

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

VYOM BINDAL

RANK - 141

**POLITICAL SCIENCE
TEST - 5**



www.iasscore.in

POLITICAL SCIENCE

*Time Allowed: 3 hrs.**Max. Marks: 250*

Instructions to Candidate

- There are EIGHT questions. Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Question no. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.

*Conducted
fine
But overall
present looks
very cluttered*

Name VYOM BINDAL

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Vyom Bindal

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

REMARKS**GS SCORE**

SECTION A

1. Answer the following questions: (150 Words Each) (10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) Enhanced role of India in Afghanistan.
- (b) US-China Trade War and its possible impact.
- (c) A short note on India-South Korea Relations
- (d) Doklam Issue: Lessons Learnt.
- (e) India Maldives Relations: Need for activism with caution.

(a) Afghanistan is geo-strategically and geo-politically very important for India given our hostile relations with Afghanistan and terrorism emerging from Af-Pak region being a grave security threat. For this reason India has enhanced its role in Afghanistan:

- 1) India is sixth largest donor to Afghanistan with contribution of more than 2 billion \$ in development assistance, construction of Salma dam, Afghan Parliament undertaken by India.
- 2) Security Co-operation: India has gifted three Mi-25 helicopters to Afghanistan, we are training Afghan national security forces, India-Afghanistan

Remarks

are strategic partners since 2011.

India also played active role in Heart of Asia conference focused at stabilizing Afghanistan.

3) Connectivity: To boost connectivity, India has started work on triple transit corridor to Afghanistan through Iran, a dedicated air freight corridor to enhance trade ties.

a) Working with regional forums, countries: India is working with Shanghai Co-operation Organisation on issue of Afghanistan's security. India brought Afghanistan as member of SCO and after Wuhan Summit, India - China agreed for joint project in Afghanistan.

There are certain challenges as well such as Pakistan's denial of land route to Afghanistan, increasing footprint of IS & political instability in Afghanistan. Yet as Harsh V. Pant says "India's success as regional security leader in South Asia

Remarks

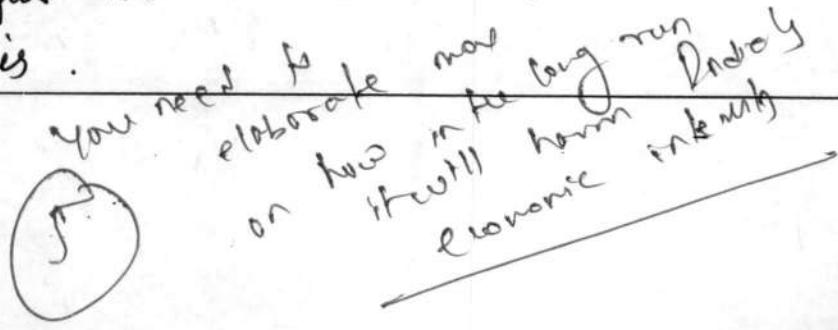
what does it enforce
role meant
what kind of challenge
it can pose for India

will be determined by success of our Afghanistan Policy

(iv) US-China are increasingly involved in a trade war which is evident when US slapped 25% import duty on steel and aluminium from China, China retaliated by imposing 25% duty on US imports worth 34 billion. Both are following a classic mercantile approach in economics, with following implications:

- 1) It will increase the cost of products for end consumers, disrupt supply chains.
- 2) This tit-for-tat approach undermines the global rule based trade order which emphasise negotiations to settle disputes and advocates free trade.
- 3) Such actions will slow down the pace of economic recovery at global stage, which has just started to emerge from 2008 financial crisis.

Remarks


 You need to elaborate more on how it will harm India's economic interest or it will have long run effects on India's economy.

For India: It presents both challenge as well as opportunity. India needs to be cautious of not getting involved in US-China trade dispute, at the same time India can exploit export opportunity to China due to higher import duty on products like Corn, Soybean, which will boost economic ties and help reduce trade deficit with China

- (c) India - South Korea share warm relations, both has comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which allows free flow of goods and services.
- Strategically, both countries are coming closer to check the increasing assertiveness of China in Asia-Pacific region as both have shared interest in ensuring freedom of navigation, maintaining free Sea lines of communication in Asia-Pacific region.

Remarks

Economically, there is complementarities in two economies economies as South Korea's strong manufacturing base is complement to India's service oriented economy.

On nuclear question also, PM Modi highlighted India's stake in denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula, as it has proliferation linkages with South Asia, a veiled reference to clandestine nuclear activities among China, N. Korea and Pakistan.

However there are certain challenges as well

- 1) Balance of trade is tilted in favour of South Korea and it is reluctant to open its service sector to India.
- 2) South Korea is part of Coffee Club, which is a major obstacle to India's objective of gaining permanent membership of UN security council.
- 3) South Korea believes that India should do more to promote ease of doing business, be more liberal

6

Remarks

mention Korea plus initiatives
 provide some of the recent
 figures
 agreements

in RCEP negotiations.

A neo-realist paradigm of Asia-Pacific region is bringing both of us together, hence it is imperative to iron-out differences and strengthen the ties.

- (a) The '73 Doklam crisis at India-China-Bhutan trijunction brought India and China to near brink of war and showcased pure realistic policies guiding both countries. From this crisis following lessons need to be taken:
- 1) India needs to strengthen its border infrastructure along the Indo-China border, as Chinese military deployment is stronger.
 - 2) In the end it was quiet diplomacy which resolved the crisis, hence need to strengthen diplomatic communication with China to resolve border disputes.
 - 3) An early agreement to settle the India-China

Remarks

~~intelligible lesson & at a glossed & diplomatic level~~ (S)

border dispute, so that such incidents don't occur along India-China border, as that case will be more dangerous.

- 4) India should strengthen its engagement with countries of Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, in order to build its presence on Chinese periphery.
- (e) India - Maldives relationship had presently hit a new low as can be seen from:
- 1) Maldives refusing the renewal of stationing of Indian helicopter and personnel, denied visa to Indians who got job in Maldives.
 - 2) Growing Chinese influence in Maldives is evident from a China-Maldives FTA, joint clean observation station of China-Maldives, which is uncomfortably close to Indian territory.
 - 3) Domestic Political discourse inside Maldives under President Gayoom had become highly critical of India, and pro-China. Maldives

Remarks

refused to participate in Milan Naval exercise.

But Maldives is of great importance to India because:

- 1) strategically, it sits atop vital sea lines of communication and vital to protect and promote India's foreign trade.
 - 2) With growing strength of radicalism in Maldives, it may pose threats of terrorism to India.
 - 3) For India to ensure its maritime security and being a net security provider in Indian Ocean, co-operation with Maldives is necessary.
- Given these interests, India needs to ensure that democracy in Maldives is restored, Chinese influence decreases, yet at some time, India has to be cautious so that it does not appear to be interfering in domestic affairs of Maldives, as it will damage India's goodwill in Maldives in long term.

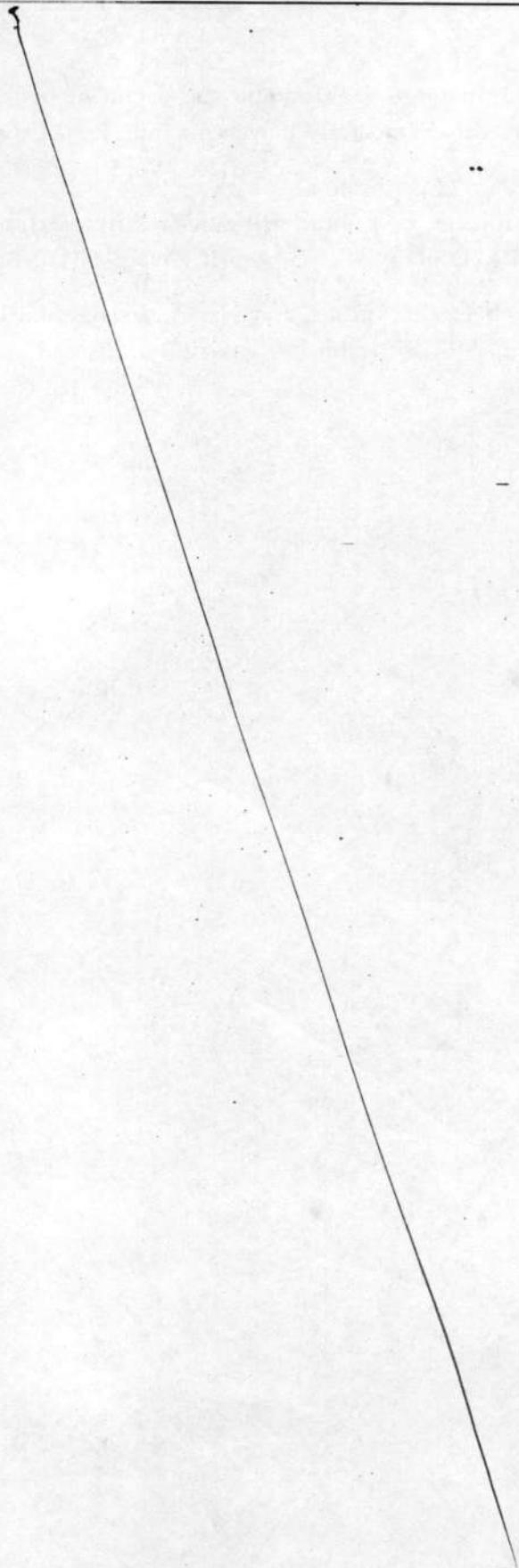
Remarks

6) In face of hostile
Jewy govt of
maldives &
using Unrest
to rest start
so as India
can't option

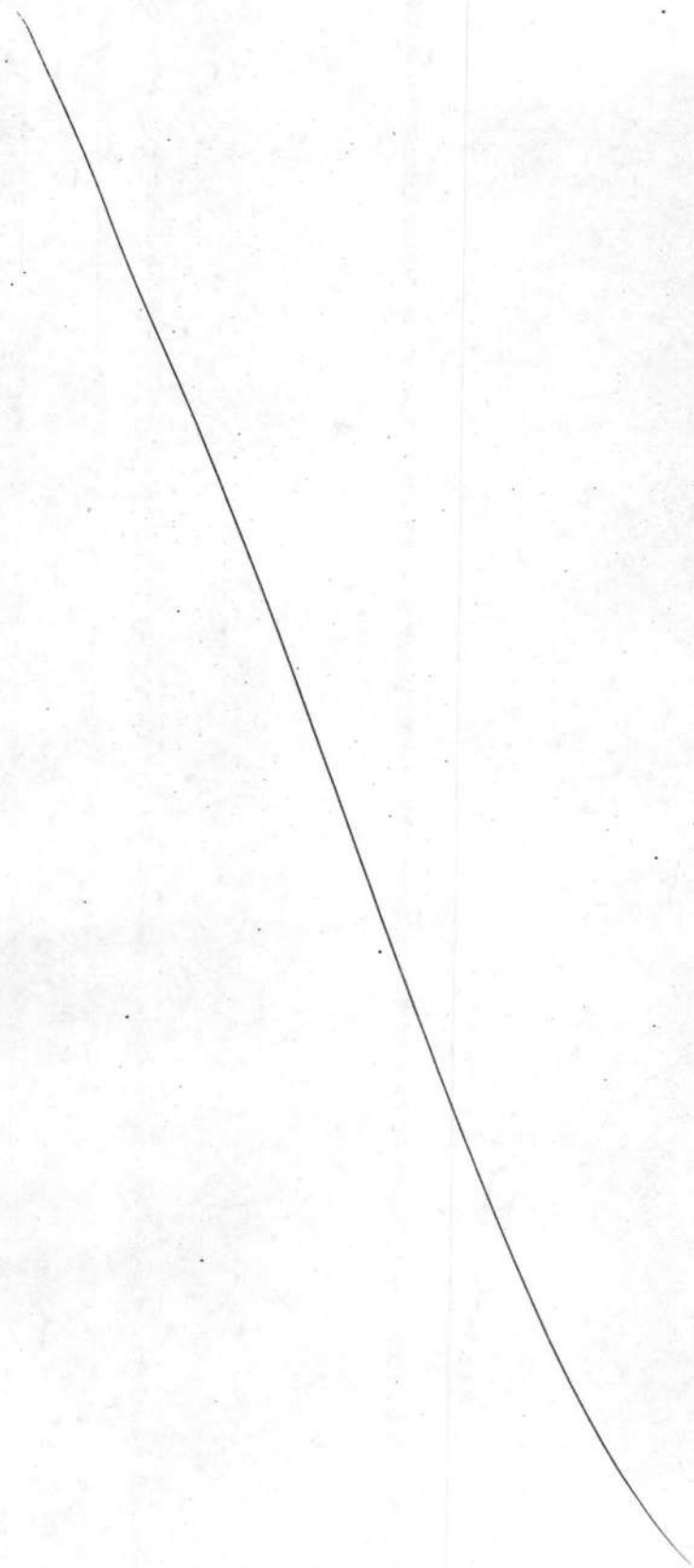
2. Attempt all questions:

- (a) "Whoever controls Indian Ocean, dominates Asia." Examine the statement in context of need for greater cooperation between democratic powers in Indo-Pacific region.
(200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (b) New Delhi will need to start delivering on the ground if the India-Africa partnership has to move beyond high level visits. Explain. (200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (c) In the light of Contentious issues between Indian and Nepal, discuss nature of engagement between both, is it correct to say India lost geopolitical space to China in Nepal?
(250 Words) (20 Marks)

Remarks



Remarks



Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

3. Attempt all questions:

- (a) Discuss the various dimensions of Indian Defence partnership with Bangladesh.
(200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (b) What are the implications of Implications of CAATSA for India's Defence Relations with Russia and America.
(200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (c) The QUAD grouping can be the anchor of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region but only if the members especially India want it to. Discuss.
(250 Words) (20 Marks)

(a) Bangladesh is a very important bilateral partner for India given its location in our neighbourhood and it being one of the central pillars of India's Act-East Policy as well necessary for development of India's North-East region.

Strategically, Bangladesh is important to preserve India's territorial integrity, maritime security, dealing with common threat of terrorism and insurgency.

Keeping this in mind India had developed a multi-dimensional Defence partnership with

Remarks

Bangladesh which consists of following

- 1) To ensure greater co-operation on maritime security, deal with issue of piracy in Indian Ocean, ~~India-Bangladesh held joint naval exercise named CORPAT (Co-ordinated Patrol).~~ ^{Tholord}
- 2) Bangladesh had helped to deal with insurgency in North-Eastern states by destroying the ~~insurgent camps, logistics situated inside the~~ Bangladeshi territory.
- 3) Both countries have deepened their counter-terror cooperation, intelligence sharing mechanism Bangladesh supported India's boycott of SAARC on issue of Pakistan based terrorism.
- 4) Joint military exercise Maitreyee, institution-aliased Home Minister meetings have further deepened the India-Bangladesh defense partnership.

Remarks

However, there remains certain challenges as well

1) Growing influence of anti-India radical groups in Bangladesh such as HUJI, Jamaat-E-Islami.

2) Chinese footprint in Bangladesh is deepening as evidence from its development of Chittagong port, 5 billion dollar line of credit.

3) India-Bangladesh border remains porous and prone to human and arms trafficking, posing security challenge.

Given the imperative of our neighbourhood first policy it is important to remove the irritants and further deepen the India-Bangladesh defence partnership. In this regard resolution of disputes on Teesta river, National Register of Citizens can be taken to generate a sense of goodwill and conducive atmosphere to deepen the ties.

Remarks

Talk about
seats
of various
concepts
and conception
needs for
institutionalization
of defense relation



(b) USA had recently passed the "Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act" (CAATSA) with aim to isolate its adversaries by means of imposing sanctions on those having dealings with them e.g. Russia, it is part of USA's National Security Strategy, which sees China, Russia as adversaries.

It can have following impact on India-Russia defence ties:

- 1) Given the pre-eminence of dollar as international currency, threats of sanctions under CAATSA may force us to lower our historically deep defence ties with Russia, it may impact our decision to acquire S-400 anti-missile system from Russia. Such actions by America is likely to push Russia more towards China, and even Pakistan.
- 2) *to give example of a lot more such car get imported*

Remarks

as evidenced from Russia-Pakistan military exercise, it will raise security concerns as bulk of our defence equipments are sourced from Russia.

Implications on India-US defence relation:

→ It is likely to nudge India to procure even greater portion of its defence equipments from USA, which may hamper our strategic autonomy.

→ On other hand, USA may be more willing to share high end technologies with India like precision armament, UAVs etc. to prevent alternative to Russia. US gave India status of Strategic Trade Authorisation - I, which enables high technology transfer.

However, as pointed by Ashley Tellis, such actions only dent USA's image as a reliable defence partner and given India's inevitability to USA in managing Chinese rise.

Remarks

in very wrong move,
in US defence interest
or going to be
very concerned
not now from
China

⑥

in Indo-Pacific region, it is important for USA to respect strategic autonomy of India.

Recently, US Congress authorised US President to grant six months at a time CAATSA waiver to countries if it is in America's national interest. Hence a way out is found for the time being, yet India needs to be cautious in an atmosphere of growing US-Russia rivalries.

- (c) QUAD is grouping for democratic countries of India, Japan, USA and Australia, which was revived during East Asia Summit of 2017. Its major area of focus is Indo-Pacific region. An emerging Neo-realism and realist order is bringing Quad Countries together as seen from:
- i) China is going for greater assertiveness in

Remarks

Asia Pacific region e.g. its recovery of mischievous reef, rejection of PLT ruling on maritime dispute with Philippines, Virtual encircling of Indo-Pacific region under its "String of Pearls" strategy of building naval bases in region e.g. Cocos Island in Myanmar, Chittagong in Bangladesh etc.

[Omad grouping can bring peace and stability as its members have convergence of strategic interests as well as economic and military capacity to ensure freedom of navigation in Indo-Pacific, maintenance of rule-based order in Indo-Pacific, protecting vital sea lanes of communication and preventing China's hegemony in the region.
however, as highlighted by Kappymon Jacob, there are several contradictions in QUAD.

Remarks

- 1) Australia is a reluctant partner given its deep economic and political ties with China.
- 2) USA also wants Chinese co-operation in resolving the issue of nuclearisation of North Korea, also USA is becoming a "reluctant superpower" under Trump, aiming to reduce its military footprint.
- 3) Despite differences, China-Japan economic relations remain deep. Japan is also exploring prospects of case by case basis co-operation with China on Belt and Road initiative.
- 4) China had criticised QUAD as "Asian NATO" clearly bringing out its perception. Hence, it is important for India to ensure that QUAD has a concrete agenda and plan of action to pursue shared interests of the members and that it does not become a mere talking shop.

Remarks

Creative
to institution
from India
& Federation
Side (self)
start on the
for & against
active participation
India
⑧

4. Attempt all questions:

- (a) Examine to what extent BRICS has been successful in fulfilling its objectives and what new measures are needed to protect its relevancy.

(200 Words) (15 Marks)

- (b) Discuss the various dimensions of "Action Oriented Partnership" of India with Japan.

(200 Words) (15 Marks)

- (c) What are the challenges associated with adopting an aggressive strategic approach towards Pakistan on the issue of cross border terrorism as a long term measure.

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

(a) BRICS as grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa represents a grouping which portrays a distinct non-Western platform and growing importance of developing countries in global order.

There have been various elements

of success such as :

BRICS countries have affirmed their faith in importance of rules based multilateral trade regime, preservation of multipolarity, in its Johannesburg declaration, which is important in context of rising protectionism across the globe.

Remarks

- 2) BRICS is entering into new fields of co-operation such as Fourth Industrial revolution, under its Part NIR programme, and evolving strategy for skill development, infrastructure to usher in Fourth industrial revolution among members.
- 3) In a "BRICS plus" format, it has attempted to widen its co-operation by inviting members from other countries for a broad based partnership.
- 4) BRICS business Council is reducing trade and tariff barriers among members, negotiations are on for local currency trade among members and setting up of New Development Bank showcase deepening economic ties.
- 5) BRICS is now having agreement on naval

Remarks

Co-operation, Counter-terrorism among others.

However, there are certain misses like Chinese behaviour in Asia creates unease for India, absence of concrete implementation, new measures needed are:

- 1) BRICS should have greater participation at non-government level also e.g. partnering with industry and young innovators for fourth Industrial revolution
- 2) A concrete format for "BRICS plus" approach, currently, all funding projects of New Development Bank are in member countries only.
- 3) Need to set up BRICS credit rating agency, as proposed by India.

BRICS represent 40% of global population and 22% of global trade, it will remain influential as long as its convergences prevail over its differences.

Remarks

Need to make people aware of BRICS achievements in health, education, infrastructure, counter terrorism, etc.
Also need to address other issues which are to be addressed.

(8)

- (b) India-Japan relations had entered new dimensions, officially Japan is special and privileged strategic partner of India. Further realist compulsions of rising China and liberal imperative of economics is bringing us together as can be seen from:
- 1) Civil nuclear Co-operation: India has become first non-NPT country with which Japan has signed civil nuclear co-operation deal.
 - 2) Strategic relationship: It is also on rise as evidenced from membership of QUAD by both countries, Japan now becoming permanent member of Malabar exercise.
 - 3) Technical Co-operation: Japan is providing technology for projects such as Mumbai-SAhedabad High speed rail link, recently

Remarks

India-Japan cyber dialogue has been instituted.

4) Presenting alternative to China: Both are working not just to oppose China's rise but present alternatives like: Asia-Africa growth Corridor, joint LNG terminal in Sri Lanka, regional infrastructure scheme in QUAD.

5) Defense partnership: Defence negotiations on 1.3 billion \$ US-2 amphibian aircraft are on progress. Apart from that talks are going to provide Unmanned ground vehicles to India.

6) Harnessing complementarities: India-Japan has several complementarities such as young India and aging Japan, India have natural resources, Japan have technology and capital. If properly harnessed it can propel relation to the new level.

Remarks

Ques analysis
What does it mean to
have a closer
partnership
India Japan
Take about 2025
Date
9

i) India is one of the largest recipient of Japan's Official Development Assistance.

Hence, India-Japan relations have entered into a "Cherry-blossom" phase as highlighted by Kamal Sibal, need is to strengthen this partnership further by removing obstacles like business climate in India, Japanese facing cultural difficulties in Indian market. Partnership has potential to become truly global in nature.

(c) India-Pakistan relationship is often described as "intractable conflict" given the legacy of bloody partition, tense borders, polarised domestic political discourse and issue of terrorism among others. A shift towards a more aggressive approach to deal with Pakistan is evident from:

Remarks

- India conducting surgical strike inside Pakistan occupied Kashmir.
- India raising up Balochistan issue which is security concern for Pakistan.
- A more muscular and tit-for-tat response to ceasefire violations.

India do need to protect its territorial integrity, stop flow of terrorists and infiltrators and secure its border. However, an aggressive approach on cross border terrorism may not be conducive in long run because:

- 1) India and Pakistan are nuclear armed nations, hence escalation of military conflict can lead to dangerous consequences.
- 2) An aggressive approach is likely to further strengthen the terrorist groups, hardliners and anti-India sentiment inside Pakistan,

Remarks

reducing space for negotiations.

3) During cross-border confrontation, people living across the border in both countries are severely impacted, even killed, raising humanitarian concerns.

4) Already, India-Pakistan had fought three wars and Kargil incident, despite India's victory, problem had not been resolved, hence experience shows limitation of military approach.

Continued
aggressive
approach
not good
to

internalization
of the issue
that it doesn't
concern us
Therefore, in long run policy of aggressive strategic approach may not work, ultimate resolution is possible through diplomatic dialogue, even as India protects its security interests. As suggested by Hussain Haqqani, "India-Pakistan needs to deal with each other maturely rather than two groups engaged in communal outlook."

Remarks

SECTION B

5. Answer the following questions: (150 Words each) $(10 \times 5 = 50)$

- (a) 20 years of BIMSTEC.
- (b) Is there a decisive shift in India's Palestine Policy? Discuss.
- (c) The Potential for South-South Technical Cooperation between India and the Latin American region
- (d) Issues in India-USA bilateral trade.
- (e) India and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

Q) ~~BIMSTEC~~ or Bay of Bengal initiative for multi sectoral technical and economic co-operation is a forum which provides India a platform to utilise its Bay of Bengal identity to consolidate its neighbourhood absence of Pakistan from BIMSTEC further makes it more useful to India as SAARC is facing logjam over India-Pakistan hostility.

~~BIMSTEC countries have made progress in strengthening economic ties, humanitarian and disaster relief co-operation and also the strategic ties~~

Remarks

You need to give specific examples
 write on the challenges faced
 on realising its potential

61

to enhance its relevance further, it needs to take up the proper implementation of its present projects.

- (v) India's policy towards Palestine is gradually witnessing a shift from idealism to realism. Historically, India showed much deeper relation with Palestine:
- Just after independence, India advocated single state of Palestine with autonomy for Israel.
 - In 1975, India became first non-Arab country to give recognition to Palestinian liberation organisation as sole representative of Palestinian people.
 - India allowed Palestine to open its embassy in India way back in 1978, whereas Israeli embassy was established only in 1994.
However, off late there is a

Remarks

perceptible shift in India's Policy:

- 1) Now India supports a two-state solution to Israel-Palestine conflict with both states existing peacefully.
- 2) India abstained from voting at the UNHRC resolution against Israel.
- 3) India-Israel relationship is deepening and moving to level of joint production, technology transfer.
- 4) In its latest statement India has dropped reference to East Jerusalem as Capital of a future Palestinian state, India is also silent on issue of Israeli settlements in West Bank.
- 5) Israel's investment in micro-irrigation in India e.g. Naon Daan Tain project and India's FDI into Israel is close to 123 million \$.

hence India is moving towards

Remarks

Add
very few
things
happened?

what role did
• changes in
west Asian
geo politics
play
in this?

6

a policy of de-hyphenation where India remains committed to Palestinian cause but not at the cost of Israel, it was evident when Indian Prime Minister made a first ever standalone visit to Israel. Hence India's Palestine policy had witnessed "subtle yet unmistakable shift" in words of P.R. Kumaraswamy.

- (a) USA is India's largest trading partner and also the largest to export destination, yet various trade issues have cropped up:
- 1) USA's imposition 25% import duty on steel and aluminium imported from India.
 - 2) Ongoing trade dispute in WTO over the issue of India's policy of domestic preference for procurement of solar panels.

Remarks

- 3) Reserve Bank of India's latest directive to make domestic storage of financial data had found disfavour with American companies.
- 4) USA had tightened the H-1B visa norms, going for higher rejection of L-1 visas, which could hurt Indian IT industry hard as 60% of their export revenue comes from American markets
- 5) United State Trade Representative in its Special 301 report, had repeatedly accused India of not granting sufficient protection to intellectual property of American companies
- 6) In multilateral forum like World Trade Organisation, there are differences between both on issue of Public stockholding for food

Remarks

You also need to mention some of the initiatives which are being taken to resolve such disputes

5

security, Non-agricultural market access.

Hence, several bone of contentions remains in India-US bilateral trade, it is necessary to resolve these disputes so that India-US partnership truly becomes "most defining partnership of 21st century" as envisioned by former US President Barack Obama.

- (e) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is an ongoing negotiation to develop free-trade among ASEAN+6 countries. It is an important pillar of India's Act East policy and also to integrate India with global supply chains, increase its presence in Indo-Pacific region. Despite its huge importance to

Remarks

India, negotiations on RCEP are facing issues such as:

- 1) Other countries are accusing India of not doing enough to liberalise its market and give them access to Indian markets.
- 2) India wants to leverage its competitive strength in service sector by demanding free movement of professionals, greater access to service sector markets, but ASEAN countries are reluctant.
- 3) Since China is also a member of RCEP, India fears that RCEP may lead to even further flooding of Indian market with Chinese goods, worsening already high \$2 billion \$ trade deficit.
- 4) There is disagreement on issues of granting high level protection to patents, intellectual

Remarks

Assess why in effect signing RCEP will be easier if signing a FTA with China

(6)

property rights as it may come in conflict with public health interest and independent economy policy making.

Hence even though RCEP is an attractive proposition to boost economic relation with Asia-Pacific countries, much more needs to be done in a give and take spirit to conclude it at earliest.

- (c) India can help provide cheap and effective pharmaceutical, generic medicine to Latin American countries. India's strength in information technology sector can be leveraged to help develop productive capacities of Latin American countries. Both can go for boosting the agriculture ties in a mutually beneficial manner.

Remarks
handles
in this dimension
selected

Incomplete

6. Attempt all questions:

- (a) Discuss India's role in Defence cooperation in SCO. (200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (b) What are the emerging complications for India in US-Iran declining relations. (200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (c) India-ASEAN relationship is more show than substance. Discuss. (250 Words) (20 Marks)

(a) India has recently become the full member of Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) which is an important Eurasian organisation and provides platform to engage with Central Asian countries together with Russia and China.

Even though agenda of SCO is broad, encompassing range of issues such as economic co-operation, advocacy of multilateral institutions, India's role in defence cooperation is important as :-

i) SCO can serve as a forum to stabilise Afghanistan and contain spread of terrorism.

Remarks

With India's inclusion, all important stakeholders to Afghanistan peace process i.e. India, Pakistan, China, Russia are now in SCO.

- 2) India's role is central to the success of Regional Anti-terrorism structure envisaged by SCO to promote counter-terrorism co-operation among members.
- 3) SCO membership can also enhance India-Russia defence ties as Russia sees India as economic counterbalance to growing Chinese heft in Central Asia.
- 4) Presence of Russia and China in fact SCO, also raises hopes of reducing India-Pakistan hostility, which has potential to reduce terrorism stoked by Pakistan.

s) SCO is strategically important for India to consolidate its presence along the periphery of China, which is making deeper inroads into India's neighbourhood.

Therefore, India can play a vital role in SCO to promote its own security interest as well as strengthen the defence co-operation among all the members.

You also need to answer the challenges faced by India due to Chinese presence

w) Coming of Trump administration in USA had witnessed a more hardline approach towards Iran:

y) America's withdrawal from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action which eased economic sanctions on Iran in return for lowering its nuclear programme.

Remarks

- US is constantly pressurizing India to cut its energy and trade supplies with Iran. This creates a complicated situation for India as Iran is important for:
 - Iran is supplier of crude oil to India and is crucial to ensure energy security.
 - Iran is gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia, India had committed investment of 85 million \$ in Chabahar Port, India is also building triple-transit corridor.
 - India - Iran trade is flourishing and now present bilateral trade is around 13 billion \$, which may hurt due to sanctions.
 - Strategically, any withdrawal from Iran is likely to drastically increase Chinese influence.

Remarks

not only in Iran but wider Eurasian region, bringing its close to Indian shores of Arabian Sea.

Importance of USA

- 1) USA is pre-eminent global economic and military power and cost of not adhering to its economic sanctions is very high in economic terms.
- 2) USA's diplomatic backing is needed to get entry into NSCs, ~~APEC~~, permanent seat of UN security council.
- 3) Partnership with USA in Indo-Pacific region is essential to counter the rising Chinese hegemony in that region.
- 4) With USA giving India S7A-1 status and India's need of high technology defence equipments, there is requirement to strengthen bilateral ties with USA.

Remarks

What steps does India need to take? ~~to~~ to present issues should talk about few water given by US during 1971

hence declining US-Iran relations pose complexities for Indian foreign policy of maintaining cordial ties with both the countries, India has to be extremely cautious and vigilant to unfolding of this US-Iran rivalry.

(c) ASEAN is pivot of India's Act East Policy and to serve our vital strategic and economic interests in wider Indo-Pacific region.

Over the years, India-ASEAN relation had deepened from India being sectoral dialogue partner in 1992 to strategic partner in 2012. ASEAN is now India's fourth largest trading partner.

However, there remains several challenges and obstacles to realise full potential

Remarks

of this relationship such as

- 1) China is dominant trading partner of ASEAN, India-ASEAN trade of 76 billion \$ pales in comparison to China-ASEAN trade of approximately 450 billion \$.
- 2) Within ASEAN, India shares strong relation with only few countries but not all e.g. 98% of ASEAN FDI in India comes through Singapore alone.
- 3) Connectivity with ASEAN countries is poor. Implementation of projects like India-Myanmar-Thailand highway, Master Connectivity Plan on ASEAN (2025) are facing delays in implementation.
- 4) Trade negotiations in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are still ongoing.

Remarks

Economic Partnership reveals serious divergences on economic issues between India and ASEAN.

- 3) Despite changing its "Look East" policy to "Act East" Policy, India is reluctant to be a net security provider in the region. Also ASEAN countries share deep ties with China despite differences.

Yet it will be wrong to conclude total inactivity as Indian PM recently participated in Shanghai dialogue, India is member of ASEAN defence Minister meet, India invited all 10 heads of ASEAN Country during 68th Republic day celebrations. Naresh V. Pant is right when he says that although India-ASEAN ties had made considerable progress yet there are miles to go from both sides.

Remarks

(9) what's more
changes needed
by both India & ASEAN to realize free trade
of products
in five sectors
suggestions

7. Attempt all questions:

- (a) Examine the various factors which governed India's stance on Rohingya Crisis.
(200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (b) Enumerate the various opportunities and challenges which are presented to India due to BREXIT both in context of UK and EU.
(200 Words) (15 Marks)
- (c) India China rivalry has spilled over to even UN peacekeeping operations. Examine.
(250 Words) (20 Marks)

Remarks

Remarks