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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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Name :- SRISHTI DABAS

Test Date :- 02 August 2023

UPSC Roll No :- 0501579

PSIR TEST 4

(6:30 - 9:40 am)

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① (a)

Role of Parliament in Indian Foreign Policy making.

(10 m)

Foreign policy of a nation describes the objectives of a country and the roles it attaches to itself in the global arena — J.N Dixit

There are various determinants of foreign policy and numerous institutions shape it, the most prominent being 'Parliament' — THE CHAMBER OF DELIBERATIONS.

It is the Parliament which holds the government accountable through question hour, adjournment motion regarding foreign policy matters.

of J. Nehru had to face a no confidence motion for the 1962 war with China.

Also, any constitutional amendment

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With regards to other countries' exchange of enclaves is brought by Parliament of Benarasi case and Border agreement with Bangladesh.

The role of opposition in Parliament is paramount. They question the government, build pressure and influence policy making.

of opposition of Left to Civil Nuclear Deal.

However, the role of Parliament is declining in recent times as it becomes 'CHAMBER OF ANARCHY' (Hamid Ansari) where debates are rare and informed debates even rarer.

Hence, Shashi Tharoor recommends increasing debate time on foreign policy matters & constitution of standing committee, to make Parliament's role dynamic.

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① (6)

Impact of Abraham Accord on India's West Asia policy.

(10m)

India's West Asia policy constitutes strategic relationships with the TRINITY of:



The civilizational, sectarian and ethnic conflicts in the West Asia, act as roadblocks for evolving strategic partnerships.

civil wars in Syria, presence of ISIS

In this backdrop, the recently concluded Abraham Accord find relevance to evolve cooperation and collaborations among Israel, UAE, Morocco, Sudan and Bahrain, overcoming the shackles of history for a peaceful future.

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The Abraham Accord greatly influence India's West Asia policy as it helps India walk the diplomatic tightrope (Harsh V. Pant) among Israel and the Arab world, along with the West.

India's stakes in the West Asian region are safeguarded by the accord —

- i) oil imports of over 84%, of which around 50% from West Asia
- ii) huge diaspora presence and $\approx$ \$80 bn remittances.
- iii) connectivity via INSTC.
- iv) collaborations in Science and technology, space, smart cities & Israel- micro irrigation.

Hence, as Mackinder considers West Asia as the 'HEARTLAND', India is constantly increasing its strategic depth in the region (C Rajamohan)

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①(c)

Non Alignment 2.0

(10m)

Non Alignment is the hallmark of Indian foreign policy which envisaged strategic autonomy without falling into either power blocs.

There have been debates over the relevance of NAM in 21st century, given the lack of Reason d'être, change in geopolitical world order (to a uni-cum-multipolar world) and emergence of alternative fora like G20, G77, BRICS, etc.

In this backdrop, India evolved the Non Alignment into Non Alignment 2.0 - The modified and evolved version, to suit to the changing world order which is in a state of flux.

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Features of Non Alignment 2.0 include:

- ① shift from non alignment to multi-alignments
eg India's simultaneous engagements with SCO and Quad, RIC and JAI.
- ② from strategic autonomy to strategic partnerships
eg de-hyphenation between Israel and Palestine.
- ③ emphasis on Interest based alignments
eg rising relevance of Act East and Asean Centrality.
- ④ strengthening Diplomatic Courage to safeguard own national interests
eg oil imports from Russia despite the war, yet also emphasising on 'peace'.

Hence, India has evolved its Strategic Culture (S-Taishankar) to find its rightful place in the comity of nations.

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① ②

Indian ocean has become a key determinant of India's foreign policy at present. Critically examine.

(10m)

The 'Center of Gravity' of the geopolitical world order has shifted to Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

As Fareed Zakaria says -

"IOR is the new geopolitical theatre & hotbed."

Alfred Robert Mahan's emphasis on 'naval power' being the determinant of foreign policy applies well to Indian Ocean. It is a geostrategic location for trading chokepoints of Strait of Malacca.

IOR importance for India is paramount given the rich mineral resources and energy security

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of India. Also, India's emphasis on a Rules based world Order where peace and stability prevails, guides India's strategic decision.

The presence and simultaneous rise of other nations — like Chinese String of Pearls (Hambantota, Sittwe, Gwadar, Djibouti), USA (Diego Garcia) — also concern India. India's presence in Sabang port, Dugm port of Oman and Eastern Naval command in Andaman & Nicobar, show the geostrategic significance of IOR.

India wants a Necklace of Diamonds to counter China's Maritime Silk Route in IOR. The SAGAR strategy of India ensures a safe, prosperous and secure Indian Ocean for Growth of All.

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① (e)

India Japan relations.

(10m)

“ It won't be a surprise if India-Japan relations outperform India-USA and Japan-USA in next 10 years.”
— Shinzo Abe

India & Japan have a strategic and global partnership which is multi-dimensional, as Japan is 'MITRA' (friend) as per Kautilya's Mandal theory.

Cooperation in Indo Pacific forms the basis of this relationship. As Shinzo Abe said:

“ It is the Confluence of Two Seas — of prosperity and security.”

India's Indo Pacific vision and Japan's strategy for Fair and Open Indo Pacific (FOIP) finds congruence.

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Together they collaborate in Asia-Africa growth corridor (AAGC) and East Terminal Container, apart from sensitive North East and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Japan's aid in Infrastructural projects like Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and India's Humanitarian assistance during disasters complement each other

They also come together in Initiatives like Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, G4 grouping for UNSC reforms, the Quad grouping in Indo Pacific, IPEF, G20 - showcasing huge convergences.

However, David Malone cautions about the ' tepid ' relations and instead calls for harnessing the 'Cherry Blossom' phase of the partnership.

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① (a)

4 "A cautious strategy might yield India gain a toe hold in the restive and volatile but strategically important country Afghanistan." In light of the above statement, critically evaluate India's steps towards Afghanistan since Taliban Takeover. (20m)

Afghanistan is referred to as the 'GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES' where Alexander, USSR and presently USA all saw defeats.

For India, Afghanistan is the Natural Ally (MITRA) as per Kautilya's Mandala Theory and hence India's part of Extended Neighbourhood and geostrategic significance.

The restive and volatile situation in Afghanistan is due to USA's withdrawal and Taliban takeover over the region which has created

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instability due to democratic deficit, Human Right violations and extremism.

The region is strategically important as per Mackinder - it forms the 'Heartland' and one who controls it will control the world. Thus, the rivalry among nations unfolded which ended up in chaos and unrest.

After the Taliban takeover, the immediate response of India ~~to~~ was -

- 1) No Talks with Terror
- 2) Humanitarian assistance, food supplies, medical aid for people.

This shows the balanced and strategic thinking of India in such situation of crisis. Yet, India knew that its presence and engagement was necessary to bring peace & stability.

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India's stakes in Afghanistan include the huge investments which have been made in infrastructure and connectivity projects like Saharan Zoranj highway, Salma Dam & new Parliament building.

Further, the stability in Afghanistan is pre-requisite for stability in Pakistan and subsequently Kashmir, which necessitated DUAL PEACE (S. Jaishankar) - Afghan led & Afghan owned.

India's current position is also to bring rules based governance and peace in the region. It supports democratic transition, but not in forceful way as USA does. Instead, it should evolve from the people. Also, women rights need to be protected to allow them freedom & growth opportunities.

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India's actions are also guided by its efforts to safeguard 'Connect Central Asia' policy, especially through INSTC and TAPI pipeline - all necessitate a stable Afghanistan.

Yet, the steps taken by India fall short, as India does not have leverage of time (C. Rajamohan). India needs to fast track its diplomacy and strategic calculations.

As Harsh ^{V. Pant} ~~Vardhan~~ argues - there is urgent need for Washington-Moscow-Delhi Consensus to improve the situation in Afghanistan. The use of Soft Diplomacy and Wise Diplomacy is the *sine qua non* in given state of affairs. Use of Track II diplomacy, power of India's soft power is necessary to harness rich Strategic dividends in Afghanistan.

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⑦ (b)

"India's G20 agenda is inclusive, ambitious, action oriented & decisive."
Comment.

(15 m)

The 'G-20' is the most prominent foreign policy imperative of India to showcases India's values of -
'Vasudeva Kutumbhakam': One Earth, One family, One future.

G-20 was formed in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98, which further evolved after global financial crisis of 2008, to expand its reach beyond economic diplomacy towards cultural, environmental, etc cyber security concerns.

Current India's presidency provides opportunity to India to showcase its leadership to the world (Kavish V. Pant)

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G-20 comprises 85% of global ~~trade~~ ^{GDP}, 75% of world trade and 66% of global population, highlighting the reach & influence it can have.

India's G20 agenda is multi disciplinary including pillars of:-

- 1) clean & sustainable future.
- 2) digital payment infrastructure.
- 3) women led development.
- 4) inclusive & participatory governance.
- 5) action oriented and proactive.

India has always emphasised on a fair, equitable, inclusive, rules based world order, where developing & emerging economies get their say and even small island nations get represented. India's voice for 'Global South' is reflected in its G20 presidency.

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India faced the dual challenges of pandemic hit economies and war ravaged world order, which it smoothly sailed through, ~~it~~ through use of diplomacy and collaborative approach. India's call for ^{robust} health infrastructure and 'peace, not war' are worth mentioning.

As Harsh V Pant & S. Jaishankar say that India has always wanted a multi polar world and G20 provides that platform to harness and make most strategic use of. India's values of Panchsheel, multi alignments, ahimsa were all reflected in multiple G20 meetings all across India.

As Modi ji said — "India will now promise to deliver," hence ensuring action oriented and decisive agenda.

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(7)(c)

Do you think that permanent seat in UNSC is neither necessary nor the only way for India to assert its arrival on global centre stage? Elucidate your arguments.

(15m)

India's bid for a permanent seat in UNSC has been to get the 'rightful place in the comity' of nations. India being the founding member of UN, largest population, mother of Democracy, 3rd largest economy and strong military, justify the claims.

However, it is argued by thinkers like C. Rajamohan, Shyam Saran and Harsh V. Pant that getting blackmailed by developed nations does not justify the aim to become permanent UNSC members. India acting as per whims & fancies of the West to pacify them is not worth it.

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Scholars have argued that UN itself is dysfunctional in present times. The failure of UN to prevent Russia Ukraine war, genocide in Rwanda, refugee crisis in Myanmar, oppression of Uighur Muslims, menace of ISIS, etc. are proofs enough to show its decline.

Moreover, India despite not being a UNSC permanent member, has showcased its leadership through platform of G20, BRICS, UN peacekeeping missions. India's principles and pragmatism (S Jaishankar) have led to an inclusive and action oriented approach.

¶ India's role in Korean armistice or Sri Lankan economic assistance, all show India's rich strategic achievements.

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India asserts its arrival on global centre, and punches much beyond its weight, be it through BASIC grouping for climate justice or WTO reforms (Leave Clause).

India has been the 'Net Security Provider' and First Responder in crisis situations.

eg Assistance to Nepal during earthquake.

India's Vaccine Maitri has been a case in point in India's leadership role.

Yet, despite all these efforts, India does aspire for UNSC permanent seat as it deserves that stature for its role in the current world order.

Shashi Tharoor argues for India's inclusion to raise credibility of UN.

Hence, 'reform & restructuring of UN is needed to make it more representative'.

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⑤ (a)

Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam.

(10m)

Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam is the old civilizational value of Indian culture, reflected in India's strategic culture and actions.

It finds presence in the Mundaka Upanishad where the 'world is one family' is the belief. The value of togetherness, brotherhood and solarity is reflected in it.

India has been vocal about Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam, recently more strongly through G20 platform to give call for [One Earth], [One Family, One Future].

This principle can be & must be

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applied in all arenas of life —
social, political, economic & spiritual.

As the world is in flux & faces
'Problems without passports' (Kofi Annan)
like climate change, Terrorism, Organised
Crime like Drug trafficking, etc,
It becomes all the more necessary
for the world to come together
and act in concert.

India's vision of Vasudhaiva
Kutumbhakam is visible in her
'Neighbourhood First' policy, vision
of 'Secure for All in the Region'
(SAGAR). The humanitarian aid &
disaster response of India, Operation
Kaveri, Operation Dost (Turkey) and
vacine Maitri, all showcase
India's commitment to the value
of 'One World' to bring peace and
stability.

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③(b)

India's recent approach to Israel Palestine conflict.

(10m)

Traditionally, India has been playing the 'Non Alignment' card to save itself from rivalry of Israel & Palestine. However, given the changing world order, India changed her approach towards 'De-Hyphenation'

Now, India involves & engages with both Israel & Palestine to gain 'Strategic Dividends' from both the partnerships.

On one hand, India calls for a peaceful resolution of dispute and 'Two State Solution' reflecting India's civilizational value of - 'Madhyam Marg'.

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On the other hand, India established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992. Israel partnership is significant for India's energy needs (oil imports), science & technology (micro irrigation) and space exploration, along with I2U2

As Netanyahu rightly says:

IT (Israel Technology) and
IT (Indian Talent) combine
to multiply into I^2T^2 .

India's Look West policy is also crucial in this regard, necessitating peaceful dialogue with both Israel & Palestine. India shed the reservations of the past for a vibrant future. Balancing the tightrope between Muslim sentiments, Arab relations and Israel technical assistance is the hallmark of Indian foreign policy.

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या का
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाशिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
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5(c)

International solar Alliance

(10m)

The International solar Alliance (ISA) is an initiative of India along with France during the COP21 of UNFCCC - The Paris summit - 2015.

ISA was launched with the aim to establish 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) to harness the potential of solar energy as a clean & sustainable source of energy for the future.

Initially, it was covering the Tropical nations but later was made open to all countries. It's implementation ~~was~~ is to be in 3 phases -

1) Asian continent

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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- 2) African & Middle East
- 2) Americas and Europe.

The Beyond 1000 Strategy is also worth mentioning in the context of ISA.

The aim is to achieve

- 1] 1000 GW of solar energy
- 2] \$1000 bn of investment
- 3] 1000 mn people to be covered.

The significance of ISA increases several folds in today's world facing 'Climate ~~Emerging~~ Emergency'. As Antonio Guterres said — "Today is world not of Global Warming but of Global Boiling."

The power of ISA needs to be harnessed to achieve INDCs and launchplan of India.

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या व
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UPSC

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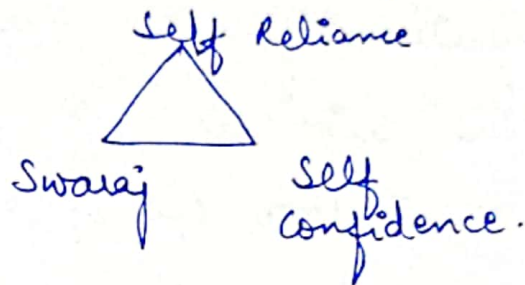
उम्मीदवारों को
इस कॉलम में
कोई लिखना
नहीं है।
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5(d)

Atmanirbhar Bharat.

(10m)

Atmanirbhar Bharat is the call
by India, showcasing India's
vision of



Given the covid-19 pandemic,
disruption of supply chains, lockdowns
all across world and restrictions
on movements, India gave a call
for Atmanirbhar Bharat to boost
its manufacturing and protect
itself from external shocks.

The principle is applied across
sectors covering -

- 1) domestic manufacturing of
goods of automobiles
- 2) exploration of minerals -

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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rare earth minerals & critical minerals
of lithium

3) vocal for local & local for global
of India's toys

4) boost to startups, emphasis
on entrepreneurship.
of 3rd largest-startup ecosystem
of India.

However, it is important to understand that Atmanirbhar Bharat does not mean 'isolationism' or 'import substitution'. Instead, India does promote exports and inter-linkages with global supply chains.

Atmanirbhar Bharat helps India progress from inward looking dependent model to an inclusive and resilient economic architecture.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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(5) (c)

India's Strategic Culture.

(10m)

Strategic culture of a nation refers to its values, norms and beliefs to be applied in its domestic decisions and foreign policies.

Scholars like George Tanham have argued that India lacks strategic culture and is strategically hollow.

However, ^{proud} Indians like S. Jaishankar have argued in his 'The India Way' that India has a rich strategic culture, which was evident even in Ramayana and Mahabharata. He calls 'Hanuman' and 'Krishna' as great diplomats who taught us 'Strategic Manoeuvring', 'Strategic Alignments' & 'Strategic decision making.'

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को
उम्र हानिए में
नहीं लिखना
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Further, Kautilya's Arthashastra has been a source of strategic calculations & guide for statecraft.

Presently, India's multiple alignments and strategic partnerships all reflect our strategic culture.

of engagements with Quad & SCO,
Sochi, Wuhan & Mamallapuram
summits.

When Jasjit Singh says that India suffers from 'PANIPAT SYNDROME' i.e. lack of strategic thinking, he fails to acknowledge the fact that India has overcome so many challenges to emerge as a 'POLE IN ITSELF' (Happymoon Jacob).

India's strategic culture is reflected in Panchsheel, Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या व अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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⑥ (a)

Discuss the Importance of UN Peacekeeping.
What is India's contribution to UN peacekeeping? Highlight the reforms that India has proposed for the same.

(20m)

UN Peacekeeping was established post World War II, as a liberal institutional measures, promoting 'collective security' to ensure peace & stability in the world.

Countries contribute troops, resources, funds, medical aid — to other countries ravaged by civil strife or ethnic conflicts. UN peacekeeping thus is a tool for not just conflict management but also 'peace building'.

India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping

India has sent over 2 lakh peacekeepers

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हशिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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across 49 UN missions , which includes not just soldiers but also medical teams , engineering corps and trainers.

India holds the distinction of sending an all women contingent to Liberia . Also, other significant missions to Sudan , Congo have contributed to develop rapport with local population , thereby bringing fruitful changes in ground situations .

(Ban ki Moon) has lauded India's peacekeepers for their professionalism & service to duty .

India has also received the Day Hammerskjold award for her contributions to peacekeeping .

As PM Modi has said:

"Indian peacekeepers are the ambassadors of the nation."

Reforms proposed by India

UN peacekeeping missions face certain challenges, which require reforms, such as -

- 1] lack of coordination between troop contributing and fund contributing nations.
- 2] sexual violence allegations, furthering Human rights violations instead of protection.
- 3] corruption and mismanagement
- 4] the emphasis on Collective Defence and 'Responsibility to protect' weakening the collective security idea.

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कृपया इस स्थान
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Hence, to overcome these challenges, India proposed reforms such as enhancing coordination & collaboration between troop contributing and fund contributing nations, as also involving the troop contributing nations in decision making (India is top 3)

Also, there need to be sensitive trainings of peacekeepers to imbibe values of respect & tolerance. There needs to be strict enforcement of code of conduct as well as code of ethics.

Peacekeepers need to be trained in local dialects to ease communication with locals. It is the need of the hour to harness peacekeepers as 'AGENTS OF PEACE' and justify their role as Blue Helmets.

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⑥ (b)

Give the reasons for China's deepening interest in Indian Ocean Region. Mention some of the initiatives China has taken to step up its regional diplomacy. Analyse India's responses.

(15m)

“Indian Ocean region has become the new geopolitical theatre of power politics”
— Fareed Zakaria

The Chinese interests & presence in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has enhanced to establish its Strategic Depth. Reasons for its increasing interest include —

1) presence of critical minerals and rare earth elements in deep IOR.

⇒ Lithium will give boost to Chinese semiconductor industry.

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2] to expand its sphere of influence in I.O.R. to counter India.

of giving loans to nations like Sri Lanka to counter India's economic assistance.

3] to safeguard its trade & energy needs as IOR has chokepoints of Strait of Malacca.

Steps taken by China to step up its regional diplomacy

China recently organized the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum for Developmental Aid, where India was not invited, while India's strategic neighbours like Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, etc. participated.

China is also enhancing the military presence by increasing naval ships

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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& submarines

of recently spy satellite sent (Yuan Wang 5) to Hambantota.

China has been expanding its String of Pearls through Maritime Silk Route — across Gwadar (Pakistan), Djibouti (Africa), Sittwe (Myanmar), etc. to establish itself as preponderant power.

India's Response

India calls China a predatory hegemon (Shyam Saran) & Amphibious power (Spykman). India rather than exploiting nations focusses on developmental partnerships of AAGC in Africa, to become partners, not land grabbers.

India instead wants Necklace of Diamonds where there is peace, stability & security in Indian Ocean region — with rules based world order (UNCLOS). Thus India uses SMART POWER — both hard & soft power to counter China in IOR.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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6(c)

China's deepening ties with Iran raises critical concerns for India. Discuss. Suggest how India should navigate its interests in the region.

(15m)

China is challenging ~~Iran~~ ^{India} anywhere & everywhere. The center of gravity of world affairs today has shifted to Indo-Chinese rivalry and confrontations - be it in Indian Ocean or Middle East.

China has recently concluded a 100 year partnership with Iran and also signed various defence agreements for military equipments production & supply, joint naval exercises, surveillance & reconnaissance in Indian Ocean Region. All this has elevated fears of India as it might affect its relations & strategic depth in Iran.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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India's stakes in Iran include the oil needs as well as defence requirements. The gestrategic location of Iran in the Heartland of world (Mackinder) makes it crucial for connectivity to Central Asia as well as West Asia.

The prospects of TAPI pipeline & INSTC are already delayed, which will further be hit due to Chinese threads & increasing footprints in the region.

The growing Russia-China-Pakistan-Iran-turkey axis is shifting the geopolitical world order towards more authoritarianism & instability. China's relations with Iran are a case in point which will hamper not just India's but global

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prospects of peace & stability in the region, as Iran forms the crossroads between Central Asia, South Asia & Middle East.

India's Approach

India should follow a balanced approach — using both hard & soft power as the complex interdependence in the region has increased (Joseph Nye)

Using its Smart power, India must enhance dialogue and engagements with Iran, communicate its strategic stakes and utilize Track 1.5 diplomacy.

India's national interests are safeguarded in a multilateral & multipolar world for which its Soft and Ninkle Diplomacy will be crucial.
(C. Rajamohan)

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⑧ (a)

India has shown diplomatic resilience & leadership for forging unity in neighbourhood in the war against covid pandemic. Elucidate. (20m)
What are the prospects of SAARC 2.0 in the current geopolitical environment.

The South Asia region is a complex arena, held together by common history, colonial legacy and civilizational ties.

India holds a significant position in the South Asian region given its largest population, land, economic & military prowess.

India showcased her leadership during various crisis, becoming the 'Net Security Provider' and first responder in the region.

of Economic assistance to Sri Lanka,
humanitarian aid to Nepal (2015)
Operation Dost (Turkey)

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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During the recent covid 19 pandemic also, India stood by its track record. The Vaccine Maitri initiative of India to supply covid vaccines to neighbours — from Sri Lanka to Maldives, Bangladesh to Malaysia.

The Serum Institute of India held joint research with other players to evolve better preventive measures, and production of medicines.

Also, India & South Africa together voiced concern for free & inclusive vaccine supplies to developing economies, at the WTO forum. They were against Vaccine Nationalism by developed nations.

Hence, India stood by its philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam to show diplomatic resilience & leadership

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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to forge unity in neighbourhood
in war against covid.

Prospects of SAARC 2.0

SAARC is a regional grouping in South Asia to evolve economic, political & cultural synergies among 8 nations, however it has been a jammed vehicle (S. Jaishankar).

The deadlock in SAARC occurred in 2016 due to clashes between India & Pakistan (Uri, Pothohar) making it a 'Zombie' (as per scholars)

This dead letter was overshadowed by other regional groupings like BIMSTEC - which began to further downgrade the importance of SAARC.

However, in current geopolitical

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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environment, the significance of SAARC 2.0 cannot be neglected as

- 1] the South Asian countries face asymmetrical warfare.
- 2] they face common challenge of poverty & underdevelopment
- 3] the intra regional trade needs to be expanded (currently 5%)
- 4] non conventional security threats like cyber attacks, climate change
- 5] Debt trap diplomacy of China.

To overcome all these roadblocks, SAARC nations must re-energize & rejuvenate the platform of SAARC. India must play instrumental role in reviving SAARC through SAARC minus one consensus (Shashi Tharoor) and TWO SPEED SAARC (PM Modi) to infuse energy into SAARC for future prosperity -

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या को अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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⑧ ①

Discuss the pros and cons of India's nuclear policy of No First use. Do you think India should change this policy in light of Pakistan's recent terror adventurism?

(15 m)

India's No First Use ^(NFKU) policy is the crucial & most significant component of the Nuclear Doctrine of comprising of Credible Minimum Deterrence, ~~or~~ maximum retaliatory force, no use of nuclear weapons against non ~~state~~ ~~actors~~ nuclear weapon states.

Pros of the No First Use include-

- 1] It puts ethical responsibility on the other party for initiating war.
- 2] It is a less expensive method of safeguarding security
(Manpreet Sethi)
- 3] It ensures nuclear deterrence.

UPSC

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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- 4] The command & control is in civilian hands, prevented misuse by Indian military.
- 5] It promotes India's bid for ahimsa and a time bound, verifiable & universal disarmament.

Cons of NFU include -

- 1] It is not justified to keep civilians at risk & huge damage (Balraj Singh)
- 2] In unsymmetric warfare, non state actors get an upper hand.
- 3] History is a guide that one who initiates war has always won & got dividends.
- 4] The second strike capability will only come into play when some resilience is there against the first attack, which is destructive.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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Whether India change NFU is a significant debate. K. Subramanyam argues that nuclear policy is more about credibility than substance. India's NFU showcases India as an ethical & responsible actor on world stage.

However, rising Pakistan's terror adventurism and Chinese threats, India faces dual front war threat. Plus, Pakistan has a 'First use' policy. Defence minister Rajnath Singh also argued that NFU is not carved in stone.

What is more important for India is to ensure 'Deterrence' & 'Compellence' as France does even against non state actors. For nuclear weapons should be 'weapons of peace' and not weapons of destruction.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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⑧ (C)

"Till very recently India was seen a predominantly poor developing country with low visibility in global affairs. However, at present India seems to be writing a new dynamic future for itself." Elucidate

(15m)

India's Image as a poor nation, full of hunger and malnutrition with low standard of living, pollution, poor quality of life, etc. has been the 'dominant image'.

This is so because of the colonial legacy which led to Drain of Wealth, exploited India's natural resources and led to de-industrialization & commercialization of agriculture.

However, today the world has moved ahead and so has India.

In her 75 years of independence, India has transformed herself.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

- 1) from poor nation to world's third largest economy.
- 2) from weak nation to top to military powers of world, 7th largest nuclear weapon holder.
- 3) from a passive recipient of aid [PL-480] to an active responder & assistance provider [to Sri Lanka]
- 4) from a subsidiary actor & swing state, to a pole in itself (Harsh V. Pant) and a global power.

India has written a new dynamic future for itself where it has a voice at the high table of diplomacy. Powerful nations like USA, Japan, Russia cannot ignore India's role in shaping the world order.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

India aspires to become VISHWA GURU three times of Ashoka and today, PM Modi takes that legacy forward by assisting nations during disasters (Nepal) and responding immediately of operation Sost - Turkey.

India has strengthened its footprints in Africa (AAGC) to Latin America, littoral states to Far East of Russia. The very fact that 'Asia Pacific' has been renamed as 'Indo Pacific' showcases India's stature.

With participation in groupings like Quad and I2U2, simultaneously with RIC and SCO, shows India's strategic culture of multialignments and "Madhyam Marg". India is on the right path to expand its Sphere of Influence in the entire globe.