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Political Science & International Relations

PSIR Crash Course– 2025

Test 4

Time Allowed: 3 Hours **Max Marks: 250**

Name	Avinash Jain
Test Submission Date	15/7/25
Email Address	
Test Start Time	9:00
Test End Time	12:08
UPSC Roll Number	5810932
Phone Number	-

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. Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
4. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
6. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
7. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

Marks Table (To be filled by Evaluators):

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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Remarks by Evaluator:

1. Contextual understanding

2. Content

3. Structure & Flow

4. Introduction

5. Conclusion

6. Language

7. Presentation

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Student's Queries: -

1) should I include more scholars in answers?

2). In 15 & 20 markers, how much space to be given for setting content?

Evaluator's Feedback: -

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Que.1 (a) भारत को बिम्सटेक में निरंतर नई ऊर्जा, संसाधन और नई प्रतिबद्धताएं डालने की आवश्यकता है। (10 अंक)

India needs to constantly infuse new energy, resources and fresh commitments at BIMSTEC.

BIMSTEC was formed in 1997 through Bangkok declaration. It comprise of Bay of Bengal littoral states - India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand.

Based on idea of liberal institutionalism and functionalism, BIMSTEC was envisaged to bring peace and prosperity in a ~~contest~~ contested region through economic, security and cultural cooperation.

In recent years, India has infused new energy in BIMSTEC due to failure of SAARC. BIMSTEC is being increasingly seen as an alternative to SAARC for South Asian regionalism.

BIMSTEC has become all the more relevant due to great power rivalry (@ China v/ USA) in region. It is a platform to assert strategic autonomy by Member Countries.

For India, BIMSTEC is also a tool to balance China's rise and realise its vision of free and open Indo pacific. Today, when region is facing challenges like political turmoil, (@ Bangladesh), refugee crisis (@ Rohingyas) and civil wars (@ Myanmar), BIMSTEC can act as a platform to bring peace & stability.

Through steps like BIMSTEC charter, BIMSTEC Business Council, connectivity projects like kaladan and IMT highway India has shown leadership in its neighbourhood and strengthened BIMSTEC

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Que.1 (b) भारत के परिप्रेक्ष्य में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुधार के प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्र तथा प्रमुख बाधाएं। (10 अंक)
Priority areas of UN reforms from the perspective of India and the major obstacles.

United Nations has failed to keep pace with changing world order. In words of Dr S. Jaishankar, UN is a anachronistic body and a 1945 invented failed mechanism.

In this context, demand for UN reforms has gained pace particularly in global south. India has been leading this demand as a aspiring great power. From India's perspective priority areas include :-

1) UNSC expansion - both permanent and non-permanent members to include countries from Africa, Latin America, etc.

2) Veto reforms - India is demanding abolition of Veto to check its misuse for geopolitical gains.

3) UN Secretariat reforms - greater inclusivity in representation from global south and bringing gender diversity.

4) UN financial reforms - to reduce dependence on voluntary contributions.

5) Peacekeeping reforms - greater say to developing countries in decision of deployment.

However, these reforms face major challenges. First, UNSC expension needs passage of resolution by 2/3rd majority in general assembly and consensus among P5. However, opposition from Coffee Club and China has stalled these reforms.

There is disagreement on size and criteria of choosing permanent members. Developing country like India also lacks institutional capacity to lobby for UNSC reforms (MUKUL SANWAL).

Que.1 (c) विदेश नीति में भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता के दृष्टिकोण के परिणामस्वरूप प्रायः अस्पष्टताएं उत्पन्न होती हैं। (10 अंक)

India's strategic autonomy approach in the Foreign Policy often results in ambiguities.

'Strategic autonomy' has been India's grand strategy to safeguard its national interest amind great power rivalry since the days of NAM.

Today, strategic autonomy is maintained through multi-alignment (SHASHI THAROOR). Thus, India go for issue based alignments like QUAD to balance China and SCO/BRICS to ensure multipolar world order.

However this approach has often resulted in ambiguities. India is finding it difficult to navigate geopolitical flux. For example, India's decision to join Quad was seen by China as

dilution of its strategic autonomy. This led to Chinese agression in Galwan. However, due to its commitment to 'strategic autonomy', India could not realise full potential of its ties with USA.

This has led western scholars like Ashley Tellis to comment "USA: bad bet on India". It seems like strategic autonomy brings India many partners but not 'friends".

A rising India cannot be dogmatic in its approach. 'Strategic autonomy' while important cannot become an end in itself. If current geopolitical environment warrants strategic embrace of USA/ Japan / Israel, then India should not shy away from it.

Que.1 (d) शीत युद्ध के बाद भारत की विदेश नीति में निरंतरता और परिवर्तन (10 अंक)

After the Cold War, continuity and change in India's Foreign Policy

Cold War led to rise of Unipolarity, this warranted fundamental change in India's foreign policy -

The first observable change is shift towards greater realism from Nehruvian idealism. This was evident in India conducting nuclear tests (defensive realism).

India shifted its stance from Non-Alignment to issue based alignment This is evident in India's embrace of groupings like QUAD and I2U2.

Relations with USA marked another major shift. From reflexive Anti-americanism (AMITABH MATTOO),

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India went for strategic embrace to balance the rise of China in Indo-Pacific.

Middle East is another arena of change. In Cold war, India saw GCC from prism of pakistan, now it is taking a more strategic view. India's "marriage made in heaven" ties with Israel ~~Pakistan~~ is another major shift.

However, there is continuity in India's stance of strategic autonomy. India continues to reject alliance paradigm. It has continued to show leadership in global south, earlier through NAM and now through voice of global south. India's normative ethos are at display from panchsheel to Vasudev kutumbakam.

Thus, India's foreign policy shows pragmatism by adjusting as per times which sticking to its normative ethos.

Que.1 (e) वर्तमान समय में भारत की परमाणु सुरक्षा चिंताएं और भारत के विकल्प (10 अंक)

India's Nuclear Security concerns in the present times and India's options

South Asia is described as most danger zone place due to conflicts under presence of nuclear umbrella.

India's Nuclear security concerns stems from its conflict with two nuclear armed nations - Pakistan and China. Among these, the primary concern is Pakistan.

Pakistan has a first use doctrine. Weak institutional structure, control of army and presence of non-state actors raises the concerns around nuclear miscalculations. Since Pakistan faces conventional asymmetry with India, it relies on nuclear deterrence to tackle Indian threat.

Pakistan's development of tactical nuclear weapons against India's Cold start strategy is another concern.

India also fear nuclear proliferation in the region and nuclearisation of Indo-Pacific (eg AUKUS). In this content, India has relied on developing its own nuclear deterrence through Nuclear triad.

It's Nuclear doctrine underlines "unacceptable damage" in case of nuclear attack ensuring nuclear deterrence. However scholars like BHARAT KARNAD argues that no first use is seen as a strategic weakness and India must shift to first use policy to strengthen nuclear deterrence. Along with this, India has been campaigning on universal nuclear disarmament to reduce nuclear concern.

Que.2(a)

भारत की सुदूर पूर्व की ओर देखने की नीति और रूस की पूर्व की ओर धुरी नीति के बीच अभिसरण और विचलन की आलोचनात्मक जांच करें। अपनी पूरकताओं को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए दोनों देशों द्वारा उठाए गए प्रमुख कदमों को गिनाएँ। (20 अंक)

Critically examine convergences and divergences between India's look far east and Russia's pivot to east policy. Enumerate prominent steps taken by both countries to advance their complementarities.

Que.2 (b)

"भारत की भौगोलिक स्थिति भारत को विश्व मामलों में अग्रणी स्थान पर ला खड़ा करेगी।" उपर्युक्त कथन के आलोक में भारत की विदेश नीति पर भौगोलिक निर्धारकों के प्रभाव की व्याख्या कीजिए। (15 अंक)

"The geographical position of India would push India into the forefront of world affairs." In light of the above statement explain the impact of geographical determinants on India's foreign policy

Que.2(c) जैसे-जैसे विश्व बहुध्रुवीयता की ओर बढ़ रहा है, बदलती वास्तविकताओं के अनुसार संरचना और दायरे में संशोधन करके गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन फिर से प्रासंगिकता प्राप्त कर सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक)

As the world moves towards increasing multipolarity, NAM can again gain relevance by revision in structure and scope according to changing realities. Comment.

Que.3(a) भारत-चीन संबंधों का पुनरुद्धार न केवल दोनों देशों के अरबों लोगों के मूल हितों की पूर्ति करता है, बल्कि वैश्विक दक्षिण की साझा आकांक्षाओं की भी पूर्ति करता है। टिप्पणी (20 अंक)

Revival of India-China relations serves not only the core interests of billions of people in both countries but also the shared aspirations of the global south. Comment

From being called 'Hindi- Chine bhai bhai' to chine being seen as India's biggest security challenge, the relations have deteriorated rapidly.

After independence, India saw China as a partner to realise goals of Global south and oppose Western colonialism. Panchsheel and Bandung conference were watermark events in this direction.

However, the unresolved border issue culminating in 1962 war broke all illusions of strategic partnership. Chinese support to Pakistan in 1962

war further cemented the notion of China as a strategic threat.

However, visit of PM Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 provided a diplomatic thaw. This led to peace and tranquility agreement in 1993 and Confidence building measures agreement in 1996.

Thereafter, both nations put border issue on backburner and went for deepening of economic partnership. Both nations stood for multipolar world order and Reformed multilateralism. They put a joint position on WTO on issue of agriculture subsidies. On climate finance, they pressurised developed world to agree for differential treatment.

All these steps were beneficiary not just for domestic population in both countries but for global south in general. Through their developmental initiatives like BRI and Asia-Africa growth corridor, both are committed to boost connectivity in global south.

Through joint platforms like BRICS and SCO they raised joint concern of global south & opposition to unilateral US tariffs. Given these synergies, some scholar believed that India-China partnership can become a force multiplier for global good.

However, as realist would

argue, nations seeks hegemony and China is no exception. It's agression in Galwan/Doklam, militarisation of Indo-pacific, and disputes in south China sea reflect its hegemonic intent. It's CPEC corridor directly violates India's sovereignity and its support to all weather ally pakistan reflects its strategy of containing India.

In this geopolitical context, the scope of cooperation has considerably reduced. As per C Raja Mohan, chinese agression has brought strategic clarity in India. However, bilateral dispute need not hamper its global cooperation on issues of Global south like climate change and fair trade. Maybe this could become a source of trust and cooperation in bilateral domain (functionalism theory)

Que.3(b) भारत-अमेरिका साझेदारी का एक प्रमुख तत्व मजबूत सुरक्षा और रक्षा सहयोग है। स्पष्ट कीजिए। (15 अंक)

A key element of India USA partnership is strong security and defence collaboration. Elucidate.

The relations between world's oldest and world's largest democracy has transitioned from estranged neighbours (Dennis Kux) to natural partners (Vajpayee).

The biggest contributer to this changing dynamic is China. As per (Raja Mohan, Beijing is responsible for Delhi-Washington bohomie.

To contain China's rise, security and defense has become key pillar of Indo-USA ties. Through QUAD, both nations are committed to free and open Indo-pacific. Defense exercises

like MILAN and MALABAR are key pillers to create a favourable strategic environment in Ind.-pacific.

Today, India is a Major Non-NATO ally and key security partner. Through foundational agreements like BECA, COMCASA, LEMOA, GSMOA etc, both nations are boosting interoperability among the forces.

Through bilateral exercises like Yudh Abhyas, India is able to access USA's intelligence and boost its armed forces capacity.

In recent times, defense cooperation has also been extended to defense

deals. India has been promised transfer of technology like Jet Engine deal which could boost India's defense architecture.

The focus is also on new age technologies. Recent Drone deal (MQ-9B drones) reflects the widening scope of defense cooperation. Both nations are also coordinating on emerging technology through iCET platform.

As the world enters geopolitical flux, Indo-USA partnership will be the defining partnership of 21st century (President Obama). It will play a key role in containing China's rise and ensuring a rules based world order

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Que.3 (c)

लैटिन अमेरिका, कैरिबियन और अफ्रीकी देशों तक भारत की पहुंच वैश्विक दक्षिण के लिए गेम चेंजर साबित हो सकती है। चर्चा करें (15 अंक)

India's outreach to Latin America Caribbean and African nations can be a game changer for the global south. Discuss

India's partnership with Latin America, Caribbean and African nations were primarily through platform of NAM, G77 during Cold war. However in recent years the partnership has assumed strategic significance.

As India's geopolitical footprint expand with its rising status it has reached out to these nations. India has come out of paradigm of focussing only on neighbourhood and great powers.

Recent visit by PM Modi to Ghana, Nigeria, Argentina, Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago shows these

nations are at centerpiece of India's strategic calculus.

This partnership will not only benefit India strategically but will be a game changer for global south.

India and these nation have a shared interest in multipolar world order, though platforms like BRICS, India is making its efforts in this direction.

Next, reformed multilateralism is a common interest. In its G20 presidency, India ensured inclusion of African Union in the grouping. Similarly through G4 (Brazil & India), India is pushing for UNSC reforms.

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In geoeconomic domain, India can share its developmental experience with these nations. sharing of platforms like D.P.I, can strengthen the capacity of these nations to fight poverty.

India is also providing leadership to these nations through Voice of global south summits. By highlighting the shared concerns like debt crisis, climate finance issue etc, India is ensuring a win-win situation.

To further strengthen India's partnership with these nations, there is a need of regular summits (India - AU, India - CARICOM etc). As these nations face threat of Chinese debt trap, India provides a viable alternative.

Que.4 (a) भारत-यूरोपीय संघ संबंध लंबे समय से वादे पर आधारित रहे हैं, लेकिन क्रियान्वयन में कमी टिप्पणी करें। (20 अंक)

India-EU relations have long been high on promise, and short on delivery. Comment.

India-EU ties have been marked by mutual suspicion during Cold War. Being in opposite camps and the suspicion of neo-colonialism led to the relationship being called 'lawless arranged marriage'.

This began to change after Cold war when India took a strategic approach to the region. India and EU shared interest in rules based world order and multipolarity. Though several initiatives like India-EU Summits, India-EU connectivity project, FTA negotiations, defense cooperation were taken the relation were always 'short on delivery'.

The primary reason as per C Raja Mohan has been strategic divergence on Russia and China. This ~~contrast~~ was visible when India was heavily criticised for importing Russian oil during Ukraine war. EU is containing Russia in Ukraine while for India Russia is a 'time tested friend'.

These criticisms led Dr S Jaishankar to observe - "Europe should come out of mindset that Europe's problems are world's problem but world's problems are not Europe's problems'. He highlighted EU's duplicity on Chinese aggression against India when EU maintained strategic silence.

Another area of contestation is relations with China. While India is engaged in balancing China through QUAD, EU has shown an ambivalent attitude. The huge economic dependencies of EU on China has constrained EU's choices.

Despite this, EU came out with its Indo-pacific strategy which is in line with India's own policy of free and open Ind.-pacific.

The economic ties between India and EU have been constrained by EU's imposition of Non-tariff barriers against India. While EU remains India's largest trading partner, the trade is highly unbalanced leading to high trade deficit for India

The slow pace of India-EU FTA negotiations had also complicated the matter. Both are also engaged in improving connectivity through IMEC corridor but the crisis in West Asia is expected to slow down the project implementation.

Despite these challenges, India's relations with specific countries within EU has shown remarkable improvement. Scholar Suhasini Haidar calls France India's new Russia. Similarly green strategic ties with Nordic nations, PM visit to Cyprus and Greece shows more emphasis on bilateral engagements

Que.4 (b)

"भारत-रूस रक्षा साझेदारी को गहरा करना एक सचेत विकल्प रहा है।" भारत-रूस संबंधों की प्रकृति, सीमा और दायरे को स्पष्ट करें। (15 अंक)

"Deepening of the India-Russia defence partnership has been a conscious choice." Elucidate the nature, extent and scope of India-Russia relations

India and Russia share a special and privileged strategic partnership based on 1971 treaty of peace and friendship. Russia has been a time tested friend as it supported India during Bangladesh war and at UNSC on Kashmir issue.

Defense partnership has been a key pillar of this partnership. In 20th century almost 85% of India's defense equipments like Sukhois, Ak-47 guns etc come from Russia.

Russia has gone for joint development of key defense equipments like Brahmos

supersonic missile which has strengthened India's defense capabilities. Similarly, Russia has shared its S-400 missile defense equipment which played a key role during recent India - Pakistan conflict.

Though, India has diversified, defense ties to France and USA, Russia still supply 36% of defense equipments.

This deep defense collaboration has been a conscious choice based on pragmatic realism, superiority of Russian equipments (S-400) and boost to domestic defense base.

The ties are not limited to

defense domain. They share a common interest in multipolar world order. Both nations engage through platforms like SCO, BRICS etc which stand for multipolarity.

Russia is also a critical energy supplier with Russian oil comprising more than 50% imports of India in recent years. Cooperation in nuclear energy through supply of uranium and capacity building (@ Kudankulam plant) is another key area.

Despite this a time tested relation, structural dynamics of world politics are pulling the two nations apart (Harsh V Pant). The challenge before them is to keep the old romance alive while they engage with new partners (C RAJA MOHAN).

Que.4 (c) भारत-ईरान संबंधों की उपलब्धियों और संभावनाओं के बीच अंतराल को उजागर करें (15 अंक)

Highlight the gaps between the achievements and potential of India-Iran relations

India and Iran share a deep civilizational ties going back centuries. As per Kautilya Mandal theory, Iran lies in India's second concentric circle and is thus a natural ally.

The primary drivers of relations have been energy partnership, connectivity projects, people to people ties and a shared interest in multipolar world order.

However, these drivers have failed to bring two nations together due to structural dynamics of international relations. For example, USA's sanctions

defense domain. India and Russia share a commitment to multipolar world order.

On Iran under its "maximum pressure" policy has led India to reduce energy imports from Iran since 2017.

Similarly, the threat of USA's sanctions has slowed down implementation of Chabahar project which is key for India to access Central Asia.

The recent conflict between Iran and Israel has further caused tensions. Though PM Modi talked with Iranian president and called for peaceful resolution through diplomacy,

the hesitancy of India to take a stand against Israel aggression has caused disappointment in Iran.

The emergence of China as a region player has further tested India-Iran ties. China ensured normalisation of ties between Iran and Saudis. As per prof P.R KUMARASWAMY, increasing Chinese footprint may jeopardise India-Iran ties.

As per C Raja Mohan, there is also an emergence of Iran-China-Pakistan axis which does not bode well for India. At this time of geopolitical flux, India needs to balance its ties among conflicting rivals by adhering to its approach of multialignment

Que.5 (a) भारत-अफ्रीका संबंध दिलों और दिमागों में निहित हैं। (10 अंक)

India-Africa relations are rooted in hearts and minds.

India-Africa share a deep historic, cultural and civilisational ties. Gandhian legacy of satyagraha in Africa, shared stand on anti-colonialism through NAM and shared challenge of poverty and development has bounded the two region together.

As per PM Modi, India-Africa ties goes beyond geostrategic and geoeconomic calculus. It is rooted in shared belief in a just, inclusive, fair world order.

This 'hearts & minds' relation is reflected in India's non-reciprocal development aids through ITEC programmes. Its initiatives like

Vaccine Maitri, e-health initiative, capacity development programmes and Infrastructure upgradation has earned India goodwill in Africa.

Diaspora also plays a major role in ties with 3M strong diaspora. From communication theory (Karl Deutsch), people to people tie become a basis for sustainable tie between nations.

India's commitment to Africa is visible through inclusion of African Union in G20, raising Africa's concerns through voice of global south summits and initiatives like Asia-Africa growth corridor.

India needs to further institutionalise its ties through Indo-Africa summits to bolster its ties with the region.

Que.5 (b) भारत और चीन के बीच छह आम सहमति (10 अंक)

Six Consensus between India and China

China and India are two emerging Asian powers. However, dreams of an Asian century is undermined by their bilateral conflicts. China's revisionism has led to conflicts like Doklam and Galwan.

In this context, both countries have reached six consensus to stabilise their bilateral ties. First is maintaining peace and tranquility at the borders. This is necessary to build trust.

Second is Confidence building measures through DGMO level talks. This removes miscalculations among armies.

Third is early border demarcation to resolve bilateral disputes. This

requires exchange on maps and delineation on ground. Fourth is Economic Cooperation through boosting trade. However, India has asserted for fair trade through market access in China.

Fifth, ties have to based on Panchsheel i.e mutual respect and non-interference. Tibet and North-East insurgency is key focus area here.

Finally, multilateral engagement on platforms like SCO, BRICS, UN et to realise mutual interests like trade barriers, climate finance etc.

Peace at the borders is pre-requisite for India's rise. In words of S Jaishankar, Challenge lie in managing China to ensure India's rise.

Que.5 (c) ब्रिक्स+ को एक साझा उद्देश्य की पहचान करने में संघर्ष करना पड़ा है। (10 अंक)

BRICS+ has struggled to identify a common purpose.

BRICS is a multilateral grouping of emerging economies. Initially comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, its membership has been expanded to include - UAE, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Argentina leading to BRICS+.

However the body has struggled due to its internal contradictions. Russia and China wants to position BRICS+ as "anti-West bloc" through efforts like de-dollarisation while India wants to position it as a developmental grouping in world politics.

The systemic shift has led to scholars like B C Raja Mohan questions

the relevance of BRICS+. He argues that BRICS+ has become a 'strategic headache' for India. Countries have failed to take a joint position on terrorism (eg Op Sindoor). There is disagreement on issues like Israel-Iran conflict among members.

China is using BRICS to expand its diplomatic footprint through NDB loans and BRI projects. This does not go well with India's strategic interests.

One common objective of multipolar world order is also under stress with China seeking regional hegemony. As per Harsh V Pant, by participating in BRICS, India is helping China's rise. Thus BRICS+ today faces a existential crisis.

Que.5 (d) विकसित भारत के महान रणनीतिक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत की महान रणनीति (10 अंक)
India's Grand Strategy to achieve the grand strategic goal of Viksit Bharat

Economy is the basis of developing a nation's comprehensive national power. With this in mind, India has unveiled Viksit Bharat 2047 goal of becoming a developed nation.

To realise this India has adopted a multipronged grand strategy. As per Dr Jaishankar, the goal of foreign policy today is leveraging ties with great powers for domestic economic development.

Thus, India is going for FTA with EU, US, UK, UAE etc to boost its exports leading to domestic economic prosperity. Through technology partnership

with USA, France, Israel, India is boosting its domestic capabilities in critical sectors like defense, emerging technologies etc.

India is also leveraging the emerging contradictions in world order to get best of all countries. Thus, it is getting technology from USA and cheap oil/gas from Russia.

To realise goal of Viksit Bharat, peaceful neighbourhood is a pre-requisite. To realise peace, India's grand strategy include revitalising QUAD to balance China and 'deterrence by punishment doctrine against Pakistan (@ Op Sindoor).

India has a long way to go to realise dream of Viksit Bharat and must also focus on internal balancing for this objective

Que.5 (e) भारत-इज़राइल संबंधों की जटिलताएँ (10 अंक)

Complexities of India-Israel relations

From. Israeli scholars complaining that India treats 'Israel as mistress and Palestine as wife' to the relation being called as 'marriage made in heaven', India and Israel have come a long way.

Despite deepening of security, economic and technological ties, complexities remain a hindering factor in the relationship. First, India's consistent stand of independent Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital goes against current Israeli policy of expansionism.

Israeli pounding of Gaza after Oct 2023 attacks has made India's

balancing act difficult. India is walking a diplomatic tightrope → it abstained from resolutions calling for Humanitarian truce while voting in favour of UN resolution calling Israeli settlement illegal.

Recent, Israel-Iran war has further Complicated the ties. India despite its uncomfortability with Israeli aggression, could not Condemn its actions due to Israeli support in Op Sindoor.

As per scholars like Nicolas Blarel, it is time for India to take bold choices (i.e strengthen ties with Israel) However, India's geopolitical interest in middle east does not permit this strategic embrace.

Que.6 (a) पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले के जवाब में भारत द्वारा चलाए गए ऑपरेशन सिंदूर ने भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सुरक्षा गतिशीलता को निर्णायक रूप से बदल दिया है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? साथ ही, भारत की आतंकवाद विरोधी प्रतिक्रिया में एक नई सामान्य स्थिति स्थापित करने में ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के महत्व पर चर्चा करें। (20 अंक)

Operation Sindoor, conducted by India in response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, has decisively altered the security dynamics between India and Pakistan. Do you agree? Also, discuss the importance of Operation Sindoor in establishing a new normal in India's counter-terrorism response.

Through its attack on Pahalgam tourist, Pakistan tested the limits of India's 'strategic patience'. India has always exercised strategic restraint due to fear of Nuclear armegaddon. (e.g 26/11, Parliament attack).

However, India called the Pakistan's nuclear bluff during its surgical strike after Uri and Balakot strike after Pulwama attack - However these attacks were of limited nature i.e restricted to PoK.

However, in Operation Sindoor, India choosed strategic signalling over strategic restraint (Harsh V Pant). By striking deep inside Pakistan, India put the onus of escalation on Pakistan.

This has fundamentally altered the security dynamics in region. India has choosen 'deterrence by punishment' over "deterrence by denail". As per scholars like Happymon Jacob, now retaliation will be the norm and restraint an exception.

The key pillers of India's counter terrorism strategy were outlined by PM Modi :

1) India will go for massive retaliation at a time and place of its choosing

2) India will not be deterred by Pakistan nuclear blackmail.

3) India will not differentiate between state and non-state actors.

Through this India has put the onus of a war on Pakistan. It reflects India's offensive realism. As said by PM Modi, Op Sindoor is not over but still continuing. This reflects that security dynamic in the region will continued to be marked by conflict in near future.

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The ~~to~~ new normal established is 'terror and talk won't go together', 'blood and water will not flow together'. Putting Indus Water treaty in abeyance is a reflection of India's offensive approach.

Through Op Sindoor and new terror doctrine, India has signalled that it will treat pakistan more as a 'strategic irritant'. The scope of bilateral/ multilateral engagement is finished in near future.

However as prof Happymon Jacob argues, India will choose offramp through diplomatic backchannels after punishing Pakistan. India reflects India's approach as a responsible nuclear power.

Que.6 (b) भारत के लिए हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के भू-आर्थिक और भू-रणनीतिक महत्व पर चर्चा करें तथा हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में अपने हितों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए भारत द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक)

Discuss the geo-economic and geostrategic significance of the Indo-Pacific for India and the steps taken by India to advance its interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

As per Alfred T Mahan, 'a country which controls the oceans will control the world'. Today, the geopolitics has shifted from Atlantic to Pacific due to rise of China.

India being a resident power in Indo-Pacific is a key player in emerging political landscape. For India, the geo-economic importance of Indo-pacific lies in safeguarding trade routes. India's 90% trade by volume and 80% by value passes through Indo pacific.

Indo-pacific is also geo-economically important from energy security perspective

Almost 90% of India's import of oil/gas from Gulf, Russia and US & comes from Indo-pacific.

Geostrategically, Indo-pacific is important for India since Indian ocean is India's strategic backyard. As a rising power, power assertion in Indo-pacific is key to achieve great power status.

Indo-pacific also assumes significance in context of Rise of China. China's aggression in Indo-pacific, its debt trap diplomacy (@ Sri Lanka), and attempts at containing India through string of pearls has alarmed New Delhi. As per Harsh V Pant, Indo-pacific is where great games of

21st century will be fought and India will not remain untouched.

To realise its interests, India has taken steps like joining QUAD to balance against China. Military exercises like MILAN and MALABAR are aimed at strategic signalling to China.

India has pushed Multilateral diplomacy through platform like IOKA, IONS. It's free and open Indo-pacific Initiative is also a step in this direction. India is guided by vision of SAGAR which was recently converted into MAHASAGAR. Under this, India is going for capacity building, HADR efforts, line of credits vis a vis littoral states.

As Indo-pacific emerge as geopolitical construct, India need deft and nimble diplomacy to realise its objectives.

Que.6 (c) भारत और लैटिन अमेरिका के बीच बढ़ते रिश्ते की विशेषता व्यापार और निवेश, राजनीतिक आदान-प्रदान और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान में वृद्धि है। चर्चा करें (15 अंक)

India and Latin America have a growing relationship that is characterised by increased trade and investment, political exchanges and cultural exchange. Discuss

Latin America refers to the latin speaking countries of South America, Mexico and Caribbean. India's relationship with latin America in 20th century was constrained by lack of geographical connectivity, cultural unawareness and lack of diplomatic capacity in India.

This led scholars like ~~[illegible]~~ argue that situation for India in latin America was like - 'Out of place and out of mind'. This began to be change in 21st century as India started taking a strategic look at latin America.

Increased trade, political exchange

and cultural connect are three pillars of India's approach to Latin America. Today, geo-economics drive ~~geo-economics~~ geo-politics, and thus complex interdependence through trade creates long term synergies.

India-Latin America trade has increased to $46b spanning areas like Manufacturing (automobiles), services (IT exports) and Agriculture. Indian businesses conglomerate are investing in the region (eg Adani's mining lease in Catamarca province of Argentina).

Since Latin America has high reserves of critical minerals (eg Lithium triangle), critical energy partnership is emerging as a key pillar of relation

To boost diplomatic ties, high level political engagements has increased. Recently PM Modi visited the region for 2nd India-CARICOM Summit. Similarly, his recent visits to Brazil, Argentina, Trinidad & Tobago shows the primacy political leadership attaches to region. political engagement through BRICS, IBSA etc are also happening.

Finally, India is engaging in cultural diplomacy through spreading its ICCR centres. celebrating of Yoga, push to traditional medicines are another pillers of cultural diplomacy.

In a turbulent world order, India needs as many partners to realise its strategic and economic objectives and Latin America is a key partner in this context.

Que.7 (a) हाल के समय में श्रीलंका और भारत-श्रीलंका संबंधों में बहुत कुछ बदल गया है। स्पष्ट करें। क्या आपको लगता है कि तमिल मुद्दों का निर्णायक समाधान करने में कोलंबो की विफलता दोनों के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंधों की संभावनाओं को अवरुद्ध करती रहेगी? (20 अंक)

There is a lot which has changed in recent times within Sri Lanka and India-Sri Lanka relations. Elucidate. Do you think Colombo's failure to deliver the definitive settlement of Tamil issues will continue to block the prospects of close relations between the two?

Que.7 (b) विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) में हानिकारक मत्स्य पालन सब्सिडी समाप्त करने पर बातचीत रुकी हुई है। मत्स्य पालन सब्सिडी पर डब्ल्यूटीओ समझौते के प्रारूप पाठ में भारत द्वारा प्रस्तावित प्रमुख बदलावों पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक)

Negotiations on ending harmful fishery subsidies have stalled at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Discuss major alternations India is proposing to the draft text of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

Que.7 (c)

सीओपी 26 ग्लासगो शिखर सम्मेलन में निर्धारित नए जलवायु वित्त लक्ष्य (2025 के बाद के लिए) पर भारत की स्थिति का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक)

Critically Analyse India's position on the new climate finance goal (for post 2025) arrived at COP 26 Glasgow Summit.

Que.8 (a) परंपरागत रूप से हाशिए पर पड़े भारत के विदेश नीति थिंक टैंक क्षेत्र ने भारत की बढ़ती भूमिका के मद्देनजर नई मांग के कारण दृश्यता और जीवंतता हासिल की है। विस्तार से बताइए। (20 अंक)

Traditionally marginalised, India's Foreign Policy think tank sector has gained visibility and vibrancy due to new demand in the wake of the expanding role of India. Elaborate

Que.8 (b) भारत के लिए "भारत मध्य पूर्व आर्थिक गलियारे" की संभावनाओं और उससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें।

(15 अंक)

Discuss the potential of "India Middle East Economic Corridor" for India and the challenges associated with it.

Que.8 (c) भारत के हितों को आगे बढ़ाने की दिशा में क्वाड के दो दशकों का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (15 अंक)

Critically analyse the two decades of QUAD towards advancing India's interests.

Space for Rough Work