



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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Political Science & International Relations

Crash Course & Test Series - 2020

Test 04

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name NISHA
Test Date 4-12-2020
Email Address _____
Mobile _____
UPSC Roll No 0832197

Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						



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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

All the best for next test..!!!

ue.1(a)



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Que.1(a)

India has no good reason to overturn its nuclear doctrine.

(10 Marks)

The recent debates about revision of India's nuclear doctrine regarding No-first-use policy has ~~not~~ resurfaced due to growing Pakistan's proxy terror wars on India.

India's nuclear ~~doctr~~ doctrine has different components like - NO first use policy, Minimum Credible deterrence, no use against non nuclear weapon state and ~~we~~ weapons not as weapons of war but to be used as Nuclear deterrence.

The debate to overturn the nuclear doctrine is primarily about changing No first use - the expansionist like PR Chari, Bharat Karnad.

Bharat Karnad has advocated that no first use is suitable for country with survivable capacity and strong crisis management which is not India's forte. PR Chari also said that NFU Policy absolves Pakistan of India's threat against terrorism.



However scholars like K Subramaniam and Manpreet Sethi believes that there is no good reason to overturn the nuclear doctrine as it would increase the expenditure for maintenance. Further Nuclear deterrence is not about numbers alone. Demated state of Nuclear weapons is preferable according to these scholars.

Further Nuclear Doctrine of India is more of a cultural choice for India than strategic choice, changing ~~it~~ it to more offensive might give rise to arms race.

Prof. Gurmeet also highlights that more focus should be on deterring Pakistan against use of TNW.

Hence constant revision and updations of policy should be discussed and both pros and cons have to be balanced.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



India's role in UN Peace keeping.

10 Marks.

Que.1(b)

Indian Peacekeepers have recently been awarded Gold Medal for their service in Sudan.

India has been the largest ~~pe~~ contributor to the ~~B~~ UN Peacekeeping mission right from the beginning. Indian troops in UN Peacekeeping have been deployed in Middle East - Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Western Sahara.

They have not only maintained peace by preventing conflict but also contributing in 'Peace building' through development activities.

India has also sent an all women's contingent group to UN Peacekeeping mission.

India has also maintained its position that UN Peacekeeping troops must not engage in sexual violence and oppression of

indigenous communities. India also does not favour robust peacekeeping as advocated by western countries. Indian troops have also received several gold medals in past and India has contributed more than 4 lakh peacekeepers since beginning and lost several thousands to uphold peace and philosophy of UN to prevent future generations from scourge of war.

However India has highlighted the lack of funding by western countries, lack of capacity building of troops and absence of participation of countries who contribute in peacekeeping in decision making.

Hence India's role in UN peacekeeping has been in line with philosophy of Vasudhev Kutumbkam.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



ue.1(c)

As Sino Indian relations occur a free fall, New Delhi find itself on the margins of SCO..

10 Marks.

The growing aggressive stance of China regarding India and other powers has made Delhi question about its role in SCO- which is Chinese dominated.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a Eurasian economic, political, military cooperation organisation with Russia, Pakistan, India, China and other Central Asian nations as its members. India has been given member status in 2017.

Free fall in Sino India relations :

- Galwan Valley conflict where Indian troops were attacked.
- Economic aggressiveness ~~an~~ growing between the two nations.
- Chinese support to Pakistan, CPEC, string of Pearls in India Ocean.

Its impact on SCO:

- China's growing relation with Pakistan and Russia leaving India alone.
- SCO has not given boost to India's regional connectivity to Central Asia - INSTC, TAPI etc
- Trade between the nations remaining negligible with predominance of China.
- Pakistan using platform to raise Kashmir issue.

However India must use the platform by responding to realities - SCO is important to balance both US and it can be used as platform to highlight Chinese vulnerabilities. RATS platform can be utilised for counterterrorism initiatives.

Hence India must not yield to Chinese pressure and not to loose psychological war against China and maintain its strategic autonomy.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



The role of PMO in shaping India's foreign policy.

10 Marks.

Que.1(d)

India has adopted Parliamentary form of government hence Cabinet becomes the nucleus of Policy making and with the strengthening of Office of Prime Minister the form of government is changing to Prime Ministerial form of government.

∴ Therefore the role of PMO becomes imperative in shaping Indian foreign policy-

- ① Harsh V Pant has highlighted the role of Prime Minister Modi as Brand Ambassador to represent India at global forum to uphold India's interest
- ② Foreign Policy cannot be in isolation from Domestic issues, hence PMO acts as link between the domestic issues and foreign policy objectives.
- ③ Input from experts- and officials from different departments- Pressure groups, Ministry of ~~se~~finance, Science and Technology, Commerce can be aligned through Prime Minister's office.



- (4) Strengthening of office due to growing importance of Prime Minister after end of coalition era
- (5) Historically it began with Lal Bahadur Shastri as PM Secretariat and strengthened by Indira Gandhi where she herself led the diplomacy through her secretaries during Bangladesh war negotiations and Rajeev Gandhi also utilised the office through inputs, from technocrats.
- (6) Assist MEA along with the office of National security. Adviser by giving policy inputs

Hence PMO's role in shaping India's foreign policy is determinant of charisma of Prime Minister, domestic politics and historical factors.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



China is a pivotal actor in South Asia's hydro diplomacy.

Que. 1(e)

10 Marks

Brahma Chellany has called China as hydro-hegemon signalling that China is indeed a pivotal actor in South Asia's hydro diplomacy.

The major rivers in South Asia originates from Himalaya and snow covered Tibet like Mekong, Brahmaputra (Tsangpo), Satluj, Indus. Hence China's control over Tibet make China's role pivotal in South Asian Hydro diplomacy.

China with its growing economic clout is also ~~cont~~ constructing dams on Brahmaputra river in the Tibet region - Tiesu, Tsangpo etc. and trying to divert the ~~is~~ water of the rivers to Chinese water deficit region both in the North and South.

China has also been criticised ~~is~~ about non-sharing of data about rivers' flows jeopardising lower riparian states.

The lower riparian states of Mekong River have jointly raised their voice about declining flow of water whose livelihood depend entirely on the lifeline - Mekong primarily in Lao, Cambodia, Vietnam etc.

China is also ~~at~~ beginning to utilise waters of Indus and Satluj which could adversely impact India's water share.

China is not willing to create institutionalised Mechanism, Grievance Redressal Mechanism so that it can exploit the water without any obligations through its growing assertiveness. Christophe Taffelot recently indicated growing 'Water Bomb' in South Asia due to climate change, hence the water sharing arrangements become imperative for sustainable and equitable development.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

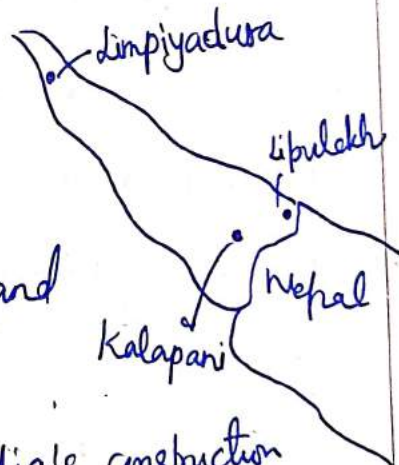
Que. 2(a)

Deconstruct the recent territorial dispute between India and Nepal. What are the possible factors behind escalation of the problem? What are the mechanisms available to address the dispute in structured and institutionalised manner? 20 Marks

The relations between India and Nepal have been called as 'Roti Betika Rashtra' and have historical, cultural, religious, geographical factors and destinies have been linked. However Jayant Prasad has rightly said that Closeness begets complexities with Nepal

The recent territorial dispute has highlighted the complexities of relation.

There has been a publication of map by Nepal which showed the territories of Dimpiyadura, Kalapani and Lipulekh as territories of Nepal.



This has been in response to India's construction of road from Dharachula to via Lipulekh pass as alternative to Kailash Mansarovar Yaba via Tibet, Sikkim.

The dispute arises due to different interpretation of the origin of River Kali.



India maintains that origin of River Kali is Kalapani and the west of these territories have been part of India as per Treaty of Sugauli and Treaty of Friendship (1950) and through administrative records India has established that historically these territories has been part of India.

Nepal however considers Limpiyadura as source of Kali which is in the upper regions of Himalayas and thus claiming the whole territory.

The other areas of dispute is in the middle sector (Duhasti Plains) and Bihar (Sushta) but the recent controversies ~~is~~ were in Uttarakhand-Nepal border.

Thus the different interpretation, open borders, not accepting Treaty of 1950 as has been source of recent conflict.



Possible factors behind escalation of Problem:

- Growing Nationalism in Nepal on the base of anti-Nationalism against India.
- China factor - China constructing railway routes to ~~grow~~ promote connectivity (China-Nepal connectivity deal)
- Reorganisation of Jammu-Kashmir - ~~perceived~~ threats in Nepal; and Galwan Valley clash.
- Historical Recent downfall in relation after blockade and Madhesi issues.
- ~~Perceived~~ Big Brother attitude of India by Nepal shows as intervention in Nepal's internal sovereignty as against reality.

Mechanism available:

- C Raja Mohan has rightly said that whenever country goes against the logical extraordinary interconnectedness, disputes arises b/w India-Nepal.

- Joint Working groups to settle trade-dispute border disputes - exchange of maps, inclusion of experts from both the countries.
- Shyam Saran has advocated India Open as opposed to India locked by giving 'national' treatment to promote Nepal's connectivity to Bay of Bengal thus toning down the tensions.
- Revision of the old ~~as~~ treaties and taking into account ground realities.
- By institutionalising Border Commission and promoting trade and transport are other relevant options.
- Hence India-Nepal ties are crucial for both the nations and they must not be jeopardised by misunderstandings and must be resolved at earliest

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.2(b)

West Asia has now become a centre of internal squabbling and rivalries with civilizational and sectarian dimensions. Elucidate. Suggest how the power struggle in west Asia affects India's interest?

15 Marks

The world order is in state of flux, changes are happening at faster rate, alignments and multi-alignments are in dynamic state and so is Middle East.

Middle East or West Asia has since the end of Second world war been a region of conflict and peace has not been a prominent feature due several fault lines - Shia Sunni conflict, Israel vs Arab world, Syrian Civil War, Iraq-Iran war and Arab Spring.

~~Has~~ However C Rajamohan has recently highlighted that the Old Middle East is killing and the New Middle East is rising on its demise.

Internal squabbling on lines of civilizational and sectarian dimensions ~~to~~ can be traced in the following developments:

Assertive Iran and the efforts of Arab world to contain it. USA's maximum pressure diplomacy and sanctions have also contributed to increasing hostility of Iran and thus giving rise to shia-sunni conflicts and role of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria

Iran has also occupied UAE's 3 islands and it is also increasing its clout in Afghanistan and emerging Russia-China-Iran Axis.

Normalisation of ties between UAE, Bahrain and Israel is another emerging trend to contain Iran's role and Saudi Arabia is also giving its ' blessings ' and indications to have normal ties with Israel thus the core Islamic ideology is accommodating rising Israel. This is also in a interest of these countries to divert their petro dollar economy, technology, investment etc. and to pressure to deliver to save their own monarchies.

The emboldened Erdogan (Turkish President) and his radicalised stand to support Islam is also indicating to its growing importance in internal squabbles of Middle East



Effects of 'Peace Struggle on India':

Normalisation of ties with Israel and UAE & Bahrain has been welcomed by India.

India is also normalising its ties with Iran by accommodating US pressures and India's energy needs.

India is also concerned about growing radicalised stand of Turkey and Pakistan on Kashmir issue and Turkey's relation with India have not been strong recently.

India thus has high stakes in the region due to diaspora, energy supply, Middle East growing as new business hub, sovereign funding and therefore India is moving on tight rope by engaging with Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE and also in effort to normalise relations with Turkey.

Hence Middle East is in state of flux and India should use its diplomatic channels to ensure its national interest.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.2(c)

Permanent seat in UNSC is neither necessary nor the only way for India to assert its arrival on global centre stage. Comment. 15 Marks

India's position on UNSC reforms have been called as that of 'Sisyphus' carrying the boulder on its shoulder up the hill only to see it as rolling down.

UNSC is the nucleus of United Nations organisation and its permanent members - P5 have the absolute decision making powers, it can take security decisions, sanctions etc and also enjoy vetopowers.

India has been vouching for permanent seat at UNSC due to its strong credential of being the second largest country in terms of population; emerging economic power, historical and continuing largest contributor to peacekeeping and its civilisational values of whole world as family in alignment with UN's philosophy.

However despite the consistent effort of ~~the~~ political elites to ~~re~~ ensure India's representation in the comity of nations, no tangible result is



seen in the near future.

This is due to the unwillingness of the P5 members ~~at~~ to dilute their authority, Coffee Club members ~~are~~ opposing the reforms.

Scholars have thus called for continuing raising voices at global forums ~~a~~ to highlight democratic deficit ~~but~~ and the permanent seat is not the only way to do so. UN needs India more than India needs UN, and the world will realize it sooner or later.

Hence Shyam Saran have rightly advocated that India should focus on development, ~~and~~ economic growth, similar ideas have been highlighted by Ramchandra Guha that India must achieve its fullest internal strength.

Raja Mohan also highlighted that Permanent seat is not that necessary and important that India will let itself to be used by western countries.



Similarly Harsh V Pant has highlighted that India must utilise all other multilateral platforms effectively in accordance with its national interest.

Professor Ramesh Shaker has also went to extent of advocating non-cooperation with UN.

India's growing role in ASEAN regional forum, it is member of Multi Missile Technology Control Regimes, BIMSTEC, SCO, BBIN, G20, QUAD, QUAD+.

Hence India must channelise its strength in all the multilateral platforms rather than remaining in illusory state of getting permanent seat sooner. The goals of multilateralism, peace, development, counter terrorism, technology sharing must be explored from all opportunities and hence mere relying on permanent seat is neither necessary nor the only way.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
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Overall Remarks :	



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e.3(a)

"An enduring dilemma of India's Afghanistan policy has been the choice between those calling for the direct engagement with Taliban and those who believed that there is no reason for Delhi to join the international stampede to embrace Taliban." In light of the above statement, suggest what should be the key element of India's playbook in the critical geo-political space?

20 Marks



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"South w
on terror
concerns

(b)

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



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e.3(b)

"South west Asia is a new geo-political framework between the war on terror and the Silk Road strategy." Discuss. Analyse India's concerns in the region.

15 Marks

Understanding
Structure
Subject K
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Overall



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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow:	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.3(c)

Critically examine the role of geographical factors on India's foreign policy. Do you think India's continental grand strategy is facing an existential crisis and it is high time it needs a maritime focus?

15 Marks



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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



e.4(a) The decade from 2008 Global Financial Crisis to 2020 Corona virus pandemic has seen a real transformation of the world order. Substantiate. What should be "The India way" to navigate through these unique times?

20 Marks

The decade from 2008 to 2020 has been called the Turbulent Teens and as we enter into the new decade we must make sure that the Turbulent Teens are converted into Transformative Times.

The Global Financial Crisis of 2008 was one of the worst economic crisis since the Global Economic Depression of 1930 and it was the first economic challenge faced after the ushering of Globalisation post Coldwar and evolution of interconnected world.

GFC of 2008 has produced various different effects on different countries primarily its adverse impact was on Western countries EU, USA and the developing countries India, China, Brazil were also impacted but they soon recovered.



The economic crisis gave rise to right and populist parties which ultimately manifested themselves as America First, BREXIT, Rise of Rightist Parties in EU

Globalisation began to be back tracked due to perception of Job loss and it also gave rise to immigration crisis.

Climate Change in the decade has also been up unprecedented ~~sto~~ producing warmest years of the century and rising sea level temperatures and level of seas and US withdrawal from Paris Agreement and no significant development happened to address the climate change.

The social crisis also manifested as the recent Black Lives Matter, Hongkong - Umbrella Movement, 1% vs 99% - US, Yellow movement - France, ^{Mexico} were also significant in shaping geopolitics.

The international politics in terms of Crisis, North Korea's irresponsible behaviour and civil wars of Middle East and African continent also made the tens turbulent



The Backlash against globalisation and no significant recovery of economies after GFC of 2008 ~~was~~ already produced cracks in the global governance and growth of Chinese Aggressiveness and COVID-19 Pandemic gave the further blow. The world also witnessed the threats of Pax Sinica.

Indian way to Navigate through unique times

It ~~be~~ would be based on the philosophy of Vasudhev Kutumbham and Nishkam Karma.

S Jaishankar, Indian Foreign Minister has ~~re~~ reiterated India's faith in multilateralism and thus global problems requiring global solutions.

India is a country with global interests, we are integrated in global supply chain thus we uphold more globalisation.

India through its INDC and signing Paris Agreement has ~~to~~ advocated faith in climate justice and through WHO executive body would address COVID crisis.

India has come left its historical dogmas and engaging with different partners at the same time, S Jaishankar called it Multialignment.

India has highlighted the threat of terrorism in the interconnected world and its address the democratic deficit of global governance structure.

India has done more than 150 digital summits, extended global supplies of anti Malarial drug, contributed \$10M in COVID Pandemic Fund and addressed the world through BRICS, RIC, SCO, NAM etc.

To contain growing Chinese Hegemony India's is collaborating with like Minded countries to ensure freedom of navigation, Indian Ocean-Net security Provider.

Thus India's through its economic power and largest democracy is willing to play leading role for Transformative times

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks:	

Que. 4(b)

One of the main, if not the primary spoiler for any reconciliation between India and Pakistan can be found in Pakistan's internal political and institutional struggles. Comment.

15 Marks

Conventional wars have been fought between conventional actors but in case of Pakistan and India the actor is neither conventional and the war is asymmetrical.

After the defeat of Pakistan in Bangladesh war in 1971, Pakistan has ~~resorted~~ resorted to proxy war strategy to keep India-Pakistan relation hostile.

Whenever there have been Confidence Building Measure (Bus Diplomacy, Treaties, Sports), they have been derailed by the Pakistan's deep state.

This is attributed to Pakistan's internal and institutional struggle - which is one of main factor of derailing of all efforts to bring Normalcy.

The deep state of Pakistan has its main actors as Pakistan National Army and its collusion with terrorist network - JeM, LeT, Haqqani Network.

The political structure of Pakistan is dispersed dyarchy with Centre of Power at Rawalpindi and PM as the puppet of the deep state forming another centre at Islamabad which act to legitimise its terror activities.

General Zia's policy of Bled Bleeding India with thousand cuts has been the official policy of deep state of Pakistan.

Whenever there is effort by other institutions like Executive, Judiciary, Civil groups it has been jeopardised by the dyarchical and Pakistan's political and institutional struggle with dominant class formed by Military-Oligarchic structure of Pakistan.



Ashley Tellis has rightly said that India lacks strategic choice to address the challenges of Indo-Pakistan relations as the deep state runs so deep and the internal dynamics of Pakistan jeopardise all the efforts

Democracy has not been established in Pakistan and it is still a feudal oligarchic state as called by Rakesh Sood hence there have been minimal efforts by Pakistan to reconcile the relations.

The pressures by Army on the Puppet PM guides the policy decisions,

Hence the proxy wars by deep state due to Pakistan internal political structure has been the culprit of the present state of relation.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.4(c)

Critically analyse the future prospects of India-Bangladesh relations by examining the challenges and opportunities existing in the relationship. 15 Marks

Prime Minister of India has recently called the India Bangladesh relations entering the phase of 'Sonali Adhyaya' - golden phase highlighting the growing cooperation and consolidation between the nations.

India-Bangladesh relations offers one of the most successful manifestation of India's neighbourhood first policy and successful south Asian regionalism.

Opportunities in the Indo-Bangladesh relations :-

- ① Bangladesh is crucial for India's North East security to counter the North East insurgency and that has highlighted through countries' joint operation against many infiltrant groups.
- ② The Chicken Neck corridor has make Bangladesh imperative for North East connectivity - Kaladan-Mulhimodal Transport Network.

- ③ India-Bangladesh have recently signed Protocol on Inland waterway network which offers huge opportunity to India and Bangladesh both.
- ④ Bangladesh is pivot to India's Act East and Look East policy and thus central to ASEAN connectivity.
- ⑤ The opportunities also lie in security sea lines of communication and maritime security in the Bay of Bengal and Indo Pacific.
- ⑥ Growing Trade connectivity India's largest trading partner of SAARC is Bangladesh, India's cumulative investment in Bangladesh is growing manifold and scope in technology cooperation (SAARC satellite).
- ⑦ The recent visit of Bangladesh PM signed many deals - use of Feni River for drinking water purpose in Tripura, Border Connectivity (Customs Regulations to be minimised), Maritime Connectivity and use of Chattogram and other regions to boost transport.

However opportunities also come with their challenges -

- Refugee crisis - Rohingyas' settlement
 - Immigration issues in context of NRC-CAA issue still to be resolved
 - River water sharing forms the strongest challenge with number of trans boundary rivers hence challenge has to be addressed through individual manner; consensus based.
 - Shyam Saran has highlighted Delivery deficit i.e. not acting on the deals and not delivery on time.
 - The growing ~~po~~ interconnectedness between China and Bangladesh - threat of South Asian regional.
 - Radicalisation and extremism - HUJI etc.
- Hence opportunities must be explored further and challenges have to be address to take relation to the next level

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.5(a)

Delineate the relative degree of continuity and change in India's foreign policy in the light of the major initiatives taken by the present government. 10 Marks

Foreign policy of a country is the set of actions to convert the objectives into reality. It is often determined by geography, ~~set~~ culture, historical memory, political factors. Diplomacy is the tool of foreign policies, alliances and grouping are the manifestations of it.

Indian foreign policy is also aimed to ensure that environment remains conducive for India's growth story and to highlight India's interests at the multilateral forums.

Indian foreign policy is impacted by the political leadership, however there are both elements of continuity and change.

- Indian foreign policy has continued to uphold Neighbourhood first policy - diplomatic priority, South Asian regionalism, investment and growth.

→ Look East and Act East policy along with Link West shows the continuity and upgradation of extended neighbourhood.

→ BIMSTEC, BBIN, SAARC, SCO - participation of India to maintain strategic autonomy and multialignment.

Change has been observed as explained by Harsh V Pant

When Prime Minister emerged as Brand Ambassador of India's culture and traditions and made ^{sup}India's voice is heard at all platforms. Soft power diplomacy through Yoga. Panchsheel & along with

Panchamirit = Samvaad, Sahyog, Sanskriti, Samidhi

→ St Jaishankar has also highlighted that new India is devoid of dogma and will engage with US, Russia, China, Iran, Israel, thus believes in Multi-alignment

Hence IFP has both elements of continuity & change embedded in each other

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

ue.5(b)

How India should priorities its economic, political and security needs in face of China's increasingly powerful and aggressive strategies?

10 Marks

Former P.M of India AB Vajpayee has said that one can change its friends but no neighbours.

The present year has shown Chinese aggressive strategies and its growing clout to challenge US hegemony - hostage diplomacy - Canada, border clashes, artificial island - S. China sea, Hong Kong National Security Law etc.

China is a great disruptive power, hence India should ensure its economic, political and security needs to ensure stable South Asia and ensure its territorial integrity.

For economic Needs : India was rejected Chinese dominant RCEP, hence it should not explore trade agreements with its members and address the deficits (FTA already there), early evolution of Trade Agreement with US will be prioritised.

India must also decline the 'Chinese Avatar' of 5G Technology - BRI in digital sector.

For Political needs India must build 'Great walls of democracy' to with like minded country, highlight vulnerabilities of Uighurs Human Rights and integrate Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh by winning trust of people.

For security needs - India has signed historic security agreement with US, materialization of Quad and Quad+, ~~so~~ using diplomacy hard and soft to make sure our South Asian neighbours do not use Chinese card against us. Addressing delivery deficits at all levels.

Hence India needs both engagement and containment as said by Rajamohan to deal with China.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

ie.5(c) The story of bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka is a story of ups and downs.

10 Marks

India-Sri Lanka ties have been determined by geographic proximity, history, culture and shared and mutual interest for inclusive South Asia.

Bilateral relations between the two have been story of ups and downs.

Positive aspects of relation has been:

- Growing economic integration
- extending credit for development by India
- growing FDI in Sri Lanka.
- FTA - 2000, and recent negotiation for Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement.
- Humanitarian assistance - during COVID-Pandemic
- Addressing security challenges with the request of Sri Lanka (ITTE) govt.

- Common interest for ~~no~~ deradicalisation.

- Infrastructure development - Trincomalee Port, Matalla Port, & Colombo, Jaffna Railway Line.

However there have been downturns too -

- ① fisherman issue in Kachechevu Island - where rights of fishermen were violated. Prof. Suryavarma has advocated only leasing to Sri Lanka with right to fishing. Joint working group to address the challenges.
- ② Chinese presence growing in Sri Lanka - Nambantota and Debt trap diplomacy.
- ③ Economic connectivity - huge scope for improvement
- ④ Rights of Tamil Sri Lankans -

Hence relation has both ups and downs with hope for better in the future -

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que. 5(d)

How India's history as a dominant and oppressed entity affected and constituted India's foreign policy discourse?

10 Marks

India's history of colonialism of 200 years. has shaped the Indian foreign policy discourse in numerous ways.

India ~~be~~ as a dominant and oppressed entity changed the natural growth pattern of the country. It drained Indian wealth where before colonial advent it has been a dominant entity in international trade and Centre of power was indeed in Indian Ocean.

- India after independence raised voice against colonialism and anti-colonialism became a significant discourse of IFP.
- India was born in the climate of super power rivalry and hence it had to protect its hard earned freedom & - hence PM Nehru made Non-Alignment a goal of IFP to maintain its strategic autonomy.

→ Indian foreign Policy was against Discrimination of any kind - Racism - Apartheid in S. Africa

- The initial policy of Import Substitution was also directed to prevent exploitation of nascent industries from the Neo-Colonial powers.

- After LPG Reforms Indian Foreign Policy upheld the globalisation to ensure India's growth trajectory and exploit our comparative advantage.

- The oppressive history of India also taught important lesson to respect the territorial integrity of other nations and belief in capacity building against the debt trap diplomacy and charm offensive of China.

Hence our historical memory has shaped the discourses of our foreign policy.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Discuss the current state of India-Africa relations. Examine the challenges and opportunities. 10 Marks

Que.5(e)

African Continent offers a vast opportunity to India to become a partner in the growth of African countries.

India-Africa relation has been on a rising trajectory and African countries see India as reliable growth partner.

India's vision of Indo-Pacific from the east of Africa to the west of Americas highlight the importance India gives to African nations in the emerging World order. India has been establishing ties with major African powers.

Opportunities of the relationship

② Infrastructure investment by India is on the rise with partnership from countries like Japan. Asia, Africa growth corridor

- National Knowledge Network and Study in India programme - for capacity building
- Extension of development credit.
- Energy security of India - from oil rich African nations.
- South-South Cooperation in multilateral platforms and counter terrorism strategies.

Challenges include - Delivery Deficit as compared to China, discrimination of African nationals in India, Civil war situations in Sudan etc, China's growing geostrategic presence (Djibouti)

Hence India-Africa relations must move forward by addressing the challenges and promoting economic and political interconnectedness.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.6(a)

The relationship between India and USA is more robust than ever. However, the deepening of relationship is bound to bring its own challenges. Critically examine. Analyse the challenges and opportunities in India US Relations.

20 Marks

India-US Relationship can be beautifully explained as natural allies and it has evolved from estranged democracies to engaged democracies.

India-US Relation has become comprehensive in several aspects and it is paradoxical but natural that as relations deepen there would also emerge challenges but the strength and depth mixed with flexibility can take on challenges and thus the trajectory can move in desired direction.

Comprehensive security agreements: has been the recent success story of the relation with signing of foundational security agreements - COMCASA, BECA, LEMOA thus establishing air-air, navy-navy and secured communication channels

between security armados of the country.

Comprehensive Economic & relations -

without any trade deals or agreements, trade

b/w the countries 2014 (60 Bn \$) to 2019 (90 Bn \$)

and US remains India's largest trading partner

However challenges remain in form of withdrawal of

GSP, H1B visas restrictions, Harley Davidson tariffs,

tariffs on Medical Stents and data protection.

However Rakesh Sood has called Trade as Trump's fetish and India-US can fight over Soyabeans while dealing in arms. Thus India-US must not jeopardise their relation over economic moorings and more interconnectedness should be promoted -

people to people contact - the strength of which were highlighted in Howsdy Mody, Namaste Trump etc and growing Indian diaspora in US.



Vision of Indo Pacific to contain China and through Quad and Quad+ securing sea line of communication and thus India becomes a natural partner of US as global geopolitics shifts towards Indo Pacific.

Even in this opportunity there lies a challenge, where methods differ where USA wants partnership (military alliance), preparedness which is differently viewed by India as it is different to fight China from across the border and across the oceans. Thus US has to be sensitive for India's interests as well.

US also must try to deal with multi polar world and accept the realities and changing dynamics. Where if US engages with Pakistan, India must also deal with Russia (S400 deal) and Iran (for energy security - US sanctions)

Hence with every opportunity there lies a corresponding challenge but the strength of relationship depends on how both partners' accommodate each others' interests.

Opportunities still needs to be explored in the domain of technology sharing, climate diplomacy-, digital technology, establishing coalition of like minded countries- Japan, Australia, S Korea and investing in developing countries (Blue Dot Network)

Hence Mike Pompeo rightly said ~~is~~ the partnership between oldest and largest democracies have huge potential and enormous strength to shape the geopolitics of 21st Century.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que. 6(b)

Critically examine the impact of Abraham Accords on India's West Asian diplomacy. What has been India's response to the accords?

15 Marks

Abraham Accords are the agreement to normalise ties between Bahrain, UAE with Israel having a long term impact on West Asian politics as well as impact on India.

Prof A.K Pasha has called the accords as baby steps to normalise the relation as per the changing geo-politics in Middle East and its ultimate evolution and manifestation would determine its consequences.

The accords have been welcomed by India as explained by Ambassador Prabhu Dayal - as it normalise ties ~~with~~ between both the friends of India i.e. Israel and UAE and Bahrain.

The accord will promote economic and security arrangement between the nations hence

It benefit the huge Indian diaspora in the region.
Further security of Middle East and its
stability in the region is interest of India for its
sustained energy supply and investment potential

However Harsh V Pant has highlighted the
realignments happening in the West Asian politics
where India has to also engage with side lined Iran
due to our investment in Chabahar and energy
security. The accords have been called as diplomatic
stupidity by Iran thus managing ties with Iran
remain a challenge.

The axis developing in Middle East bloc
Turkey-Iran-Russia on one side and Saudi Arabia
and UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait will also be challenging
for India with growing Turkey's hostility towards India.

The cause of Palestinian is also said to be
given no attention, however there has been



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Some agreement that Israel will not go for annexation of West Bank under the agreement, however ground realities are different thus India's stand for just support to Palestine is also firm. and India

must use its diplomatic channels to ensure safe rehabilitation for Palestine with support from US too.

As US is indicating its exit from Middle East new powers are emerging to fill in the vacuum - Russia, China, Turkey, hence the road ahead is not easy.

However, in conclusion we can establish that we have to proactively keep track of developments and similar ~~the~~ normalisation and peace agreements have to be welcomed.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.6(c)

What do you understand by strategic culture? Do you think India has its own strategic culture? What are the salient features of India's strategic culture?

15 Marks

Ancient thinkers from Kautilya to Sun Tzu and Machiavelli have explored how to win without a battle and this thinking has been one of the founding principle of Indian civilisation as far as 3rd C.C.

Strategic culture is the integration of a nation's culture and its historical memory into the policies to secure country's security interests and foreign policy goals. It is the combined set of a country's beliefs, traditions, habits, patterns of behaviour to address the threats of war and ensuring nations' growth and integrity.

It has been argued by scholars like Tanham that India lacks a strategic culture and India has been called as preachy, with no international doctrine

normative and utopian approach lacking pragmatic and ideological standing on issues and thus it does not a strategic culture of its own.

However Shiv Shankar Menon has vehemently opposed this notion and established India has its own strategic culture.

India has maintained its uniqueness, diplomatic style, strategic autonomy, civilisational values & in its foreign policy decisions

with ~~meag~~ meagre means after independence political and diplomatic elites have efficiently deployed its means to achieve our ends.

India hasn't responded to siren calls of western countries and established its stand.

India has also deployed force when diplomatic methods exhausted - Hyderabad, Goa ~~internal~~ internally & Maldives, Sri Lanka externally

India has prevented coup in Mauritius, deployed Navy in East Asia to secure balance of Power.

Features of strategic culture of India includes

- diplomatic frugality - using limited resources for our goals and interests
- strategic autonomy - non-alignment to multialignment

Further the features can be explained in two schools of thought: Nitin Pai explained
Panipat Syndrome - waiting for threats at our doors and then responding, some adherents but not feasible every time.

Hindu Kush School of thought - thwarting the threat as far as possible from Indian territory, becomes imperative for the present age. Terror strikes - Balakot.

Hence India has a rich strategic culture and with its growing strength, hindukush school of thought is gaining prominence.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



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In recent times certain developments have given rise to the increasing concerns among India's strategic community with respect to its reliance on Russia. Elucidate. To what extent do you support the view that in order to protect its interest vis-à-vis China, India has to forget its reliance on Russia.

20 Marks

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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



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Enumerate some of the recent developments in the relations between Japan and India. To what extent India's decision to withdraw from RCEP creates dilemma for Japan?

15 Marks

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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.7(c)

India's decision to remain out of RCEP shows that it is retreating from its Act East Policy. Comment. Support your view with convincing arguments.

15 Marks



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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



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How do you look at India's current approach towards Quad? Do you think Quad is India's China containment strategy or India's own strategic outreach to position itself in emerging world order?

20 Marks



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Que. 8(b)

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Thanks to China's assertive foreign policy, EU realizes the importance of working with Asia's biggest democracy. Comment.

15 Marks

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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.8(c)

New Delhi has historically paid limited attention to Latin America and Caribbean region. Do you think the recent visit of Brazil's President as the Chief Guest for Republic Day will spark a change in India's relations with the region?

15 Marks



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Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



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Space for Rough Work



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Space for thought work



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Political Science & International Relations

Crash Course & Test Series - 2020

Test 04

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

There are **EIGHT** questions divided in **TWO SECTIONS** and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.

Question Nos. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** question from each section.

SECTION 'A'.

1. Comment on the following in about 150 words each: 10*5=50
 - (a) India has no good reason to overturn its nuclear doctrine. 10 Marks
 - (b) India's role in UN Peace keeping. 10 Marks
 - (c) As Sino Indian relations occur a free fall, New Delhi find itself on the margins of SCO. 10 Marks
 - (d) The role of PMO in shaping India's foreign policy. 10 Marks
 - (e) China is a pivotal actor in South Asia's hydro diplomacy. 10 Marks
2. (a.) Deconstruct the recent territorial dispute between India and Nepal. What are the possible factors behind escalation of the problem? What are the mechanisms available to address the dispute in structured and institutionalized manner? 20 Marks
2. (b.) West Asia has now become a centre of internal squabbling and rivalries with civilizational and sectarian dimensions. Elucidate. Suggest how the power struggle in west Asia affects India's interest? 15 Marks

2. (c.) Permanent seat in UNSC is neither necessary nor the only way for India to assert its arrival on global centre stage. Comment. 15 Marks
3. (a.) "An enduring dilemma of India's Afghanistan policy has been the choice between those calling for the direct engagement with Taliban and those who believed that there is no reason for Delhi to join the international stampede to embrace Taliban." In light of the above statement, suggest what should be the key element of India's playbook in the critical geo-political space? 20 Marks
3. (b.) "South west Asia is a new geo-political framework between the war on terror and the Silk Road strategy." Discuss. Analyse India's concerns in the region. 15 Marks
3. (c.) Critically examine the role of geographical factors on India's foreign policy. Do you think India's continental grand strategy is facing an existential crisis and it is high time it needs a maritime focus? 15 Marks
4. (a.) The decade from 2008 Global Financial Crisis to 2020 Corona virus pandemic has seen a real transformation of the world order. Substantiate. What should be "The India way" to navigate through these unique times? 20 Marks
4. (b.) One of the main, if not the primary spoiler for any reconciliation between India and Pakistan can be found in Pakistan's internal political and institutional struggles. Comment. 15 Marks
4. (c.) Critically analyse the future prospects of India-Bangladesh relations by examining the challenges and opportunities existing in the relationship. 15 Marks

SECTION 'B'

5. Comment on the following in about 150 words each : 10*5=50

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(a) Delineate the relative degree of continuity and change in India's foreign policy in the light of the major initiatives taken by the present government.
10 Marks

(b) How India should priorities its economic, political and security needs in face of China's increasingly powerful and aggressive strategies? 10 Marks

(c) The story of bilateral relations between India and Srilanka is a story of ups and downs. 10 Marks

(d) How India's history as a dominant and oppressed entity affected and constituted India's foreign policy discourse? 10 Marks

(e) Discuss the current state of India-Africa relations. Examine the challenges and opportunities. 10 Marks

6. (a) The relationship between India and USA is more robust than ever. However, the deepening of relationship is bound to bring its own challenges. Critically examine. Analyse the challenges and opportunities in India US Relations.
20 Marks

6.(b) It Critically examine the impact of Abraham Accords on India's West Asian diplomacy. What has been India's response to the accords? 15 Marks

6.(c) What do you understand by strategic culture? Do you think India has its own strategic culture? What are the salient features of India's strategic culture?
15 Marks

7. (a.) In recent times certain developments have given rise to the increasing concerns among India's strategic community with respect to its reliance on Russia. Elucidate. To what extent do you support the view that in order to protect its interest vis-à-vis China, India has to forget its reliance on Russia.
20 Marks

7. (b.) Enumerate some of the recent developments in the relations between Japan and India. To what extent India's decision to withdraw from RCEP creates dilemma for Japan?
15 Marks

7. (c.) India's decision to remain out of RCEP shows that it is retreating from its Act East Policy. Comment. Support your view with convincing arguments.
15 Marks
8. (a.) How do you look at India's current approach towards Quad? Do you think Quad is India's China containment strategy or India's own strategic outreach to position itself in emerging world order?
20 Marks
8. (b.) Thanks to China's assertive foreign policy, EU realizes the importance of working with Asia's biggest democracy. Comment. 15 Marks
8. (c.) New Delhi has historically paid limited attention to Latin America and Caribbean region. Do you think the recent visit of Brazil's President as the Chief Guest for Republic Day will spark a change in India's relations with the region?
15 Marks



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Tips for Writing Good Answers:-

1. *Read the question carefully and at least 3-4 times.*
2. *Note down concepts, facts, examples, keywords related to the question.*
3. *Draw a rough outline of the flow.*
4. *Pay adequate attention to the introduction and conclusion.*
5. *Introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it.*
6. *Conclusion must summarize your response to the question.*
7. *Make sure answer is*
 - a. *Logical and coherent*
 - b. *Clear connection between sentences and paragraphs.*
 - c. *Written correctly giving adequate compatibility to your expression, style and presentation*
 - d. *Do not exceed the word limit*
 - e. *Write neatly*



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f. Underline points you wish to emphasize.