



**REMARKS**

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*Remarks*

## Section A

Q1. Israel's importance for India is growing beyond just purchasing the military ammunition and equipment. Elaborate. (10 Marks)

Israel-India strategic partnership has gone beyond military and defence relationship and has acquired multiple and multidimensional form.

Some of them are:

1) Cooperation in Agriculture. Israel has the best capacity to cultivate crops in desert region with limited amount of water. Thus helping India for efficient use of water.

2) Water treatment and Sanitation.

The technologically advanced water treatment plant is being built in India along major cities with the help of Israel.

3) Education and health care:

India with vast human resource potential has extended tele medicine and tele education services for Israel.

Remarks

4) India Israel Investment and <sup>Innovation</sup> Infrastructure Fund (IIF) - The fund has been created to develop mutual capabilities in innovation and promote investments in both the countries.

Further, India also has established cultural relations with Israel which is depicted through our P.M. gifting centuries old copper plates engraved with Jewish scriptures.

Also discuss the new areas of cooperation for mutual benefit.

Remarks

Q2. Do you think addressing 'lack of security and connectivity' is necessary to make the Northeast (NE) the launchpad for India's interface with South East Asia. Discuss. (10 Marks)

India has launched Act East policy in the view of looking at East through the South East. In this scenario, security and connectivity in the South East becomes important to develop relationship with South East Asia.

### 1) Insurgency

The North eastern states especially Manipur and Nagaland faces insecurity. There are active insurgent groups like NBCIM-K which needs to be addressed.

### 2) Immigration

The regional demography is being altered by the illegal immigration from Bangladesh and Myanmar which causes fear among local communities frequently leading to conflict.

Remarks

3) India should speed up its India-Myanmar-Thailand highway to further its inroads into South East Asia

4) considering South East as highly dense, isolated ~~main~~ regions from main land India, it needs to be connected within and with India and efforts to increase and diffuse the cultural interaction. It is necessary for gaining confidence of the people in other developmental activities.

What can be done to improve the situation?

Remarks

Q3. As India's stature in global politics increases, it is in the nation's as well as global interest that India remains a balancing power. Examine. (10 Marks)

India has always been an emerging power.  
It believes that the rise of India is good  
not only for the people of India but for  
the humanity as the whole.

This is because

- 1) India has always suspected rule of law  
without favouring any one single  
power.  
Eg: Its opposition to US sanctions
- 2) India's attitude of 'Sarve Bhavanthi Sukhina'  
which conveys that it does not harm  
anybody for its interest and promotes  
peace and happiness.
- 3) India's ability to protect itself as well  
as its dependants which was witnessed  
from the Doklam crisis

Remarks

4) India was the first country to oppose global terrorism and has played significant role in passing of 1967 UNSC Resolution against terrorism.

Further, India's adherence to Freedom of navigation, no first use Policy of nuclear weapons, defence and deterrence strategy and cooperation and consensus based global policy is the requirement of the hour.

what are the challenges facing India for being a balancing power?

Remarks



**Q4. What are the issue faced by Hill Country Tamils? How can they potentially affect the India-Sri Lanka ties? (10 Marks)**

*Remarks*

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*Remarks*

Q5. Indian-Nepal ties are at almost all-time low and to prevent them from worsening further is the biggest immediate concern. Elaborate. (10 Marks)

India & Nepal has signed Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950. India has always followed General Doctrine of non-reciprocity and extended help to its neighbours without expecting in return.

However, present relations between India & Nepal has been deteriorated because:

- 1) India's opposition to Nepal constitution of 1950 which was overlooking concerns of Madhesh people.
- 2) Indian Blockade of Nepal lasted for 15 days pressurizing it to amend the constitution.
- 3) Nepal's over-dependence on India and inherent incapacity to develop has resulted into frustration towards India.

Remarks

4) India sometimes acting as big brother and preventing growth of. others thus undercutting sovereignty.

5) China's offer to counter India and alternative trade route through China has caused neglect <sup>of</sup> Vepal and India

India should not neglect its small neighbours by overlooking their interests or permaning them. It must concede to their demand with sensitivity to protect its interest as well as peace and stability in South Asia.

Remarks

Suggest  
some  
way  
ahead  
to  
prevent  
free  
fall in  
relationship

Q6. The lack of progress in SAARC now means India needs to focus on other regional blocs without the inclusion of Pakistan. Analyze the progress in BIMSTEC in this regard? (10 Marks)

SAARC is a group of South Asian countries created in 19 for protecting and promoting their economic, social and cultural interest.

However, the unending rivalry between India and Pakistan has forced India to look towards other blocs including ASEAN, BIMSTEC etc.

BIMSTEC is a group of like minded countries formed in 20 for economic integration.

Not sufficient to be assessed

Remarks

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*Remarks*

Q7. Indo-Bangladesh relations have been at a high off-late, however, the recent introduction of registry of citizens in Indian state of Assam can affect the India-Bangladesh relations. Examine. (10 Marks)

Bangladesh has always been thankful for India for its role in the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. The relationship was smooth with some minor issues like illegal migrants, porous border, calls smuggling, river water agreements etc.

However, recently agreed Registry of citizens of Assam is predicted to cause disruptions in the relation.

- 1) The recently released draft NRC left out 4 million people deprived of their citizenship making the largest community to be deprived of citizenship.
- 2) There is no pre bilateral agreement between Bangladesh and India about how to handle after NRC effects.

Remarks

- 3) Bangladesh is expected <sup>that it will</sup> not to accept them as illegal immigrants, creating a ~~tussle~~ <sup>friction</sup> between both the countries.
- 4) The deprived people may be radicalized by the groups to fulfill their interest in terrorism activities thus aggravating tensions between India and Bangladesh.

Relay forward:

The Supreme Court in

Indian government must formulate after effects plans to mitigate the risk and ~~addres~~ <sup>address</sup> the fear of people & from preventing inter state dispute becoming inter country dispute.

Suggest  
some  
more  
effective  
Measures

Remarks



Q8. There has been a shift in India's foreign policy stance with focus on 'use of hard power' alongside 'soft power'. What are the possible benefits of this policy in context of Pakistan? Asses the long-term efficacy of this policy. (10 Marks)

India has started displaying its military strength due to inefficiency of soft power in mending the rogue state, Pakistan

Benefits of this policy:-

- 1) Deterrence. It deters the rogue actors from taking India as granted and considering it as a weak country
- 2) Prevents further ~~attempts~~ cross border terrorist activities. It prevents future incidents like Mumbai attacks 2008, 2016 Attack
- 3) Displays India's power to protect its sovereignty. It makes India a active player rather than passive receiver to terrorist activities

Mention some recent incidence in this regard

Remarks

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However, that the long term efficacy of the policy remains a gray area

- 1) It may further aggravate the perturbation of territories
- 2) Overreach of military activities may deprive India of international support and empathy.
- 3) It may hanger the dialogues between both the countries and create to full scale war.

However, Indian reliance on soft power alone cannot protect its interest. There should be a combination of hard and soft power where hard power must be used sparingly, with a well planned and sensitive manner.

Remarks

- Q9. Strategic partnership in combination with economic partnerships have become important part of India's "Act West Asia" policy in recent. What are the reasons behind India's active strategic engagements with West Asian countries without participating in West Asian turmoil? (10 Marks)

West Asia has always been important for India to protect its energy security, promote involvement and side working the largest overseas Indian community.

India has various stakes in West Asia:

- 1) Energy security - West Asia contributes to 70% energy needs of India. Thus it is vital for maintaining balance of payments apart from energy security.
- 2) Trade - Trade between India and West Asia is more than \$100 Billion. Hence prosperity and progress of West Asia is crucial for India's economic progress.

Remarks

3) Employment opportunities - There are over 3 million Indian people working in India and they transfer \$13.4 Billion annually to India's foreign account.

4) Investment opportunities - West Asia provides huge opportunities for India's IT investments, pharmaceuticals and banking sectors. West Asia has established numerous stakes in Indian economy.  
Ex: - Shu Ahalu invested \$1 Billion in NIF.

It is vital for India not to suppress and take side in west-tornament and find a balance between Shia-Sunni Muslim-Jews conflicts.

Discuss  
Various  
reasons  
for  
India's  
increased  
engagement

Remarks

Q10. Have U.S.-Pakistan relations always been fraught? Do you think the suspension of economic aid to Pakistan have any impact on their relations? Critically comment.

(10 Marks)

Pakistan is considered as the closest non-NATO ally by the U.S. Throughout the coldwar and even after that US has provided military and economic aid to Pakistan.

However relations have become fraught because

- 1) Pakistan's inability to curb terrorism in its own country.
- 2) Differences over interests in Afghanistan.
- 3) closeness with china and Russia

The impact of suspension of economic aid to Pakistan may have some consequences because:

- 1) Pakistan has been the largest receiver of economic aid from USA in South Asia.

Remarks

2) Pakistan's military was very much dependant on USA for its modernization and capacity building.

3) Pakistan was drawing money from US to pacify its own domestic requirements.

However, the relations may remain unchanged because:

1) The engagement of Pakistan for US as an agent in South Asia.

2) For USA continues to pacify Pakistan to eliminate terrorist activities.

3) growing fears of China-Pak axis may force US to engage more with Pakistan.

There is more a continuity rather than change in relation between both the countries.

Remarks

## Section B

Q11. Chabahar Port would not just strengthen the India's international trade but also provide a strategic position to neutralize Pakistani threats and Chinese influence. Elaborate. (15 Marks)

Chabahar Port is being developed in Iran to with the assistance of India on the South Eastern coast of the country. It is being developed with the keeping in mind strategic, economic, and diplomatic interests.

Factors that led to the development of port are:

1) Economic interests: India's strained relations with Pakistan has always hindered its connectivity with central Asia especially Afghanistan. Chabahar port bypasses Pakistan to find a way to Afghanistan, Russia, central Asia upto Europe through International North South Transport corridor

Discusses its impact on international trade

Remarks

- 2) Strategic factors :- There is an increasing influence of China in Indian ocean, Persian gulf and Arabian sea etc
- China has built Gwadar port on the coast of Pakistan to acquire complete control of and surveillance of activities in the region
  - Chabahat port along with Zorang-Delaram highway and INSTC is an alternative to China's China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.
  - It provides wide area of surveillance for India to safeguard its sea lanes of communication through which India's 70% of oil trade takes place

Remarks

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3) controlling Pakistan through Iran.  
Iran can be used diplomatically to control the interest of over reach of Pakistan.

It enhances the presence of India in Afghanistan which is vital for its security and strategic concerns.  
way forward:-

Chabahar port is an alternative to China's strategy of 'String of Pearls'. Hence India should proceed with its project and expand it to other countries to get hold of its strategic concerns.

Remarks

Q12. China is not just increasing its economic might but also political clout to increase penetration in middle-east which is a concern for India. In this context discuss the significance of Middle-East with respect to China and India: What concerns does India have in region due to China and how India should approach to resolve them?

(15 Marks)

China and India are among the top 3 oil consumers of the world. Middle east being the largest reservoir of oil, natural gas and petroleum products is vital for both the emerging economies.

India is having economic, cultural and security linkages with the region. However, the influence of china in the region is creating the turbulence between the relations.

1) China's economic power:-

India-west Asia's trade is around \$100 Billion where as china-west Asia trade is more than \$500 Billion. China with its might in

Remarks

manufacturing capacities is capitalising India's traditional markets.

2) China's String of Pearls strategy - China is aiming for its expansion of infrastructural investments in the region. It is constructing ports, Naval bases (Dijaulu) and military bases around the Indian ocean including West Asia.

3) China's influence in Gulf cooperation council

China through Pakistan exercises its influence in the region to unite against any actions of India.

4) Saudi Arabia's Islamism is getting support from China. It is aimed at radicalisation of youth and religious extremism which are directed against India.

What concerns does India have in region due to China?

Remarks

India should find a strategy based on its own capability:

1) India should find alternatives to String of Pearls strategy. Recently India got naval access to Port Dugim in oman.

2) Increase its stakes in Arabian countries.

Ex: Recently Abudhabi expanded interest to invest \$3 Billion in NIIF.

3) Diversify its interests to the sphere of culture, religion and tradition.  
ray power:

India should formulate its soft power diplomacy to counter the China's mighty economic and military power.

Remarks

Q13. Recent political developments between India and South Korea have created an opening for the two countries to share mutual security interests in Asia however, not without persisting challenges. Discuss. (15 Marks)

India South Korea is the one among the three countries with which India has established Special and Pooled Privilege Strategic Partnership. There is a wide scope for convergence in economic and strategic spheres.

1) Freedom of Navigation: South Korea depends on Sea lanes of communication for its economic trade. Protecting free navigation assumes significant in the changing regional security architecture.

2) Countering China's influence. China's assertive power display in South China Sea and declaring Air Defence Identification Zone in the region has

Remarks

Give some recent incidents of strong strategic and security ties between these countries

created turbulence in the region.

3) North-Korean irresponsible leadership:

38<sup>th</sup> Parallel remains one of the highest militarised zones in the world.

India can play its significant role

to persuade North Korea with

International support to build a

responsible regime in Korean Peninsula

4) USA retreat from the region:

altering security architecture in the

region provides huge scope for India

to project itself as Net Security Provider for the region.

However there are many challenges needed to overcome:

1) The growing distance between the India and China might dilute

Remarks

the efforts of India in the region.

- 2) The capacity of India to provide the security is limited.
- 3) ~~The~~ The outbreak of war creates a vacuum in the region which could be swiftly occupied by China than India.

Way forward:

India is the humble and reliable partner in the International politics. India along with its soft power must also display its hard power to gain confidence of the international community as well Security Provider of the region.

Remarks

Q14. Japan proposal to revive the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (or the "Quad") holds potential to establish a robust regional peace and security architecture for the Indo-Pacific region. In this context what are the key drivers in reviving the Quad? Also discuss the factors which may limit its potential. (15 Marks)

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue also called as Quad is the regional security architecture commissioned by four countries USA, Japan, China and Australia.

Quad has the potential to safeguard:

- 1) International peace.
- 2) Rule of law.
- 3) Freedom of Navigation.
- 4) Regional stability.

At least one line or explanation is inevitable

The criteria which led to the establishment of Quad are:

- 1) China's assertiveness: China's has displayed its military might to

Remarks



threaten the regional small players in their survival. Quad aims to collectively protect the strategic security of the region by balancing acts of china.

2) Protecting sea lanes of communication: South China Sea along with Indian ocean allows 35 billion worth of goods to pass through it. Hence protecting it is vital for economic concerns.

3) Asia Pivot policy: States quit US aims to contain china's rise and maintain its hegemony in the region.

4) Inefficiency of Australia and Japan do provide security in the region.

Remarks

invited powers like USA and India.

5) Efforts by democracies to prevent the spread of authoritarian influences like North Korea and China.

However, Quad is not without limitations.

1) USA subverting from the region could defeat the Quad policy.

2) The reliability and sustainability of Australia in Quad is questionable.

- unlike other countries Australia does not have any conflicts with China.

- influence of China in Australia's economic policies

- it had already suspended the Quad one way forward.

The growing awareness has brought Quad into significance. It is in everyone's interest for the Quad to evolve.

Remarks

Add  
more  
points  
if  
to

Q15. Doklam issue has once again reiterated that India-Bhutan relations are special and that India is ready to go extra mile for safety of its all-weather friends? Explain and also comment on its impact on China-Bhutan relations? (15 Marks)

India and Bhutan has signed Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950 India is the gateway for Bhutan for its connectivity to International players.

According to the Treaty, it commits India for providing defense for the Bhutan in case of external aggression and also limits Bhutan's capacity to import arms from other countries without permission of India.

Doklam issue has proved that India is a friend and trusted ally partner. It has brought confidence in the international community regarding the reliability of India.

Remarks

to stand for its partners and also its military strength to oppose the Chinese influence.

Impact of China-Bhutan relations:

China considers Bhutan as one of the fingers in its 'Palm and fingers' strategy. China has always aimed at conquering Bhutan into its territory.

The ambitions of China to incorporate part of Bhutan's territory immediately after independence forced Bhutan to cut off its diplomatic relations with China. Doklam issue has further aggravated this cause.

1) China projected China as expansive with militaristic attitude

Remarks

5

GS SCORE

2) Displayed China's apathy towards its small neighbours.

3) Cut off people to people contact between Bhutan and India.

Further it has brought Bhutan more closer to India and India more closer to International community

Discusses the impact of Doklam standoff on India

Remarks

Q16. The rising Shia-Sunni wedge in West Asian countries have potential to destabilize countries like India having mixed population of both sects. Critically analyze.

(15 Marks)

West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE etc has majority of Shia population where as countries like Iran, Pakistan, India has majority of Sunni population.

Sunni-Shia conflict has become irreconcilable with its impact all over the world including India. It has led:-

1) Radicalization of minorities - Shia constituting only 20% of Indians fearing of being isolated which attract them towards ultra-religious extremism in Syria etc.

2) Balancing India's interests becomes difficult. Saudi Arabia and UAE are

Remarks

traditional partners for India having economic and strategic stakes, so any moves against the muslims may antagonise them towards India.

3) Inter Sectarian conflicts within India - there are incidents of conflicts within muslims themselves leading to murders and crimes which has the ability of disturbing regional stability.

However, so far India has tried to walk on the tight rope without being succumbed to any of the sects.

It has maintained good relationships with both Saudi Arabia and Iran. There is an enhanced people to people contact with Saudi and UAE, securing the misunderstandings and conflicts.

Remarks

2) India's track record of preserving secular nature has minimized the ignorance and frustration among minorities and provided guarantee to their religious freedom in Article 25, 26, 27, 28, 30.

3) India's capacity to maintain law and order with the help of police as well as religious preachers has minimized the conflict and reduced the incentive for revolts.

Relay forward:

India is a land of multiculturalism, multi-religion having diverse faith, practices and traditions. It has the ab greater capability than any other country to manage its religious diversity.

Remarks



Q17. Rohingya issue has once again showed that any trouble in neighboring countries has potential to make impact on domestic issues in India. Examine and comment on its impact on Indo-Myanmar ties? (15 Marks)

Rohingyas are minority muslim population living in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. They are the world's largest homeless state people who are deprived of citizenship in their own country.

The recent conflict between Myanmar Army and Rohingyas in August 2017 has led to widespread displacement of Rohingyas with around 1 million people leaving the country and migrating to Bangladesh and India. It has impacted the relations between India and Myanmar in following ways:

Also discuss  
Impact  
of  
Rohingya  
crisis  
on  
India

Remarks

- 1) India being the largest democratic country and secular country has always preferred mutual coexistence. However, India found it difficult to persuade Myanmar to accommodate Rohingyas back into the country considering attitude of Myanmar army.
- 2) It would increase the insurgent activities along Myanmar border and make it difficult for India to seek diplomatic support to conduct surgical strikes across the border.
- 3) Persuading Myanmar may force it towards China who has

Remarks

always tried to match India's relations with its neighbours.

4) The porous border along the India-Myanmar border needs to be highly militarized to prevent further immigration.

5) Increase the radicalization of homeless Rohingyas by Pakistani based terrorist groups Jaish-e-Millat and Lashkar-e-Taiba targeting against India's interests may forward.

India should utilize international forum to persuade Myanmar to accommodate Rohingyas and seek refugee from ASEAN countries to provide support for Myanmar.

Remarks

Q18. The past one year marked a turning point in India-China relations. It began with India taking a strong stance against China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it ended with China tightening its grip on South Asia. Is the narrative true? Critically analyse the statement in the context of India-China relations. (15 Marks)

India - China has established ~~the~~ Strategic Partnership in 2002. But the relationship between them has ~~also~~ continuously deteriorated

India has ~~opposed~~ China's CPEC which is a part of its BRI initiative and asked to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country

~~India - China faced a recent standoff at Doklam in a fact to fact situation aggravating the conflictual situations~~

~~China through its BRI has extended economic packages to its neighbours which has led to increased influence in the region. It has built~~

Avoid doing this

Remarks

infrastructural facilities, and has increased dependence of countries on china

- Hambantota port in Sri Lanka.
- Chittagong port in Bangladesh.
- Guadar port in Pakistan
- Access to Maldives in Maldives

China has got de facto access to these bases and has aim of expanding its military and naval interests through these regions.

The inequality of neighbours to develop infrastructural capability has drawn them more close towards china.

The debt created by china forces countries to obliterate their sovereignty by leasing their assets for decades.  
 Ex: Hambantota port has been leased for 99 years to china

Remarks

7/10

However, China has not been able to capture the core of South Asia. ~~that is~~ because:

- 1) The intention of China is well known for its neighbours. ~~The~~ China always reserves for its own interest.
- 2) The relationship between the countries are more business relationship, there is a sharp deficit and skepticism.
- 3) Traditional influence of India as a more reliable and trusted friend cannot be overriden with China's economic power.

Way forward:

Even though India has influence in the region, China is making further inroads. Depending India of its neighbours. India must engage with its neighbours more strategically & multi-dimensionally to make South Asia a neutral zone.

Remarks

very good

**Q19. What is Extradition, is it same as deportation? Does Indian have an effective extradition policy? Examine. (15 Marks)**

**Remarks**

Remarks



**GS SCORE**

*Remarks*

Q20. Elaborate on the major developments in India-Japan relations in recent years and highlight the major projects in India that are financed through Japanese Investments. (15 Marks)

India and Japan have established their 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' our Prime Minister addressed Japan as 'Natural Partner' of India.

The recent developments between India-Japan relations are:-

1) Mumbai to Ahmedabad Bullet train project

Japan has extended 90% loan for the project at the interest rate of 0.1% per annum. Further it has allowed transfer of technology and partial manufacturing in India.

Remarks

### 2) Infrastructureal developments in North East

Japan is the only one among few countries which India has allied in N.E region with the assistance of Japan India is contributing 2 lane highway in Mizoram and Meghalaya.

### 3) Japan Nuclear deal

Japan in 2016 signed deal with India to cooperate on nuclear technology, nuclear materials along with contribution of nuclear power plants.

### 4) Metro Rail cooperation.

Japan has extended support for Delhi, Bangalore etc to develop its metro connectivity.

Remarks

5) urban mobility, sanitation and water treatment support for metropolitan cities like Bengaluru, Chennai etc.

Japan Investment cooperation agency (JICA) along with National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) Law concluded various projects including Delhi Mumbai freight corridor, Special Economic Zones, etc.

Good

Remarks