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Political Science & International Relations

PSIR Crash Course– 2025

Test 8

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

Name	KIRAN. KAMATE
Test Submission Date	11.08.2025
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Test Start Time	1:45 PM
Test End Time	4:45 PM
UPSC Roll Number	0309541
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Copy Submitted On
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IAS STUDY PVT. LTD

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: -

Que.1 (a) आधुनिकीकरण सिद्धांत या "आधुनिकीकरण के रूप में विकास" सिद्धांत पर टिप्पणी करें। (10 अंक)
Comment on the modernization theory or "development as modernization" theory.

The theory is given by S. P Huntington and Edward Shills as an alternative to the earlier approaches like systems approach of SF approach by Easton and Almond as they were not applicable to the Newly independent post-colonial states.

The premise of the approach is the development of modernisation and the pathway to it through four essentials.

1. Secularisation
2. Urbanisation
3. Rationalisation
4. Industrialisation.

This was a more democratic development over the Developmental approach of FW Riggs.

Huntington says there is a difference in the demands of the people and the capacity of state to provide so, this will inadvertently leads to developmental decay.

Following the 4 essentials will lead to Modernisation that will fill the gap between text and context of these primitive societies (FW Riggs)

However, critics are of the opinion that it is ethnocentric and a way of achieving the liberal hegemonic system under the guise of modernisation - by Marxists. While others say, it doesn't take into account the scope of people's grievances.

Modernisation approach is good way to understand. However, it should studied along with others for pol. science is a bottomless and borderless world

Que.1 (b) अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों के प्रति प्रकार्यवादी दृष्टिकोण की व्याख्या कीजिए। (10 अंक)

Explain the functionalist approach to International Relations.

Functionalist (or) structural functionalist approach is given by GABRIEL ALMOND and BINGHAM POWELL - building upon the systems approach.

The approach belongs in the behaviouralist approach of sociology (Talcott Parsons)

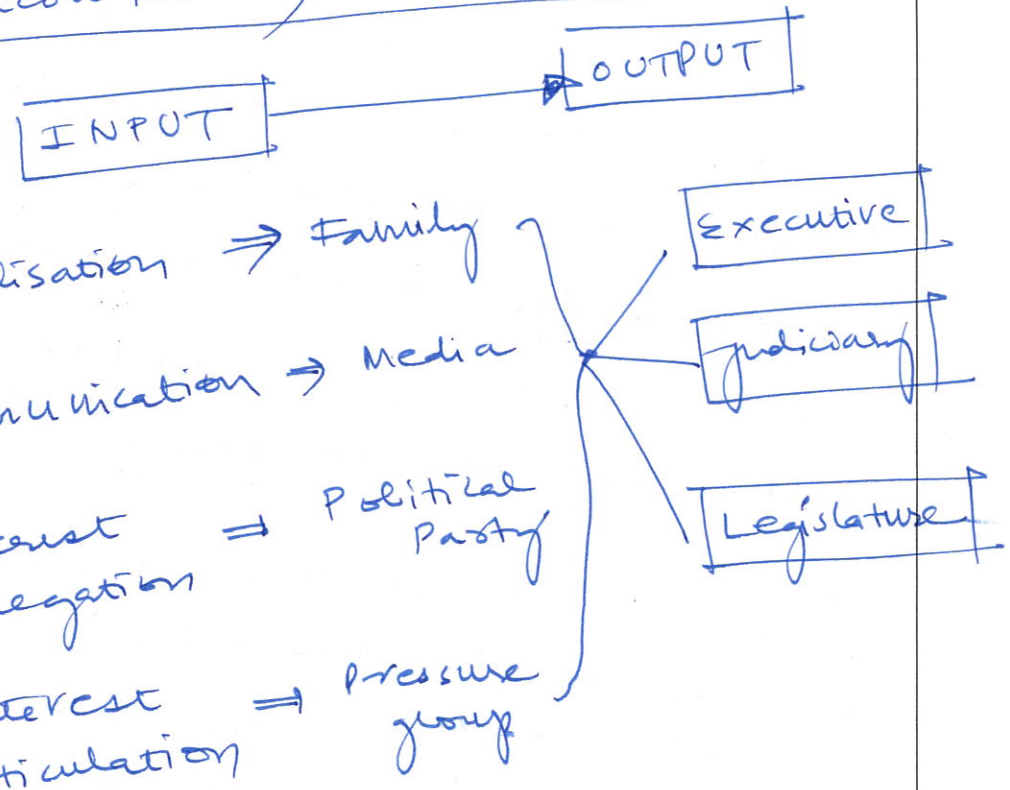

fig. SF Approach

The premise is that, around the world the systems will only differ in their structure and not in their function.

However, critics point out that it is eurocentric and ethnocentric It is non-comparative and only jargon-based with little analytic value.

Marxist further criticise that there is no scope for social revolutions and is a way of imposing liberal way of life on the non-western world. It is based on western state Model and therefore not universal

SF Approach, though comprehensive and definitely resolved several loopholes of DAVID EASTON's approach, has to be studied with other Approach as well.

Que.1 (c)

चर्चा करें कि कैसे NAFTA और इसका अद्यतन USMCA अमेरिकी प्रभुत्व के लिए वरदान साबित हुआ है। (10 अंक)

Discuss how NAFTA and its updated USMCA have proven a boon to the American hegemony.

According to Antonio Gramsci - hegemony is a way how the dominant class keeps itself in dominant role and seeks to propagate its ideas as the ruling ideas via the integral state : state + civil society.

The NAFTA and USMCA are part of the integral state that seeks to achieve American hegemony around the region.

For instance, the NAFTA or North American FTA was formed between countries of North America to reduce tariff barriers and allow free flow of trade, people, capital etc.

This allowed in the days post WW2 and cold war to assert the ~~position~~ war of manoeuvre

In the 1994, the NAFTA made way for USMCA i.e US-Mexico-Canada FTA framework. According to Kautilya, nation's neighbours is an "enemy" and for USA - Mexico on south, Canada on South were a double threat. The USMCA led to interpellation of USA hegemony over the people of Canada & Mexico.

The independency created laid the war of position and achieved the hegemony over the neighbours.

The recent upending of this by Donald Trump's politics of treating Canada as '51st state' (or) Mexico as the immigrant hub has reversed the aura of USA among neighbour and so its hegemony.

Que.1 (d)

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि राज्य का गतिशील चरित्र विकासशील समाजों की विदेश नीति पर किस प्रकार छाप छोड़ता है। (10 अंक)

Explain how the dynamic character of the State leaves an imprint on the foreign policy of developing societies.

Max Weber's character of leader as charismatic has influence on foreign policy of developing societies. This further can be witnessed in the dynamic character of state.

For instance, the stand of Abdel Nasser of Egypt in 1956 in the face of SUEZ crisis, against the imperialist like BRITISH & FRANCE, led to securing the SUEZ CANAL to Egypt.

Similarly, the imprint of PM Narendra Modi on Foreign Policy is highlighted by MARCH V. PANT as the "MODI DOCTRINE" which according to Pant "has brought new layer of dynamism and flair" as seen in his personal-cult leadership in F. P. decision also.

The case of Nehru in the early years of Indian Foreign Policy which now is called as Nehruvian idealism was also a reason to INDIA to emerge as Non-aligned Nation — as SWAPNA NAYUDU writes

The emphasis of India to be a nuclear power against the notions of sanctions by USA / Japan UK / led to INDIA become powerful yet responsible nuclear power. It still leaves a fine point on I.F.P.

similarly, any vacillating state garners no respect from the international community.

Thus, dynamic state can emerge as a force to reckon with / in the changing world order

Que.1 (e) 21वीं सदी में वैश्विक आर्थिक व्यवस्था को नया आकार देने में ब्रिक्स की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक)

Discuss the role of BRICS in reshaping the global economic order in the 21st century.

The expanded 10-membered BRICS first met in KAZAN and later in BRASIL. The expansion is a result of a stagnant multilateralism that are prisoners of the past.

The role of BRICS can be better understood with its numbers. The expanded BRICS now accounts for 39% of GDP, 49% of population, 26% of global trade. It Contains the second and fourth largest economies of the world.

Further, BRICS emerges as a counterweight to the archaic Bretton woods system - which Ray Hammersjold calls as "abstraction of Van Gogh" and Jeffrey Sachs calls it as "extension of US Fed Reserve"

The calls for dedollarisation as the hegemonic petro-dollar currency and an alternative to SWIFT currency exchange also a way of upending the western economic world order

The decision to trade with BRICS via a common BRIC currency will lead to increased trade (intra BRIC trade). - which already has doubled from 400 to 850 bn dollar.

However, challenges remain as Donald Trump threaten with 100% Tariff against BRICS Nations.

Also, an extended BRICS, according to C. Rajamohan, will lose whatever little consensus that was achieved.

As PM Modi gave the acronym, BRICS. Building resilience and inclusivity for cooperation and security - is the way forward.

Que.2(a)

राजनीति विज्ञान को आमतौर पर जिन कई क्षेत्रों या उप-विषयों में विभाजित किया जाता है, उनमें तुलनात्मक राजनीति ही एकमात्र ऐसा क्षेत्र है जो मूल विषय के बजाय पद्धतिगत विषय पर आधारित है। चर्चा करें। (20 अंक)

Among the several fields or subdisciplines into which the discipline of political science is usually divided, comparative politics is the only one that carries a methodological instead of a substantive label. Discuss

Que.2 (b)

क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष न केवल संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और रूस के बीच रणनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता का परिणाम है, बल्कि यूरोपीय-रूसी सुरक्षा संबंधों में दीर्घकालिक असंतुलन का भी परिणाम है? (15 अंक)

Do you agree that the Russia-Ukraine conflict is not only an outcome of the strategic rivalry between the United States and Russia but also the result of a longstanding imbalance in European-Russian security relations?

Que.2(c)

यह कहना कहाँ तक सही है कि नये सामाजिक आन्दोलन और प्रयोग समकालीन विश्व संकट की वास्तविक प्रकृति को प्रकट करते हैं और भविष्य के वांछनीय समाज की तैयारी करते हैं? (15 अंक)

How far is it correct to say that the new social movements and experiments manifest the true nature of contemporary world crisis and prepare for a future desirable society?

Que.3(a)

किसी केंद्रीय, नियामक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय तंत्र के अभाव में, प्रत्येक राज्य राष्ट्रीय शक्ति का प्रयोग करके अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा करता है। इस संदर्भ में, राष्ट्रीय शक्ति और राष्ट्रीय हितों के बीच संबंध पर चर्चा कीजिए। (20 अंक)

Amidst absence of a central, regulatory international mechanism, every state secures its national interests by asserting national power. In this context, discuss the relation between national power and national interests.

Que.3(b)

नियम-आधारित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था की नींव गंभीर खतरे में है क्योंकि "उदारवादी संस्थागतवाद" का स्थान "अनुदारवादी राष्ट्रवाद" ले रहा है। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक)

Foundations of the rule-based international order are under dire threat as "liberal institutionalism" is being replaced by "illiberal nationalism". Critically examine

Que.3 (c) विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) के कामकाज पर बढ़ते संरक्षणवाद के प्रभावों पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक)

Discuss the implications of rising protectionism on the functioning of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Que.4 (a) ईस्टन और आलगाड के विपरीत, जिनका काम मुख्यतः राष्ट्र-राज्यों के भीतर राजनीतिक प्रणालियों और दुनिया भर की अन्य राजनीतिक प्रणालियों के साथ उनकी अंतःक्रियाओं पर केंद्रित था, कपलान का अध्ययन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रणाली पर केंद्रित था। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण करें (20 अंक)

Unlike Easton and Almond, whose works mainly centered on political systems within nation-states and their interactions with other political systems across the world, Kaplan's study was focused on the international system. Critically Examine

David Apter defines Comparative Politics as the 'science of finding patterns' in different political systems. And in this regard, Easton and Almond brought in the wave of scientific approach through Behaviouralism

While David Easton brought forth the systems approach, Almond along with Bingham Powell brought the structural functional approach. Similarly, ~~Morton~~ MORTAN KAPLAN went a step ahead and brought the "systems approach" to study of international politics.

Easton and Almond's works revolved around understanding how political systems work inside a system and what influences their working. For instance, Easton's system approach thought of an environment inside with the inputs of public participation and obedience leads to policies, decisions as output/outcome.

This is further, stabilised by a feedback loop that "maintains the system".

Almond's work of structural functional approach assumes that all systems though differing in structures perform the same function. He gives four ~~functions~~ structures viz. social communication, socialisation, interest aggregation and interest articulation and functions as

execution, legislation and adjudication.

Thus, it is evident that, both these framework, while innovative and limited to nation-states as singular units rather than how they interact with other systems.

In this context, Morton Kaplan's SYSTEMS APPROACH gives a theory that is premised on Model building. He gives six different interactions of how the international system looks like with different states differing in different strengths and weakness.

For instance, he gives the loose bipolar model — where there is two superpowers antagonistic to each other with other actors also existing. This is an fitting illustion of todays world order.

Similarly, he gives the response of actor in presence of an

world government like UN. Further, this can illustrated as the post WW2 world order with UN at the helm.

Further, he gives models like tight bipolar, multipolar world and a unipolar world.

However, both Morton Kaplan and Easton-Admond's works are criticised. For example, Stanley Hoffman calls system theory of Kaplan as "theory building was confused with Model building". Liber called it as jargons without analysis. Similarly, Almond-Easton works are called as ethnocentric, indirect way of establishing liberal world order by marxists while sub altern say it doesn't apply to non-western states.

Que.4 (b) जलवायु परिवर्तन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा चर्चाओं में "खतरे को बढ़ाने वाले" के रूप में कैसे कार्य करता है? (15 अंक)

How does climate change act as a "threat multiplier" in international security discourses?

"Security is a speech Act" says BARRY BUZAN and its is pertinent and imperative to securitize "climate change" as a threat in order to put it at the centre of international security discourse.

It acts as a threat multiplier even superpowers like USA withdraw from the Paris Climate Deal and rise as a 'rogue superpower' (Jeakins). The avoidance and lack of respect to CBDR-RC (Article 3 of UNFCCC) that is- common but differentiated Responsibility has led to increasing of North-south trust deficit.

Climate change is a problem without passport and effects everyone around the world. For instance, the

sea level rise of Jakarta to the Australian Bushfire to the heatdome of Europe - all are equal recievers of it.

The threat multiplies when their lack of synergy among nation-states and when the complex interdependance (Joseph Nye) is weaponised (Newman and Farell) - leaving the Global south to fend for themselves.

The increased focus on Global North on mitigation and the South on adaptation has led to continuation of Carbon Colonialism - where North/west dictates the pathways of decarbonisation on the South.

Any division here, will only multiply the threat and as IPCC AR6 Report highlights the globe will warm upto 2.6 to 2.9°C

Que.4 (c)

पारंपरिक और संरचनात्मक यथार्थवाद की मौलिक मान्यताओं के लिए एक चुनौती के रूप में 'जटिल अंतरनिर्भरता के सिद्धांत' का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक)

Critically analyze 'Theory of Complex Interdependence,' as a challenge to the fundamental assumptions of traditional and structural realism.

Realism is a hegmonic school of thought in International politics given by Hans Morgnthau which was built later/further by Kenneth Waltz and John Meirsheimer.

The basic premise is that the states are the only units of action, and the anarchaic world will lead all states to common consequence i.e power struggle.

This was challenged by Joseph Nye and Robert Keohane who gave the concept of complex interdependence It says, the states are dependent on one another and not necessarily need to conflict with other. The interdependence reduces the scope of rivalry even in the absence of world govt

This is on which the theory of functionalism by ERNEST HAAS is built to achieve peace by pieces/ by keeping the politicians out (Richard Cobden)

The complex-interdependency finest example is the EU and NATO. The interdependence has led to mutual cooperation and growth leading to prosperity and goodwill

The advent of Globalisation and the Golden Arches Theory - where two countries with economic interdependency will rarely go for war. (Eg) India Bangladesh (or) Germany-France. This given by Michael Friedman. Similarly, Michael Doyle "democratic peace theory" echoes similarly.

However, as Newman & Farrell writes the weaponisation of interdependence is leading to reverse wave of Realism

(Eg) China–Australia supply chain tussle in the midst of COVID 19 and weaponisation of water / trade against India is also an example

This along with the calls for protectionist and inward looking policies has lead to securing one's own resources through self sufficiency"

(Eg) Make in China 2025, MAGA of Trump and AtmaNirbhar Bharat

As it is said National interest is Raison d'etat (Machiavelli) – and thus complex interdependence can go for a toss if its demands. As. Jaishankar said " The world is an state of disarray and each is left to fend for itself "

Que.5 (a) "ग्लोबल साउथ" की अवधारणा भारत की विदेश नीति को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती है? (10 अंक)
How does the concept of "Global South" influence India's foreign policy?

The concept of Global south though historically old, was popularised as recent foreign policy paradigm - is a unified collective identity of states of Africa, America and Latin America

The influence of G-South on India's foreign policy can be seen where "S. Jaishankar" calls India as the moral voice of Global south, and calls for representation of it in the "reformed multilateralism"

The G20 summit hosted by INDIA and inclusion of African union to G20, shows India's commitment

Similarly, Harsh V. Pant, calls India's foreign policy and development diplomacy in Africa

are "demand side" development addressing the needs of Africa as against supply side development of China — which is 'extractive'.

The advocacy of IPR relaxation by INDIA at the WTO during COVID-19 also highlights the role of G20. similarly, Indias Vaccine Maitri (or) First responder in the region or net security provider are all testimony to it.

However, C. Rajamohan criticises the grouping. He says, G20 is a emotionally charged group but not practical as it is too diverse to handle and put under one bracket.

India, however, should secure the support of G20, (or) the Global South for its larger ambition to occupy the permanent seat at the UNSC

Que.5 (b) भारत के परमाणु सिद्धांत का पाकिस्तान के साथ सामरिक संबंधों पर प्रभाव की चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक)

Discuss the implications of India's nuclear doctrine on its strategic relations with Pakistan.

India adopted a Nuclear doctrine in 1999, which was officially put to air in 2003. India's Nuclear doctrine is based on three major points:

1. Minimum credible deterrence
2. Civil control.
3. No First Use (NFU)

The implications on civil control is that unlike Pakistan which suffers from Military-Terrorist complex India emerges as a responsible Nuclear power.

Similarly, the deterrence effect depends on the two things acc. to Thomas Schelling i.e

1. credibility of the weaponry
2. communication to the adversary about the readiness to use.

This was very well established during the Op. sindoor, where INDIA showcased Escalation Dominance par excellence — making Pakistan understand the credibility of Indias weaponry.

Finally, the NFU. It has been subject to debate. While critics say "it is a serious liability to war planning" (Lt. B.S. Nagal), others say "NFU against a irresponsible and F.U policy Pakistan is political suicide" (Bharat Karnad). The supporters say, it as the least expensive credible deterrence.

However, as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh clarified that "NFU is not a rigid doctrine and India can choose to change it according to exigencies — leaving room for strategic ambiguity".

Que.5 (c)

व्याख्या कीजिए कि किस प्रकार भारत की राज्य सरकारें देश के बाह्य संबंधों में प्रमुख हितधारक के रूप में उभरी हैं – विशेष रूप से आर्थिक पहलू में। (10 अंक)

Explain how India's state governments have emerged as key stakeholders in the country's external linkages – specifically, the economic aspect.

The notion of competitive federalism has led to state competing for economic prospects. This can be seen with various innovative summits like Vibrant Gujrat, Investor Forum Kerala, Invest in Karnataka etc.

The external linkage of country are shaped by state as seen in the recent resistance to Indias decision to close the FMR-Free Movement Regime in by the states of Mizoram, Nagaland etc

Similarly, the vibrant diaspora at the West Asian Kafala system has been a source of important remittance which crossed 100 bn $ for 3 consecutive years. (2025 – 125 bn USD)

Similarly, the fallout of India from the RCEP under ASEAN-INDIA was also due to the pressure politics of states of GUJARAT, PUNJAB, HARYANA & RAJASTHAN

The very recent Bilateral trade agreement talks between USA - and-INDIA - where the interests of states of GUJARAT's diary sector and Haryana's livestock sector were feared to be threatened by USA's exports.

Thus, states act as the stakeholders in India external linkage - from the traditional - Tamil-linguistic issue to Bengal's River-dispute to more economic aspects.

This is change in the paradiplomacy of INDIAN foreign policymaking.

Que.5 (d) 21वीं सदी में भारत की वैश्विक छवि को आकार देने में सॉफ्ट पावर की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक)
Examine the role of soft power in shaping India's global image in the 21st century.

Soft power as a concept was given by JOSEPH NYE against hardpower. It means the use of religion, culture and diaspora as a way to draw favourable decisions

India's soft power stems from its vibrant diaspora which now stands at 35.46 Million. PM Modi calls them as Rashtradoot and Vijay Prashad calls them as "doubly state selected" highlighting their significance for both states (host and original state)

The operation Maitri during COVID-19 - enhanced India's role as a "developmental superpower" as Shashi Tharoor calls it in his book "India and World Disorder"

The spread of Yoga, Ayurveda, Bollywood, Cricket and Music have all added to it.

The principles of Nonalignment in NAM & India's policy of non-reciprocity in its Neighbourhood first policy are all telling of India's SOFTPOWER.

However, as it goes in International politics, while principles earn you praise, power i.e hard power ultimately earns you respect!

And in this regard, India has focused on Military modernisation and increasing its Comprehensive National Power (CNP)

Que.5 (e) स्पष्ट कीजिए कि फिलिस्तीन के प्रति भारत की नीति किस प्रकार दीर्घकालिक एवं सुसंगत रही है। (10 अंक)
Elucidate how India's policy towards Palestine has been long-standing and consistent.

October 7, 2023 was the beginning of Israel-Palestine (Hamas) war and the signs of reprieve are not in sight. It in regard, India voted in favour of 2-State solution in a recent UN Resolution.

The relation between Palestine and India goes back to the Gandhian era, where Gandhiji had said supported the cause of Palestinians.

India later was also among the first to recognise Palestine officially and voted for a separated state.

India in the recent past too has said ec This is not an era of war and no solutions are found on the battlefield 99 — PM MODI

However, India's efforts are muddied due to the realpolitik of the time and India had to engage with ISRAEL since the 1990s.

However, this didn't dilute India's stance to Palestine and it rightly so, delegitimated its stance between ISRAEL – PALESTINE, giving it a strategic space to "engage without entanglement" as Shivashankar Menon calls it.

India in the past, the present and the future will vouch for a palestine for Palestinians and a firm believer of "2-state solution" and Peace and prosperity in the region.

Que.6 (a)

भारत की आतंकवाद-रोधी चिंताएँ, जो ठोस सबूतों और अनुभवों में गहराई से निहित हैं, वैश्विक उदासीनता, कूटनीतिक दुविधा और प्रक्रियात्मक सहानुभूति के साथ जारी हैं। परीक्षण करें (20 अंक)

India's counter-terrorism concerns, deeply rooted in hard evidence and lived experiences, continue to be met with global indifference, diplomatic ambivalence, and procedural sympathy. Examine

The operation Sindoor followed by the PAHALGAM ATTACK in April 22 bears a new paradigm (or) New Normal as per PM MODI towards "ZERO tolerance to terrorism".

This was immediately followed by an all-party delegation that travelled across the globe to send out the message of INDIA and garner international support.

India, for long since the tribal provoked terrorist attack since 1947 at Srinagar airbase to the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the numerous proxy warfare like Balakot, Pulwama in 2019 and Pahalgam in 2025 has been a victim of terrorism.

It was in this regard that, India had sent the delegation to gain momentum against its fight. however, as Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes it was met with global hypocrisy and indifference and ~~ewarded~~ rewarded with procedural sympathy.

For instance, none of the global powers openly condemned the Pakistan's cowardly attack on Indian sovereignty, while the UN was quick enough to ~~elect~~ even to name Pakistan as the vice chairperson of TALIBAN sanction committee. This is indifference in the least and mockery at best.

The diplomatic ambivalence is seen through TRUMP's self centric attitude to claim credit to stopping the war and ieking New Delhi with the Rehyphenation of INDO-PAK at International area.

The invitation of Pakistan's Munir to the White House, only made it worse.

critics like PB Mehta and former NSAB chief, say "India's non-alliance in a divided world has left it friendless". Further, PB Mehta says India's lack of realism in its Foreign policy has made it lose the strategic support at global level.

Arun Prakash blames the failure of strategic messaging during op-sindoor led to loss of credibility at the international stage

However, FATF listed the The Resistant Front (TRF) as a terrorist organistan with USA following the same. Similarly, the responses at personal and non-official level have been in support of India, as highlighted by Sashi Tharoor.

The definitional deadlock over what is terrorism, "since one man's terrorism is another's revolution" has led to lack of universally acceptable definition.

Similarly, the deadlock over India's voicing of CCIT - comprehensive convention to combat terrorism by INDIA since 1994 is also a feature of global rhetoric and indifference to terrorism

As Shashi Tharoor writes terrorism is a "problem without passport" and it requires blueprints without borders"

The New Normal at National level is a new paradigm to India's eternal fight against terrorism.

Que.6 (b) भारत की "पड़ोसी प्रथम" नीति दक्षिण एशिया में उसके व्यापक रणनीतिक हितों के साथ किस प्रकार संरेखित है? (15 अंक)

How does India's "Neighbourhood First" policy align with its broader strategic interests in South Asia?

The Neighbourhood First policy is an extension of IK GUJRAL's "policy of Non-reciprocity" with the neighbours.

India always as vouched for an economically integrated and prosperous SOUTH ASIA and Neighbourhood first aligns in sync with strategic interest in S. Asia

The Kautilyan paradigm of concentric circles of immediate neighbours to the outer neighbourhood can be visualised by RAJIV SIKRI arc of prosperity, communication and the circle of neighbourhood.

India's ambition as the NET SECURITY PROVIDER in the region along with first responder to humanitarian Assistance and disaster Relief (HADR) are both common to NFI and South Asia.

The prerogative of BIMSTEC over SAARC is a testimony that India wants an integrated south Asia and free open prosperous in choice Neighbourhood.

However, challenges remain. The increasing footprint of China in the region has led to dual policy of India i.e China-SL, China-Maldives as Happymon Jacob says, it has led to INDIA being boxed up in South Asia.

Similarly, the role of Pakistan as a disruptor in the region

has led to SAARC become a failure.

While India wants the arc of prosperity and communication, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Afghanistan paint the arc of insecurity and Bhutan and Nepal - arc of uncertainty according to Rajiv Sikri.

However, for India to emerge as the leading power, India must pursue the "positive unilateralism" (C. Raja Mohan). India should eschew the tendencies to become the BIG BROTHER and act as the benevolent one. (Harsh V. Pant)

Que.6 (c)

चर्चा कीजिए कि पिछले दो दशकों में जापान-भारत संबंध किस प्रकार हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में सबसे प्रमुख और निर्णायक साझेदारियों में से एक बन गए हैं। (15 अंक)

Discuss how over the past two decades, Japan-India ties have evolved into one of the most prominent and pivotal partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

In his book, "TOWARDS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY" Shinzo Abe, the former PM of Japan had talked about INDIA and since then both have been the two important power centres of Asia and the world.

India's ~~Act~~ Act East Policy doesn't end with SE Asia and extends to the Island Nation of Japan. In the past two decades, the relationship has found new-lease of life with special focus on infrastructure development and triangular development.

For instance, India-Japan tie-up in Multimodal connectivity with special focus on Metro construction has increased the total metro

connectivity to 1000+ kms. The Bangalore metro in this regard, stands apart.

Similarly, the triangular diplomacy has led to several infra-structure development in SRI LANKA. For instance, the Jaffna Redevelopment Project and the Colombo transshipment facility.

Similarly, the cooperation at Space Economy with JAXA-ISRO joint missions are also a case in point.

In similar vein, people to people ties through Track 2 diplomacy and university exchange programme and placement drives from IIT/IIM to Japanese companies has increased the complex interdependence.

The cultural and religious ties between the two with BUDDHISM as the connecting link has further deepened the ties on a spiritual level.

The association over supplychain resilience initiative (SCRI) in the background of COVID-19 and China+1 strategy led to creating alternative friendshoring avenues. As Paray Khanna writes in Connectography India has along Japan focused on creating just in case infra. over the existing 'just in time' infrastructure.

The demographic winter can be a liability to Japan's economic growth and India should be the 'friend in need' in its testing times.

Que.7 (a)

भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा रणनीति के लिए क्वाड में भागीदारी के महत्व का आकलन करें। (20 अंक)

Assess the significance of India's participation in the Quad for its maritime security strategy.

Que.7 (b)

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में चीन के प्रभाव का मुकाबला करने में भारत की "एक्ट ईस्ट" नीति के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक)

Examine the significance of India's "Act East" policy in countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Que.7 (c) वैश्विक व्यापार वार्ता पर भारत का रुख उसकी विकासात्मक प्राथमिकताओं को किस प्रकार प्रतिबिंबित करता है? (15 अंक)

How does India's stance on global trade negotiations reflect its developmental priorities?

Que.8 (a)

रूस-भारत-चीन त्रिपक्षीय व्यवस्था में रुचि का यह पुनरुत्थान ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ पर हुआ है जब तीनों राष्ट्र पश्चिम से अलग-अलग स्तर के दबाव का सामना कर रहे हैं। इस संदर्भ में, शीत युद्धोत्तर युग की एकध्रुवीयता के प्रति एक रणनीतिक प्रतिसंतुलन के रूप में आरआईसी ढाँचे की आवश्यकता का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (20 अंक)

This rekindling of interest in the Russia-India-China trilateral mechanism comes at a critical juncture when all three nations are facing varying degrees of pressure from the West. In this context, critically examine the necessity of the RIC framework as a strategic counterbalance to unipolarity of the post-Cold War era.

The upending of global world order since the arrival of DONALD J. TRUMP at the White House has led to his allies and adversaries facing the brunt of his iconoclasm, and transactional diplomacy.

While India has always looked at USA with suspicion, the new wave of tariffs from TRUMP, first 25% and then an additional 25% for India's continued buying of Russian oil in the background of Ukraine War - has made the suspicion more stronger.

The China's Middle Kingdom too faced 25% tariff - with China led BRICS also threatened of dire

consequences, the Thucydides Trap of US-Sino cold war only becomes more more pertinent.

In this context, that the RIC: Russia-China-India trilateral mechanism is rekindling.

The necessity comes from the Western hypocrisy to the East, with EU engaging with Russia around its dependency on oil and fertilizer and Trumps singling out of India and China in particular.

The trilateral mechanism can create an effective deterrent against the unipolarity and act as a counterweight to USA. The demographic heft on India-china, the iron-clad relationship of china-Russia which Richard Fontaine calls the axis of resistance along with India-Russia as the all-weather

friend is a significant counterweight and bloc of immense weight.

Together, the trio can look to create an anti West and Anti USA environment and engage the calls of reformed Multilateralism. The tariff tantrum can be effectively handled by increased cooperation, trade and counter narratives.

However, RIC is not a new idea and there are challenges to its existence and prolonging. For instance, the increasing relationship with Pakistan, Bangladesh is a new threat that New Delhi won't be liking. Similarly, Russia and China axis is not feasible for INDIA to be comfortable with.

Therefore, the trilateral framework while, ambitious, it needs to be pursued carefully and the objectives should be broad based.

Given the fact that RIC form the foundation of BRICS and Brazil too facing the Trumpian Tariff Tantrum, BRICS can act as a stronger force against the unipolarity of USA.

Therefore, RIC is a critical link to control the upending of global world order, and a renewed focus on Asia and securing its interests

Que.8 (b) भारत संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना के गौरवशाली इतिहास के साथ अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा बनाए रखने में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की सहायता करने के लिए पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध है। (15 अंक)

India stands solidly committed to assisting the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security with a proud history of UN peacekeeping.

The relationship between UN and INDIA goes since its inception and India has always been a votary of liberal institutionalism as seen in the Nehruvian consensus and Article 51 of Indian Constitution.

India's efforts to maintaining international peace and security is highlighted by Swapna Kona Nayudu in her book The Nehru Years, where she highlights India's crucial involvement in four major crisis of the time.

1. Suez crisis. (1956)
2. Hungary Revolution
3. Korean Armistice (1950-53)
4. Congo crisis.

What started with institutional commitment, led to India's active commitment via UN Peacekeeping. Today, India stands as the sixth highest peacekeeping force in the world. India's blue helmets have had presence across the world. From Libyan crisis to Yemen, Sudan and Lebanon, India is involved in over 60 + missions.

India also has the unique feat of achieving to send the first all-women regiment to the UN peacekeeping to SUDAN crisis.

However, India has also been at a loss, with 3rd highest martyrs across globe. This along with India's commitment to promote democracy makes it a natural contender for permanent seat at the UNSC.

However, the global indifference to India's own threat of constant proxy warfare and Non-state actor based terrorist acts are met with global indifference and bland sympathy.

However, India should continue to pursue its goal of ensuring international peace and the achievement of SDG 17: peace, justice and institutions.

As S. Jaishankar says India's 5S approach, SHANTI forms the bedrock of India's foreign policy and its world view.

Que.8 (c)

चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार, अब तक अप्रयुक्त क्षेत्र, अफ्रीका और लैटिन अमेरिका, भारत की महत्वपूर्ण खनिज आवश्यकताओं के लिए अभूतपूर्व महत्व प्राप्त कर चुके हैं। (15 अंक)

Discuss how, hitherto untapped regions, Africa and Latin America, have assumed unprecedented importance for India's critical mineral needs.

The recent visit of PM MODI to Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia in Africa and Argentina in Latin America along with President visit to Chile marked a strategic shift in the south-south cooperation.

The importance stems first in the particular realm of achieving energy security and the ensuing Chip war - as Chris Miller calls it - to aid India's commitment of Net zero by 2070 and securing its supply chain resilience. However, on the broader level, the cooperation deals with Global South cooperation - and the colonial history linking the three southern Continents

Africa, with its resources can help India achieve the EV revolution. The minerals of Central Africa and Western Africa are important source for INDIA's aspiration of Panchamrit. For example, Congo/DRC is the largest source of COBALT, similar Rare Earth Minerals (REE) are bedrock of INDIA technological Revolution.

Similarly, India's joint action in the Argentina's mining field via India's KABIL and Chile's permit exploration of chilean REE like Lithium and other minerals is of unprecedented significance.

However, this has challenges. For Instance, china's extensive network in Africa as a developer, financer and monitor has led to debt-trap-diplomacy.

India to make inroads into Africa needs proactive approach. ec India is not an extractive power, it is a developmental power" — says S. Jaishankar and this can be seen in India's engagement with Africa and LATIN America

Latin America has not been on the first few page of indian foreign policy and therefore this should be the chance to recalibrate Africa and Latin-america together in INDIA's new growth story — promising mutual growth and success. A positive-sum game.

Space for Rough Work

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