

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Name: Apurva Verma.

Test Submission : 19. 07. 2025
Date

Email : [REDACTED]

Start time: 2:00 PM

End time: 4:59 PM

UPSC Roll No: 5900853

Phone No : [REDACTED]

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Q1. Write approximately 150 words on each one of the following. (5*10=50 marks)

(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 is a regional grouping of 7 countries - from South and South east Asia, established in 1997 through Bangkok declaration.

In the backdrop of globalisation and India's focus on neighbourhood first coupled with Act east, BIMSTEC acts as the best practicable platform. It also comprises of countries like Myanmar and Thailand instrumental for India's north-east development.

BIMSTEC countries offer opportunity for

U.P.S.C.

peace, development and regional growth in the area. In the 5th summit in Nepal, BIMSTEC charter was adopted infusing fresh energy in the body.

Recently, the 6th summit of BIMSTEC took place. The 7 countries together cooperate in digital public goods, security in Indian ocean, trade and connectivity, disaster rescue.

India has taken role of leading security pillar and establishing centre of excellence for disaster management, traditional medicine, maritime security.

The BIMSTEC games due in 2027 to be hosted by India offers multifold opportunities.

(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.

UN was established in 1945 and focuses on 3 broad pillars - preventing wars; safeguarding human rights and disarmament.

India has been a founding member and active participant in UN's functioning. However, India feels it has not got the due recognition in UN's decision-making and advocates for reforms.

The priority areas of UN reforms include UNSC reforms, administrative reforms of UN and reforms in

U.P.S.C.

peacekeeping. As stated by Indian PM Modi, India respects the global body but the patience is wearing out. Despite being the 5th largest economy and largest population country, India does not have a place in UNSC. The major obstacle is non-consensus among P-5 and use of veto.

India's efforts in UN-peacekeeping is commendable with more than 2 lakh troops and 166 Blue-Helmets making supreme sacrifice. However India demands consultations in UNPKF deployment and regular contributions which has been denied by developed world.

UN needs to reform itself to be able to truly represent the global voice of North as well as South.

(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 is a foreign policy choice where a country refuses to be a part of alliance system and instead follow independent choices based on national-interest.

India's strategic autonomy is not a new phenomenon. Even during cold war, the principles of NAM were based on strategic autonomy. Highlighted by foreign minister, S. Jaishankar in his book "The India Way", India as an ambitious nation will articulate to take its decisions based on its own values, norms and culture.

U.P.S.C.

However, this has been perceived by ambiguous in strategic circles. For ex- India aspires for a multi-polar world order, however this is similar to decline of America and rise of China, India's biggest security threat.

Similarly, India maintains strategic relations with USA and Russia, both being major suppliers of arms. India has refused to give military alliance status to QUAD, maintaining cautious approach towards both USA and China.

India's recent purchase of oil from Russia at discounted price despite Western pressure is strategic autonomy.

Strategic autonomy has allowed India to pursue its national interest in the strategic faultlines of global politics.

(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

According to MODELSKI, foreign policy are the actions which one state takes with respect to other. Cold war was a state of rivalry between the 2 superpowers influencing foreign policy.

India was born in a bipolar world order defined by high level of animosity between USA and USSR. India followed the principle of NAM. Post end of cold-war in 1991, the policy of NAM with a single super power was redundant.

Post 1991, India started engaging with USA giving up hesitations of the past.

U.P.S.C.

Similarly, there was growth in relations with Israel, EU, ASEAN, Gulf countries. Post LPG reforms in India, Indian economy was integrated with global value chains and the march of globalisation created conditions for interdependence.

However, we have seen continuity in the form of India exercising strategic autonomy in dealing with USA and Russia, USA and China. India has been a part of both SCO and QUAD. It continues to participate in IAI (Japan-USA-India) and RIC (Russia-India-China) dealings.

India has also become the voice of global South and revived NAM as the moral voice in form of NAM 2.0.

(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

India declared itself as a nuclear weapon country in 1998 post-Pokhran tests. India's nuclear doctrine released in 2003, outlines policy of MFU (No first use) and minimum credible deterrence.

India lies in South-Asia which can be a flash-point of nuclear arms. India's 2 major adversaries and neighbours - China and Pakistan are nuclear weapon states. Though China has MFU policy, Pakistan follows "Full-spectrum" policy against India meaning no limitations.

U.P.S.C.

Post Operation Sindoor, there is a high probability of 2 (China-Pak) or even 3 (China-Pak-Bangladesh) war against India. This questions India's no-first use policy.

Strategic studies also highlight poor control and command structures for second-strike capability. India's nuclear arsenals are under civilian leadership but Pakistan has military at decision-making level. This questions the ~~area~~ minimum-deterrence aspect.

India needs to establish coherence in nuclear command structure, strengthen nuclear doctrines, raise voice for complete disarmament.

Nuclear wars are detrimental not just for nations at war but entire global community.

(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

India and China are 2 South Asian
giants with first and second spot
in world's population. Both are
civilizational nations as defined by
Xi-Jinping as "Elephant-dragon tango".

India and China conduct their
foreign policy toward each other
based on 3 C's - Cooperation, Competition
and Containment. High level of
tensions between both nations have
debilitating impact on South Asia's
stability as well as South-South cooperation.

U.P.S.C.

India and China have recently got engaged in multiple border skirmishes as evident in Doklam standoff, 2017, Galwan valley incident, tensions in Depsang, Gogoo, hot springs and Pangong Tso. This is partly attributed to undemarcated border and partly to Chinese "salami-slicing technique".

However, after multiple round of talks, tensions have eased and cooperation increased. India and China have a bilateral trade of around \$ 118 bn and both are important partners in Global South-South cooperation.

India and China have collaborated

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

on platforms like WTO, World Bank, IMF to demand greater share for developing world. China has supported India's initiative of including African Union in G-20. Both the countries are supporters of multi-polar world order against single power hegemony.

India and China are both involved in Indo-Pacific arena. Both are members of ADMM+ with ASEAN. India's Mekong Ganga Initiative and China's Mekong Council have helped in stabilising Indo-China region of Laos, Cambodia, Thailand. Both countries are advocates of peace and security in the region.

U.P.S.C.

India and China have also collaborated on climate change platform through groupings like BASIC. China is one of the largest producers of silicon wafers complementing india's International Solar Alliance and "One World One Sun One Grid". China has also shown interest in SAARC.

However, challenges remain in Indo-China relations. Chinese aggressive policies in South China Sea, String of Pearls strategy, trying to establish hegemony in South Asia and Gray-zone warfare highlight the fragile situation.

India and China must come together as responsible global South nations for truly 21st century to be "Asian century."

(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.

India and USA are popularly regarded as world's largest and world's oldest democracy respectively. Post cold-war, both nations have established strategic partnership in era of multipolarity.

Ind-USA partnership is based on multiple pillars - political, economic, climate, technology, defence, democracy, etc. Out of these, defence emerges out to be the most stable and important pillar.

USA has given the status of major non-NATO ally to India. India is

U.P.S.C.

also placed in Strategic Trade Authorisation
(STA-I) of USA. USA sees India
as an ideal swing state in
South Asia to counter Chinese hegemony.

With emergence of Asia-Pacific as
the centre of global power politics,
USA and India have come together
in QUAD partnership. Though not
equated with a military alliance,
India and USA are increasing
the interoperability between forces
of each other.

India has also signed the 4
basic foundational agreements
with USA. i.e. GSOMIA, BECA,
COMCASA and LEMOA strengthening

the trust and confidence-building between the two nations. They have multiple joint exercises like Tiger Triumph, QUAD military exercise, MILAN, etc.

USA has supplied Sea Guardian drone instrumental for India's maritime security. Additionally, C-17 Globemaster, Predator drones, P-8I Poseidon, and focus on joint-production are also in pipeline.

India and USA share similar views in Indo-Pacific, pointing towards a strong coherent partnership destined to grow in coming times.

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

Together India, Latin America, Africa and Caribbean nation present a dynamic front of Global South. Most of these nations being political democracies offers opportunities for growth.

India - Latin America relations have picked pace in recent times. With PM-Modi's visit in 2016, relations have strengthened. Due to long-distance and India's poorly neighbourhood; both regions were disconnected. However, recently India has opened more than 16

U.P.S.C.

embassies in Latin America. Indian automobile and oil companies have strengthened market share.

With Industrial Revolution 4.0, and vast lithium deposits, ABC (Argentina-Brazil-Chile) forming lithium triangle has become global hotspot for MNC's.

Both regions also cooperate in climate change negotiations. India's UNSC seat and reforms in multilateral bodies.

Caribbean nations are mostly island countries located near Gulf of Mexico.

They host a significant population of Indian diaspora who act as cultural ambassadors. Both India

and Caribbean nations have cooperated

U.P.S.C.

in Conference on Disarmament, global climate change negotiations, etc. promoting a united South-South front.

Africa continues to be India's priority and strong partner in global south discourse. India-Africa trade has reached \$ 100 bn and with young populations. India has been instrumental in developing capacity-building of African youth through ITEC, Team-9, e-Pan Africa programme

Africa also offers vast resources which can be utilised for public good delivery. They have also collaborated with India in "Global vaccine diplomacy".

Together, all these regions can help in ensuring more equitable and just distribution of global goods and welfare.

4.

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

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

India and EU are both democratic units. According to Michael Doyle's "Democratic Peace Theory", both the countries are sought to have strategic and natural relations.

EU is an economic grouping of European countries. India has had diplomatic relations with EU since its inception in 1993. Both the regions offer complementarities which point towards strong partnership.

One of the most important pillars of partnership is trade. India - EU

U.P.S.C.

trade surpasses \$ 120 bn making EU India's largest partner. However, the inability to formalise India-EU FTA despite 8 rounds of talk points towards shortage in delivery.

EU lies in global north and India in global south; the partnership is often surrounded by North-South conflict as can be seen in Global Climate Change negotiations. EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will further hurt India's interest due to lack of carbon accounting framework.

India and EU also have different strategic focus. While India views

China as the biggest security threat and Indo-Pacific as global centre of gravity, is not same for EU. EU views Russia as the main security threat and puts faith in NATO for collective defence.

There are also irritants in the relation in form of EU's sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures for India's agricultural products, digital exclusion principle; intellectual property rights. Osaka track for cross-border movement of data.

Despite challenges, India and EU partnership offer solutions for global threats and delivery of public goods.

U.P.S.C.

India - EU FTA are reaching last stage of completion. India - EU partnership in clean and green climate solution aligns with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change and Net Zero target by 2070.

EU has also expressed faith in India in Indo-Pacific area for open and free sea lanes of communication (SLOCs). India - EU NAVFOR also provide security to global chokepoints like Horn of Africa, Red Sea.

India - EU relations have ample scope for growth in times of deglobalisation and rise of fascism to provide stability and further in international cooperation.

... have long been high on promise, and short on delivery. Comment.

(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 relations have survived the challenging geo-political shunning. The friendship treaty of 1971 continues to inspire warmth and comfort. though outdated now.

Defence has been the centre of India-Russia relations. Even the 1971 treaty was based on defence pillar which has managed to grow despite challenges.

Russia continues to be India's largest defence supplier. accounting for 46%

U.P.S.C.

of India's import. Russian Sukhoi,
MiG. have continued to provide
air security along with modern
inductions of Rafael, Tejas, etc

Russia has continued to be a reliable
partner. Despite growing Russia-
China relations, Russia has provided
S-400 to India along with China-
Russia has also agreed to set up
MRO facility for Russian-made
jets in India.

India-Russia defence partnership
goes beyond mere transactional
nature. Russia has provided

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

technology transfer to India for number of projects strengthening India's defence capacity.

Both countries have "2+2" dialogue mechanism and multiple exercises like Indra, SCO RATS mechanism, Ind-Russia defence partnership to further strengthen partnership.

The biggest testimony to Russia-India defence partnership is joint production of Brahmos and export to countries like Philippines, Armenia etc. Russian S-400 have proved instrumental in India's "Operation Sindoor".

India-Russia relations have huge significance in challenging times where India faces a situation of 2-front war.

(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 stable relations based on historical connections, regional compulsion and geographical coherence. Iran lies in India's "extended neighbourhood".

Iran is a powerful nation in West Asia. India's "West Asia policy" also emphasises the diplomatic tightrope for India between Iran and Gulf countries as well as Iran and Israel.

Iran's location is geo-strategically

very important for India. Being a neighbour of Afghanistan, India has huge stakes in India-Iran relations to gain access to Afghanistan.

The INSTC envisioned in 2003 between India, Iran, Afghanistan, etc. not only offers access to ^{Afghanistan} Pakistan, but also reduces Pakistan's strategic depth. It also counters Chinese focus on Guadar port. Additionally, INSTC offers wings to India's "Connect Central Asia" Policy. Iran has offered stakes to India in Chahbahar.

Iran is also important for India's energy security. Before USA's sanctions,

U.P.S.C.

Iran was the second largest oil exporter to India. India and Iran are also participants of Ashgabat Agreement.

However, gaps remains in the relations. Due to sanctions and USA's pressure, India-Iran relations have suffered a setback. Iran and China's 30 year strategic partnership also weakens India's stake in checkbale post. Iran-China-Turkey-Pakistan alliance has strategic challenge for India.

Iran's criticism of India's actions in Jammu & Kashmir also act as deterrent in relation.

Due to global geopolitical shuffling, it is high time that India and Iran view each other with pragmatism rather than falling to great-power games.

Section B

Q5. Write approximately 150 words on each one of the following. (5*10=50 marks)

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

India-Africa relations are rooted in hearts and minds.

India and Africa are 2 continental-level civilisations connected through history, culture, trade and common suffering under colonialism and imperialism.

India was one of the first states to recognise Africa's fight against colonialism and extended support. Both India and Africa were instrumental in the setting up of NAACP and Bandung Conference. Leaders like Kwame Nkrumah of Kenya and Pandit Nehru were founding members of NAACP.

U.P.S.C.

India was emotionally attached towards fight against apartheid and racism. India established diplomatic relations with South Africa post 1993 only after end of apartheid. Both the continents face similar issues of poverty, illiteracy, epidemic outbreak, climate change, etc.

As highlighted by PM Modi in "Kampala Promise No. 1", Africa is India's top priority. India showed its commitment to Africa by including it in G-20 despite opposition from other groupings like ASEAN, SAARC.

India reserves 50% of its ITEC program for African students and supports South-South cooperation in Africa.

India has always highlighted Africa as the "rising continent" and brother continent.

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

Six Consensus between India and China

India and China are civilizational states and neighbours in South Asia. Both the countries conduct their foreign policy based on 3 C's - Cooperation, Competition and Containment.

Six consensus between India and China are based to support a peaceful South Asia and contribute towards Asian century. They have been given inspired by Panchsheel principles as well as global realities.

Firstly, both countries will respect

each other's sovereignty and national interest. Secondly, efforts will be made to diffuse border problems from becoming a protracted war. Next, both the nations will cooperate in economic arena to procure peace and stability.

Other principles include setting up a common front for reforms in multi-lateral bodies, taking steps against terrorism and establishing peace in the region through mechanisms like RATS of SCO, UNCA, etc.

Both countries also agreed to strengthen partnership in face of deglobalisation.

India and China together can start a new development journey for Asia. However, geopolitical interests offer a different narrative.

(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 regional grouping initially established in 2009 with BRIC countries becoming BRICS with South Africa's inclusion in 2010. Recently, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt and UAEs ^{inclusion} have led to BRICS+.

Every regional grouping is based on some coherent principles. BRICS was initially a geo-economic grouping and was perceived to be anti-West and anti-USA propounding principles of multipolarity and strategic autonomy.

U.P.S.C.

However, countries like India, Brazil and South Africa - being liberal and vibrant democracies have different aspirations from authoritarian regimes of Russia and China.

Further with inclusion of new countries, the geographic spread of BRICS+ has increased, however questions on its legitimate purpose and agenda arises.

BRICS has been instrumental in presenting demand of Global South, reforms of multi-lateral bodies, popularisation of alternate payment channels, digital public goods etc.

BRICS+ needs to issue a charter outlining its goals and contribution in global goods.

(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

Viksit Bharat is India's aspiration for transforming into a modern developed nation at the time of centenary celebrations of India's independence.

Under Viksit Bharat, there are different pillars. First and most important is the economic pillar. India will be a 30 \$ trillion economy by 2047. This needs India to be active participant in global trade and supply chains. Further, India needs to capitalise on its 35 mn strong diaspora to increase investment.

India also understands the importance

U.P.S.C.

of regional integration for a resilient
and vibrant economy. India's focus
on Neighbourhood first; Act East,
Think West; Supply chain Resilience
Initiative; Trade pillar under IPEF,
IMEC, INSTC, TAPI pipeline, are
all efforts in the direction.

India also realises importance of
global negotiations and safeguarding
India's voice. India has strengthened
focus on Global South through
initiatives like SAGAR, MAHASAGAR,
ITEC, Global South Summit, UNSC
reforms, Peacekeeping reforms,
WTO reforms.

As said by S. Jaishankar, India is
ready to take rightful place in
global high table of diplomacy.

(e) भारत-इज़राइल संबंधों की जटिलताएँ (10 अंक)

Complexities of India-Israel relations

India established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1993 after giving up "hesitations of the past". Israel has been instrumental in safeguarding India's weapon requirement against Pakistan.

Israel lies in West-Asia, India's extended neighbourhood or "second mandala" as per Mandala Siddhant. India-Israel share comfortable bonhomie however complexities remain.

India being a multi-cultural nation with significant Muslim population

U.P.S.C.

sharing affinity with Palestinians.
create domestic troubles Israel's
action in Gaza and West-Bank
also goes against India's 2-state
solution.

India has strategic relations with
both Gulf monarchies and Iran.
Israel's stance against Iran creates
tough choices for India. India
has high hopes in Chabahar
port as part of its "Necklace of
diamond strategy."

Israel's close relations with China
may hamper India's interest in
case of 2-front war.

India and Israel are called natural-
ally. They need to further strengthen
complimentaries like IMEC project
for a true strategic relation.

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.

Pahalgam terrorist attack happened in April, 2023 in Kashmir area of India. A dastardly attack on innocent tourists taking 29 lives by terrorists have justified India's "Just War Theory."

Operation Sindoor was the retaliatory measure by GOI as precision strikes on terrorist launchpads across 9 locations in Pok and Pakistan. India left the hesitancy to attack terrorist sites even inside Pakistan clearing the stance of zero tolerance against terrorism.

U.P.S.C.

Op. Sindoor has been widely acknowledge as a paradigm shift in India's security approach. After following decades of policy of "deterrence by denial" (focus on self-development), India has now shifted to "compellation" strategy.

This strategy removes the distinction between terrorist organisations and states providing logistical support and shelter to these non-state actors. This not only limits Pakistan's "thousand-cut strategy" and "full-spectrum nuclear doctrine", it also pushes South Asia towards lesser threshold of nuclear disaster.

India under Op. Sindoor, also gave

U.P.S.C.

clear cut message to the world that India will not succumb under international pressure and would go extra-mile to safeguard its national interest.

The importance of Op. Samudra as a counter-terrorism response lies in ending the upper hand of deep-state of Pakistan and its proxy war against India. It has decisively increased the standard of operations India will undertake to against any future transgression on part of Pakistan.

This has put Pakistan in a dilemma of relevance of Proxy war as a

U.P.S.C.

weapon against India and the risk it is willing to take in this dangerous game.

India through PM Modi's 3-point strategy against counter-terrorism has clarified the massive nature of operations it is willing to take. India is also focussing on increasing its war preparedness, technological upgradation, self-reliance; integrated response in case of future incidents.

Further, India has been pragmatic enough to realise possibility of 2-front and providing Bangladesh's instability even 3-front war. forcing it to take reforms long overdue.

Operation Sindoor as the name signifies was a politico-defence operation to clarify India's value of peace but also war in case of injustice.

(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.

Indo-Pacific region is a geo-political construct encompassing the areas of eastern Pacific, Indian ocean, western Africa region and recently even eastern mediterranean region.

India lies at the centre of Indo-Pacific with a vast coastline of 7,500 km plus India has had historical dependency on the Indian ocean and under Indo-Pacific area for trade and cultural relations.

The economic utility of Indo-Pacific can be understood from the fact that

U.P.S.C.

more than 90% of India's energy requirements and 75% of India's trade is through Indo-Pacific region. India has an exclusive EEZ of 3.2 mn sq km making it a vast resource for extraction of minerals, polymetallic nodules, marine resources etc.

The geo-strategic importance of Indo-Pacific lies in it becoming a battleground of great power politics be it between India-China or India-USA. It has some of the most vital chokepoints in form of Strait of Malacca, Strait of Hormuz, Red Sea.

Both the geo-economic and geo-strategic importance has been realised with

U.P.S.C.

all the major global powers involved in the region.

India has gone for strategic partnerships to safeguard the free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific against China's aggressive strategy. The formation of QUAD also called as "Asian Nats" by China is an important body.

India has strengthened its partnership with major powers in the region like Australia, Asean, Japan, or other powers like EU, USA, etc. India has deployed its ships for freedom of navigation operations (FNOF's) and act as a net-security provider in the region.

India is the resident power of Indo-Pacific and it has to employ a multi-domain strategy to safeguard its national interest in the region.

(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

India and Latin America did not give primacy to each other for a long time due to physical distance, ideology. But with 21st century complex interdependence, the engagement is increasing.

India and Latin America are the farthest located regions in the world. Due to closed nature of Indian economy, there was not much interaction. However, post LPG reforms and attractiveness of each other's economies coupled with South-South solidarity has strengthened partnership.

U.P.S.C.

Indian oil companies and MNCs have invested in Latin American nations. Post ITC evolution and lithium resources in LAC, India has deployed public sectors like KABIL, ONGC to tap resources. Indian automobile sector has a prominent presence in 2-wheeler segment in Cambodia, Venezuela, etc.

India also has a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR group and India-Chile trade partnership. After 2016 PM Modi's visit and recent visit of foreign minister to LAC, the emphasis on growing economic partnership can be seen.

India has realised the importance of LAC which can be seen in the

U.P.S.C.

recent opening of 16 embassies in LAC's. Focus is also on engaging with Grihitya communities in these region and more high level political exchanges.

LAC view India as a liberal and vibrant democracy, and Indian modes and culture through Yoga, traditional AYUSH practices, bollywood is permeating these nations. The role of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) can be seen by organisation of Indian festivals, skilling youth in Portuguese and Spanish

India and Latin America offer opportunities for future solutions to clean energy, equitable globalisation and democracy through constructive cooperation.