

Political Science & International Relations**Crash Course & Test Series - 2023****Test 4****Time Allowed: 3 Hours****Max Marks: 250**Name SWATI SHARMATest Date 30 August 2023UPSC Roll No 0838034**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...!!!

Que.1 (a)

Role of Parliament in the Indian Foreign Policy making. (10 Marks)

According to JN Dixit, former secretary foreign policy reflects what a nation stands upto and how it reflects its position on the global table.

The role of Indian Parliament in Indian foreign policy making has been multidimensional. Parliament is the voice of Indian people which through debates and deliberations describe the national interest. It helps in reflecting domestic politics on international level (Nehru) for example - relations with Middle east are also shaped by values.

Further, the role of opposition in Parliament plays a critical role in examining ~~not~~ the foreign

policy, for example evaluation of civil nuclear agreements with USA.

The Parliament also acts at the actor level analysis (neorealism of Kenneth Waltz) that reflects the change in foreign policy taking into consideration the government at the Parliament, for instance the changed stance towards Israel - Palestine relations.

Parliament in foreign policy making involves parliamentary committees to gain expertise and over policy formulation. Further, Ministry of external affairs play a pivotal role through functionaries and functions in connecting the states.

Hence, Parliament is a large body that helps in guiding foreign policy

Que.1(b)

Impact of Abraham Accord on India's West Asia Policy. (10 Marks)

West Asia has been geopolitically and geo-economically important for India. The region consist of huge resources and major sea lane of communication and trade that makes it geostrategic.

After the end of Cold War in 1991, with fall of USSR, India embarked on its post colonial journey for which it required development.

This led to re-energised efforts towards West Asia with formulation of Look West Policy in 2004 with

under Manmohan Singh government

Further, the real thrust was given after 2014 when the region gained importance along with India's policy of strategic

autonomy.

The peace and stability in region is significant for India's interests. Abraham Accords was a US led initiative to maintain its grand strategy in the region along with peace.

The conflict ridden countries - Israel and UAE - settled their diplomatic relations to normalisation to spur growth and peace in region. This has given a new thrust to Indian policy with India leading to Indo-Abrahamic Accords policy.

The Abraham accords shall help maintain India its strategic autonomy and civilisational ties with the Middle east, along ~~with~~ with achieving national interests

Que.1(c)

Non-Alignment 2.0. (10 Marks)

Non alignment is a concept of Cold War era where the developing countries came together to prevent joining any of the two blocs, during the bipolar world order, while maintaining independence of decisions.

Non alignment reflected India's stance of aligning to partnerships than alliances. It aimed at development, work against decolonisation and continue with anti-imperialism in the developing world.

However with the end of Cold War in 1991, the relevance of NAM was questioned. With the global world turning bipolar to unipolar to contemporary multipolar, NAM's

significance was seen as declining.

In this backdrop, non alignment 2.0 proves to be policy for India to advance its interests through multialignment. It is based on issue specific decisions to protect India's national interests.

With the rising multilateral personality of India (Schaffer & Schaffer), non alignment 2.0 has helped India gain browserie points in economic (IPEF), political (Israel - Palestine) and at multilateral forums (UN SC).

Non alignment 2.0 shall help India gain its rightful place in comity of nations along with advancing values of global peace and harmony.

Que.1(d)

Indian ocean has become a key determinant of India's foreign policy at present. Critically examine. (10 Marks)

With the centre of gravity changing from transatlantic to Indian ocean, Indian foreign policy has transformed. Indian ocean is a geopolitical and geostrategic region where one who captures Indian ocean, captures the world (Robert D Kaplan).

Indian ocean has become a key determinant in the Indian foreign policy in 21st century. The region holds vast economic resources such as polymetallic nodules, exploration given to India, huge oil reserves that can aid growth and energy security.

Its geostrategic locations between Malacca strait and Red Sea makes

it important for South Asian trade.

Another important facet is rise of hegemon-China in the region while it enters through its cheque book diplomacy the doors of India's neighbours such as Sri Lanka under heavy debt due to China's loans.

China is using its string of pearls to contain the rise of India, for instance, Guadar port in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka. This makes Indian Ocean security important for idea of free and open Indo Pacific and Act east policy, SAGAR policy with Africa.

However, there are other areas of interest in the determining the foreign policy at present.

Que.1(e)

India-Japan Relations. (10 Marks)

India and Japan are two major powers of Asia. The bilateral relations have turned from being tepid (David Melau) to experiencing a comfortable state.

The political relations were harmonized by regular meets and the actor level bonhomie between former PM Shingo Abe and PM Modi.

On the economic front, the countries share bilateral trade of \$13bn. Japan has made major investments in India using ODA loans.

On the softer issues determinants, people to people ties have seen a new high

with cultural relations exploring yoga, Japanese art, so on.

The defense relations have strengthened with rise of China in the backdrop, leading to military exercises (Malabar), QUAD, ACSA with aim of free and open Indo pacific.

The release of document by Japan on its policy of Indo pacific on June 2023 shows energised efforts at trade, humanitarian assistance, defense and technology.

The relations also have some irritants such as unfavourable balance of payments, RCEP, stand on Ukraine crisis.

However, the India Japan relations will only rise further that can overtake other major relations.

Que.3(a)

India's decision to remain out of RCEP shows that it is retreating from its Act East Policy. Comment. (20 Marks)

With the changing geopolitical world order after the end of cold war, India extended the idea of developmental partnership with the extended neighbours.

Look East policy was announced in 1994 under the same spirit. Year 2022 had marked three decades of Look East renamed as Act east policy in 2014.

The Act east policy focusing on Asia pacific region gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions than mere economic engagement. The policy is based on "ASEAN centrality" and engagement with India.

RCEP is a free trade agreement among Asia Pacific nations consisting of 15 members - 10 ASEAN and 5 other Asia Pacific nations. It accounts for around 30% of global GDP, making it largest trade bloc.

India took part in the initial negotiations but later decided to opt out of the agreement. RCEP is argued to present a decisive platform to influence India's strategic and economic status in Indo Pacific and bring spark to Act east policy.

While the relations are ascended with ASEAN, RCEP was seen to complement India's economic partnership to benefit its position.



RCEP has potential to expand the economic interdependence among the countries.

However, the decision to remain out of RCEP is not a retreat from Act East policy.

PM Modi in 2018 highlighted that "no region now receives as much attention as this, for India". India

has acquired greater political and strategic alignment with the South East Asia.

Act east policy is visible in growing trade and maritime cooperation with the region. For instance, Vietnam-India defense relations have improved. India is seen as an integral participant in regional architecture.

RCEP can mutually benefit India and ASEAN through greater economic integration and openness. But it has its own challenges. The variable of deals such as tariff reduction, liberalisation are having varied positions by member states. RCEP is equated as a free trade agreement with China.

Hence, in order to strengthen the Act east policy, better cooperation and engagement using cultural links, people-people ties and peaceful resolution of disputes are needed.

India is firmly positioned with its presence and participation granting credibility and legitimacy to the regional architecture.

Que.3(b)

Do you think BIMSTEC has emerged as the preferred grouping of countries in South Asia? Enumerate some recent initiatives in BIMSTEC? (15 Marks)

South Asia is seen as the least integrated region over the world. With the rise of multilaterals and regional cooperation, BIMSTEC was created as a platform of transborder cooperation.

BIMSTEC was established through Bangkok declaration to promote sub regional cooperation in areas of trade, investment and technological exchange.

Another initiative aimed at sub regional cooperation ~~was~~ is SAARC. SAARC's working is termed as a jammed vehicle (S. Jaishankar). The last meet of SAARC was held in 2014.

SAARC is also a victim of India's skepticism by other members of India's big brotherly attitude and the growing animosity between India-Pakistan relations.

In light of this, BIMSTEC is seen as an alternative to SAARC and has emerged as a preferred grouping.

The member states have signed coastal shipping agreement, efforts on port connectivity, motor vehicle agreement, visa free regime to promote tourism is under progress.

The countries are cooperating on the technology transfer facility, establishment of diplomatic institutions. For India, BIMSTEC gives thrust to the Act east policy and free and

open Indo pacific. Rajiv Bhattacha adds BIMSTEC was at risk of being little more than a rebound relationship earlier, however today no matter what happens to SAARC, we should be committed to BIMSTEC.

However, BIMSTEC suffers its own challenges, such as lack of robust decision making mechanism, slowed down growth of organisation. Recently, first ever foreign ministers meet was held. The 5th summit had seen Master Plan on Connectivity.

South Asian regionalism is home grown. There needs to be firm commitment to historical and cultural links to strengthen

BIMSTEC with reforms in decision making.

Que.3(c)

'The two words – 'continuity & change' sum up the historical & current engagement of India with Africa'. Critically examine. (15 Marks)

India - Africa partnership is a result of historical and cultural links. It is guided by the spirit of developing together as equals.

Africa is considered as a continent on move. According to S Jaishankar, the historical solidarity is today a modern partnership.

India's engagement with Africa is a continuity of South-South cooperation, membership of NAM showing fight against colonialism and imperialism. India also supported Africa's fight against racial



discrimination. The popular Kanpala principles in 2018 by PM Modi contain elements that are indicative of continuity and change.

The change in engagement reflects how Africa is being accorded a top priority as a developmental partner. New areas of trade and investments are explored. such as around 40% exports to African markets, \$7.5 bn investments, push to agricultural cooperation (Malawi). There is a renewed interest by engaging private sector and developmental finance.

Africa holds a central place in SAGAR policy to counter terrorism, maritime piracy and push to blue economy.

The defense partnership has also evolved with recent Gandhinagar declaration at Defense Expo 2022.

Regular high level interactions are symbolic to reassure the importance that India places on strengthening partnerships with African countries.

However, the new scramble due to globalisation and Chinese chequebook diplomacy has placed certain roadblocks in the relations.

India acts as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean.

Through multilateral initiatives such as IORA, UNSC representation reforms, India - Africa relations show a continuity of civilisational links with a change by imparting a 21st century complexion

Que.5(a)

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. (10 Marks)

Indian foreign policy is based on its civilisational values that believes in rise of all along with rise of India. Vasudhaiva kutumbakam reflects idea of "one earth, one family". from Taittiriya upanishad.

As a leader of Global South, India has addressed the concerns of developing world at multilateral forums such as UN, WTO upholding the spirit.

India has raised concerns about climate change and its consequences. Further, terrorism has been on agenda of Indian foreign policy to ^{attain} global peace.

Recently at G20 summit, as ~~host~~ host of summit in 2023, India adopted the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam to uphold the equality of all nations at the multipolar world order.

India has been largest contributor to UN peacekeeping forces, with contributing all women contingents and helicopters. At the helm of pandemic COVID19, India's vax diplomacy through vaccine maitri was also significant.

India has always been at forefront in case of humanitarian disasters such as Operation Shakti, Operation Ganga, Operation Dost.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam aligns with India's quest for a polycentric world order and development.

Que.5(b)

India's recent approach to Israel-Palestine conflict. (10 Marks)

Israel Palestine conflict reflects one of the longest running conflicts in Middle east region. Since the Balfour declaration brokered by UK, the conflict has been only ~~been~~ increased in its intensity.

This has posed major challenges in India's approach to the conflict. India, during the cold war period, had a pro-palestine stance with non-recognition of Israel's significance. This reflected the approach of India where it kept Israel under the carpet and showed solidarity with Palestine.

Later under the Vajpayee government, post cold war, Israel

and India became natural allies.

The recent approach is characterised by policy of engagement with both nations on independent tracks. (dehypenation). C Raja Mohan appreciates the first visit of PM Modi in 2016 to Israel as taking full ownership of relations, after the visit of Palestine.

According to Nirupama Subramaniam, there have been substantial shifts on the approach towards Palestine conflict due to "changing contours" as India's profile has changed with diverse interests.

India's approach is carefully crafted giving each country its due.

Que.5(c)

International Solar Alliance. (10 Marks)

International Solar Alliance resonates with India's strategic culture of maintaining the global commons. Over the years, India has played a key role in North-South politics of climate negotiations.

The establishment of ISA in 2015 is an example of India's cooperative climate engagement. ISA is a treaty based, consensus based forum aimed at transregional solar grid and solar energy cooperation to reduce dependence on fossil fuel and bring a just energy order.

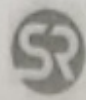
ISA is based on idea of "One Sun One World One Grid" with "towards

1000 strategy" to mobilise \$1 trillion for solar energy to put in place 1000 GW of clean energy by 2030.

As a leader of Global South, India extends the focus of clean energy in development of third world. For instance, sub saharan Africa is disproportionately vulnerable to climate change impacts.

ISA aims to achieve SDG Target 7 to increase the share of renewable energy in global energy mix by 2030.

India is a model in renewable energy. Solar energy is proposed as one means of ensuring energy security and help build resilient livelihoods.



Que.5(d)

Atmanirbhar Bharat. (10 Marks)

The COVID pandemic exposed the economic adversities of a globalised world. In response to this, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan was launched to create a self reliant India in with all sectors of economy.

It finds its intellectual base in Gandhian idea of self sufficient village. Atmanirbhar Bharat is a commitment to gain strength by 'Make in India' while not turning the economy away from global trade.

Atmanirbhar Bharat expands to agriculture, manufacturing, defence, infrastructure to realise the dream of becoming a global hub. It also aims to

make India energy independent
by 2047.

The pandemic showed the weakness of being reliant on one country for essential needs. Thereby Atmanirbhar Bharat shows building supply chain resiliency using China + 1 strategy, regional trade talks while investing in domestic capability.

Atmanirbhar Bharat translates to the strength of largest populous nation with largest democracy increasing India's strength visibility in the comity of nations.



Que.5(e)

India's Strategic culture. (10 Marks)

Strategic culture refers to the values, norms and culture that reflects in dealing with nations and upholding the interests on global table of diplomacy.

According to Kanti Bajpai, strategic culture defines the grand strategy and the central strategic paradigm.

George Tanham has criticised that India lacks the strategic culture in its foreign policy. As politics is this worldly and not other worldly, India lacks substance in its contribution.

However, the view of George Tanham was criticised

as being ethnocentric in nature.

Henry Kissinger had showed the importance of work of Kautilya's Mahabharata that can help deal even in contemporary times. S Jaishankar, in his book, the Indian Way, showed the uniqueness of Indian culture being strategic in nature.

India's strategic culture gets reflected in maintaining multiple alignments, holding interests at global multilateral forums and protecting its regional and global interests.

India's strategic culture lies in the fact that Kautilya's Arthashastra is considered as more Machiavellian than Machiavelli's Prince.



Que.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. (20 Marks)

"United Nations (UN) was created not to make heaven on earth but to prevent it from becoming a hell." - Dag Hammarskjöld, former UN Secretary General.

India became a member of UN in 1945 and has always offered a "whole hearted cooperation" (Nehru) to UN.

UN peacekeeping has been the face of humanity in the UN. Its primary responsibility lies in maintaining global peace and security in the conflict ridden areas. It has proven to be most effective tool to assist host countries navigate the path from conflict to peace.

UN peacekeeping has been significant in bringing development to the conflict regions through capacity development.

India's role at UN peacekeeping is remarkable for its contribution of largest personnel (around 2 lakh Indians). Even in financial contribution, India has maintained its position in absolute and relative terms. India has been contributing with forces of Indian army, stealth helicopters as hard power at behest of UN.

On the soft power dimension, India has necessitated capacity development through ancient practice of yoga (such as Lebanon, Sudan). The all women contingent



was offered in Liberia, first time in world. The women peacekeepers are playing a significant role in humanitarian service. India has

contributed to the trust fund on sexual exploitation and abuse.

Recently, UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by India to create peacekeepers memorial to ensure "honour and sacrifice is not forgotten".

However, with changing security environment and complex interdependence, Ruchira Kamboj, permanent representative to UN, highlights the need of reforms for peacekeeping.

Today peacekeeping depends heavily on civilian interactions as the women and

children are prime targets. India has proposed to ensure safety of peacekeepers through Group of Friends initiative. India maintains that contribution towards UN PK fund should be regular.

India also proposes use of advanced technology to address the issue of problems without passports (Kofi Annan). India has kept alive the spirit of one world in the protection of blue helmets and humanity.

With rising multilateral personality, India stands firm against terrorism and advocates humanitarian efforts to realise idea of Vasudhaiva kutumbakam.

Que.6(b)

Give the reasons for China's deepening interest in the Indian Ocean region. Mention some of the initiatives China has taken to step up its regional diplomacy. Analyse India's responses. (15 Marks)

Indian ocean region becomes significant due to transformation of world focus from transatlantic to Indo-Pacific.

Indian ocean region is a hotbed of resources. Economically, the region crosses around 70% of South Asian trade. It is situated between the Malacca strait and the Red sea. In this context, China's deepening interest in the region is important to solve its Malacca dilemma.

China has been increasing its hegemonic influence in the region with its string of pearls connecting major ports such as Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka,

Djibouti in Africa. China is pursuing its chequebook diplomacy to increase the economic interdependence of the regional countries.

China held its first ever Indian Ocean Region Forum on fostering maritime cooperation with the Indian ocean region countries.

The Chinese incursions in Indian ocean are also driven by its middle kingdom syndrome and aims to establish a Chinese century majorly focused on Indo-Pacific. Beijing aims to challenge the other major powers such as India to establish its hegemony.

India has a status of global swing state and a net security provider in Indian ocean.

India has geared up initiatives such as Act east policy based on ASEAN centrality, QUAD to enforce free and open Indo pacific, IPEF framework recognising importance of 'Indo' in Indian ocean, SAGAR policy with African countries. India has advanced its Look West policy since 2014 to enhance cooperation with recent Indo Abrahamic accords.

The variants that India faces are the ~~g~~ already existing huge economic cooperation with china of the countries and the increasing power gap between India - china.

Indian ocean finds salience due to security, economic and bilateral political relations of India. India should enhance spirit of cooperation and Gujral doctrine to address the concerns.

Que.6(c)

China's deepening ties with Iran raises critical concerns for India. Discuss. Suggest how India should navigate its interests in the region? (15 Marks)

India and the Middle east region have strong commercial, energy, cultural and people to people links.

Iran stands as immediate neighbour with civilisational connect to India.

In March 2023, China and Iran brokered an agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic ties. China has been playing role of a peacemaker in the region and shown growing interest in Iran.

Iran is important for China as Iran is a source of energy with top supplier of crude oil (energy security) and provider of security in the region.



Hence China is trying to translate its economic power to political power.

Iran's trade with China is more than trade with India. Defense relations with Iran has increased with drills in Gulf of Oman with China. The visit of President Raisi to Beijing as the first state visit by an Iranian President in more than two decades shows deepening ties of China - Iran relations.

This raises critical concerns for India as the geopolitical environment changes in Middle east. With change of guards in Afghanistan, Iran is of peculiar importance to maintain peace, stability and assistance with Afghanistan. India has its stakes through Chabahar port maintaining connectivity via

Iran to Central Asian states and Afghanistan. Iran is also important for energy security and a secure Indian Ocean. Iran is a key pillar in India's Eurasian strategy. Hence, growing Chinese stakes can undermine India's interests.

In order to navigate its interests in the region, there is a need to bridge the internal divisions by making use of Indo - Abrahmic accords.

India should continue to invest in energy and infrastructure sectors, a deal once offered by Iran.

There is a need of comprehensive strategic cooperation through SCO, INSTC to maintain a relations of equals than of hegemony.



Que.8(a)

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

According to UN, India's resilient pharmaceutical industry and tax diplomacy were the major forces behind the war against COVID pandemic. This was driven by India's civilisational value of Vasudhaiva kutumbakam and Pandit Nehru's statement that India shall work for one world.

During the pandemic, India also forged unity in neighbourhood by supply of medicines, doctors, strengthening supply chains in spirit of the Neighbourhood First Policy.

India's neighbourhood - South Asia - is

imagined under the innermost concentric circle among the three circles of south bloc.

Due to the fate of being the least integrated region, South Asia faces challenges of unity and brotherhood among nations.

Bhunitra Chakma, in his book, "South Asian Regionalism: the limits of cooperation", shows how SAARC has given a regional identity to South Asia and strengthened the sense of belonging that signifies the relations among countries.

However, SAARC remained a jammed vehicle (S Jaishankar). It had its own limitations that led



to its failure. Foremost among them, is the low trade (5%) among the countries themselves. Further, the SAFTA could not resonate to realities due to contentious issues excluded from deliberations.

India - Pakistan animosity has made SAARC ineffective. Also, there are issues among the other countries. SAARC meet was last held in 2014. The trust deficit among the members has hence increased also due to India's big brotherly attitude as perceived by other powers.

SAARC 2.0 can help in re-energising relations. The tensed geopolitical environment can be made healthy by establishing MacDonald Chain among

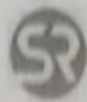
members with consensus based decision making, hydrodiplomacy and making SAFTA effective.

S.D

Muni calls upon for a Neighbourhood 2.0 policy to release the skepticism about India's attitude. SAARC 2.0 should be seen through prism of Gujral doctrine with formation of conflict conciliation group.

With

talks of BIMSTEC replacing the significance of SAARC, it must be understood that SAARC binds the unity using historical and cultural links. Like EU became a gold standard for regionalism due to common concerns on economy, hydrocooperation and track 2 diplomacy can aid growth of SAARC as a regional standard.



Que.8(b)

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 Marks)

India is committed to the policy of No First Use (NFU) in its Nuclear doctrine of 2003. It committed India towards credible minimum deterrence, along with second strike capability and building up of a nuclear triad.

According to Raja Menon, India's nuclear policy is a result of its peace loving and pacifist culture. Rajesh Basra calls it an example of defensive realism (Kenneth Waltz).

The NFU has led India towards various advantages. Manpreet Sethi, in her book "Nuclear Strategy", highlights

how NFU provides mitigation of expensive nuclear weapons infrastructural needs that is associated with First Use. Further, NFU puts the onus on the adversary, thereby protecting India's retaliation capacity without any setback on the image of a responsible nuclear state. Professor Sheel Kant Sharma shows that NFU puts little need to put nuclear forces at half trigger alert.

But as Rajiv Nayan pointed out that NFU led to loss of advantage without gaining any strategic value. The expansionists of controversial nuclear doctrine such as Bharat Karnad hold that it decreases



India was fighting capability. P R Chari highlights the insufficiency of NFU that is free Pakistan of deterrent ability of nuclear weapons. Pakistan lacks believe in India's NFU policy and has used nuclear weapons as a bluff against India by policy of thousand cuts. This led to stability - instability paradox between the two countries.

India might need to shift towards First Use but it would strengthen arms race, require more resources and puts strain on India's pacifist culture.

In light of growing two edged sword - Pakistan and China, India should maintain its global stand on nuclear disarmament while acquiring optimum level of nuclear deterrence.⁷⁷

Que. 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. (15 Marks)

India since ancient times has been at centre of development due to its geo-economic and geostrategic location. The wrath of colonialism made India a land of dust and filth.

On the eve of independence, India's share in world trade and at global affairs saw low visibility. India embarked on its post colonial development by increasing its global stature on high table of diplomacy.

Tennesta Schaffer has talked about how India gained a rising power with its "multilateral personality".



India, today, is the third largest economy in terms of PPP with growth in services export and increased growth rate due to India's belief in multilateralism. India as a leader of Global South, addressed concerns of developing world through formation of NAM, G-77, L-69 groupings.

It has also worked on issues of terrorism, climate change, growing divide between Global North and Global South by initiatives such as UN Resolution 1325 on women, UN Resolution on terrorism, largest contribution to peacekeeping forces.

The intrinsic value of India's growing visibility also lies in being world's largest democracy with high demographic dividend.

India has the privilege of being a responsible nuclear weapon state.

The evidence of growing visibility lies in support for India's membership in UNSC, USA's exceptionalism (Suhashin Haidar), recognition of India as a net security provider in Indo Pacific and respect for India's strategic autonomy. India finds a place even in the recent meet held by G7 nations.

However, the increased visibility in a polycentric world order is perceived under threat due to hegemonic rise of China and growing divergence between west and east. India shall find its rightful place in the comity of nations. (Nehru).