



SHUBHRA RANJAN

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Political Science & International Relations

PSIR Crash Course- 2025

Test 6

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name	Animesh Jain
Test Submission Date	3/8/25
Email Address	
Test Start Time	9:00
Test End Time	12:10
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: -

Evaluator's Feedback: -



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Que.1 (a)

तुलनात्मक राजनीति के प्रति नव-संस्थावाद दृष्टिकोण की आलोचनात्मक जांच कीजिए। (10 अंक)

Critically examine the Neo-Institutionalism approach to Comparative politics.

Neo-Institutionalism in comparative politics emerged as a critic of Behaviouralism. Behaviouralism had shifted the focus of study on non-institutional factors through political sociology and political culture approaches.

Neo-Institutionalism makes state a core area of research. Emerging in works of March and Olsen, Neo-Institutionalism unlike legal-institutionalism of traditional approach, ~~see~~ see state not in isolation but getting influenced by societal/identity factors.

It evolved along three lines-



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First rational neo-institutionalism see political actors as rational agents doing cost benefit analysis while taking decisions. Historical neo-institutionalism (Theodore Skocpol) shows path dependence i.e institutional behaviour is constrained by past actions / political culture.

Third is ecological neo-institutionalism which suggests institutional choices are shaped by societal demand, institutions are embedded in society and don't work in isolation.

Neo-institutionalism has been critiqued by scholars like Vivien Schidmest who suggest it is overly deterministic and ignore human agency in actions. Nonetheless, the approach helps us in understanding institutional behaviour.



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Que.1 (b)

पूँजीवादी और समाजवादी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में राज्य की विशेषताओं और बदलती प्रकृति की तुलना करें (10 अंक)

Compare the characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies.

Comparing states have been key area of concern in comparative politics since the time of Aristotle. It assumed renewed significance with rise of Behaviouralism and decolonisation in 20th century.

State in capitalist economies has evolved from laissez faire in 19th century to welfarist state during inter-war period (of Keynesian economics).

In 1970s & 80s, these states shifted to New-Liberal model emphasising on rolling back of state (Reaganism and Thatcherism).

Due to rising inequalities in 21st century, we again see shift towards



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Welfare state in capitalist economies
with emphasis on state planning as
seen in USA under Trump.

Socialist economies in contrast
have evolved ~~from~~ differently in differ-
ent countries. states like china and
Russia continue with their authoritarian
character and state planning, though
China has also shifted to state capitalism
since Deng Xiaoping.

Socialist states in third world
like India saw shift from state
planning to New-Liberal model after
1990, under Washington consensus.

Today, due to rising inequalities,
we see convergence toward welfare
model in both capitalist and
socialist economies while also continuing
with free market model.



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Que.1 (d)

आलोचनात्मक रूप से जांच करें कि क्या वैश्वीकरण पीछे हट रहा है या पुनर्जागरण के दौर से गुजर रहा है। (10 अंक)

Critically examine whether globalisation is retreating or undergoing a renaissance.

Globalisation is phenomenon of 'shrinking of time and space' with growing 'interconnectedness'. Marshall MacLuen calls it global village.

The present model of globalisation is neo-liberal globalisation in existence since 1970s. It is based on philosophy of complex interdependence (Keohane & Nye) by lowering barriers to trade and movement of people and ideas.

However, globalisation in recent years have come under pressure due to growing inequalities. Ramesh Thakur in 'dark side of globalisation' suggest it has widened the gap between core and periphery.



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Today, the biggest threat to globalisation is coming not from periphery but from core country like USA. USA under Trump has adopted America first approach erecting tariff barriers, disrupting institutions like WTO and cracking down on immigration.

Along with this, states like ~~USA~~ China and India are propounding alternative visions of globalisation like ^{shared} 'community of humanity' and 'humane globalisation'. Thus instead of retreating globalisation is undergoing a renaissance ~~at~~ with countries demanding more inclusive and equitable model of globalisation.



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Que.1 (e)

ब्रिटेन ने 2016 में यूरोपीय संघ छोड़ने के लिए मतदान क्यों किया और इसका ब्रिटेन और यूरोपीय संघ दोनों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा? (10 अंक)

Why did the UK vote to leave the European Union in 2016 and what impact has that had on both the UK and the EU?

European Union has been the most successful model of liberal institutionalism based on Kantian philosophy of perpetual peace through complex interdependence and functionalist approach.

However, EU project saw its biggest setback when UK decided to leave it in 2016. From Realist lens, ~~at~~ this is a reflection of UK asserting its sovereignty in economic, monetary and foreign policy.

From social constructivist lens, the Schengen area and free movement regime created identity crisis due



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the unchecked illegal immigration into UK feeding the rise of populist leaders demanding Brexit.

U.K's decision has created a crisis of legitimacy for E.U. It has weakened its authority in global affairs with exit of a UNSC permanent members. It has also strengthened populist leaders in ~~the~~ other countries like Hungary, Italy demanding exit from EU.

On U.K the impact has been mixed. U.K has been able to independently conclude FTAs with countries like India based on its interests whereas, exit from E.U has also weakened its security in face of geopolitical flux after Russian aggression in Ukraine.



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Que.1 (c)

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा बनाए रखने की रणनीतियों के रूप में शक्ति संतुलन और निवारण पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक)

Discuss the balance of power and deterrence as strategies for maintaining international security.

Balance of power and deterrence are key strategies suggested by Realist scholars to maintain international peace and security.

Balance of power suggest that whenever any state becomes too powerful, other states will come together to maintain balance and security in the system.

whereas, deterrence theory suggest that states can ensure security through adoption of nuclear weapons. Bernard Brodie favor nuclear deterrence over balance of power and Kenneth Waltz recommend proliferation of nuclear weapons to strengthen peace.



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Balance of power and deterrence have been effective strategies for international security. Balance of power ensured peace in Europe during 1848-1914 (APJ Taylor), whereas deterrence prevented Cold war from turning hot (Waltz).

However, both these concepts have been contested by liberal and social constructivist scholars. Liberal like Woodrow Wilson suggest, 'balance of power prevents us from ourselves but create condition for plague'. They recommended strengthening international institutions and increased interdependence for peace (Keohane & Nye). Similarly deterrence works only when actors are rational (Henry Kissinger). Thus both ideas have been a contested concept.



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Que.3(a)

क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि जैसे-जैसे विश्व बहुध्रुवीयता की ओर बढ़ रहा है, गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM) पुनः प्रासंगिकता प्राप्त कर सकता है? (20 अंक)

Do you agree that as the world moves towards increasing multi-polarity, NAM can again gain relevance?

Non-Alignment Movement emerged in the context of Cold War Bipolar world order. It provided strategic space to third world to assert their autonomy and avoid bloc politics.

However, the defeat of Soviet Union and arrival of Unipolarity raised questions over relevance of NAM. Since there was only one super-power, bandwagoning replaced Non-alignment as a policy among third world.

Even the champions of NAM like India went for strategic embrace.



of USA in 1990s. In this context, Egypt proposed dissolution of NAM, but NAM continued.

Today, as the world enters geopolitical flux often described as bipolar, multipolar (Amitav Acharya), G-0 (Ian Bremmer), NAM has assumed renewed significance.

In the emerging bipolar context, Cold War 2.0 between USA and China, NAM can provide manoeuvring space to countries in regions like Africa and Latin America.

In case, multipolarity emerges, NAM can be a force of stability.



since multipolar world is best stable as per Kenneth Waltz. Through its normative power, NAM can influence global powers for peace and stability as per Prof T.V Paul.

NAM can also become a platform to shared challenges of global south. NAM which is 120 members strong can become a rallying voice for multilateral reforms.

To tackle challenges like poverty, drain of wealth from ~~core~~ periphery to core countries, NAM; demand for NIEO and solidarity on trade negotiation at WTO is key to



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protect interest of global south.

However, to be effective, NAM needs to evolve. Scholars like Shyam Saven suggest since nations prefer issue based alignment over non-alignment, NAM should be renamed as southern solidarity platform.

NAM also needs to be institutionalised through permanent secretariat, regular leaders level summit and funding from members for institutionalisation.



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Que.3(b)

यूरोपीय एकीकरण की तुलना कम से कम एक अन्य महाद्वीप में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग की प्रक्रिया से कीजिए (15 अंक)

Compare and contrast European integration with the process of regional cooperation in at least one other continent.

European integration to regional cooperation was based on the philosophy of liberal institutionalism, complex interdependence and functionalism.

starting with European steel and coal community, EU evolved into shared market, common currency and coordinated foreign policy signifying functionalist approach of peace by peace (David Mitrany).

It created institutions like European parliament, European commission, European central bank in spirit of



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liberal institutionalism to strengthen
cooperation. The free movement
regime of Schengen area ensured mutual
trust among people from social
constructivist lens.

EU model of integration can be
contrasted with ASEAN, another ^{successful} model.

If EU model is an example of
supranationalism and multilevel governance,
ASEAN model is an example of soft
regionalism.

ASEAN model is based on
ASEAN Way which is consensus
oriented in words of Kishore Mahbubani.

If EU focus convergence on normative



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norms like human rights, democracy among members, ASEAN foster mutual respect and non-interference in other countries. This has led to simultaneous existence of both democracies and authoritarian regimes.

As per Lee Suan Yew, biggest strength of ASEAN is its flexibility.

If EU foster integration in all domains like economic and strategic, ASEAN provides flexibility to members in strategic affairs while going for economic integration.

Thus both models have its strength and weaknesses providing two alternative vision of regionalism.



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Que.3 (c)

चर्चा करें कि सामाजिक आंदोलन किस हद तक राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण को प्रभावित करते हैं। (15 अंक)

Discuss to what extent social movements impact political attitudes.

Social movements are a collective attempt to challenge the socio-political status quo or to create a new social order.

Social movements perform the input and feedback function in systems approach of David Easton.

social movements directly impact political attitudes by acting as agents of political socialisation. movements like Jan Andolan in Nepal raised consciousness of democratic ethos in a hierarchical society.

secondly, by acting as agents of



political modernisation, social movement
~~can~~ challenge existing order based on
- hierarchy and demand equal rights
for all citizens. The recent social
movement for LGBTQ+ rights in
USA is an example of this.

Social movement also challenge
elite class domination in overdeveloped
states (Hemzi Alvi) by demanding
political accountability. Mass protests
by ~~the~~ Tehrik i insaf against army in
Pakistan and students protests in
Bangladesh are a example of this
phenomenon.



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At the state time, ~~in~~ the efficacy of social movements in changing political attitudes has been limited in deeply conservative societies. Mahsa Amini protest for women rights in Iran could not succeed primarily because of conservative society.

state also uses its apparatus to crush social movement limiting its effectiveness. This was evident in PM Indira Gandhi's use of emergency to tackle 'Sampoorna kranti' movement.

Sometimes social movement leaders may themselves be co-opted into the political system as evident in formation of AAP from 1A³⁰ Movement. Thus the efficacy of social movements has been contested.



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Que.5 (a)

यद्यपि यह मानना उचित है कि भारत और नेपाल के बीच एक मज़बूत सांस्कृतिक बंधन है, फिर भी आत्मसंतुष्टि हानिकारक हो सकती है। चर्चा करें (10 अंक)

While it is reasonable to assume a strong cultural bond between India and Nepal, complacency could be detrimental. Discuss

India-Nepal relations have often described as 'Poti-Beti ka Rishtha' due to strong cultural and people to people ties based on treaty of peace and friendship 1950.

open borders has led to complete interdependence and mutual understanding among people from social constructivist lens. Despite this strong cultural bond, strategic complacency could be detrimental to ties.

India has often been described as 'big brother' for its high handedness as evident in the alleged Madhesi



blockade in 2015. This has caused anti-India sentiment in domestic politics leading to leaders like K.P. Oli using China Card to balance against India.

Unresolved border issues has created bilateral tensions as evident during Tupatekle-Kalepani controversy. India's complacency is also evident from its unwillingness to ^{re}negotiate friendship treaty which is seen as an Indian imposition.

Slow pace of implementation of projects has created frustration in Nepal leading to its joining BR1 for infrastructure development. As per S.P. Muni, India must invest diplomatic capital, economic resources and ⁴²negotiate friendship treaty to strengthen the ties.



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Que.5 (b)

वैश्विक दक्षिण और दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग के प्रति भारत की प्रतिबद्धता की समझना की गई है, विशेष रूप से अफ्रीका में, तथापि कभी-कभी इसे अनुपालन में कमतर भी देखा गया है। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक)

"India's commitment to the Global South and South-South cooperation has been appreciated, particularly in Africa, it also has been seen as short on follow-through at times." Critically Examine.

Global South refers to developing societies which have shared concerns like poverty, underdevelopment, lack of representation and threat of neo-colonialism.

Since the days of NAM, India has been the voice of global south through demands like decolonisation, NIEO, developmental aid and reformed multilateralism.

In recent years, its efforts like inclusion of A.U in G20, Voice of global south summit, sharing its developmental experience through D.P.I and ITEC projects have been appreciated.



Its developmental cooperation has been demand driven and non-hegemonic as reflected in Kampala principles.

Despite its contribution, India's implementation capacity has been lacking. As prob S.D Muni says 'India talks while China delivers'. India's pet project like Asia-Africa growth corridor, e-Shogya Bhatti, e-Vidya Bhatti have seen implementation gaps.

Its developmental projects in neighbourhood like Mangdechhu project, Chebakes project etc have seen major delays. Thus to strengthen its leadership in global south, India must revamp its implementation capacity to deliver on time.



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Que.5 (c)

चर्चा करें कि किस प्रकार संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति सेना अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संकट प्रतिक्रिया के एक उपकरण के रूप में महत्वपूर्ण रूप से विकसित हुई है तथा पिछले 75 वर्षों में वैश्विक शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए एक आवश्यक साधन साबित हुई है।
(10 अंक)

Discuss how UN Peacekeeping has evolved significantly as a tool of international crisis response and proven itself an essential instrument for global peace and security over the past 75 years.

UN peacekeeping have been the primary tool of United Nations to ensure peace in conflict zones, aid in post-conflict redevelopment and ensure fair elections.

UN peacekeeping has evolved over the years. It played a major role in Korean peninsula crisis in 1950-53 under Indian leadership for peaceful resolution.

~~and~~ peacekeepers have been instrumental in aiding African countries like Libya, Sudan, Haiti etc in their conflict resolution and redevelopment.



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The Mandate of UN peacekeeping has evolved from just conflict resolution to recovery and redevelopment. peacekeepers have been instrumental in development of infrastructure like houses, roads in conflict zones.

It has also played a role in stabilising nascent democracies by ensuring free and fair elections in conflict zone of Africa. In recent years, peacekeeping missions have integrated technologies to ensure intelligence gathering, advance alerts to ensure "responsible peacekeeping".

However, protection of peacekeepers and lack of representation of contributing countries like India in decisions of deployment remain⁴⁶ a challenge requiring reform in UN peacekeeping.



Que.5 (d)

“अफगानिस्तान के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण उसके ऐतिहासिक संबंधों, वहां के लोगों के साथ मैत्री और प्रासंगिक संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रस्तावों द्वारा निर्देशित होता रहा है।” व्याख्या कीजिए। (10 अंक)

“India's approach to Afghanistan continues to be guided by its historical relations, friendship with its people and relevant UN Resolutions.” Explain

Afghanistan shares civilizational links with India dating back to Indus Valley civilisation and Mughal empire.

It comes in second concentric circle as per Mandel theory making it India's nature friend.

~~India~~: As Afghanistan was embroiled in great games and superpower rivalries, India stood for 'Afghan led and Afghan owned' peace process emphasising on agency to its people.

India's friendship with its people was further cemented through developmental projects like building



Afghanistan parliament, Donors, providing scholarship to Afghan students and capacity building for its military and bureaucracy.

India has supported UN resolutions demanding peaceful resolution of conflict during 1990s civil war. In recent times, it voted in favour of respecting rights of women under Taliban regime.

However, Indian policy has come under challenges in recent times. As per Subhasini Handa, India had put all eggs in Ghani basket leading to its reduced influence under Taliban regime.

India should approach the region through realist lens and engage with Taliban to ⁴⁸ protect its strategic and security interests.



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Que.5 (c)

भारत-अफ्रीका संबंधों की पूर्ण क्षमता को उजागर करने के लिए, संवर्धित सहयोग और सहकारिता के माध्यम से पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी साझेदारी को बढ़ावा देना अनिवार्य है। टिप्पणी करें। (10 अंक)

"To unlock the full potential of India-Africa relations, it is imperative to foster a mutually beneficial partnership through enhanced collaboration and cooperation"

Comment.

Africa has emerged as an arena of geostategic rivalry in 21st century due to its young demography, large markets and presence of critical resources and minerals.

In this geopolitical context, India-Africa ties assume significance to tackle shared challenges. In contrast to debt trap diplomacy of ~~to~~ China, Indian developmental aid is demand driven and transparent based on kampala principle.

India can help Africa by sharing its developmental experience. India



through Sharing DPI, e-Shagya Bheeti, e-Vidya Bheeti and Asia-Africa growth corridor is ensuring capacity building and sustainable development in Africa.

For India, Africa is important for its energy security, as an export market and to secure reformed multi-lateralism (i.e. UNSC, WTO, IMF reforms).

Both also have shared interest in multipolar world order and tackling transnational and merition. threats.

For realise full potential, annual India-Africa summit needs to be institutionalised. India must open embassies in neglected countries and put in diplomatic capital through high level visits to realise full potential of ties.



Que.7 (a)

"बांग्लादेश के राजनीतिक परिवर्तन के बीच वर्तमान पहलों को बनाए रखना और नए सहयोगों की खोज करना भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है" चर्चा करें (20 अंक)

"Maintaining current initiatives and exploring new collaborations in the midst of Bangladesh's political transition is crucial for India-Bangladesh relations" Discuss

India - Bangladesh relations are rooted in shared constitutional, cultural and historical ties. India's role in liberation of Bangladesh became the basis of mutual trust and collaboration.

Despite shared history and geographical vicinity, the relations have seen a 'love-hate relationship' guided by domestic political factors as per Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia.

The bilateral relations have seen huge progress under PM Sheikh Hasina. The ~~page~~ Land Border agreement 2015



was a landmark deal to resolve border disputes. Similarly infrastructure develop-
ment (Chittagong and Mongla port) and
energy cooperation (friendship pipeline)
strengthened complex interdependence
between the two.

However, the recent political tumult
leading to ouster of Sheikh Hesina
has created strategic setback for New
Delhi. The new regime backed by
Islamists is showing hostility towards
India and moving closer to China
and Bangladesh.

In the situation of geo-political
tumult, India must exercise strategic
patience as per C. Raja Mohan and



respect domestic political sensitivity and mandate of the people. To navigate this geo-political turmoil, India must maintain current initiatives like boosting multimodal connectivity through Agartala-Akhaura rail link, maritime connectivity through Chittagong and Mongla ports and energy ties through friendship pipelines.

platforms like BIMSTEC need to be tapped to tackle shared challenges like illegal immigration, Rohingya issue and drugs trafficking in the region.

Under Neighbourhood First and



Act East policy, India can also explore new areas of collaborations. Boosting Renewable energy infrastructure through solar and wind projects need to be explored. To tackle threat of climate change, India and Bangladesh can collaborate on disaster resilient infrastructure, through CDRI platform.

Defense partnership can be further strengthened through defense trade, joint exercises (SAMPRITI) and capacity building of Bangladesh defense forces.

And finally since mutual suspicion among people remains high, more social constructivist from people to people exchange through social visits, student scholarship, cultural⁶⁴ connect need to be explored.



Que.7 (b)

क्वाड ने अपनी साझेदारी का दायरा बढ़ाने के लिए सभी संशय दूर कर लिए हैं और एक केंद्रित रणनीतिक एजेंडा भी निर्धारित किया है। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण करें (15 अंक)

QUAD has overcome sceptics to widen its ambit of partnership and also set a focused strategic agenda. Critically examine

QUAD emerged in context of 2005

Indian ocean tsunami when India, USA, Japan and Australia came together for Humanitarian aid.

~~The agenda of~~ QUAD 1.0 was dismissed by Chinese scholars as 'forum that would dissipate'. Although QUAD 1.0 failed to pick up pace due to hesitancy of India and Australia, Chinese wolf warrior diplomacy during COVID-19 has led to revival of QUAD.

The Galwan clashes and Chinese actions of seismic slicing has brought



strategic clarity among nations of QUAD of China's hegemonic intentions and led to emergence of QUAD as part of balance & power strategy.

However, the agenda of QUAD is not limited to balancing China. It has expanded its ambit of partnership to include development in Indo-Pacific through aid/grants/capacity building. Recent Cancer Moonshot initiative is a step in the direction.

QUAD's agenda also include maritime security from both conventional and non-conventional threats (piracy, terrorism).

In this direction, MALABAR exercises



among members has strengthened the stability in Indo-Pacific thereby boosting idea of 'free and open Indo Pacific'.

QUAD is also emphasising on securing supply chains of critical minerals/ goods through supply chain resilience initiative. Its focus is on developing standards of technology like A1, 5G in Indo-Pacific region showing its expansive agenda.

However, challenges persist. USA's commitment to QUAD under President Trump is uncertain. India's strategic reluctance to be a part of alliance paradigm has led to scholars like Ashley Tellis suggesting 'USA's bad bet on India'. The upcoming summit in India in 2025 will suggest the future trajectory of Quad.



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Que.7 (c)

ब्रिक्स समूह के अपने मूल सदस्यों से आगे बिस्व ने उभरते बाजारों में डॉलर की प्रमुख भूमिका को कम करने में समूह की दीर्घकालिक रुचि पर पुनः ध्यान केंद्रित किया है। (15 अंक)

The expansion of the BRICS bloc beyond its original members has reignited focus on the group's long-standing interest in reducing the dollar's dominant role across emerging markets. Discuss

BRICS was originally formed as a grouping of emerging economies in 2009 comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. BRICS formation was seen as arrival of post-American world (Forced Zakaie).

BRICS agenda has included multipolar world order. It has consistently opposed unilateral actions of USA like imposing tariffs and sanctions through weaponisation of dollars and SWIFT system. Recent actions have sanction on Russia and Iran has ignited interest among emerging economies ⁶⁸ to look towards



BRICS for "de-dollarisation".

This common concern against dollar weaponisation has led to countries like Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE ~~for~~ and Indonesia joining BRICS. Countries like China and Russia who work to position BRICS as anti-west bloc has called for de-dollarisation.

BRICS is challenging American dollar hegemony through creation of New Development Bank, Contingency Reserve arrangement and talks of BRICS currency.

In recent Tohansburg summit in Brazil countries called for trading in local currencies to reduce reliance on dollar.



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However, BRICS is internally divided on the issue of de-dollarisation due to divergent strategic interest of members. While India would want to hedge against dollar weaponisation, it does not want replacement of dollar with Renminbi as global currency.

Thus Dr S Jaishankar suggested 'India is not seeking replacement of dollar dominance'. With inclusion of Iran, the demand for de-dollarisation is expected to grow stronger. However, countries like UAE and Indonesia are not as enthusiastic.

Thus the internal contradictions among BRICS nations ⁷⁰ limits its capability to challenge dollar dominance in foreseeable future.



Que.8 (a)

यह कहना कितना सही है कि भारत की पड़ोसी प्रथम नीति के परिणाम अब तक मिश्रित रहे हैं? (20 अंक)

How far it is correct to say that the outcome of India's Neighbourhood First Policy so far has been mixed?

It is said that foreign policy of a country begins at its borders. Thus, for India, Neighbourhood first policy has been a central pillar of its foreign policy agenda.

India's Neighbourhood First approach has traditionally been based on non-reciprocity / Gujral doctrine. India has extended lines of credit, provided developmental aid, created infrastructure as part of this approach.

However, as realist scholars suggest, countries would always hedge against a regional hegemon. India is often



seen as 'big brother' by its neighbours
providing China ^{an opportunity} to make inroads in
these nations through political interference
in domestic politics and chequebook
diplomacy through BRI Projects.

This has led to countries like
Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka joining
B.R.I challenging Indian strategic interest.
Countries like Maldives has seen India
'Out campaign' under the influence of China.

The ouster of friendly regime of
Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh has further
diluted India's strategic influence in
Bangladesh. Pakistan is already a
"all weather ally" of China meeting a



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• two front war situation for India.

In Afghanistan, the ouster of Ashraf Ghani and coming of Taliban is seen as a major strategic victory of Pakistan compromising years of goodwill and projects made in Afghanistan.

Bhutan is in talks with China to resolve its border issues when India has categorically stated that any solution has to be trilateral.

All the above examples suggest India's Neighbourhood First policy is under severe strain. The ~~the~~ only platform of South Asian cooperation i.e. SAARC has been in some limiting scope of multilateral solutions.



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Despite these challenges, India has adopted a pragmatic and realistic approach. It is focussing on connectivity projects through IMT highway, kaladan project etc creating mutual dependencies.

Its strategic patience is showing dividends in Maldives when Maldives has softened its anti-India posture.

Through platforms like BIMSTEC and BBIN India is engaged in multilateral diplomacy for shared concerns.

As per Prof Hersh V Pant ('Neighbourhood in focus'), the neighbours will assert their strategic autonomy in time to come and India must invest economic resources and diplomatic capital along with strengthening people to people tie to navigate the challenges.



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Que. II (b)

"हालांकि चीन की बढ़ती आक्रामकता के बारे में चिंताएं साझा करने हुए, नई दिल्ली चीन से वाशिंगटन के साथ बहुत अधिक निकटता बनाने में सावधान रही है।" (2019) (15 अंक)

"Though sharing concerns about Beijing's growing aggression, New Delhi has always been wary of aligning too closely with Washington." Comment

As per Mandel theory, a neighbour is a natural enemy. This has been repeatedly proven in case of India-China ties since the day of 1962 war. Though Indians tried to cultivate relations with China based on three mutuals, Chinese aggression in Doklam and Galwan has raised concerns about China's hegemonic intent in New Delhi.

From realist lens, countries go for 'balance of power' and 'hedging' against a rising hegemon. In this spirit, India has revived O.A.P to balance China. It has signed foundational



agreements with USA and defense deals as part of external balancing act vis a vis China.

While India see Washington as a strategic hedge against China, it is wary of aligning too closely with Washington due to its emphasis on maintaining 'strategic autonomy'.

However, the current Indian approach is not dogmatic like in the era of Non-alignment. In word of PM Modi, India has come out of 'hesitations of history' in its ties with USA. C Raja Mohan suggest India and USA has made the question of alliance irrelevant by strategic cooperation.



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outside alliance paradigm.

As India goes for strategic ~~multi-alignment~~, alignment with USA, it is also wary of strategic abandonment by USA.

India is fearful of G2 paradigm when USA and China divide their spheres of influence.

India also wants a multipolar world order which goes against hegemonic worldview of USA. This divergence has led India to go for multialignment.

Thus while India balances China through Quad, it is also a part of BRICS and SCO to hedge against USA.

This flexible policy shows realistic pragmatism of Indian foreign policy.



Que.8 (c)

चर्चा करें कि वैश्विक भूराजनीति के वर्तमान परिदृश्य में भारत और लैटिन अमेरिका के बीच संबंध किस प्रकार एक निर्णायक मोड़ पर खड़े हैं, जो अन्वेषण और विस्तार के लिए तैयार हैं। (15 अंक)

Discuss how in the current landscape of global geopolitics, the relationship between India and Latin America stands at a pivotal juncture, poised for exploration and expansion.

The current global geopolitics is in a state of flux with declining USA hegemony and the 'rise of rest'. This power transition creates strategic turbulence in world order making a strong case of India-Latin America cooperation.

Though separated by geography and lack of cultural familiarity, in recent years Latin America has emerged a key pillar of India's foreign policy.

Partnership with Latin America is critical for heralding a multipolar world order. Its support is needed



refocused multilateralism. Brazil and India are part of G4 demanding expansion of UNSC.

The relations are also guided by economic complementarities. Latin America holds largest reserves of critical minerals like Lithium (Chile, Bolivia), which are critical for India's energy transition.

Similarly, in short term, as India diversify its oil/gas import partners, countries like Venezuela and Mexico provides hedge against supply chain disruptions.

For Latin America, as it face crisis of violence, organised crime,



Poverty, partnership with India can provide developmental gains in form of DPI and TEC cooperation. India's large market can provide boost to domestic companies of Latin America through exports.

The growing importance of Latin America was evident from recent PM Modi visit to Argentina, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago. Institutionalised interaction like India-CARICOM summit, India-CELAC summit etc further show strategic importance of Latin America in India's strategic calculus.