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Political Science & International Relations

PSIR Mains Test Series – 2024

Test 4

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

Name Vikas
Test Date 18/8/24
Email Address [redacted]

Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						

For any issue related to PSIR Test Series, write only at psirtestseries@shubhraranjan.com

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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

All the best for next test...!!!

Que.1 (a) **Examine the role of India in the governance and development of the Global South. (10 Marks)**

Brandt line divide global south & global North in 1980. & described Global south as countries facing huge poverty, underdevelopment and lack of representation in global institutions.

India as a semi-periphery as per wallerstein's use & periphery model, is a natural leader of the global south.

In governance areas, India is a representative of global south in International fooums like UN. NAM was constituted and is continuing due to power & geopolitical heft of India.

India incorporated African Union in G20 in 2023

summit to increase their representation.

India has organised three voice of Global South summits to look after governance, voice & development of Global South.

India's programs like ITEC program, favourable trade agreements, representation of their interests in WTO etc. help in the development of Global South.

India's vaccine diplomacy, launching of DAKSHIN, centre of excellence for Global South and SC's approach focussing on cooperation, convergence etc favour the development & governance of Global south.

PM Modi rightly held that "India's voice is Global South's voice & their priorities are India's priorities". S. Jaishankar held it a moral duty of India to represent Global South.

Que.1(b)

Critically analyse the significance of India and Maldives for each other amid the growing hostilities in their bilateral relations.

(10 Marks)

India - Maldives relations are historical & civilisational in nature with shared priorities and interests.

In Socio-economic terms, India is a major contributor of tourists in Maldivian economy and provides cheap lines of credit & soft loans to Maldives. Due to recent "India out" rhetoric of President Muizzu, Indian tourists have declined by 30-40% in last few months.

India is also a major partner for infrastructure projects like Greater Male connectivity project, Coral Mosque etc. that is crucial for Maldivian infrastructure.

Besides this, India

has also provided attack helicopters and a patrol vessel to Maldives in 2023 for its security.

In Humanitarian Aid, India provides drinking water, subsidised foodgrains to Maldivian people and support in case of disasters.

Due to major blow by bilateral relations by President Muizzu, relations have suffered a setback. He considers china as "closest ally" of Maldives. Maldives with more than 110% of debt of its GDP is in a precarious situation as per IMF and it could be a "new Srilanka in making".

Till recently, India has tried to engage Maldives to prevent it from going in "dragon's lap" (C.J) invited in oath ceremony. India needs to work proactively from Kautilyan wisdom to protect China's influence in Male.

Que.1(c) "With the passage of time, India-Australia bilateral ties have evolved in the direction of a strategic relationship, alongside the existing economic engagement." Discuss.(10 Marks)

India Australia partnership has evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership due to shared democratic values and geopolitical sensitivities.

Relations took a drastic turn in 2014 when both PM of India & Australia visited each other's country.

In economic terms, bilateral trade has crossed $25 billion and both are cooperating with Economic strategy 2035 towards each other. Critical minerals like coal, gas, lithium, rare earths etc. are crucial for bilateral relationship. In economic terms

In strategic terms,

rise of 'china challenge', have brought both India & Australia together. The participation in Quad, Supply chain, Resilience Initiative, Minerals Security Partnership etc. lifted the bilateral partnership.

The engagement has been lifted to the level of "2+2 dialogue" and both countries have signed Mutual logistics support Agreement. Bilateral military exercises like Malabar, Pitch Black etc. have further strengthened strategic partnership against conventional & non conventional threats.

PM Modi during his 2023 visit told that (3C's) commerce, commonwealth, Curry (3C's) Democracy, diaspora, (3E's) economy, education etc. represent the comprehensive strategic partnership between India & Australia. Hersh Pant believes the partnership will shape regional & global outcomes as Indo strategic arena in coming times

Que.1(d) **Critically examine the rationale and major pillars of India's Act East Policy (AEP) in the contemporary international scenario. (10 Marks)**

Look East policy was upgraded to Act East policy in 2014 to make our approach comprehensive.

Rationale behind the move included various factors. First was the rise of 'China challenge' to India's interests in South East Asia. India's improved relations with USA was also a factor where Hillary Clinton appealed India to 'start acting east'.

Look east was majorly focussed on economic engagement & there was a need for strategic dimension of look east policy to counter strategic threats.

The main pillers

of Act East policy includes Trade, infrastructure, security, military cooperation etc.

It is based on 3 C's - culture, connectivity & commerce [Sushma Swaraj]. It expanded India's coverage from Asean countries only to the countries in east like Japan, South Korea etc.

It enhanced India's engagement in South china sea to counter china challenge at its border.

However recently released State of ASEAN report puts India at 6th largest influential power representing huge deficits in India's approach. Rajiv Bhatia held that India shall overcome its "India promises, China delivers syndrome" & start "heavy lifting" with PM Modi's "12 proposal" given in India Asean Summit 2023.

Que.1(e) "India and Russia's strategic partnership has persisted, and indeed in some areas has deepened." Comment. (10 Marks)

India - Russia's 'Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership' is based on mutual trust, interests and similar visions of world order.

S. Jaishankar held that India Russia relationship is one of the most steadiest relationship based on geopolitical convergences & finding new areas of cooperation with time.

In economic terms, bilateral trade has crossed $50 billion despite more the 20 thousand sanctions from west due to the Ukraine war.

In strategic terms, as per SIPRI report, Russia still continues to be the number

one arms supplier to India with a share of 36% of total India's imports.

India-Russia cooperation at multilateral platforms like UN continues to increase with Russia supporting India's entry in UN security council. Russia is a major partner for India to balance out China & Russia sees India as crucial in its "Greater Eurasia" construct.

However Russia's "No limit Partnership" with China & India's relations with USA has reduced the bonhomie between the two "old friends".

PM Modi's recent visit to Moscow showed healthy relationship between the two but two should focus on cooperation without hurting each other's "core interests" & by giving each "strategic space" to operate

Que.2(a)

Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) retains the promise of altering the existing structural arrangements in Asia and beyond. The possibility of such an eventuality has alarmed several regional and global powers which are reflected in their reactions to the BRI. In this context, discuss India's perception and response to the BRI. (20 Marks)

Mackender in his theory of "Heartland" held that the power which rules Eurasian region will rule the world. Mahan, on the contrary emphasised on importance of Naval power and Spyman in his "Rimland" theory emphasised on importance of both for an "Amphibious" state.

China through its Belt and Road initative, started by Xi Jinping in 2013 aims to become an 'amphibious' state to challenge "Pax Americana".

BRI consisting of land routes similar to old "silk

route', maritime silk road etc. aims to integrate Chinese economy to distant economies.

It is often hailed as "China's Marshall Plan" similar to 'Marshall Plan' of US post WW II that played a great role in integrating US economy with European powers and made it a superpower.

As of 2024, more than 150 countries are a part of BRI initiative including majority of Africa, central Asia, South East Asia, Russia etc. Its value has crossed $1 trillion and in the words of Xi Jinping, it is crucial to realise the vision of 'China Dream' of dominance under

"Middle Kingdom" complex.

However it has not received well by regional and global powers due to its hegemonic ambitions.

Regional powers like India, Japan etc. have seen these projects as China's "debt trap diplomacy", "chequebook diplomacy" and its "vulture capitalism".

India has given various soft loans and lines of credits and also has funded multiple infrastructure projects in Asia and beyond. India and Japan are cooperating in Japan's "New Plan for Free and Open Indo Pacific" and Asia Africa Growth Corridor.

Besides that, India is collaborating with systemic powers like USA and EU. The newly launched IMEC corridor [The old Spice Route] under PGII aims to counter BRI of China. Besides it, US has also launched Blue dot network, partners in western pacific initiative along with EU's Global Gateway Initiative of EU which see India as a crucial partner.

In 2024, China's BRI projects are failing and they are economically unviable creating problems for India and other powers.

India needs to work urgently with regional and global power to provide an alternative to BRI projects to counter China's 'String of pearls' strategy & 'two oceans strategy' working under its BRI projects.

Que.2(b) **Critically analyse India's stand on Israel-Palestine conflict. (15 Marks)**

West Asia is often called as the "Powder Keg" because of its volatility due to Israel Palestine conflict.

This conflict is one of the most continuing conflict in the world which has divided the world on ideological line.

India also faces the dilemma about how to approach the conflict since independence. After 1947, India stood with Palestine due to pragmatic and ideological reasons of India's engagement with Arab States and 1947 partition of India on religious lines.

Gandhi held that "Palestine belongs to Arabs just like

England belongs to the English'.

After maintaining 'Principled stand' till 1991, India established relations in open with Israel and exchanged diplomats under P.V. Narasimha Rao. It called for a 'two State solution' to resolve the conflict.

From 1991 to 2014, we continued to support two state solution without maintaining close relations either with Israel & Palestine. But after 2014, PM Modi openly held that "India has overcome its hesitations of past' and we started engaging with both openly.

while maintaing our support for 'two State solution', we

'de-hyphenated' our relations with Israel & Palestine. PM Modi went for standalone visits to Israel.

Abraham Accords also gave strategic space to India to engage both Arab States & Israel. In recent Gaza conflict, India condemned the terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023 on Israel.

India rejects hardliner approach of Hamas which calls for 'one state solution' and total wipeout of Israel. Kumaraswamy holds that India's stand is pragmatic and is only option to establish peace in west Asia.

President of Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas appealed to India to mediate b/w Israel and Palestine shows the authenticity and viability of India's stand on Israel-Palestine Conflict.

Que.2(c) **Discuss the major challenges in India-China bilateral relations. (15 Marks)**

"China is the most significant and strategic foreign policy challenge for India in 21st century" → Throor.

The two "civilisational states" [Ocean Pye] living side by side for centuries with immense cultural affinities are founding it difficult to find an "equilibrium" [Jaishankar] in bilateral relationship due to multiple challenges at multiple levels.

On a bilateral level, India China are confronted by various geoeconomic, geopolitical and geostrategic challenges.

On geoeconomic front, trade imbalance between the two 'Asian Giants' of more than $100

bellion has created problems. China's merchantilism & protectionism has forced India to come up with new FDI rules for investments from neighbourhood to counter 'aggressive takeover by China'. India has also launched supply chain resilience initative to 'de-risk' the dependence and diversify the supply chains.

On geopolitical and geostrategic levels, China-India border dispute has become further problematic after Galwan conflict of 2020. Both are facing an 'Armed Coexistence' and 'Armed Peace' on the frontiers as held by Vijay Gokhale.

China's CPEC, CMEC, Hambantota, String of pearls strategy, Two Ocans strategy, Blue water navy

policy, its all weather friendship with Pakistan created deep distrust and challenges in the bilateral relations.

On regional level, China wooing India's neighbours through recent events like "China-Indian ocean Region forum" & its debt trap diplomacy has created many security dilemmas in India.

Once a global level, China stands as an only "roadblock" [Taishenpar] to India's entry in UN security Council and NSG.

Scholars like Nirupma Rao & S.S. Menon advocate for Internal and External Balancing, Regional and Global Balancing, Hard & Soft balancing for India to handle 'China challenge'.

Post Galwan, India China need a "Restart" or a fresh "modus Vivendi" based on Astana Consensus, Chennai Connect" and S. Jaishankar's "Three Mutuals → Interests, Sensitivities and Respect" to realise vision of "Asian Century".

Que.3(a) Examine the relevance of non-alignment movement (NAM) for India. (20 Marks)

Que.3(b)

"As the start of the 21st century, China has become major global force, booming economically and militarily. The country's transformation has been blinding and unprecedented with worldwide impact since its taken place in context of globalization." In this context, analyse the rise of China in economic and strategic terms. (15 Marks)

Que.3(c) Give an account of why there is the need to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). (15 Marks)

Que.4(a)

"India's diplomatic discourse remains trapped in a framework that emerged when India was weak and vulnerable 75 years ago." Identify the diplomatic discourses that have trapped India's Foreign Policy even after 75 years of independence. (20 Marks)

Que.4(b) **Critically analyse the rationale behind adoption of the No-First Use (NFU) by India. Do you think that India should continue with its NFU policy? (15 Marks)**

Que.4(c)

The dramatic developments in Afghanistan have created new geo-strategic and geo-economic concerns for region and have thrown up new challenges for India's engagement in Central Asia and Caucasus, promoting India to recalibrate to the rules of its engagement with region. Elucidate. (15 Marks)

Que.5(a) **Discuss the factors that led to the economic reforms of 1991. (10 Marks)**

LPG reforms of 1991 based on ManMohonomics or Neoliberal principles of "Washington consensus" by James Williamson was a "watershed moment" for India.

Multiple factors led to the economic reforms of 1991 including Internal & External factors.

Internal factors included the unsustainable economic model of public sector & planning failed leading to Hindu Rate of Growth in 1980's [Raj Krishna].

External factors included the collapse of USSR in 1991. India used to do barter

trade with USSR and USSR also provided economic aid to India, resulting in loss of support from USSR. Further, the Gulf war in 1990's resulted in loss of remittances resulting in further aggravation of BOP crisis leading to reforms.

Moreover, rise of southeast Asian Tiger economies and rise of China under 'open door' policy of Deng Xiaoping acted as a role model for India to open up its economy.

Though LPG reforms have done well in uplifting Indian economy out of crisis, growth is not equitable as held by UNDP Report of K-shaped growth. Amartya Sen's Capability Approach sums up the way forward for India.

Que.5(b) Examine the significance of Central Asia for India. (10 Marks)

India - central Asia ties are based on historical & civilisational ties.

PM Modi held that "5 stans are part of India's extended family". Central Asia is significant for India due to multiple reasons.

In geoeconomic terms, Central Asia is crucial for its big markets with huge potential. It is also critical for India's energy security due to oil, gas and its uranium reserves. Projects like TAPI pipeline can be immensely critical for India's energy needs

In geostrategic terms, the situation in Afghanistan necessitate

central Asia's engagement for India. India's 'Eighteen Outposts' in Tajikistan and central Asia is critical to contain non conventional threats like terrorism in Af-Pak region by organisations like ISIS-KP etc.

In geopolitical terms, central Asia is necessary to contain chinese influence in region & for India's support in bodies like UN India needs to engage with Russia & strengthen its 'Connect Central Asia' policy to achieve its aims in central Asia. Chabhar port, Ashghabat agreement, INSTC project etc. should act as India's window to access central Asia. Going by Kautilya's wisdom, Central Asia is crucial for India's economic & strategic ambitions in Asia & beyond.

Que.5(c)

Describe Northern Sea Route (NSR). What are the driving factors for India to participate in the NSR development? (10 Marks)

Northern Sea Route is the route through Arctic Region over Russia to increase trade between the western & eastern hemisphere.

It is becoming viable due to melting of ice in Arctic region due to global warming and efforts of Russia to increase the accessibility of warm water ports.

It is not free of global geopolitics due to various reasons. Melting of ice not only opens a trade route but it also opens the access to vast amount of oil, gas and minerals

reserves of the Arctic.

It will reduce dependence on Suez Canal and Panama Canal. It will free Russia from its "Revenge of Geography". [Kaplan].

China through its polar silk route is engaging with Russia to develop Northern Sea Route.

India is also a critical player in Arctic. India's Arctic Policy, relations with Russia and observer status in Arctic Council makes it a critical player in Northern Sea Route development.

India needs to engage with Russia & other members of Arctic council to act as an important member in shaping the Geopolitics of Arctic region in coming times

Que.5(d) India's relations with Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region are of long-standing but they had had low salience for both sides. During the early 21st century, the salience increased for both. What explains this change? (10 Marks)

Latin America for long has been criticised 'too far' and 'out of sight' and 'out of vision' of India. It was placed in last 'concentric circle' of India's foreign policy due to lack of 'geostrategic significance' for South Block. However in recent times, it has become important for both sides, because of variety of reasons.

In economic terms, bilateral trade has increased up to more than $50 billion. 'Multi Latinas' & MNC's of India see each other's market with hope. India depends on Latin America for oil, lithium

& other mineral resources. Latin America sees India as an alternative to China & USA.

Strategically, Latin America is crucial for India's leadership of Global south and to contain China's influence and its BRI projects. Latin America's support is crucial for India's entry in UN security council.

India-Latin America relationship is crucial to shape the Global engagement on climate change, proliferation, terrorism etc.

S. Jaishankar during India-Latin America cooperation summit in 2023 held that "India's ambition to be a great power cannot be achieved without support from Latin America".

Que.5(e) **Discuss the role of the non-governmental factors involved in shaping the foreign policy of India with suitable examples. (10 Marks)**

Foreign Policy as per Hans Morgenthau is a strategy of a country to realise its national interests.

We have shifted to Cobweb Model [Bourton] or 3D Model [Nye] from "Billiard Balls Model" of Arnold Wolfers making non state actors crucial in foreign policy making.

Pressure groups like FICCI, CII have become crucial to shape economic diplomacy of India. They accompany political leaders in their delegations and also organise business summits along with the political summits for (e.g.) Reliance group cooperates with (ORF)

Corporates also influence the foreign policy of states (e.g.) role of Hinduja group in Indo-US Civil Nuclear deal.

Terrorist organisations have shaped the India-Pakistan relations to the state of minimalism.

Trade unions & cooperatives forced Indian government to opt out of RCEP group at the last moment. Civil society groups like Jewish lobby in USA acts as a pressure for pro-Israel foreign policy.

Joseph Nye rightly held that "though state is still the primary actor but it is not the only actor to shape the foreign policy" in the age of complex interdependence

Que.6(a) "Strong India-US partnership can anchor peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific" Narendra Modi. In the light of above statement explains the challenges and potential areas of cooperation between India and US. (20 Marks)

"In India-US relations, only Sky is the limit" → Jake Sullivan.

India and USA have become 'engaged democracies' from 'estranged democracies' during cold war as per Dennis Kux. The relationship has been uplifted to "comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership" between the oldest and largest democracy for various reasons.

- In Geoeconomic terms, bilateral trade crossed $120 billion and USA looks at India to reduce its dependence on China or to 'de-risk' its economy.

Janet Yellen held that US is going for "friendshoring" means investing in ideological friends like India. Both have launched "Trade Policy Forum" to realise the full economic potential of the relationship;

On geopolitical and geostrategic terms, USA supports India's bid for a permanent seat in UN security council. USA and G7 under PGII launched IMEC corridor to counter BRI in Asia and beyond.

India is a key "Swing State" in USA's "Asia Rebalance strategy". India-US are common members of Quad, I2U2 etc. to counter conventional and non conventional security threats in the region and on a global level.

India-USA have signed the foundational agreements like BECA, GSOMIA, COMCASA, LEMOA etc. for military cooperation. Bilateral and Multilateral exercises like Vajra Prahar, Tiger Triumph etc. increase cooperation in military sphere.

In Technology, both have launched 'strategic Trade Dialogue', INDUS-X, Innovation Handshake etc. to strengthen their "strategic Technology partnership".

In Soft power, India's 'Sparsh' [Tharoor] of 5 million helped to strengthen P2P & B2B relations.

On regional level, US gave important place to India in

its "Indo Pacific strategy" and its "National security strategy".

However challenges like India's relations with Russia (e.g. PM Modi recent Russia visit and USA's gesture towards Pakistan [CIS-MoA agreement] and Afghanistan are a major challenge. Besides it India's image of a "Tariff king", Generalised system of Preferences, Digital data protection act etc. are also some irritants.

USA's recent incidents like regime change in Bangladesh and chaos in Myanmar also, has hurt India's strategic interests.

Going forward, as held by PM Modi "AI" rest is India-America is the future and it will act as "two backends of stability" in the region and will shape regional and global outcomes.

Que.6(b) **Discuss the foremost ideals of India's Foreign policy (IFP) which remained as the corner stone since 1947. Also suggest some ways for making IFP more vibrant and dynamic to deal with existing as well as future geopolitical challenges. (15 Marks)**

"Foreign policy of a country is its strategy to deal with other countries to achieve its national interest" → J.N. DIXIT.

Indian foreign policy is one of the steadiest, dynamic and effective foreign policy showing change along with continuity.

It is backed by ideals that shape it from beginning till recent times. first is India's commitment to democracy. PM Modi highlighted that "democracy as our internal policy also guides our external policy"

India's cultural values like

"Vasudhaiv kutumbkam" "Sarve Sukhine Bhavantu" etc are reflected in India's policies of "Panchsheel," "Gujral doctrine" and also underlined by India in recent G20 summit of 2023 where the theme of the summit was "one world, one family one future".

our Constitutional values also act as in ideal for our foreign policy as highlighted in Article 51 for a peaceful & foreign policy.

Indian foreign policy is guided by quest for multilateralism as highlighted by Shyam Sharan in his book. India's commitment to "Reformed & Effective Multilateralism" remains steadfast. Further, Global South has a prominent ~~role~~ place, in India's foreign

policy from beginning (e.g) from decolonisation to recent VOICE of Global south.

Indian foreign policy rejects the logic of bloc or axis politics and remains committed to non-alignment through multiple alignments in Non Alignment 2.0.

Going Ahead, India needs to explore the economic dimension in foreign policy to integrate its economy with world economy and replace China as "world's factory". Indian foreign policy shall focus on tapping the huge soft power potential of India to fullest. More pragmatic foreign policy leaning towards "Neutralist Realism" can help India to handle the conventional & non conventional threats of 21st century.

C. Raja Mohan held that Balancing Geopolitical sensitivities with values and reinforcing power and principle can help in achieving VIKSIT BHARAT Goal by 2047

Que.6(c) **Discuss India's multilateral approach towards counter-terrorism. (15 Marks)**

ARC II described ~~counter~~ terrorism as use of violence to create a wave of terror in people to further sectarian & political objectives.

India has been one of the worst victim of terrorism in the world. e.g. 26/11 attacks, Pulwama attacks etc.

India has adopted a multilayered and multilateral approach to counter terrorism.

Indian policy of "No talks with terror" to counter terrorism has bore ~~fruit~~ fruits in recent times. In a multilateral approach, India is engaging with multilateral bodies like UN to counter terrorism.

India has brought

resolutions in UN Security Council (e.g. 2589 to counter terrorism in Af-Pak region and also tried to list terrorists like Masood Asher in UN terror list.

India has proposed a 'comprehensive convention against International Terrorism' to be adopted by UN to counter terrorism with a multi-layered framework. Dr. Jaishankar held that 'Terrorism shall be listed as crime against humanity'.

India proposed changes in UN's 'counter Terrorism Strategy'. It proposed a 'Terror list' in SCO summit 2023 in New Delhi. India follows a 'coalition diplomacy' against terrorism. It wants to build a

'Comity of Nations against terrorism'.

Besides that, India has also hosted UN Counter Terrorism committee meeting and No money for terror conference in 2022. India is also an active participant of Eurasian Group, Egmont Group, FATF to choke terror funding.

Neumann in his book 'Old & New terrorism' and Global terrorism Index warned of increased terror attacks in future like the recent terror attacks in Moscow. India lying close to one of terror hubs has to proactively work on bilateral, multilateral & Regional level to counter-terrorism. Terrorism is a "problem without passport" [Kofi Annan] so all countries shall come together to defeat this evil.

Que.7(a) Discuss the complexities in making of India's foreign policy. (20 Marks)

Que.7(b)

In just a decade, New Delhi and Tokyo have expanded high-level ministerial and bureaucratic contacts, conducted joint military exercises and concluded military pacts such as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) logistics agreement. However, there still exist obstacles in the bilateral relation. Critically examine these obstacles in India-Japan relation. (15 Marks)

Que.7(c) Discuss India's Arctic Policy in brief. Also analyse the significance of Arctic region for India. (15 Marks)

Que.8(a) **What are the major issues related to Indus Water Treaty (IWT)? Also suggest ways to address these issues. (20 Marks)**

"Water issue is highly politicised, weaponised & securitised in South Asian Region" → Uttam Singh in his book "Riverine Neighbourhood".

Indus water Treaty was negotiated in 1960 between India & Pakistan, mediated by world bank and it alloted eastern rivers to India & western rivers to Pakistan.

However, the treaty has been faced by multiple issues between India & Pakistan.

First of all, it is highly unequal & discriminatory. It alloted only 20% of water to India

which is upper riparian state and 80% of water to Pakistan. As per experts, India deserves 42% of the water.

It has created issues for India in internal sphere in the form of SYL disputes between Indian states of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi & Rajasthan. It has fuelled the Khalistani issue in India which is exploited by Pakistan under its 'thousand cuts strategy'.

Then the issue of dams is there. Indian dams like Shahpur Kandi Dam, Cruetak dam, Kishenganga project etc. has been resented by Pakistan. It reduces the hydroenergy potential exploitation

of India.

Pakistan's state sponsored terrorism has lead to strained viewpoints on IWT. PM Modi held that "Blood & water cannot flow together". Pakistan focussing on Low threshold, Nuclear Blackmail & Brinkmanship, threatened of a nuclear attack in case of reduction in flow of water.

Pakistan held that "Blood will flow if water stops". Pakistan's "All weather, iron Brother" China is an upper riparian state that can reduce flow of water in these rivers making it complex for India to take a decision.

Further the infrequency of IWT Commission & lack of coper-

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-ation has made situation worse. Pakistan recently went to Permanent Court of Arbitration violating the standard operating procedure to handle the issues on which India held that we shall now renegotiate the treaty.

IWT has made through the wars fought by India & Pakistan in 1965, 1971 and Kargil. It is favourable to Pakistan that's why it doesn't wants to renegotiate.

India shall use the clause of "future cooperation" in IWT & negotiate the treaty based on principles of "No Harm Rule", "Vital Human Needs" and "Reasonable and Equitable Utilisation" & under the UN Convention on Transboundary Non navigational use of water of 1997 to get a fair share of the water to satisfy its needs.

Que.8(b) **Discuss the major areas of convergence in India-Africa relations in the contemporary world politics. (15 Marks)**

"India's rise is not possible without the simultaneous rise of Africa" → PM Modi.

India - Africa enjoy historical & civilisational ties. Former external affairs minister called Africa as 'Mother continent' and held it as a 'continent on move' from a 'dark continent'.

India Africa relations have multiple convergences on Bilateral, Regional & Global front.

In bilateral relations, in geoeconomics, trade & investments is a green area. Bilateral trade has reached near $100 bn and India is second largest investor in

Africa. African Continental Free Trade Area has opened its office in New Delhi recently for increasing trade.

In Geopolitical & Geostrategic terms, India-Africa relations will be crucial to encourage the rise of Global South. It will shape the security architecture in the Asian region and western Indian ocean region through organisations like IORA, Indian ocean commission.

In Global institutions like UN, NAM etc., India Africa have huge convergence of interests. Africa looks at India as its voice in platforms like UN. India's gesture of voice of Global South Summit in 2023 and inclusion of African Union in G20 have further

brought both together to realise their objectives. India Africa relations will be crucial to address the non conventional threats of 21st century like terrorism, climate change etc.

However, creative tensions like China's 'chequebook diplomacy' & 'culture capitalism', proxy wars between west & east, coup culture (e.g. Chad & Niger), internal conflicts & instability act as a 'big roadblock' in achieving the potential of relationship.

African Expert Group under Rajiv Bhatia came out with a comprehensive approach doso for India to realise the full potential of relationship between 'ASPIRATIONAL Africa' and 'RISING India' to realise the vision of VIKSIT Bharat by 2047 & African Union's 2063 Agenda for development of both simultaneously.

Que.8(c) **IMEC has immense potential to put India, Middle East and Europe on collective path to grow, triggering regional and global cooperation". Comment. (15 Marks)**

IMEC or India - Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor is a multimodel Corridor launched at G20 summit 2023 in New Delhi under PGII initiative of 8 G7 countries.

famously called as The New Spice route, it has two components → Northern Corridor connecting Europe to Middle east and Eastern corridor connecting Middle east to India.

As per initial estimates, it can change the face of trade & interdependence between Asia, Middle east and Europe.

on a regional level,

it will increase economic integration in Asia. It will help India to break the blockage by Pakistan on its western front to reach the markets of Europe. It could also help in normalisation of Middle east by increasing trade & interdependence between Israel & Arab states

one a global level,

IMEC corridor is seen as an alternative to the BRI projects and it aims to connect western world & the Eastern world. It will increase the global integration of the economies and help in securing trade routes bypassing hurdles posed by Suez Canal & Panama canal.

However, IMEC

Corridor is faced by multiple challenges. Iran's "Axis of resistance" including Hamas, Houthis and Iran controlling strategic & choke points like Bab-el-Mandeb strait, Strait of Hormuz, Hezbollah in Mediterranean pose a tough challenge. Gaza war has made normalisation between Israel & other Arab States difficult.

Iran is concerned of INSTC corridor becoming unviable due to IMEC. Turkey, Iraq & UAE have launched "Development Road" Transport project to counter IMEC.

IMEC corridor is of huge economic, strategic & geopolitical relevance for India & west to "decouple" their economies from China. It should be extended to Africa & its development pace shall be increased to realise its benefits & dividends from a strategic & economic angle.

Space for Rough Work

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