



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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Political Science & International Relations

Crash Course & Test Series - 2022

Test 04

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name ISHITA KISHORE
Test Date 25 AUG 2022
Email Address _____
UPSC Roll No 5809986

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...!!!



e.1 (a)

Discuss the philosophical foundations of India's foreign policy. (10 Marks)

Indian Foreign Policy reflects a sui generis combination of civilisational values, cultural imperatives and constitutional commitments.

Ancient India's culture of Sabha & Samiti (Buddhist Era) reflects in India's call for due deliberation and inclusivity on multilateral fora. (Amartya Sen is like UN, WTO)
The Argumentative Indian)

While Shyam Saran believes ^{South} India block has overlooked Kautilya's Arthashastra, S Jaishankar's emphasis on alignment to our own national interests during Ukraine crisis reflects the

importance of 'material well being'.

Gandhi's 'Ahimsa' is a keystone of India's No First Use Policy in its Nuclear doctrine.

The wisdom of India's constitutional makers envisaged liberty, equality & justice. This is displayed in India's relations with Africa against apartheid & neocolonialism.

The philosophical foundations of India envisage a multipolar world order with India as a 'petal in its own Varsha'. This is substantiated with its multiple alignments.

India's vision for 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam' ensures gains for all in the world order.



Q.1(b)

Identify the reasons behind the low volumes of trade in SAARC region. (10 Marks)

South Asia is a complex neighbourhood with common colonial past, shared topography and presence of two nuclear powers. SAARC as a platform envisions cooperation in the region.

However the intra regional trade in SAARC is abysmally low at 5%. (This figure is 25% for ASEAN and over 60% for EU).

The fora has become a 'jammed vehicle' as per S Jaishankar as meetings have been stalled in the aftermath of Pathankot & Uri attacks.



This makes India-Pakistan relations a crucial factor for the success of the body. It can be revived with Manmohan Singh's Composite Dialogue process formula.

Further, the geographic asymmetry ~~makes~~ perpetuates the big brother bully image of India (Muckund Dubey). As economically dependent on India, Nepal & Bhutan wish to diversify their trade away from India rather than deepen it. Gujral doctrine in letter & spirit can alleviate these concerns.

Emphasis on BIMSTEC must not dim the light on SAARC. SD Muni calls for 'Neighbourhood First 2.0' for stronger economic ties.



re.1(c)

Highlight India's response to the geo-political construct of Indo Pacific. (10 Marks)

Indo Pacific has emerged as the new theatre of geopolitical rivalries in the 21st century (Fareed Zakaria).

India's response to this emerging reality has been embracing it with responsibility. Harsh V. Pant believes India has finally started seeing itself as a leading power.

This is showcased in India joining groupings like Quad to secure safe channels of transport for all. At Shangri La dialogue PM Modi has emphasised on 'Free, Open and Inclusive Indo Pacific



with Asean Centrality'

Further, India's BIMSTEC and 'Act East Policy' alleviate fears of smaller players via cooperation. India has deepened its cultural bonds via Mekong Ganga cooperation and connectivity with North East via IMT highway, BBIN etc.

Countering China's mammoth BRI of string of pearls, India has initiated AAGC with Japan, built a necklace of diamonds & double fishhook in the region. India's investment in Russia's Far East has cemented its longstanding friendship.

Indo Pacific is crucial for India's geopolitical endeavours & it must fast-track ^{its} implementation.



ue.1(d)

Discuss the relevance of Lateral entry in the Indian Foreign Services.
(10 Marks)

India's cadre of Indian Foreign Services falls significantly behind China and is comparable to smaller nations like Singapore.

Lateral entry in IFS can usher the dawn of expertise as the complex challenges on 21st century demand domain specific knowledge — cyber security, climate change, organised crime.

This can enhance India's engagement productively and complement the diplomatic presence.



It can even engage hitherto neglected regions of Latin America, Africa etc.

Shashi Tharoor recommends making use of 'Indiaspora': the invisible ambassadors abroad. They can be given temporary appointments for smoother communication.

However it can also create severe national security implications as Indian Foreign Policy slips into untrained and inexperienced hands. This can disrupt friendly foreign relations.

Yet the idea must be explored as it has the potential to enlarge India's soft power and relations.



Q.1(e)

Discuss the role of the chief of Defence Staff in India's foreign policy..
(10 Marks)

India recently created the position of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in its Armed Forces citing the need for better coordination between the services.

This move has implications for India's foreign policy as it sends across the message of India's stance of upgrading its defence architecture.

For conventional warfare, this can foster faster communication and secure implementation of our 'Cold Start Doctrine' at the borders (ending Sunderji doctrine) thereby

maintaining an element of surprise.

For nuclear weapons, ~~the~~ CDS can ensure sound implementation as the nuclear triad requires triple mobilisation. Critics call this as the first step for a move away from NFU.

For maritime security, CDS can ensure the trust of surrounding littoral countries as the representative of India's 'Security & Growth of All in the Region' Program. This is crucial for a safe & secure Indo Pacific.

The role of CDS is thus crucial in India's foreign policy as a leader of its region as well as in a multipolar world.

e.3(a)

How do you interpret the platform of Quad? Do you think that India is the weakest pillar in the Quad? Give arguments to support your point of view. (20 Marks)

As the theatre of global politics shifts to Indo Pacific (Fareed Zakaria), we see the emergence of groupings like Quad.

Conceptualized in 2007, Shinzo Abe in his 'Confluence of Two Seas' speech at Indian Parliament described the need for Quad for a 'Free and Open Indo Pacific'.

Since then the interpretation has evolved. PM Modi at the Shangri-La dialogue emphasised on the inclusivity aspect along with ASEAN centrality in it.

To some extent, this has quelled the criticism surrounding Quad :-

- i- It was labelled as an 'Asian NATO' by China
- ii- It gave a sense of security to the smaller nations as they feared growing militarisation in the region would make it the new pasture for great games.

Further, this platform envisions freedom of navigation in high seas in light of the emerging predatory hegemon-China. Its geopolitical endeavours in South China Sea, and String of Pearls



in Indian Ocean has generated concern. The takeover of strategic assets via its 'debt trap diplomacy' (C.Rajamohan) creates tensions. Recent docking of spy satellite tracker Yuan Wang 5 at Hambantota is a case in point.

Yet S. Jaishankar believes Quad is more than a 'reactive' architecture & India has a central role to play in it.

The locational advantage of India along with its status as the third largest military, third largest economy (in PPP terms) and a deep civilisational connect in its neighbourhood (especially



South east Asia makes it the lynchpin of this grouping.

Yet weaknesses emerge because of India's confrontational borders with China which makes American diplomats criticise India as the swing state. This is accentuated by India warming up to parallel groupings like BRICS, SCO, RIC. Further, the falling softpower of India in its neighbourhood as a 'big brother bully' ~~is~~ weakens efforts (India Out campaign in Maldives)

Despite this, India's membership elevates Quad's initiatives (like vaccine delivary). It can provide stability via Quad in an otherwise uncertain world order.



3(b)

Discuss the current state of India-Japan relations. In what way economy forms the pillar of the relationship? (15 Marks)

Bilateral relations between India and Japan have been described by PM Kishida as a multilayered engagement grounded in common culture, universal values and mutual trust.

His recent visit to India culminated with Japan's promise of \$42 billion investment in India. Japan is even trusted with development projects in India's most sensitive regions of North East and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



His predecessor Shinzo Abe was popular as an 'Indophile'. His 'confluence of Two Seas' speech formulated a strong architecture for Indo Pacific. (Quad). As per C Rajamohan India & Japan are the lynchpin for ensuring free & open seas.

Economic ties are one of the strongest pillars. Internationally, it enables them to pursue projects like 'Asia Africa Growth Corridor'. It implements PM Modi's dream of a 'value driven' & not 'commerce driven' globalisation by countering the

chequebook diplomacy of China. Their joint project at container terminal in Colombo also fosters this.

Moreover, they cooperate in Russia's Far East thereby generating a balance in a multipolar world order.

However, as per David Malone the relations are 'Tepid' and have not achieved their potential.

Strengthening the people to people ties can usher in a 'cherry blossom' phase. Japan has already displayed immense faith with a Civil Nuclear deal with India. It is time to leverage the '2+2 Framework' to diversify our bond

Que.3(c)

To what extent India-US global strategic partnership is based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interest? Discuss. (15 Marks)

Indo-US global strategic partnership with its '2+2 Framework' has enabled a shift from being 'stranded democracies' to now being 'engaged democracies'

'Foreign policy is a reflection of domestic politics'

— J.L. Nehru

As the oldest and largest democracies join hands, ~~it~~ we see a reflection of their domestic values in international sphere.

This has generated a convergence of interests as they aspire for a rules based order under multilateral

forums (like COP26 at Glasgow) and advocate freedom of navigation in high seas via Quad.

India's civilisational values of non violence and inclusivity have generated trust in Indo-US relations. This was most visible in the 2008 Civil Nuclear Agreement. This legitimized India's nuclear weapons making India a 'force multiplier' (Hillary Clinton) for USA in the Indo Pacific region.

This has enabled the partners to contain China's Middle Kingdom syndrome by offering a worthy alternative rooted in democratic



values (like Democracy 10 initiative for ethical 5G).

The recent creation of 'I2U2' signifies how US & India can productively engage two otherwise estranged nations (Israel & UAE). ~~The groups~~ ^{via inclusivity and} participation. Their emphasis on private sector participation can be a counter to China's BRI that has trapped cash strapped nations.

However, Shyam Saran believes India's support to US can roll back the multipolar world order.

As various centres of power emerge, India can make the most of Indo-US relations via 'deft handling' & 'nimble diplomacy' [C. Raja Mohan]



Que. 5(a)

Future of Indus water treaty. (10 Marks)

India and Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty in 1960s brokered by World Bank.

It reflects the importance of taming hydropolitics for fruitful relations. For an otherwise unstable neighbourhood, this treaty has attained reasonable success.

India's position as the upper riparian state makes it ~~the~~ crucial for cooperation. India has displayed a responsible approach in this regard.

According to Brahma Chellany's 'Brahma thesis', water will fuel the

next world war. With climate change and rising water insecurity, Indus water Treaty is also under pressure as Pakistan criticises India's hydropower projects on Sutlej & Ravi.

But India is equally concerned of the growing Pakistan-China axis. The creation of CPEC via PoK creates room for retaliation. This can create a domino effect for India's Northeast where China is building its massive 'Medog Project'

The future of Indus water treaty can be ensured with due deliberation & cooperation on the high table of diplomacy



e.5(b)

Cross-border terrorism as an obstacle to the integration of South Asia. (10 Marks)

Cross border terrorism is one of the most complex challenges of South Asia. It's a "Problem without a Passport"

India at the centre of this region has the threat of religious fundamentalism on its West. The presence of ISIS has created tensions as they conduct recruitment in South Asia via indoctrination. FATF has geofisted Pakistan for housing such terror groups.

Further the instability in

Afghanistan with resurgence of Taliban and presence of Haqqani network has created tensions in littoral states as they move via Lakshadweep to Maldives & Sri Lanka.

India's eastern neighbourhood is brought with ethnic clashes giving rise to militancy. The cross border cooperation of Bodos, Nagas, Chins disrupts efforts of integration with Myanmar & Bangladesh.

The problem becomes more complex with refugee crisis like Rohingyas & golden crescent, golden triangle drug cartels.

The need of the hour is to revive SAARC & collaborate (as done in ^{operation} sunrise)



ue.5(c)

India's quest in Latin America. (10 Marks)

India's policy for Latin America is often criticised for being absent.

It suffers from distance and the syndrome of 'out of sight and out of mind'.

Ambassador Vishwanathan however believes that 'Latin America is closer than we think'.

Distance has not deterred China from making inroads in the region.

India has engaged constructively via platforms like IBSA (South-South cooperation), BRICS (emerging market economies) and even BASIC



(for climate negotiations). The region's growing significance can be attributed to 'Lithium diplomacy' of Chile, Bolivia and the economies of Brazil & Argentina.

However the crisis in Venezuela creates repercussions for engagement. Further the abysmal diplomatic footprint, lack of people to people ties and low utilisation of PTA with MERCOSUR are prominent hurdles.

For India's geopolitical ambitions, L America is important - UNSC (G4 with Brazil), economy (lithium) and collaboration on climate.



India's role in UN Peace Keeping. (10 Marks)

Que. 5(d)

With the limited success of collective security, UN Peacekeeping has lifted the weight for global security. It was first proposed by Dag Hammarskjöld.

India's role has been pivotal in the success of this endeavour. With contribution of troops, India has significantly advanced its ambition in varied regions - From Korea to South Sudan.

India's unique contribution of an All Women Contingent in Liberia has been the factor for restoring trust and order.

Antonio Guterres has expressed gratitude for India's unparalleled and ethical contribution.

However this has not reaped benefits in India's ambition for a say in its administration as the fund contributing countries retained their monopoly. Further the rising cases of indiscipline of sexual harassment showcase how smaller nations look at it only for foreign exchange earning.

Subashini Haider recommends reaping benefits of our contribution. While a seat at UNSC is distant India can complement #A4P (Action for peacekeeping) to rejuvenate world stability.



Que.5(e)

Ideological convergences in India-Israel relations. (10 Marks)

India Israel relations have been described as one of 'Natural Allies' as they have overcome the 'hesitations of the past' (PM Modi)

Israel has been a consistent friend in all of India's wars by providing crucial information (Kargil 1999) India has also 'dehypnotized' the Israel Palestine issues with a first standalone visit to Israel by Indian PM.

Ideological convergences stem from India's Look West policy combined with its warming up to

Western powers (Quad). This has culminated into alliances like I2U2 which productively engage both.

However scholars suggest a convergence in Zionism and Hindutva.

But India's rejection of Jerusalem as capital at the UN Resolution reflects that the Palestine issue may be orphan but is not out.

Critics say that the lack of a common enemy has kept relations tepid.

But India Israel are natural partners even as per Kautilya's Mandal Siddhant. Together they ^{converge on} ~~can ensure~~ a fair & inclusive world order.



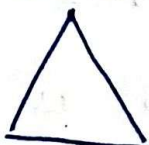
Que.6(a)

Explore the Geo-political dimension, economic ties and trans-national linkages between India and West Asia. (20 Marks)

For Indian foreign policy, West Asia represents a complex region. With significant economic resources, it historically represents the cradle of civilisations.

Geopolitically, the linkages with West Asia are the best example of India's strategy of 'Non Alignment' (Nehru V. Pant). India has walked a diplomatic tight rope to balance the three emerging centres of power

Israel



Iran Saudi Arabia.

C. Rajamohan

attributes this to the ability to distance from them



internal fights.

The dehypenation of Israel-Palestine relations has enabled us to balance the Arab world as well as West. This has reaped diplomatic dividend with the recent Abraham Accords of I2U2 grouping.

Further, Iran remains a crucial entry point for India into both west Asia & central Asia with the Chahbar Port. As India is cut off from its North west due to border disputes with Pakistan, Iran remains essential for Afghanistan as well as access to INSTC (which will bring India



closer to Russia).

India imports 84% of its crude oil requirements. West Asia is crucial for India's geoeconomic calculus. With a large diaspora in Gulf, India received over \$89 billion in remittances in 2021.

This is crucial not just for its macroeconomy but also household income of individuals.

However, Harsh V. Pant believes we should stop treating West Asia as a gas station. This transactionalism must be overcome to transform our 'Look West' into 'Act West Policy'.



India must secure its national interests by assuring better treatment for its labour in Gulf. Further, it must augment its strategic presence beyond Duqm port in Oman as it is fast being strangled by China's string of pearls.

We must also diversify our trade basket and leverage expertise of Israel in agricultural productivity, UAE & Saudi Arabia in 'Smart Cities' on lines of Masdar & Neom and Iran by fast tracking our implementation.

This can pave the way of India to become a 'Vishwa Guru' with West Asia's economic and strategic potential!



Que. 6(b)

Do you think India's No-First Use policy is mere symbolism? To what extent, India needs the revision of its doctrine so that it gains substance? (15 Marks)

India's Nuclear Doctrine holds that its security is best achieved in a 'nuclear weapon free' world. Its No First Use (NFU) also envisages a peaceful world order, rooted in its civilisational values. (Ahimsa)

At the onset, Stephen Cobden held India's nuclear endeavours were never peaceful, citing Nehru's speeches and Homi Bhabha's statements.

NFU was discarded as symbolism in light of India's refusal to sign multilateral agreements like CTBT, NPT.

But, as per K. Subramanyam, India's hostile neighbourhood compelled



it to pursue 'Deterrence by denial' and not 'Deterrence by punishment'.

It reflects the defensive realism

theory of Kenneth Waltz.

As per NFO, India will not attack first but in case of an attack it will respond with 'massive retaliation'

inflicting unparalleled damage.

While this credible minimum deterrence reflects India's role as a responsible actor, it has not deterred its neighbours from conventional attacks (Pathankot, Uri, Galwan Valley).

This has made analysts like Bharat Karnad, Uday Bhaskar argue for



a 'First Use' policy. Surviving an attack and timely responding is not the forte of Indian bureaucracy that is entangled in red tape.

Even present & previous Defense Ministers Rajnath Singh & Manohar Parrikar have held that NFU is not carved in stone.

With emergence of low intensity weapons, the line between conventional & nuclear is blurring thereby requiring a revision in India's policy.

It can learn from France & Pakistan whose policies tackle both conventional & nuclear threats. Yet as a responsible actor, India must ethically walk on these eggshells.



Que.6(c)

How do you define the world order? What is India's perspective of the post-cold war world order? (15 Marks)

The present world order can be described with Robert Keohane & J. Nye's 'Complex interdependence' wherein old issues are not resolved but inexorable spread of globalisation has complicated relations.

The widespread movement of transnational actors, supply chains, capital and people has ushered in an era of 'Problems without Passports' (Kofi Annan).

This has implications on public health (as seen in the pandemic), and security (transnational drug trafficking).



terrorism, refugee crisis) as well as the environment (US Military has labelled 'Climate change' as a national concern).

The phenomenal economic rise of China is displacing the dollar hegemony of US with parallel institutions like AIIB, NDB etc. Their large economic interdependence ushered a global slowdown with their trade war.

The recent Ukraine crisis displays a revanchist Russia as drawing back attention from Indo Pacific to Europe.

For India to navigate the choppy waters of international

relations requires an alignment, but only to its own interests (S Jaishankar)

For long India has waited for a multipolar world order of C Rajamohan

believes that now that it's here India must make most of it.

India's perspective reflects an era of multiple alignments. It is part of both Quad & SCO, JAI and RIC, I2U2 and BRICS.

As per Harish V Pant, India is finally visualising itself as a leading power. The post cold war unipolarity is now replaced with polycentricity.

India's vision of 'Vasudheva Kutumbakam' encourages it to engage all to ensure gains for all.



India and Africa's historical links have experienced a revival in recent years, and there are strong reasons for optimism that the partnership could be mutually beneficial. Comment. (20 Marks)

Indo-African relations can be understood with their shared views on racial discrimination and bid for decolonisation.

The revival of relations in recent times is advocated to 'Africa being the next Asia'. Shyam Saran calls it the continent of the future with its young demography, growing connectivity, vast natural resources.

This has created a geopolitical competition in the continent. China has made deep inroads with its BRI



but its 'teaser loans' have been criticised as debt trap diplomacy. Europe is securing its entry via the northern countries (Morocco, Algeria, Egypt)

labelled as the 'Gateway to Africa', Kwame Nkrumah fears 'Neocolonialism'

However India's engagement has been as an equal partner. Its projects are community centric (Solar Mamas) and are demand driven

(#SheGoesDigital). The ITEC cooperation has been mutually beneficial

To overcome its economic constraints, India partners with Japan (Asia Africa Growth Corridor) and even

UK (GITA) thereby introducing ethical and responsible players in the region.

As per Shashi Tharoor

'Africa admires China but wants to become like India'. This reflects

India's accumulated soft power.

Further, as the Indo Pacific becomes the geopolitical theatre (Fareed Zakaria), Eastern African countries gain relevance. China's port at Djibouti is a strategic threat for India which it aims to counter with ties with Mauritius & Seychelles (Assumption Island)

Yet India's efforts require

a push as it does not have the leverage of time (C Rajamohan). Stalled projects must be revived before historical soft power dissipates. India must expand its diplomatic footprint in the continent by staffing headless consulates & spreading ICCR projects.

This can culminate into mutually beneficial political, economic and strategic returns. India must leverage its diaspora for people to people ties and investments for A2G connect.

7(b)

Enumerate India's contributions and achievements at UN in recent years. To what extent India's engagement with UN can be considered as strategic in nature? (15 Marks)

As a foundling member of UN, India has played a pivotal role in its administration, bodies and projects.

India's contributions have been far and wide. The most significant is that of its troops in UN's peacekeeping missions. They have spanned across continents in Korea, Liberia (first all women contingent), South Sudan etc. Antonio Guterres has expressed gratitude for our contribution.

This has fostered India's soft power evident from its 9th victory



in elections for a non permanent seat in UNSC. This has given India the room to express its considerations on issues of global significance.

Even at other UN bodies like UNFCCC, India has made tall commitments (Glasgow COP 26 - Panch Amrit) inspiring global collaboration (like ISA, CARI)

At UN conference on Disarmament, India has advocated for a nuclear weapon free world for global peace

India is the supplier of 60% global vaccines and augmented WHO's efforts with its Vaccine Maitri



This engagement has been strategic as it exhibits how 'India', by any strategic calculus deserves a seat permanent seat at UNSC' (Syed Akbaruddin)

It has given India the ability to engage globally paving the way for the emergence as 'Vishwa Guru'.

While scholars like Bhupinder Singh argue that UN is hardly a measure or prerequisite for leadership (eg: Germany), Shashi Tharoor believes that this form of liberal institutionalism has prevented World War 3.

By reaping the benefits of its investments in UN, India must fight for its rightful place but not be contained to it.



Que. 7(c)

India's developmental role in Afghanistan has been globally acknowledged. However, since the change of guards, India is in search of new roles in Afghanistan. Discuss (15 Marks)

Afghanistan has been the 'graveyard of civilisations and ~~now~~ rulers'. Its recent takeover by Taliban creates questions for India's developmental role.

India has immense soft power in Afghanistan owing to its relentless efforts in humanitarian aid. India not only built its parliament but created libraries, student exchange programs and infrastructure like Salma Dam.

This has received global recognition. It made its former President Ashraf Ghani look up to India as a trusted partner.



Yet India's exclusion from the Quadrilateral negotiations on US withdrawal reflect that "ideas matter only when backed by material power"

(Rajesh Rajagopalan).

India's emphasis on a 'Afghan led and Afghan owned' procedure backfired historically in the Catch 22 situation in 19814 hijack. India must learn the lessons of past while engaging with Taliban 2.0.

As India searches for new roles, it can offer to Afghanistan geo-economic perspective as the third



largest economy (PPP terms). This can be
pstered with pre existing Zaraj -
Delaram highway and also sideline
Pakistan given its weak economy.
Richard Cobden's Functionalism can
initiate 'peace by pieces'.

India can also revive SARIC to
collectively pressure Taliban for a
humane governance. Nirupama Subramanyam
from her recent visit showcases the dire
status of women, especially in education.

Afghanistan is the "crossroads"
of West, Central & South Asia. As per
Mackinder's heartland theory, it is
a crucial piece in India's puzzle of becoming a
global leader.