as it is the opposite. Hence option (b) is correct.

2.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. Consider the concluding lines of the second paragraph, option (c) can be eliminated as it is being discussed. It says Narendra Modi is no Atal Bihari Vajpayee and that RSS often bickered with Vajpayee. Option (d) is correct as the opposite is mentioned in the passage. Thus we can infer that they are not similar, that is option (b).

3.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. Consider the last paragraph, of the passage, it mentions, "That's the reason we argue, counter-intuitively, that the RSS is at its weakest in terms of influence while at its strongest politically. Because political power has now been outsourced fully to the Modi government." This is stated in option (b).

4.Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct. Consider the final paragraph, starting lines "that the RSS is at its weakest in terms of influence while at its strongest politically." Options (b), (c) and (d) cannot be inferred based on this and are thus incorrect. Option (a) clearly implies what is mentioned in the passage. Hence (a).

5.Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. Consider the concluding lines from the second paragraph, "Again, unlike the Vajpayee years when the RSS often bickered with him, sometimes in public, we've never seen any whiff of that with Mr. Modi. If anything, we've only seen the most fulsome praise." This implies that they were fulsome in their appreciation that is, abundantly praising. Option (a) means unfriendly, (b) means far away or not communicating with each other. Option (c) means not showing any care or concern. Thus all options here are incorrect as they oppose the given statement except (c) which means, praising excessively. Hence (c).