



## Political Science & International Relations

### Crash Course & Test Series - 2021

#### Test 04

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name

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Test Date

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UPSC Roll No

0886777

#### 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						





# SHUBHRA RANJAN

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Que.1 (a)

Trace the roots of ideological vision of India's present foreign policy. (10 Marks)

Ans.

Foreign policy of a nation is a reflection of its internal values, future visions and international standing. Indian foreign policy has gone through a long process of evolution and still dynamic, versatile and flexible.

### Roots of Ideological Vision:

India for long has supported pluralistic and democratic voices on international stage emanating from its domestic values. It has supported the cause of decolonization, sovereignty and independence of third world nations. This has been a  Gandhian legacy and a product of its own struggles against British rule.



India has also followed a path of non-alignment to maintain strategic autonomy and protect its independence. It took issue based stand during cold war. In the recent years this has changed into multi-alignment but the goal of maintaining strategic autonomy has remained the same.

Further, India also stands for global denuclearization and disarmament for the promotion of peace. Panchsheel principles of mutual cooperation and non-interference in domestic affairs guides its current foreign policy.

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

Que.1(b)

Define Strategic Culture. Does India have a strategic culture? (10 Marks)

Ans. Culture is defined as a set of beliefs, values and practices considered important by a community and handed down to each generation for its continuance. Strategic culture hence refers to the same culture in the context of state behaviour in matters it considers as strategic for its national interests.

According to scholars like George Fomum, India lacks the presence of any significant strategic culture of its own. Its foreign policy lacks depth and far sightedness required to build a strategic culture.

On the other hand, Shiv Shankar Menon counters this by saying that India has always had a strategic culture of its own since independence. Its non-similarity with the western culture points towards its uniqueness. According to him, India has followed frugal diplomacy with small



team of professional and limited means to achieve all and more that well funded diplomatic programmes of developed countries have achieved.

It is important to build new vocabulary to define it better.

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



Que.1(c)

There are no easy options for India as far as the complexity of the Israel-Palestinian conflict is concerned. Critically analyse in context of India's approach with respect to the recent crisis. (10 Marks).

Ans.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the longest and most complex international issue.

"Indians have always seen Palestine through the prism of domestic Islam", Kumaraswamy.

India in the past had followed a policy of hyphenation between the two. It has supported the cause of Palestine on international forums and voted against Israel at UN.

This approach has not yet yielded much expected support from Arab world especially seen during the 1965 and 1971 wars. Hence, there has been a marked shift and de-hyphenation in India's Israel-Palestine policy in the Modi regime. He has been unapologetic about his relations with Israel giving it greater depth, diversity and significance. Realism has finally replaced romanticism.





in the policy.

Presently, as India forges closer ties with Israel it has also reiterated its stance on Palestine. It seeks a democratic, peaceful and viable Palestine. Moving forward, as C. Rajamohan says, pragmatism and not political piousness should guide the relationship.

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

Que.1(d)

Describe the Challenges emerging out of EU's new legislation "Fit for 55", for India. (10 Marks).

Ans.

Climate change is an ever increasing reality in present world. The EU recent 'Fit for 55' Policy shows its entry into the everyday lives of public through government policies.

Features :

It proposes to bring down the carbon emission from 27 EU member countries by 55% by 2030. It has also been included in the INDCs of EU.

Impact on India :

The policy also proposes to impose a greentax and a carbon-border adjustment mechanism which will seek to regulate entry of products from carbon intensive processes into EU. This will adversely impact the India-EU trade.

India is a major exporter to EU with the potential to increase further after the signing of FTA. This policy on the other hand might cause India to lose a big market for its automobiles, pharmaceutical and textile products.

Climate justice and transfer of technology should provide the means of progress further in relationship.

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



Que.1(e)

Discuss the role of India Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in formulation of India's foreign policy. (10 Marks)

Ans:

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is a policy think tank on international issues related to India. It was formed in 1943 as a non-political, non-official and not for profit organisation. In 2001, it was given the status of an institute of national importance through a parliamentary act.

Role of ICWA in Indian Foreign Policy:

It acts as a primary think tank providing policy inputs to the government on various issues and their possible ramifications upon India.

It also conducts several seminars, talks and conferences between India and its partner countries deliberating upon improving ties through facilitation of trade, economic

Cooperation and security. It conducted an India-Africa conference to enhance ties in 2019.

It provides a platform for civil society to engage directly with government and improve policies.

Foreign policy formation involves multiple inputs from a wide range of actors. Such institutions seek to facilitate the same.

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

ue.2(a)

India is a rising power that seeks to protect its widening interests and advance its influence in international affairs. Comment. Is India's foreign policy capacity commensurate with it delivering on its greater ambitions? (20 Marks)

Ans.

India has gained much power since the liberalization of its economy and hence looks to widen its interests and advance its influence in international affairs.

India's influence and interests:

According to Shiv Shankar Menon, protection of its borders and security of its maritime routes of shipping remains India's core national interest. Apart from this, it seeks to widen its economic and security partnerships with both regional and global players.

It is developing the Chabahar Port in Iran to connect to the INSTC. India has wider ambitions to improve trade with

Central Asia and Europe.

India has the 4<sup>th</sup> most powerful military in the world according to SIPRI and an excellent record on non proliferation. All of this makes it vouch for a permanent seat on UNSC and on NSG as well.

Challenges:

It faces the onslaught of PLA on its northern borders as well as its encirclement tactics in IOR. Combined with China's axis with Pakistan, India faces non-traditional threats from terrorist groups inside it.

Environmental threats and climate change presents another area of challenges of its domestic stability and international influence.

## Indian Capacity

India seeks to maintain its strategic autonomy in the region. It has achieved this through multi-alignment by joining SCO and Quad. It has also increased its engagements with its neighbours through its Neighbourhood First Policy and SAGAR vision.

It has also exerted its influence in west asia by taking full advantage of the changing situations and isolating Pakistan diplomatically. It not only enjoys close relation with Saudi Arabia and UAE but also has a strategic partnership with Israel.

Apart from modernisation of its Armed forces, India has also embarked upon building strategic posts in IOR to counter the string of pearls theory. These



are located in Maldives, Seychelles,  
Indonavia, Oman etc.

Yet, Indian foreign policy is reactionary and slow filled with bureau-  
 cratic hurdles. According to PR Kumaraswamy,  
 India suffers from over promising and  
 under delivery. This has hurt its image  
 viz China which is highly proactive  
 in the neighbourhood. Slowing down of  
 its economy and pandemic have further  
 dampened its initiatives.

As C. Rajamohan said, a proactive region  
specific policy is required for India  
to achieve its aims.

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

Que.2(b)

The shared geography has always made Afghanistan an important subject of mutual interest for India and Iran. Comment. (15 Marks)

Ans.

Afghanistan has often been called as the heart of Asia. owing to its crucial location at the cross-roads of South Asia and Central Asia. It shares borders with both Iran and India through Pok.

With the recent coming of Taliban to power in Afghanistan concerns have been raised in both Iran and India.

Iranian interests :

Iran is a shiaite country. Afghanistan too has a large population of shias along with Tajiks who have close links to shias of Iran. It is interested in maintaining its influence in these groups.

It also shares a long border with Afghanistan and is hence concerned about a possible refugee situation in

Case of economic and humanitarian crisis.

Indian interests

Security threats emanating from Afghan soil are a major cause of worry to New Delhi. It has investments worth billions which are stake in Afghanistan now controlled by Taliban.

It also wants to maintain regional peace and security and is fearful of ISI's strategic depth with Taliban.

Steps taken

India is building the Zahidan rail link from Chabhar in Iran to Afghanistan to connect to Central Asia.

Iran participated in the regional security dialogue held recently in New Delhi to discuss the Afghan situation.

Most of their interests converge ~~together~~

and both of them have called for an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

While France has kept its embassy in Kabul open, many scholars like Vivek Katiya also say that presence in Kabul is required for India to secure its interests there.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	



Que.2(c)

India's broad spectrum relationship with Israel has transformed into a strategic partnership. Substantiate. (15 Marks)

Ans.

Although India provided Israel recognition in 1948, formal diplomatic relations only started in 1992 during Narsimha Rao's tenure. It has grown several folds since.

Broad spectrum relationship:

Israel is the third largest arms supplier to India after Russia and USA.  
India is Israel's largest defence partner.

Moreover, the two nations collaborate on international forums. Israel supports India's bid for a permanent seat on UNSC.

In the recent times, the relationship has diversified into agricultural technologies, water conservation, space cooperation and cultural exchanges.



Awarding to Slyam Saran, Modi has brought a much needed realism with India's west Asia policy as its support for the Palestine cause for decades did not yield the expected results with the Arab countries. His unapologetic and open relationship with Israel has reaped rich benefits.

Strategic depth;

India and Israel have entered into joint development and production of several defence items like Pinaka rocket system and Barack 8 missile.

With the signing of Abraham Awards, new possibilities have opened up for India. It has recently started the new Quad in the West with Israel, UAE and USA. It provides them to develop critical technologies needed to counter China in the region.



The military of the two nations also conduct joint drills regularly. India has a lot to learn from Israel in counter-terror operations. The two of them have also signed several agreements ranging from research to infrastructure.

Awordy to Kumaraswamy, India suffers from over promising and under delivery. If such problems are corrected, sky is the limit for Indo-Israeli relations.

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

Que.3(a)

Though Geo-politics and Geo-strategic interest take precedence, science, technology and trade remain central to the strong Indo-US ties. Comment. (20 Marks)

Ans.

In the past three decades, India's US relations have seen a huge upswing. The US has acknowledged India as a comprehensive global partner. There are several reasons behind this shift.

### Economic and Trade

India has a fast growing economy with huge opportunities for investments. The bilateral trade stands at more than 100 billion dollars with US being India's biggest trading partner and India being America's second largest. The trade is in India's favour.

### Science and Technology

ISRO and NASA are collaborating on the HISAR mission. NASA has also asked





India to join its lunar mission which seeks to put a man on moon again.

There is a close collaboration on technology between the two nations. They have agreed to cooperate on 54 technologies and jointly develop 64 as well. US is a major arms supplier to India and also transfers technology in some cases. Many American Companies including Apple have recently shifted their production units into India from China.

Geo-politics and strategy:

India forms the basis of US's Indo-Pacific shift. It sees India as a counter weight to China in the region. India too has a Indo-Pacific policy in place. However, to Shyam Saran, there is a difference in the Indo-Pacific policies



of the two nations while US policy is against China is inherently confrontational, India adopts a cooperational approach seeking to work with all players including China in the region.

However, the Indian stance has shifted from asking for removal of US forces from Indo-Pacific in 70s to welcoming them in the region.

Going ahead, according to Harsh Pant from ORF, signing of FTA must be the main priority of the two nations along with enhanced cooperation in maritime security. Mechanisms like 2+2 dialogue should be used



To iron out common differences  
as soon as possible.

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

Que.3(b)

"Formulation of a foreign policy is a complex process mediated by the participation of various stake holders". Discuss in context of India. (15 Marks)

Ans:

Foreign policy can be defined as the set of policies, tactics and long-term strategies employed by a country in the international arena to safeguard its national interest and achieve its goals through means of diplomacy, convention or collaboration.

India is a functional democracy, hence, the development of its foreign policy is a complex process mediated by various inputs from multiple stake holders. It is important to discuss them in detail:

1. Prime Minister; Since the times of Nehru, PMO has remained the key pivot of India's foreign policy. He gives a personal touch as well as brings in the agenda of his political party. The various coalition governments were the only exception to this rule.



2. MEA: It consist of a cabinet minister with a body of subject experts and a plthora of resources at its disposal. It has specialised territorial and functional wings to guide its policies. These include research wing, economic wing etc. it also handles ICR and ICWA.

3. Political parties and Interest groups: Various political parties display their stand on international issue through their manifestos. For example, left opposes close relations with US while BJP stands for nuclearisation and liberalization.

4. Pressure groups: Although they enjoy much less power in India still relevance of corporate groups like FICCI and CII is increasing in post liberalization India.

of late, the importance of public diplomacy is increasing to enlist domestic and international popular support for



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India's external policies. The advent of information and communication technologies has also given a new dimension to it.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
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Que.3(c)

With US withdrawal from Afghanistan, there is strong case for India to revive SAARC. Critically Analyse. (15 Marks)

Ans.

The SAARC was formed in 1985 to enhance cooperation in South Asia and provide a platform for resolving regional differences. It has majorly been defunct in the last few years!

Reasons for defunctness:

1. Individual identities are stronger than regional identity. This prevents cooperation between player.
2. Indo-Pakistan rivalry has played a spoil spot in the region. Mutual apprehensions about the other have denied any meaningful outcome from SAARC by the two
3. Countries are fearful of India's Big Brotherly attitude.



4. Any decision requires consensus which is impractical and hence dismays the entire initiative.

## Impact of US withdrawal from Afghanistan

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan has created a security situation for India which requires attention and cooperation from all actors. Moreover, the economic and humanitarian crisis looming in Afghanistan can only be resolved with Indo-Pak cooperation. Countries are also fearful of a refugee crisis spilling over into their territories if not resolved.

Also, for the first time there is no puppet government in Afghanistan and hence a direct contact with real Afghan problems is possible.



Criticisms:

The trouble in Afghan does not involve all SAARC players. Moreover, most members of SAARC are moot to resolve the issue. India will be talking to terrorists representing Afghanistan in SAARC.

With the axis of ISI and Taliban, Pakistan can use SAARC for subverting Indian interests in the region further. There is little hope of successful outcomes.

As C Rajamohan said, The allowance of passage of food to Afghanistan by Pakistan is a hopeful sign. India must seek to resolve unilaterally rather than multilaterally in the region.

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

Que.5(a)

India need to re-examine it's Tibet policy. Comment. (10 Marks)

Ans.

The Tibetan region formed a buffer zone between British India and China. It was ultimately captured by China in 1958

Today India shares its second largest border with Tibet. There are long standing cultural relations between the two.

Tibet follows a version of Buddhism headed by the Dalai Lama. In 1959, India gave asylum to Tibetan refugees and has harboured them since then.

Awarely to analysts like [Shyam Sreen], India should use the Tibetan independence card more profoundly on international stage to put pressure on China. This is further necessitated by China's increasing support to Pakistan in POK. India should also use Dalai Lama more actively



in its foreign policy initiatives.

However, playing the Tibetan Card too aggressively may cause further tensions upon the border, diverting Indian attentions away from more important goals of development.

Therefore, a proper utilization of the Tibetan Card is important to bring China to negotiating table for settling border disputes.

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



Que.5(b)

Myanmar as the lynch-pin of India's Act East Policy. Discuss. (10 Marks)

Ans:

Myanmar lies at the cross-roads of South-Asia and SE Asia. It is the only SE Asian country that shares direct border with India.

India's Act East Policy seeks to enhance cooperation and collaboration between India and ASEAN countries. It seeks to improve its trade ties as well evolve a shared vision of maritime security for the region.

To pursue this policy, India is building several projects in Myanmar like the Sittoung Port project, the IMT trilateral highway etc. It has close relations with its army and recently gifted a submarine to its navy.



These projects in Myanmar have the capacity to demonstrate to ASEAN countries the benefits of further cooperation with India. India should focus on timely delivery, as well as utilizing multi-lateral forums like BITASTEC etc. to enhance ties further.

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



Que.5(c)

Enumerate the achievements in India-Latin America relations. (10 Marks)

Ans.

For long time, Latin America has been considered as too far and distant for India's foreign policy focus. However, according to

R. Vishwanathan it is closer than you think.

India's trade with Brazil and Mexico is more than that with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. India's exports have grown 30% (2000-2014) to the region and have the potential to double soon. Latin America has benefitted from Value Maitri initiative and it has built up India's soft power in the region.

Areas of focus:

India imports vegetable oils like soybean from Argentina. The region



is also crucial for energy security as India seeks to diversify its oil imports.

Multilateral forums like IBSA have been formed and India is also a dialogue partner of various regional trading blocs. Investment summits can help improve ties further.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
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Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Explain the importance of NAM 2.0. (10 Marks)

Que.5(d)

Ans: NAM was formed during the Belgrade conference in 1954. Its main aim was to protect sovereignty of newly indep-  
endent nations and act as their collective  
voice on international stage.

But according to critics it has lost its meaning and purpose since the end of cold war in 1991.

NAM 2.0:

It refers to the need for revival of NAM in the 21<sup>st</sup> century due to the following reasons:

1. Emergence of cold war 2.0 between US and China, also visible through formations like Quad and SCO alongside the US-China trade war.





2. Neo-colonialism through the debt trap diplomacy of nations like China chipping away sovereignty of many countries in Asia and Africa.

3. Tool to address issues of global terrorism, environmental degradation,

WTO, etc.

The holding of virtual summit of HAM9 by PM Modi during the Pandemic shows its re-emerging relevance.

Redefining its role would be crucial to utilize it in the present world context.

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

Que.5(e)

Write a short note on dynamics of India's vaccine diplomacy. (10 Marks)

Ans.

Joseph Nye's concept of soft power provides the importance of soft power in expanding country's role in international politics. The Vaccine Maitre Initiative is India's attempt to enhance its soft power.

Dynamics of vaccine diplomacy:

It seeks to strengthen India's neighbourhood first policy combining it with SAGAR initiative to provide security from corona pandemic to its neighbours.

It strengthens India's soft power in distant countries of Africa and Latin America. Also, strengthens India's image as world's pharmacy.

Moreover, it can be seen as a first step towards exploring new markets



for its future pharmaceutical products.

Most importantly, the initiative must also be seen as India's attempt to counter China's growing influence in its backyard.

As S Jayashankar has said, the Vaccine Maitri initiative seeks to improve international friendships and is reminiscent of India's values of 'Vasudev Kutumbkam' in which India considers whole world as one family.

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



Que.7(a)

To what extent it would be correct to say that India doesn't have a well defined neighbourhood policy. Analyse in context of recent developments in India's bilateral relationship with it's South Asian neighbours. (20 Marks)

Ans.

India has a long border line with seven immediate neighbours and several maritime neighbours. In this context, it becomes important for it to have a comprehensive neighbourhood policy.

For each of its land neighbours, India has adopted a unique country specific policy under the common umbrella of Neighbourhood First Policy.

It has adopted SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy for its maritime neighbours.

Scholars like [C.Rajatarahar] have often pointed out the ambiguities and incongruencies present in the neighbourhood policy of India often leading to diplomatic mishaps.



Awarding to SDMuni, India suffers from Big Brother syndrome in the case of Nepal which has deep resentment in Nepalese mind. This along with the deficit of development has led Nepal to seek closer ties with China. The recent change of government in Nepal is a positive sign for India which must focus on timely delivery of projects.

India has followed close cooperation with Bangladesh in the fields of energy, security, trade etc. as both countries celebrates 50 years of 1971 war, the ties are very stronger but domestic politics and China factor has dampened the enthusiasm.

Sri Lanka on the other hand, has become the theatre of Indo-China diplomatic rivalry. At the time of its



needs, India has released fertilizers and food stock for Sri Lanka as well as secured its investment in Columbo port. Bhutan remains the strongest partner for India in the region.

The recent regime changes in Myanmar and Afghanistan have led to security concerns in How Bello.

According to Shyam Saran, India should adopt a close wait and watch policy for the protection of its interests.

In the cases of Pakistan and China, Indian foreign policy challenged the most. While trade ties remain important for India and China, stand-off at LAC continue as well. Most diplomatic talks with Pakistan are via State of Limbo due to terrorism and Kashmir factors.



Although slow bureaucracy and reactionary policies have made India suffer at hands of China in the region in past, it would be wrong to say that it's neighbour hood policy has been a failure.

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



Que. 7(b)

What are the repercussions of ethnic conflicts in South Asia on interstate relations. Suggest a way forward to remove these impediments of regional cooperation. (15 Marks)

Ans.

The South Asian region as diverse as it is, is mired in ethnic conflicts often leading to spill over effects across borders.

Repercussions of ethnic conflicts on Interstate relations :

The recent anti Hindu riots in Bangladesh have seen a resentment by Indian public. The LAA riots of 2019 also caused a similar reaction in Bangladesh as well. They have led to a coldness in relations.

The Rohingya crisis emanating from Myanmar has impacted domestic politics of India and Bangladesh, causing both countries to ask for their peaceful return.





Perhaps, the worst example of ethnic conflicts causing strain in inter-state relations is of Indo-Sri Lanka relations due to Tamil minorities in northern part of Sri Lanka. It led to a direct intervention by India through IPKF in 1988. Although initially welcomed by Sri Lanka, later this caused a strain in relations and problems which persist till date.

The systematic ethnic cleansing of Hindu minorities in Pakistan has also been a cause of concern between the two relations. Although subdued by other factors it remains another irritant in the relationship.

## Way Forward

Not one but several measures need to be adopted:

1. Revive regional forums like SAARC

and Bimstec for resolving differences and promoting cooperation.

2. Resume dialogue between India and Pakistan for reduction of hostilities and ready common grounds.

3. Adoption of Panchsheel principle of non-interference in domestic issues in foreign policy by all countries.

Tolerance is a shared value across South Asia. It must be promoted to reduce conflicts in the first place.

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

Que.7(c)

With major power fault line sharpening across the world, India's growing engagement with Africa can bring equative benefits to both. Discuss. (15 Marks)

Aus

The African continent is one of the largest continent with a young and rising population. The region being rich in both natural and human resources provides ample opportunities for investments.

Unfortunately, India's partnership with African nations has been sub-optimal in the past.

Areas of India-Africa Partnership:

India through its ITEC initiative has invested in capacity building of African youth. It has also invested in mining natural minerals like gold etc. from Africa.

Many Indian companies hold agricultural fields in Africa supplementing Indian production of pulses in order to meet the rising demand. It also provides employment as well as food security to locals.

Both regions suffer similar threats from terrorism. Hence cooperation can be beneficial.



Indian private sector has also invested in telecommunication and IT benefiting locals with jobs, better connectivity and enhanced infrastructure.

India and Japan through their joint collaboration have launched the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor. It seeks to funnel investments in infrastructure projects, provide technical expertise and build local capacities in Africa. It has the potential to improve trade between India and Africa manifolds.

## Challenges :

China has gained the first mover advantage in Africa. China investments and influence in Africa far out numbers India.

Moreover, Indian policy making has neglected Africa for long. The diaspora remains under utilized and a lack of diplomatic missions hampers future cooperation.

As suggested by Shiv Shankar Menon,  
holding of regular investor summits can  
help bridge the gap for mutual benefits.

Any project in Africa must prioritise  
local needs over investment gains.

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